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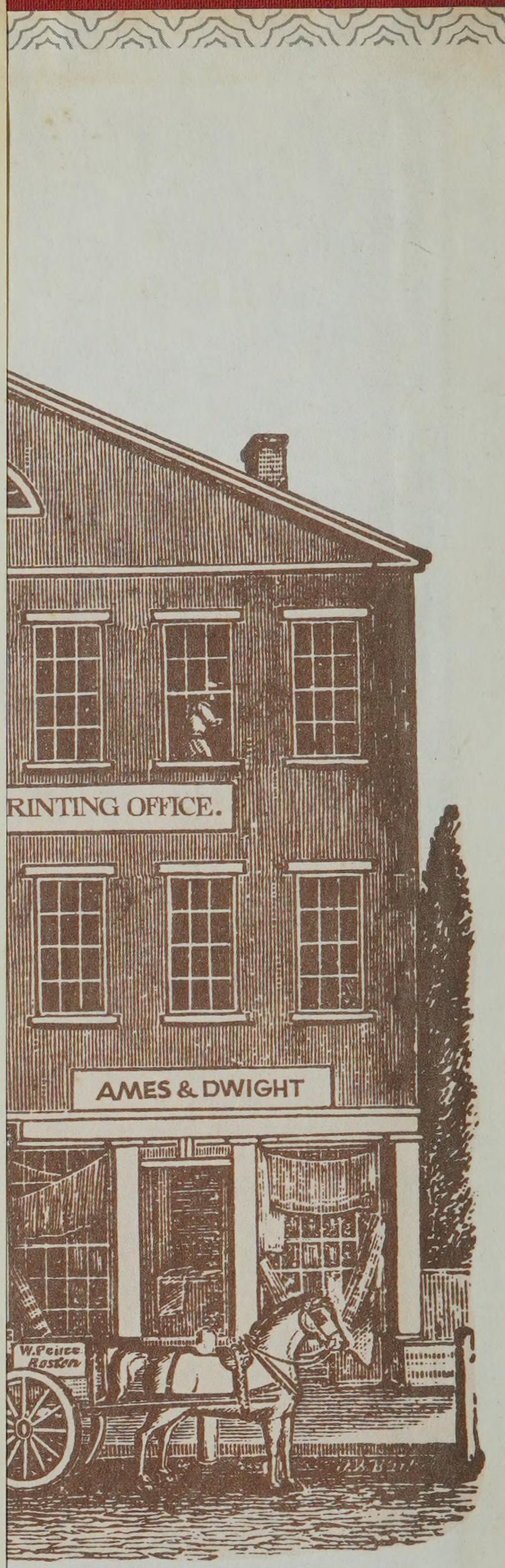
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- **"The English Language and Its History,"** a highly readable, informative essay by the eminent scholar Professor W. Nelson Francis of Brown University.
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Paul Hsu

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 150th Anniversary Edition



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New Collegiate Dictionary

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Contents

Preface 6a

Explanatory Chart 8a

Explanatory Notes 10a

The English Language and its History 20a

Abbreviations in this Work 31a

Pronunciation Symbols 32a

Dictionary of the English Language 1

Foreign Words and Phrases 1356

Biographical Names 1361

Geographical Names 1407

Colleges and Universities 1496

Signs and Symbols 1511

A Handbook of Style 1514

Index 1532

Preface

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary is a completely new volume in the Merriam-Webster series of dictionaries. It is a general dictionary edited for use in school or college, in the office, and in the home—in short, wherever information about English words is likely to be sought. The average user should rarely have occasion to look for information about the vocabulary of present-day English that is not available within these pages.

The first Merriam-Webster Collegiate appeared in 1898 and quickly won the esteem of student and general reader. A second edition was published in 1910, and subsequent editions came out in 1916, 1931, 1936, 1949, and 1963. This eighth in the series incorporates the best of the time-tested features of its predecessors and introduces new features designed to add to its usefulness. Its more than 1500 pages make it the most comprehensive Merriam-Webster Collegiate ever published.

The heart of Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary is the more than 1300 pages given over to the A–Z vocabulary. The information there set down derives not only from the 10,000,000 citations which were available to the editors of Webster's Third New International Dictionary and the 1963 Collegiate but also from the considerably more than 1,000,000 citations collected since the publication of these books. Thus each entry is based on a constantly updated file of actual English usage.

Those entries known to be trademarks or service marks are so labeled and are treated in accordance with a formula approved by the United States Trademark Association. No entry in this dictionary, however, should be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark or service mark.

A noteworthy feature of the vocabulary section is the nearly 900 pictorial illustrations, many of which were drawn especially for this book. These illustrations were selected not simply for their decorative function but particularly for their value in clarifying definitions.

The front matter—those pages preceding the A–Z vocabulary—contains two important sections. The Explanatory Notes should be read by every user of the dictionary since a thorough understanding of the information contained in them will contribute markedly to the value of this book. And all users of the dictionary are urged to read the lucid essay on the English language which was written for this Collegiate by Professor W. Nelson Francis of Brown University.

The back matter—those pages following the A–Z vocabulary—contains several sections that dictionary users have long found helpful. These include more than five hundred Foreign Words and Phrases that occur frequently in English texts but that have not become part of the English vocabulary; several thousand proper names that are entered under the separate headings Biographical Names and Geographical Names; and a list of the Colleges and Universities of the United States and Canada. There is also a Handbook of Style in which various stylistic conventions (as of punctuation and capitalization) are concisely summarized.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary has been edited by the trained staff of the G. & C. Merriam Co. It is the result of a collaborative effort, and it would be invidious to single out particular editors for special mention. At the same time, it would be ungracious to observe the anonymity which is often the lot of the present-day lexicographer, and so a list of those who contributed substantially to the completion of this book is printed below.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary is the product of a company that has been publishing dictionaries for more than 125 years. It is offered to the user with the conviction that it will serve him well.

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angle brackets
PAGE 16a

antonym
PAGE 18a

binomial
PAGE 18a

boldface colon
PAGE 17a

boldface type
PAGE 10a

capitalization label
PAGE 14a

centered periods
PAGE 10a

cognate cross-reference
PAGE 18a

cutback inflected forms
PAGE 13a

definition
PAGE 17a

directional cross-reference
PAGE 18a

equal variant
PAGE 11a

etymology
PAGE 14a

functional label
PAGE 12a

homographs
PAGE 10a

illustrative quotation
PAGE 16a

inflected forms
PAGES 12a, 13a

inflectional cross-reference
PAGE 18a

lightface type
PAGE 10a

lowercase
PAGE 14a

main entry
PAGE 10a

major stress
PAGE 11a

pachy·der·ma·tous \ˌpak-i-ˈdər-mət-əs\ *adj* [deriv. of Gk *pachys* + *dermat-, derma* skin] **1 :** of or relating to the pachyderms **2 a :** THICK, THICKENED <~ skin> **b :** CALLOUS, INSENSITIVE — **pachy·der·ma·tous·ly** *adv*

pam·per \ˈpam-pər\ *vt* **pam·pered; pam·per·ing** \-p(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *pamperen*, prob. of D origin; akin to Flem *pamperen* to pamper] **1** *archaic* **:** to cram with rich food **:** GLUT **2 a :** to treat with extreme or excessive care and attention <~*ed* their guests> **b :** GRATIFY, HUMOR <enabled him to ~ his wanderlust —*New Yorker*> ***syn*** see INDULGE ***ant*** chasten — **pam·per·er** \-pər-ər\ *n*

pa·pa·ya \pə-ˈpī-ə\ *n* [Sp, of AmerInd origin; akin to Otomac *papai*] **:** a tropical American tree (*Carica papaya* of the family Caricaceae, the papaya family) with large oblong yellow edible fruit; *also* **:** its fruit

²paper *vb* **pa·pered; pa·per·ing** \ˈpā-p(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* **1** *archaic* **:** to put down or describe in writing **2 :** to fold or enclose in paper **3 :** to cover or line with paper; *esp* **:** to apply wallpaper to **4 :** to fill by giving out free passes <~ the theater for opening night> **5 :** to cover (an area) with advertising bills, circulars, or posters ~ *vi* **:** to hang wallpaper — **pa·per·er** \-pər-ər\ *n*

paper tiger *n* **:** one that is outwardly powerful or dangerous but inwardly weak or ineffectual <unnecessary to show that the . . . military presence was not a *paper tiger* —Kaye Whiteman>

²Paphian *n* **1 :** a native or inhabitant of Paphos **2** *often not cap* **:** PROSTITUTE

pap·il·lo·ma \ˌpap-ə-ˈlō-mə\ *n, pl* **-mas** *or* **-ma·ta** \-mət-ə\ **1 :** a benign tumor (as a wart) due to overgrowth of epithelial tissue on papillae of vascular connective tissue (as of the skin) **2 :** an epithelial tumor caused by a virus — **pap·il·lo·ma·tous** \-ˈlō-mət-əs\ *adj*

par·a·lyse *Brit var of* PARALYZE

pa·ram·e·ter·ize \pə-ˈram-ət-ə-ˌrīz\ *or* **pa·ram·e·trize** \-ˈram-ə-ˌtrīz\ ***vt* -ter·ized *or* -trized; -ter·iz·ing *or* -triz·ing :** to express in terms of parameters — **pa·ram·e·ter·iza·tion** \-ˌram-ət-ə-rə-ˈzā-shən, -ə-trə-ˈzā-\ *or* **pa·ram·e·tri·za·tion** \-ə-trə-ˈzā-\ *n*

pa·rang \ˈpär-ˌaŋ\ *n* [Malay] **:** a short sword, cleaver, or machete common in Malaysia and Indonesia

parasympathetic nervous system *n* **:** the part of the autonomic nervous system that contains chiefly cholinergic fibers, that tends to induce secretion, to increase the tone and contractility of smooth muscle, and to cause the dilatation of blood vessels, and that consists of a cranial and a sacral part — compare SYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM

ped·dler *or* **ped·lar** \ˈped-lər\ *n* **:** one who peddles: as **a :** one who offers merchandise (as fresh produce) for sale along the street or from door to door **b :** one who deals in or promotes something intangible (as a personal asset or an idea) <influence ~*s*>

¹pe·des·tri·an \pə-ˈdes-trē-ən\ *adj* [L *pedestr-, pedester*, lit., going on foot, fr. *pedes* one going on foot, fr. *ped-, pes* foot — more at FOOT] **1 :** COMMONPLACE, UNIMAGINATIVE **2 a :** going or performed on foot **b :** of, relating to, or designed for walking <a ~ mall>

peg leg *n* [¹*peg*] **:** an artificial leg; *esp* **:** one fitted at the knee

pen·i·tent \-tənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *paenitent-, paenitens*, fr. prp. of *paenitēre* to be sorry; akin to L *paene* almost — more at PATIENT] **:** feeling or expressing humble or regretful pain or sorrow for sins or offenses **:** REPENTANT — **pen·i·tent·ly** *adv*

²penitent *n* **1 :** a person who repents of sin **2 :** a person under church censure but admitted to penance esp. under the direction of a confessor

per·cent·age \pər-ˈsent-ij\ *n* **1 :** a part of a whole expressed in hundredths **2 a :** a share of winnings or profits **b :** ADVANTAGE, PROFIT <no ~ in going around looking like an old sack of laundry —Wallace Stegner> **3 :** an indeterminate part **:** PROPORTION **4 a :** PROBABILITY **b :** favorable odds

per·jure \ˈpər-jər\ *vt* **per·jured; per·jur·ing** \ˈpərj-(ə-)riŋ\ [MF *perjurer*, fr. L *perjurare*, fr. *per-* to destruction, to the bad + *jurare* to swear — more at PER-, JURY] **1** *obs* **:** to cause to commit perjury **2 :** to make a perjurer of (oneself)

pies *pl of* PI *or of* PIE

⁴pile *vb* **piled; pil·ing** *vt* **1 :** to lay or place in a pile **:** STACK **2 :** to heap in abundance **:** LOAD <*piled* potatoes on his plate> ~ *vi* **1 :** to form a pile **:** ACCUMULATE **2 :** to move or press forward in or as if in a mass **:** CROWD <*piled* into a car>

pile driver *n* **1 :** a machine for driving down piles with a pile hammer or a steam or air hammer **2 :** an operator of a pile driver

pil·grim \ˈpil-grəm\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *pelegrin*, fr. LL *pelegrinus*, alter. of L *peregrinus* foreigner, fr. *peregrinus* foreign, fr. *pereger* being abroad, fr. *per* through + *agr-, ager* land — more at FOR, ACRE] **1 :** one who journeys in foreign lands **:** WAYFARER **2 :** one who travels to a shrine or holy place as a devotee **3** *cap* **:** one of the English colonists settling at Plymouth in 1620

pinch·beck \ˈpinch-ˌbek\ *n* [Christopher *Pinchbeck* †1732 E watchmaker] **1 :** an alloy of copper and zinc used esp. to imitate gold in jewelry **2 :** something counterfeit or spurious — **pinch·beck** *adj*

Explanatory Chart

pin·cush·ion \'pin-ˌkůsh-ən\ *n* **:** a small cushion in which pins may be stuck ready for use

²pine *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *pīn*, fr. L *pinus;* akin to Gk *pitys* pine, L *opimus* fat — more at FAT] **1 :** any of a genus (*Pinus* of the family Pinaceae, the pine family) of coniferous evergreen trees which have slender elongated needles and some of which are valuable timber trees or ornamentals **2 :** the straight-grained white or yellow usu. durable and resinous wood of a pine varying from extreme softness in the white pine to hardness in the longleaf pine **3 :** any of various Australian coniferous trees (as of the genera *Callitris, Araucaria,* or *Cupressus*) **4 :** PINEAPPLE — **piny** *or* **pin·ey** \'pī-nē\ *adj*

post·card \'pōs(t)-ˌkärd\ *n* **1 :** a card on which a message may be written for mailing without an envelope and to which the sender must affix a stamp **2 :** POSTAL CARD 1

post–free \'pōs(t)-'frē\ *adj, chiefly Brit* **:** POSTPAID

post·mas·ter \-ˌmas-tər\ *n* **1 :** one who has charge of a post office **2 :** one who has charge of a station for the accommodation of travelers or who supplies post-horses — **post·mas·ter·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

²private *n* **1** *archaic* **:** one not in public office **2** *obs* **:** PRIVACY **3 a :** a person of low rank in various organizations (as a police or fire department) **b :** an enlisted man of the lowest rank in the marine corps or of one of the two lowest ranks in the army — **in private :** not openly or in public

pro·gram·mer *also* **pro·gram·er** \'prō-ˌgram-ər, -grə-mər\ *n* **:** one that programs: as **a :** one that prepares and tests programs for mechanisms **b :** a person or device that programs a mechanism **c :** one that prepares educational programs

pro·jec·tor \prə-'jek-tər\ *n* **1 :** one that plans a project; *specif* **:** PROMOTER **2 :** one that projects: as **a :** a device for projecting a beam of light **b :** an optical instrument for projecting an image upon a surface **c :** a machine for projecting motion pictures on a screen **3 :** an imagined line from an object to a surface along which projection takes place

pro·jet \prō-'zhā, 'prō-ˌ\ *n, pl* **projets** \-'zhā(z), -ˌzhā(z)\ [F, fr. MF *pourjet*] **1** PLAN; *esp* **:** a draft of a proposed measure or treaty **2 :** a projected or proposed design

pro·mote \prə-'mōt\ *vt* **pro·mot·ed; pro·mot·ing** [L *promotus,* pp. of *promovēre,* lit., to move forward, fr. *pro-* forward + *movēre* to move] **1 a :** to advance in station, rank, or honor **:** RAISE **b :** to change (a pawn) into a piece in chess by moving to the eighth rank **c :** to advance (a student) from one grade to the next higher grade **2 a :** to contribute to the growth or prosperity of **:** FURTHER <~ international understanding> **b :** to help bring (as an enterprise) into being **:** LAUNCH **c :** to present (merchandise) for public acceptance through advertising and publicity **3** *slang* **:** to get possession of by doubtful means or by ingenuity ***syn*** see ADVANCE ***ant*** impede

proph·et \'präf-ət\ *n* [ME *prophete,* fr. OF, fr. L *propheta,* fr. Gk *prophētēs,* fr. *pro* for + *phanai* to speak — more at FOR, BAN] **1 :** one who utters divinely inspired revelations; *specif, often cap* **:** the writer of one of the prophetic books of the Old Testament **2 :** one gifted with more than ordinary spiritual and moral insight; *esp* **:** an inspired poet **3 :** one who foretells future events **:** PREDICTOR <a weather ~> **4 :** an effective or leading spokesman for a cause, doctrine, or group <he is first the student and then the ~ of power —Alfred Kazin> **5** *Christian Science* **a :** a spiritual seer **b :** disappearance of material sense before the conscious facts of spiritual Truth — **proph·et·ess** \-ət-əs\ *n*

pro·rate \(ˌ)prō-'rāt\ *vb* **pro·rat·ed; pro·rat·ing** [*pro rata*] *vt* **:** to divide, distribute, or assess proportionately ~ *vi* **:** to make a pro rata distribution

pro·spec·tive \prə-'spek-tiv *also* 'prä-ˌ, prō-', prä-'\ *adj* **1 :** likely to come about **:** EXPECTED <the ~ benefits of this law> **2 :** likely to be or become <a ~ mother> — **pro·spec·tive·ly** *adv*

pun·gent \-jənt\ *adj* [L *pungent-, pungens,* prp. of *pungere* to prick, sting; akin to L *pugnus* fist, *pugnare* to fight, Gk *pygmē* fist] **1 :** having a stiff and sharp point <~ leaves> **2 :** sharply painful; *also* **:** POIGNANT **3 a :** marked by a sharp incisive quality **:** CAUSTIC <a ~ denunciation> **b :** being to the point **:** highly expressive <~ prose> **4 :** causing a sharp or irritating sensation; *esp* **:** ACRID — **pun·gent·ly** *adv*

syn PUNGENT, PIQUANT, POIGNANT, RACY *shared meaning element* **:** sharp and stimulating to the mind or senses *ant* bland

pur·blind \'pər-ˌblīnd\ *adj* [ME *pur blind,* fr. *pur* purely, wholly, fr. *pur* pure] **1 a** *obs* **:** wholly blind **b :** partly blind **2 :** lacking in vision, insight, or understanding **:** OBTUSE — **pur·blind·ly** \-ˌblīn-(d)lē\ *adv* — **pur·blind·ness** \-ˌblīn(d)-nəs\ *n*

pur·dah \'pərd-ə\ *n* [Hindi *parda,* lit., screen, veil] **:** seclusion of women from public observation among Muslims and some Hindus esp. in India

Py·ram·i·don \pə-'ram-ə-ˌdän\ *trademark* — used for aminopyrine

pyre \'pī(ə)r\ *n* [L *pyra,* fr. Gk, fr. *pyr* fire — more at FIRE] **:** a combustible heap for burning a dead body as a funeral rite; *broadly* **:** a pile of material to be burned <a ~ of dead leaves>

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minor stress
PAGE 11a

often attrib
PAGE 14a

pronunciation
PAGES 11a, 12a

regional label
PAGE 16a

run-on entry (undefined)
PAGE 11a

run-on entry (defined)
PAGE 11a

secondary variant
PAGE 11a

sense divider
PAGE 17a

sense letter
PAGE 17a

sense numeral
PAGE 17a

small capitals
PAGE 18a

stylistic label
PAGE 16a

subject label
PAGE 16a

swung dash (boldface)
PAGE 12a

swung dash (lightface)
PAGE 16a

synonymous cross-reference
PAGES 18a, 19a

synonym list
PAGE 19a

temporal label
PAGES 15a, 16a

uppercase
PAGE 14a

usage note
PAGES 16a, 17a

verbal illustration
PAGE 16a

Explanatory Notes

Entries

A boldface letter or a combination of such letters set flush with the left-hand margin of each column of type is a main entry. The main entry may consist of letters set solid, of letters joined by a hyphen, or of letters separated by one or more spaces:

teach ... *vb*

teach–in ... *n*

teaching fellow *n*

The material in lightface type that follows each main entry on the same line and on succeeding indented lines explains and justifies its inclusion in the dictionary.

The main entries follow one another in alphabetical order letter by letter: *book of account* follows *book-mobile*. Those containing an Arabic numeral are alphabetized as if the numeral were spelled out: *3-D* comes between *three-color* and *three-decker*. Those derived from proper names beginning with abbreviated forms of *Mac-* are alphabetized as if spelled *mac-*: *McCoy* comes after *macaroon* and before *mace*. Those that often begin with the abbreviation *St.* in common usage have the abbreviation spelled out: *Saint Martin's summer*.

A pair of guide words is printed at the top of each page. These indicate that the entries falling alphabetically between the words at the top of the outer column of each page are found on that page.

The guide words are the alphabetically first and usually the alphabetically last entries on the page:

acacia ● acceptable

Occasionally the last printed entry is not the alphabetically last entry. On page 237, for example, *connective tissue* is the last printed entry, but *connectivity*, run on at the first homograph *connective*, is the alphabetically last entry and is therefore the second guide word. The alphabetically last entry is not used, however, if it follows alphabetically the first guide word on the succeeding page. Thus on page 124 *bonder* is not a guide word because it follows alphabetically the entry *bonded*, which is the first guide word on page 125. Any boldface word—a main entry with definition, a variant, an inflected form, a defined or undefined run-on, or an entry in a list of self-explanatory words—may be used as a guide word.

When one main entry has exactly the same written form as another, the two are distinguished by superscript numerals preceding each word:

¹man ... *n*

²man *vt*

¹quail ... *n*

²quail *vb*

Sometimes such homographs are related: the two entries *man* are derived from the same root. Sometimes there is no relationship: the two entries *quail* are unrelated beyond the accident of spelling. The order of homographs is usually historical: the one first used in English is entered first.

Words precede word elements made up of the same letters; solid compounds precede hyphened compounds; hyphened compounds precede open compounds; and lowercase entries precede those with an initial capital:

mini ... *n*

mini- *comb form*

work·up ... *n*

work–up ... *n*

work up ... *vt*

ti·ta·nia ... *n*

Ti·ta·nia ... *n*

The centered periods within entry words indicate division points at which a hyphen may be put at the end of a line of print or writing. Thus the noun *re·frig·er·a·tor* may be ended on one line with:

re-
refrig-
refriger-
refrigera-

and continued on the next with:

frigerator
erator
ator
tor

Centered periods are not shown after a single initial letter or before a single terminal letter because printers seldom cut off a single letter:

aplomb ... *n*

hoary ... *adj*

idea ... *n*

Nor are they shown at second and succeeding homographs unless these differ among themselves:

¹mas·ter ... *n*

²master ... *vt*

³master *adj*

¹till·er

²till·er

³til·ler

There are acceptable alternative end-of-line divisions just as there are acceptable variant spellings and pronunciations. It is, for example, all but impossible to produce a convincing argument that either of the divisions *aus·ter·i·ty*, *au·ster·i·ty* is better than the other. But space cannot be taken for entries like *aus·ter·i·ty or au·ster·i·ty*, and *au·s·ter·i·ty* would likely be confusing to many. No more than one division is, therefore, shown for any entry in this dictionary.

Many words have two or more common pronunciation variants, and the same end-of-line division is not always appropriate for each of them. The division *pi·an·ist*, for example, best fits the variant \pē-'an-əst\ whereas the division *pi·a·nist* best fits the variant \'pē-ə-nəst\. In instances like this, the division falling farthest to the left is used, regardless of the order of the pronunciations:

pi·a·nist \pē-'an-əst, 'pē-ə-nəst\

When a main entry is followed by the word *or* and another spelling, the two spellings are equal variants. Both are standard, and either one may be used according to personal inclination:

the·ater *or* **the·atre**

If two variants joined by *or* are out of alphabetical order, they remain equal variants. The one printed first is, however, slightly more common than the second:

coun·sel·or *or* **coun·sel·lor**

When another spelling is joined to the main entry by the word *also*, the spelling after *also* is a secondary variant and occurs less frequently than the first:

lov·able *also* **love·able**

Secondary variants belong to standard usage and may be used according to personal inclination. If there are two secondary variants, the second is joined to the first by *or*. Once the word *also* is used to signal a secondary variant, all following variants are joined by *or*:

1Shake·spear·ean *or* **Shake·spear·ian** *also*
Shak·sper·ean *or* **Shak·sper·ian**

Variants whose spelling places them alphabetically more than a column away from the main entry are entered at their own alphabetical places and usually not at the main entry:

Cha·nu·kah . . . *var of* HANUKKAH

rime, rimer, rimester *var of* RHYME, RHYMER, RHYMESTER

Variants having a usage label appear only at their own alphabetical places:

fla·vour *chiefly Brit var of* FLAVOR

agin . . . *dial var of* AGAINST

To show all the stylings that are found for English compounds would require space that can be better used for other information. So this dictionary limits itself to a single styling for a compound:

week·end

red–eye

high school

When a compound is widely used and one styling predominates, that styling is shown. When a compound is uncommon or when the evidence indicates that two or three stylings are approximately equal in frequency, the styling shown is based on the analogy of parallel compounds.

A main entry may be followed by one or more derivatives or by a homograph with a different functional label. These are run-on entries. Each is introduced by a lightface dash and each has a functional label. They are not defined, however, since their meanings are readily derivable from the meaning of the root word:

2question *vt* . . . — **ques·tion·er** *n*

1fun·ny . . . *adj* . . . — **fun·ni·ly** . . . *adv* — **fun·ni·ness** . . . *n*

mu·tant . . . *adj* . . . — **mutant** *n*

A main entry may be followed by one or more phrases containing the entry word or an inflected form of it. These are also run-on entries. Each is introduced by a lightface dash but there is no functional label. They are, however, defined since their meanings are more than the sum of the meanings of their elements:

1call . . . *vb* . . . — **call one's bluff** : . . .

2mend *n* . . . — **on the mend** : . . .

Defined phrases of this sort are run on at the entry constituting the first major element in the phrase. When there are variants, however, the run-on appears at the entry constituting the first major invariable element in the phrase:

1clock . . . *n* . . . — **kill the clock** *or* **run out the clock** : . . .

1seed . . . *n* . . . — **go to seed** *or* **run to seed** : . . .

Attention is called to the definition of *vocabulary entry* on page 1301. The term *dictionary entry* includes all vocabulary entries as well as all boldface entries in the separate sections of the back matter headed "Foreign Words and Phrases," "Biographical Names," "Geographical Names," and "Colleges and Universities."

Pronunciation

The matter between a pair of reversed virgules \ \ following the entry word indicates the pronunciation. The symbols used are explained in the chart printed inside the front and back covers of this dictionary and on page 32a. For a detailed discussion of these symbols and related matters, the serious student is referred to "A Guide to Pronunciation" in Webster's Third New International Dictionary.

A hyphen is used in the pronunciation to show syllabic division. These hyphens sometimes coincide with the centered periods in the entry word that indicate end-of-line division; sometimes they do not:

dis·cov·er \dis-'kəv-ər\

1met·ric \'me-trik\

A high-set mark ' indicates major (primary) stress or accent; a low-set mark , indicates minor (secondary) stress or accent:

rough·neck \'rəf-ˌnek\

The stress mark stands at the beginning of the syllable that receives the stress.

The presence of variant pronunciations indicates that not all educated speakers pronounce words the same way. A second-place variant is not to be regarded as less acceptable than the pronunciation that is given first. It may, in fact, be used by as many educated speakers as the first variant, but the requirements of the printed page are such that one must precede the other:

apri·cot \'ap-rə-ˌkät, 'ā-prə-\

for·eign \'fȯr-ən, 'fär-\

A variant that is appreciably less common than the preceding variant is preceded by the word *also*:

col·league \'käl-ˌēg *also* -ig\

Sometimes a regional label precedes a variant:

1great \'grāt, *South also* 'gre(ə)t\

Symbols enclosed by parentheses represent elements that are present in the pronunciation of some speakers but are absent from the pronunciation of other speakers, elements that are present in some but absent from other utterances of the same speaker, or elements whose presence or absence is uncertain:

hap·pen . . . *vi* . . . **hap·pen·ing** \'hap-(ə-)niŋ\

sat·is·fac·to·ry \ˌsat-əs-'fak-t(ə-)rē\

re·sponse \ri-'spän(t)s\

Thus, the parentheses at *happening* mean that there are some who pronounce the \ə\ between \p\ and \n\ and others who do not pronounce it.

When a main entry has less than a full pronunciation, the missing part is to be supplied from a pronunciation in a preceding entry or within the same pair of reversed virgules:

cham·pi·on·ship \-ˌship\

Ma·dei·ra \mə-'dir-ə, -'der-\

The pronunciation of the first three syllables of *championship* is found at the main entry *champion*:

[1]cham·pi·on \'cham-pē-ən\

The hyphens before and after \'der\ in the pronunciation of *Madeira* indicate that both the first and the last parts of the pronunciation are to be taken from the immediately preceding pronunciation.

In general, no pronunciation is indicated for open compounds consisting of two or more English words that have own-place entry:

kangaroo court *n*

Only the first entry in a sequence of numbered homographs is given a pronunciation if their pronunciations are the same:

[1]re·ward \ri-'wȯ(ə)rd\

[2]reward

Pronunciations are shown for obsolete words only if they occur in Shakespeare:

clois·tress \'klȯi-strəs\ *n, obs*

The pronunciation of unpronounced derivatives and compounds run on at a main entry is a combination of the pronunciation at the main entry and the pronunciation of the suffix or final element as given at its alphabetical place in the vocabulary:

—oval·ness *n*

—over one's head

Thus, the pronunciation of *ovalness* is the sum of the pronunciations given at *oval* and *-ness*; that of *over one's head*, the sum of the pronunciation of the three elements that make up the phrase.

Partial pronunciations are usually shown when two or more variants have a part in common. When a variation of stress is involved, a partial pronunciation may be terminated at the stress mark which stands at the beginning of a syllable not shown:

di·verse \dī-'vərs, də-', 'dī-ˌ\

an·cho·vy \'an-ˌchō-vē, an-'\

In some cases the pronunciation of a word or compound shows no major (primary) stress. One such class of words includes those that occur in main entries only as elements of an open compound. The stress shown for these words is the usual stress in the compound and may be less than major (primary):

clum·ber spaniel \ˌkləm-bər-\

In other contexts the word may have major (primary) stress, as in "Is that spaniel a clumber?"

Functional Labels

An italic label indicating a part of speech or some other functional classification follows the pronunciation or, if no pronunciation is given, the main entry. The eight traditional parts of speech are indicated as follows:

de·cep·tive . . . *adj*

hap·pi·ly . . . *adv*

be·cause . . . *conj*

hey . . . *interj*

war·den . . . *n*

of . . . *prep*

they . . . *pron*

re·lax . . . *vb*

If a verb is both transitive and intransitive, the labels *vt* and *vi* introduce the subdivisions:

pen·e·trate . . . *vb* . . . *vt* . . . ~ *vi*

A boldface swung dash ~ is used to stand for the main entry (as *penetrate*) and separate the subdivisions of the verb. If there is no subdivision, *vt* or *vi* takes the place of *vb*:

in·fect . . . *vt*

[2]vacation *vi*

Labeling a verb as transitive, however, does not preclude occasional intransitive use (as in absolute constructions).

Other italicized labels used to indicate functional classifications that are not traditional parts of speech are:

alt . . . *abbr*

tele- *or* **tel-** *comb form*

-onym . . . *n comb form*

-gen·ic . . . *adj comb form*

[1]pro- *prefix*

Air Express *service mark*

[1]-ic . . . *adj suffix*

[2]-ly *adv suffix*

-ness . . . *n suffix*

-ize . . . *vb suffix*

Fe *symbol*

Fris·bee . . . *trademark*

must . . . *verbal auxiliary*

whoa . . . *vb imper*

me·seems . . . *vb impersonal*

Two functional labels are sometimes combined:

zilch . . . *adj or n*

[1]le·ga·to . . . *adv or adj*

Inflected Forms

NOUNS

The plurals of nouns are shown in this dictionary when suffixation brings about a change of final *-y* to *-i-*, when the noun ends in a consonant plus *-o* or in *-ey*, when the noun ends in *-oo*, when the noun has an irregular plural or a zero plural or a foreign plural, when the noun is a compound that pluralizes any element but the last, when the noun has variant plurals, and when it is believed that the dictionary user might have reasonable doubts about the spelling of the plural or when the plural is spelled in a way contrary to expectations:

[2]fly *n, pl* **flies**

to·ma·to . . . *n, pl* **-toes**

val·ley . . . *n, pl* **valleys**

[2]boo *n, pl* **boos**

[1]mouse . . . *n, pl* **mice**

sheep . . . *n, pl* **sheep**

alum·nus . . . *n, pl* **-ni**

moth·er–in–law . . . *n, pl* **mothers–in–law**

[1]seed . . . *n, pl* **seed** *or* **seeds**

[1]pi . . . *n, pl* **pis**

[3]dry *n, pl* **drys**

Cutback inflected forms are used when the noun has three or more syllables:

an·i·mos·i·ty . . . *n, pl* **-ties**

The plurals of nouns are usually not shown when the base word is unchanged by suffixation, when the noun is a compound whose second element is readily recognizable as a regular free form entered at its own place, or when the noun is unlikely to occur in the plural:

[1]cat . . . *n*

[1]church . . . *n*

gad·fly . . . *n*

al·che·my . . . *n*

Nouns that are plural in form and that regularly occur in plural construction are labeled *n pl*:

en·vi·rons . . . *n pl*

Nouns that are plural in form but that are not always construed as plurals are appropriately labeled:

ge·net·ics . . . *n pl but sing in constr*

forty winks *n pl but sing or pl in constr*

A noun that is singular in construction takes a singular verb when it is used as a subject; a noun that is plural in construction takes a plural verb when it is used as a subject.

VERBS

The principal parts of verbs are shown in this dictionary when suffixation brings about a doubling of a final consonant or an elision of a final *-e* or a change of final *-y* to *-i-*, when final *-c* changes to *-ck* in suffixation, when the verb ends in *-ey*, when the inflection is irregular, when there are variant inflected forms, and when it is believed that the dictionary user might have reasonable doubts about the spelling of an inflected form or when the inflected form is spelled in a way contrary to expectations:

[3]brag *vb* **bragged; brag·ging**

[1]blame . . . *vt* **blamed; blam·ing**

[1]spy . . . *vb* **spied; spy·ing**

[2]pic·nic . . . *vi* **pic·nicked; pic·nick·ing**

[2]volley *vb* **vol·leyed; vol·ley·ing**

[3]ring *vb* **rang** . . . ; **rung** . . . ; **ring·ing**

[4]bias *vt* **bi·ased** *or* **bi·assed; bi·as·ing** *or* **bi·as·sing**

[2]visa *vt* **vi·saed** . . . ; **vi·sa·ing**

[2]chagrin *vt* **cha·grined** . . . ; **cha·grin·ing**

The principal parts of a regularly inflected verb are shown when it is desirable to indicate the pronunciation of one of the inflected forms:

[3]spell *vb* **spelled** \'speld, 'spelt\; **spell·ing**

[2]but·ton . . . *vb* **but·toned; but·ton·ing** \'bət-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\

Cutback inflected forms are often used when the verb has three or more syllables, when it is a disyllable that ends in *-l* and has variant spellings, and when it is a compound whose second element is readily recognized as an irregular verb:

de·i·fy . . . *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing**

[2]carol *vb* **-oled** *or* **-olled; -ol·ing** *or* **-ol·ling**

with·draw *vb* **-drew** . . . ; **-drawn** . . . ; **-draw·ing**

The principal parts of verbs are usually not shown when the base word is unchanged by suffixation or when the verb is a compound whose second element is readily recognizable as a regular free form entered at its own place:

[4]halt . . . *vi*

dis·sat·is·fy . . . *vb*

ADJECTIVES & ADVERBS

The comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs are shown in this dictionary when suffixation brings about a doubling of a final consonant or an elision of a final *-e* or a change of final *-y* to *-i-*, when the word ends in *-ey*, when the inflection is irregular, and when there are variant inflected forms:

[1]red . . . *adj* **red·der; red·dest**

[1]bare . . . *adj* **bar·er; bar·est**

[1]heavy . . . *adj* **heavi·er; -est**

[1]ear·ly . . . *adv* **ear·li·er; -est**

hom·ey *also* **homy** . . . *adj* **hom·i·er; -est**

[1]good . . . *adj* **bet·ter** . . . ; **best**

[2]ill . . . *adv* **worse; worst**

[1]shy . . . *adj* **shi·er** *or* **shy·er** . . . ; **shi·est** *or* **shy·est**

Adjectives and adverbs of two or more syllables are usually cut back:

come·ly . . . *adj* **come·li·er; -est**

[2]easy *adv* **eas·i·er; -est**

The comparative and superlative forms of regularly inflected adjectives and adverbs are shown when it is desirable to indicate the pronunciation of the inflected forms:

[1]long \'lȯŋ\ *adj* **lon·ger** \'lȯŋ-gər\; **lon·gest** \'lȯŋ-gəst\

The inclusion of inflected forms in *-er* and *-est* a⁺ adjective and adverb entries means nothing more about the use of *more* and *most* with these adjectives and adverbs than that their comparative and superlative degrees may be expressed in either way: *lazier* or *more lazy*; *laziest* or *most lazy*.

At a few adjective entries only the superlative form is shown:

mere . . . *adj* **mer·est**

The absence of the comparative form indicates that there is no evidence of its use.

The comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs are not shown when the base word is unchanged by suffixation or when the word is a compound whose second element is readily recognizable as a regular free form entered at its own place:

[1]full . . . *adj*

un·lucky . . . *adj*

The comparative and superlative forms of adverbs are not shown when they are identical with the inflected forms of a preceding adjective homograph:

[1]hot . . . *adj* **hot·ter; hot·test**

[2]hot *adv*

Inflected forms are not shown at undefined run-ons or at some entries bearing a limiting label:

Jac·o·bin . . . *n* . . . — **jac·o·bin·ize** . . . *vt*

[2]lampoon *vt* . . . — **lam·poon·ery** . . . *n*

[1]net . . . *n* . . . — **net·ty** . . . *adj*

[2]cote . . . *vt* . . . *obs* : to pass by

crouse . . . *adj* . . . *chiefly Scot* : BRISK, LIVELY

Capitalization

Most entries in this dictionary begin with a lowercase letter. A few of these have an italicized label *often cap*, which indicates that the word is as likely to be capitalized as not, that it is as acceptable with an uppercase initial as it is with one in lowercase. Some entries begin with an uppercase letter, which indicates that the word is usually capitalized. The absence of an initial capital or of an *often cap* label indicates that the word is not ordinarily capitalized:

mas·sive . . . *adj*

an·gli·cize . . . *vt* . . . *often cap*

Swiss . . . *n*

The capitalization of entries that are open or hyphened compounds is similarly indicated by the form of the entry or by an italicized label:

ice cream . . . *n*

¹french fry *vt, often cap 1st F*

neo–im·pres·sion·ism . . . *n, often cap N&I*

non–Com·mu·nist . . . *adj*

Irish setter *n*

Memorial Day *n*

A word that is capitalized in some senses and lowercase in others shows variations from the form of the main entry by the use of italicized labels at the appropriate senses:

Gyp·sy . . . *n* . . . **3** *not cap*

Sal·va·tion·ist . . . *n* . . . **2** *often not cap*

¹mass . . . *n* . . . **1** *cap*

es·tab·lish·ment . . . *n* . . . **2** . . . **b** *often cap*

Attributive Nouns

The italicized label *often attrib* placed after the functional label *n* indicates that the noun is often used as an adjective equivalent in attributive position before another noun:

ap·ple . . . *n, often attrib*

¹dog . . . *n, often attrib*

Examples of the attributive use of these nouns are *apple pie* and *dog license*.

While any noun may occasionally be used attributively, the label *often attrib* is limited to those having broad attributive use. This label is not used when an adjective homograph (as *iron* or *paper*) is entered. And it is not used at open compounds (as *X ray*) that may be used attributively with an inserted hyphen (as in *X-ray therapy*).

Etymology

The matter in boldface square brackets preceding the definition is the etymology. Meanings given in roman type within these brackets are not definitions of the entry, but are meanings of the Middle English, Old English, or non-English words within the brackets.

The etymology traces a vocabulary entry as far back as possible in English (as to Old English), tells from what language and in what form it came into English, and (except in the case of such words outside the general vocabulary of English as *dacha* and *talipot*) traces the pre-English source as far back as possible. These etyma are printed in italics.

The etymology usually gives the Middle English and the Old English forms of words in the following style:

¹reed . . . *n* [ME *rede*, fr. OE *hrēod* . . .]

¹hate . . . *n* [ME, fr. OE *hete* . . .]

An etymology in which a word is traced back to Middle English but not to Old English indicates that the word is found in Middle English but not in those texts that have survived from the Old English period:

¹clog . . . *n* [ME *clogge* short thick piece of wood]

¹rub . . . *vb* [ME *rubben;* akin to Icel *rubba* to scrape]

An etymology in which a word is traced back directly to Old English with no intervening mention of Middle English indicates that the word has not survived continuously from Old English times to the present. Rather, it died out after the Old English period and has been revived in modern times:

Geat . . . *n* [OE *Gēat*]

thegn . . . *n* [OE . . .]

The etymology gives the language from which words borrowed into English have come. It also gives the form or a transliteration of the word in that language if the form differs from that in English:

¹fes·ti·val . . . *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *festivus* festive]

linn . . . *n* [ScGael *linne* pool]

¹school . . . *n* [ME *scole*, fr. OE *scōl*, fr. L *schola* . . .]

smor·gas·bord . . . *n* [Sw *smörgåsbord* . . .]

In a few cases the expression "deriv. of" replaces the more usual "fr." This expression indicates that one or more intermediate steps have been omitted in tracing the derivation of the form preceding the expression from the form following it:

gal·ley . . . *n* [. . . OF *galie*, deriv. of MGk *galea*]

An etymology is not usually given for a word created in English by the combination of existing constituents or by functional shift. This indicates that the identity of the constituents is expected to be self-evident to the user:

like·ness . . . *n* **1 :** the quality or state of being like

tone–deaf . . . *adj* **:** relatively insensitive to differences in musical pitch

tooth·paste . . . *n* **:** a paste for cleaning the teeth

profit system *n* **:** FREE ENTERPRISE

²wheel *vi* **1 :** to turn on or as if on an axis . . .

In the case of a family of words obviously related to a common English word but differing from it by containing various easily recognizable suffixes, an etymology is usually given only at the base word, even though some of the derivatives may have been formed in a language other than English:

¹im·mor·tal . . . *adj* [ME, fr. L *immortalis* . . .] **1 :** exempt from death

im·mor·tal·i·ty . . . *n* **:** the quality or state of being immortal

The word *immortality* was actually borrowed into Middle English (via Middle French) from Latin *immortalitas*.

Much of the technical vocabulary of the sciences and

other specialized studies consists of words or word elements that are current in two or more languages, with only such slight modifications as are necessary to adapt them to the structure of the individual language in each case. Many words and word elements of this kind have become sufficiently a part of the general vocabulary of English as to require entry in an abridged dictionary. Because of the vast extent of the relevant published material in many languages and in many scientific and other specialized fields, it is impracticable to ascertain the language of origin of every such term. Yet it would not be accurate to formulate a statement about the origin of any such term in a way that could be interpreted as implying that it was coined in English. Accordingly, whenever a term that is entered in this dictionary belongs recognizably to this class of internationally current terms and whenever no positive evidence is at hand to show that it was coined in English, the etymology recognizes its international status and the possibility that it originated elsewhere than in English by use of the label ISV (for International Scientific Vocabulary):

mega·watt . . . *n* [ISV]

phy·lo·ge·net·ic . . . *adj* [ISV, fr. NL *phylogenesis* . . .]

¹-ol . . . *n suffix* [ISV, fr. *alcohol*]

An etymology beginning with the name of a language (including ME or OE) and not giving the foreign (or Middle English or Old English) form indicates that this form is the same as that of the entry word:

¹tan·go . . . *n* . . . [AmerSp]

¹po·grom . . . *n* [Yiddish, fr. Russ . . .]

¹gang . . . *n* [ME, fr. OE . . .]

An etymology beginning with the name of a language (including ME or OE) and not giving the foreign (or Middle English or Old English) meaning indicates that this meaning is the same as that expressed in the first definition in the entry:

vig·or·ous . . . *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *vigor*] **1 :** possessing vigor

When an entry word is derived from an earlier Modern English word that is not entered in this dictionary, the meaning of such a word is given in parentheses:

³press *vb* [alter. of obs. *prest* (to enlist by giving pay in advance)]

Small superscript figures following words or syllables in an etymology refer to the tone of the word or syllable which they follow. They are, accordingly, used only with forms cited from tone languages:

chow mein . . . *n* [Chin (Pek) *ch'ao³ mien⁴*, fr. *ch'ao³* to fry + *mien⁴* dough]

¹voo·doo . . . *n* . . . [LaF *voudou*, of African origin; akin to Ewe *vo¹du³* tutelary deity, demon]

When the source of a word appearing as a main entry is unknown, the expression "origin unknown" is usually used. Only in rare and exceptional circumstances (as with some ethnic names) does the absence of an etymology mean that it has not been possible to furnish any informative etymology. More often, it means that no etymology is believed to be necessary. This is the case, for instance, with most of the entries identified as variants and with many derivatives.

When a word has been traced back to the earliest language in which it is attested, and if this is an Indo-European language, selected cognates in other Indo-European languages (especially Old High German, Latin, and Greek) are usually given:

¹one . . . *adj* [ME *on*, fr. OE *ān*; akin to OHG *ein* one, L *unus* (OL *oinos*), Skt *eka*]

equine . . . *adj* [L *equinus*, fr. *equus* horse; akin to OE *eoh* horse, Gk *hippos*]

Sometimes, however, to avoid space-consuming repetition, the expression "more at" directs the user to another entry where the cognates are given:

²thought *n* [ME, fr. OE *thōht*; akin to OE *thencan* to think — more at THINK]

Besides the use of "akin to" to denote an ordinary cognate relationship, some etymologies make special use of "akin to" as part of a longer formula "of— origin; akin to—." This formula indicates that a word was borrowed from some language belonging to a group of languages whose name is inserted in the blank before the word *origin*, that it is impossible to say that the word in question is a borrowing of a particular attested word in a particular language of the source group, and that the form cited in the blank after the expression *akin to* is a cognate of the word in question as attested within the source group:

¹ca·noe . . . *n* [F, fr. NL *canoa*, fr. Sp, fr. Arawakan, of Cariban origin; akin to Galibi *canaoua*]

²cant *n* [ME, prob. fr. MD or ONF; MD, edge, corner, fr. ONF, fr. L *canthus, cantus* iron tire, perh. of Celt origin; akin to W *cant* rim; akin to Gk *kanthos* corner of the eye]

This last example shows the two contrasting uses of "akin to." The word cited immediately after "of Celt origin; akin to" is a Celtic cognate of the presumed Celtic source word from which the Latin word was borrowed. The word cited after the second "akin to" is a further cognate from another Indo-European language.

When the origin of a word is traced to the name of a person or place not further identified, additional information may be found in the Biographical Names or Geographical Names section in the back matter:

new·ton . . . *n* [Sir Isaac *Newton*]

cal·i·co . . . *n* . . . [*Calicut*, India]

Usage

Three types of status labels are used in this dictionary —temporal, regional, and stylistic—to signal that a word or a sense of a word is not part of the standard vocabulary of English.

The temporal label *obs* for "obsolete" means that there is no evidence of use since 1755:

egal . . . *adj* . . . *obs*

har·di·ment . . . *n* . . . **2** *obs*

The label *obs* is a comment on the word being defined. When a thing, as distinguished from the word used to designate it, is obsolete, appropriate orientation is usually given in the definition:

¹cat·a·pult . . . *n* . . . **1 :** an ancient military device for hurling missiles

²ruff *n* . . . **1 :** a wheel-shaped stiff collar worn by men and women of the late 16th and early 17th centuries

The temporal label *archaic* means that a word or sense once in common use is found today only sporadically or in special contexts:

eft·soons . . . *adv* . . . *archaic*

²tender . . . *vt* . . . **2** *archaic*

A word or sense limited in use to a specific region of the U.S. has a label that corresponds loosely to one of the areas defined in Hans Kurath's *Word Geography of the Eastern United States*. The adverb *chiefly* precedes a label when the word has some currency outside the specified region, and a double label is used to indicate considerable currency in each of two specific regions:

ban·nock ... *n* ... **2** *NewEng*

ban·quette ... *n* ... **1** ... **b** *South*

cal·cu·late ... *vt* ... **3** *chiefly North*

can·ti·na ... *n* ... **1** *Southwest*

em·bar·ca·de·ro ... *n* ... *West*

goo·ber ... *n* ... *South & Midland*

jolt–wag·on ... *n, Midland*

[1]pot·latch ... *n* ... **2** *Northwest*

Words current in all regions of the U.S. have no label.

A word or sense limited in use to one of the other countries of the English-speaking world has an appropriate regional label:

bairn ... *n* ... *chiefly Scot*

be·gor·ra ... *interj* ... *Irish*

bil·la·bong ... *n* ... **1** *Austral*

com·man·do ... *n* ... **1** *So Afr*

corn flour *n, Brit*

foot·ball ... *n* **1** ... **e** *Canad*

[3]gang *vi* ... *Scot*

gar·ron ... *n* ... *Scot & Irish*

The label *dial* for "dialect" indicates that the pattern of use of a word or sense is too complex for summary labeling: it usually includes several regional varieties of American English or of American and British English:

crit·ter ... *n* ... *dial*

The label *dial Brit* indicates currency in several dialects of the British Commonwealth; *dial Eng* indicates currency in one or more provincial dialects of England:

[1]lair ... *n* ... **1** *dial Brit*

few·trils ... *n* ... *dial Eng*

The stylistic label *slang* is used with words or senses that are especially appropriate in contexts of extreme informality, that usually have a currency not limited to a particular region or area of interest, and that are composed typically of shortened forms or extravagant or facetious figures of speech:

clip joint *n* **1** *slang* **:** a place of public entertainment (as a nightclub) that makes a practice of defrauding patrons (as by overcharging)

horn·swog·gle ... *vt* ... *slang* **:** BAMBOOZLE, HOAX

[1]prof ... *n, slang* **:** PROFESSOR

There is no satisfactory objective test for slang, especially with reference to a word out of context. No word, in fact, is invariably slang, and many standard words can be given slang applications.

The stylistic label *nonstand* for "nonstandard" is used for a few words or senses that are disapproved by many but that have some currency in reputable contexts:

ir·re·gard·less ... *adv* ... *nonstand*

[1]lay ... *vi* ... **2** *nonstand*

The stylistic label *substand* for "substandard" is used for those words or senses that conform to a widespread pattern of usage that differs in choice of word or form from that of the prestige group of the community:

ain't ... **2** *substand*

learn ... *vt* ... **2 a** *substand*

A subject label or guide phrase is sometimes used to indicate the specific application of a word or sense:

ape·ri·od·ic ... *adj* ... **3** *cryptology*

hemi·he·dral ... *adj* ... *of a crystal*

lose ... *vi* ... **3** *of a timepiece*

In general, however, subject orientation is given in the definition:

Gun·ther ... *n* ... **:** a Burgundian king and husband of Brunhild in Germanic legend

blitz ... *n* ... **2 b :** a rush of the passer by the defensive linebackers in football

Definitions are sometimes followed by verbal illustrations that show a typical use of the word in context. These illustrations are enclosed in angle brackets, and the word being illustrated is usually replaced by a lightface swung dash. The swung dash stands for the boldface entry word, and it may be followed by an italicized suffix:

large–print ... *adj* ... <~ books>

[3]low *adj* ... **11** ... <had a ~ opinion of him>

[2]mess ... *vi* ... **4 c** ... <~ *ing* in other people's affairs>

proud ... *adj* ... **2 b** ... <the ~ *est* moment in her life>

The swung dash is not used when the form of the boldface entry word is changed in suffixation, and it is not used for open compounds:

[1]dare ... *vt* ... **1 a** ... <*dared* him to jump>

upper hand *n* ... <was determined not to let his opponent get the *upper hand*>

Illustrative quotations are also used to show words in typical contexts:

[1]with·in ... *adv* **2** ... <search ~ for a creative impulse — Kingman Brewster, Jr.>

Omissions in quotations are indicated by suspension points:

[1]jog ... *vi* ... **1 :** ... < his ... holster *jogging* against his hip —Thomas Williams>

Definitions are sometimes followed by usage notes that give supplementary information about such matters as idiom, syntax, semantic relationship, and status. A usage note is introduced by a lightface dash:

[1]stead ... *n* ... **2 :** ... — used chiefly in the phrase *to stand one in good stead*

[3]zero *vt* ... **2 a :** ... — usu. used with *in*

ad·e·noid ... *n* ... **:** ... — usu. used in pl.

[1]guide ... *n* ... **3 :** ... — used esp. in commands

[1]pi·a·nis·si·mo ... *adv or adj* ... **:** ... — used as a direction in music

dick ... *n* ... **2 :** ... — usu. considered vulgar

Po·lack ... *n* ... **2 :** ... — usu. used disparagingly

Two or more usage notes are separated by a semicolon:

[2]cat ... *vi* ... — often used with *around;* often considered vulgar

Sometimes a usage note is used in place of a definition. Some function words (as conjunctions and prepositions) have little or no semantic content; most interjections express feelings but are otherwise untranslatable into meaning; and some other words (as oaths and honorific titles) are more amenable to comment than to definition:

[1]if ... *conj* ... **3** — used as a function word to introduce an exclamation expressing a wish

[1]for ... *prep* ... **9** — used as a function word to indicate duration of time or extent of space

[2]ouch *interj* ... — used esp. to express sudden pain

[3]gad *interj* ... — used as a mild oath

[1]lord ... *n* ... **4** — used as a British title

Sense Division

A boldface colon is used in this dictionary to introduce a definition:

deb·u·tante ... *n* ... : a young woman making her formal entrance into society

It is also used to separate two or more definitions of a single sense:

[2]imitation *adj* : resembling something else that is usu. genuine and of better quality : not real

Boldface Arabic numerals separate the senses of a word that has more than one sense:

[2]quiz *vt* ... **1** : to make fun of : MOCK **2** : to look at inquisitively **3** : to question closely

Boldface lowercase letters separate the subsenses of a word:

[1]pack ... *n* ... **2 a** : the contents of a bundle **b** : a large amount or number : HEAP **c** : a full set of playing cards

Lightface numerals in parentheses indicate a further division of subsenses:

[1]re·treat ... *n* ... **1 a** (1) : an act or process of withdrawing ... (2) : the process of receding ... **b** (1) : the usu. forced withdrawal of troops ... (2) : a signal for retreating ...

A lightface colon following a definition and immediately preceding two or more subsenses indicates that the subsenses are subsumed by the preceding definition:

huge ... *adj* ... : very large or extensive: as **a** : of great size or area **b** : great in scale or degree ... **c** : great in scope or character

[1]pe·cu·liar ... *adj* ... **3** : different from the usual or normal: **a** : SPECIAL, PARTICULAR **b** : CURIOUS **c** : ECCENTRIC, QUEER

The word *as* may or may not follow the lightface colon. Its presence (as at *huge*) indicates that the following subsenses are typical or significant examples. Its absence (as at *peculiar*) indicates that the subsenses which follow are exhaustive.

The system of separating the various senses of a word by numerals and letters is a lexical convenience. It reflects something of their semantic relationship, but it does not evaluate senses or set up a hierarchy of importance among them.

Sometimes a particular semantic relationship between senses is suggested by the use of one of four italic sense dividers: *esp*, *specif*, *also*, or *broadly*.

The sense divider *esp* (for *especially*) is used to introduce the most common meaning subsumed in the more general preceding definition:

chick ... *n* **1 a** : CHICKEN; *esp* : one newly hatched

The sense divider *specif* (for *specifically*) is used to introduce a common but highly restricted meaning subsumed in the more general preceding definition:

[2]pitcher *n* : one that pitches; *specif* : the player that pitches in a game of baseball

The sense divider *also* is used to introduce a meaning that is closely related to but may be considered less important than the preceding sense:

Mo·selle ... *n* ... a white table wine made in the valley of the Moselle; *also* : a similar wine made elsewhere

The sense divider *broadly* is used to introduce an extended or wider meaning of the preceding definition:

bull's–eye ... *n* ... **3 b** : a shot that hits the bull's-eye; *broadly* : something that precisely attains a desired end

The order of senses is historical: the sense known to have been first used in English is entered first. This is not to be taken to mean, however, that each sense of a multisense word developed from the immediately preceding sense. It is altogether possible that sense 1 of a word has given rise to sense 2 and sense 2 to sense 3, but frequently sense 2 and sense 3 may have arisen independently of one another from sense 1.

Information coming between the entry word and the first definition of a multisense word applies to all senses and subsenses. Information applicable only to some senses or subsenses is given between the appropriate boldface numeral or letter and the symbolic colon:

ole·in ... *n* ... **2** *also* **ole·ine** \-ən, -ˌēn\

cru·ci·fix·ion ... *n* ... **1 a** ... **b** *cap*

[1]tile ... *n* ... **1** *pl* **tiles** *or* **tile a** : ...

[2]palm *n* ... **3** [L *palmus*, fr. *palma*]

When an italicized label or guide phrase follows a boldface numeral, the label or phrase applies only to that specific numbered sense and its subsenses. It does not apply to any other boldface numbered senses:

ro·ta ... *n* ... **1** *chiefly Brit* : ... **2** *cap* ...

ro·man·ti·cism ... *n* **1** : ... **2** *often cap* **a** (1) : ... (2) : ... **b** : ...

At *rota*, the *chiefly Brit* label applies to sense **1** but not to sense **2**. The *cap* label applies to sense **2** but not to sense **1**.

At *romanticism*, the *often cap* label applies to all the subsenses of sense **2** but not to sense **1**.

When an italicized label or guide phrase follows a boldface letter, the label or phrase applies only to that specific lettered sense and its subsenses. It does not apply to any other boldface lettered senses:

[1]hearse ... *n* ... **2 a** *archaic* : ... **b** *obs*

The *archaic* label applies to sense **2a** but not to sense **2b**. The *obs* label applies to sense **2b** but not to sense **2a**.

When an italicized label or guide phrase follows a parenthesized numeral, the label or phrase applies only to that specific numbered sense:

[1]mat·ter ... *n* ... **1** ... **h** (1) *obs* : REASON, CAUSE

The *obs* label applies to sense **1h** (1) and to no other subsenses of the word.

Names of Plants & Animals

An entry that defines the name of a plant or animal (as peach or lion) is a taxonomic entry. Such entries employ in part a formal codified vocabulary of New Latin names—taxa—that has been developed and used by biologists in accordance with international codes of botanical and of zoological nomenclature for the purpose of identifying and indicating the relationships of plants and animals. Names of taxa higher than the genus (as class, order, and family) are capitalized plural nouns which are often used with singular verbs and which are not abbreviated in normal use.

The genus is the fundamental taxon. It names a group of closely related kinds of plants (as *Prunus*, which includes the wild and cultivated cherries, apricots, peaches, and almonds) or animals (as *Felis*, which includes domestic and wild cats, lions, tigers, and cougars). It is a capitalized singular noun.

Each organism has one—and only one—correct name under these codes. The name for a species—the binomial or species name—consists of a singular capitalized genus name combined with an uncapitalized specific epithet. The name for a variety or subspecies—the trinomial, variety name, or subspecies name—adds a similar varietal or subspecific epithet. Thus the cultivated cabbage (*Brassica oleracea capitata*), the cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea botrytis*), and the brussels sprout (*Brassica oleracea gemmifera*) belong to the same species (*Brassica oleracea*) of cole.

Taxa in this dictionary are enclosed in parentheses and usually come immediately after the primary orienting noun. Genus names as well as binomials and trinomials are italicized, but names of taxa above the genus are not italicized:

ba·sid·io·my·cete ... *n* ... : any of a large class (Basidiomycetes) of higher fungi having septate hyphae, bearing spores on a basidium, and including rusts, smuts, mushrooms, and puffballs

rob·in ... *n* **1 a :** a small European thrush (*Erithacus rubecola*) resembling a warbler and having a brownish olive back and yellowish red throat and breast **b :** any of various Old World songbirds that are related to or resemble the European robin **2 :** a large No. American thrush (*Turdus migratorius*) with olivaceous gray upperparts, blackish head and tail, black and whitish streaked throat, and chiefly dull reddish breast and underparts

Taxa are used in this dictionary to provide precise technical identifications through which defined terms may be pursued in technical writing. Because of their specialized nature, however, taxa do not have separate entries.

Taxonomic entries are usually oriented indirectly to higher taxa by other vernaculars (as by *alga* at *seaweed* or *thrush* at *robin*) or by technical adjectives (as by *composite* at *daisy*, *leguminous* at *pea*, or *teleost* at *perch*). Among the higher plants, except the composites and legumes and a few obscure tropical groups, such orientation is by a vernacular family name that is linked at the corresponding taxonomic entry to its technical equivalent:

beech ... *n* ... : any of a genus (*Fagus* of the family Fagaceae, the beech family) of hardwood trees with smooth gray bark and small edible nuts; *also* : its wood

oak ... *n* ... **1 a :** a tree or shrub (genera *Quercus* or *Lithocarpus*) of the beech family that produces a rounded one-seeded thin-shelled nut surrounded at the base by an indurated cup

A genus name may be abbreviated to its initial letter when it is used more than once in senses not separated by a boldface number:

nas·tur·tium ... *n* ... : any of a genus (*Tropaeolum* of the family Tropaeolaceae, the nasturtium family) of herbs with showy spurred flowers and pungent seeds; *esp* : either of two widely cultivated ornamentals (*T. majus* and *T. minus*)

Cross-Reference

Four different kinds of cross-references are used in this dictionary: directional, synonymous, cognate, and inflectional. In each instance the cross-reference is readily recognized by the lightface small capitals in which it is printed.

A cross-reference following a lightface dash and beginning with *see* or *compare* is a directional cross-reference. It directs the dictionary user to look elsewhere for further information. A *compare* cross-reference is regularly appended to a definition; a *see* cross-reference may stand alone:

plea ... *n* ... **2** ... **a** ... — compare DEMURRER

¹scru·ple ... *n* ... **1** —see WEIGHT table

A cross-reference immediately following a boldface colon is a synonymous cross-reference. It may stand alone as the only definitional matter for an entry or for a sense or subsense of an entry; it may follow an analytical definition; it may be one of two synonymous cross-references separated by a comma:

mul·ti·syl·lab·ic ... *adj* : POLYSYLLABIC

drain·age ... *n* ... **2 :** a device for draining : DRAIN

drip·py ... *adj* ... **1 :** RAINY, DRIZZLY

A synonymous cross-reference indicates that a definition at the entry cross-referred to can be substituted as a definition for the entry or the sense or subsense in which the cross-reference appears.

A cross-reference following an italic *var of* is a cognate cross-reference:

fiord *var of* FJORD

Sometimes a cognate cross-reference has a limiting label preceding *var of* as a specific indication that the variant is not standard English:

mair ... *chiefly Scot var of* MORE

quare ... *dial var of* ¹QUEER

sher·ris ... *archaic var of* SHERRY

A cross-reference following an italic label that identifies an entry as an inflected form of a noun, of an adjective or adverb, or of a verb is an inflectional cross-reference. Inflectional cross-references appear only when the inflected form falls at least a column away from the entry cross-referred to:

mice *pl of* MOUSE

sang *past of* SING

Synonyms & Antonyms

Synonymous words believed to be of interest to the dictionary user are listed in groups following the entry of one of the words in the group. (See, for example, *talkative* on page 1180.) They are signaled by an indented boldface italic ***syn***. They are followed by a brief statement of their common denotation which is called the "shared meaning element" and by a list of antonyms which is identified by a prefixed boldface italic ***ant*** and is specific to the first member of the group.

Synonymous words believed to present special problems to the dictionary user are similarly listed and are, further, clearly discriminated and illustrated in an accompanying paragraph. (See, for example, ¹*gaudy* on page 471.)

When a word is included in a synonym list, the main entry of that word is followed by a run-on ***syn*** see— which refers to the entry where the synonym list may be found. Where appropriate, the run-on is followed by ***ant*** and any antonyms specific to the word. (See, for example, *facetious* on page 406.)

Combining Forms, Prefixes & Suffixes

An entry that begins or ends with a hyphen is a word element that forms part of an English compound:

self- *comb form*

-l·o·gy . . . *n comb form* . . . <phraseo*logy*>

-lyze . . . *vb comb form* . . . <electro*lyze*>

pre- *prefix* . . . <*pre*historic>

[1]-er . . . *adj suffix or adv suffix* . . . <hott*er*> <dri*er*>

-ism . . . *n suffix* . . . <barbarian*ism*>

-fy . . . *vb suffix* . . . <citi*fy*>

Combining forms, prefixes, and suffixes are entered in this dictionary for three reasons: to make easier the writing of etymologies of words in which these word elements occur over and over again; to make understandable the meaning of many undefined run-ons which for reasons of space would be omitted if they had to be given etymologies and definitions; and to make recognizable the meaningful elements of new words that are not well enough established in the language to warrant dictionary entry.

Lists of Undefined Words

Lists of undefined words occur after the entries of the prefixes **non-**, **re-**, and **un-**. These words are not defined because they are self-explanatory: their meanings are simply the sum of a meaning of the prefix combined with a meaning of the root word.

Abbreviations & Symbols

Abbreviations and symbols for chemical elements are included as main entries in the vocabulary:

acct *abbr*

Au *symbol*

Abbreviations have been normalized to one form. In practice, however, there is considerable variation in the use of periods and in capitalization (as *mph*, *m.p.h.*, *Mph*, and *MPH*), and stylings other than those given in this dictionary are often acceptable.

Abbreviations regularly used in this dictionary are listed separately on page 31a.

Symbols that are not capable of being alphabetized are included in a separate section of the back matter headed "Signs and Symbols."

The English Language and Its History

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English is undoubtedly the most important of the world's languages at the present time. In number of speakers it ranks second,[1] with approximately 275 million native speakers, compared with 610 million native speakers of Mandarin Chinese. Spanish comes next, with 210 million, followed by Russian with 140 million and Hindi-Urdu and Arabic with 130 million each. Importance is not measured only by numbers, however. The uses to which a language is put and the extent of its international exposure are at least as important as the sheer bulk of native speakers. The worldwide use of English in diplomacy, commerce, and science is evidence of its importance in this regard, and serves to explain why many millions around the world find it desirable and sometimes necessary to learn it as a second language.

It is not the intrinsic superiority of English over other languages that has made it the premier world language. If it is richer in vocabulary, more flexible in grammar, and more expressive than other languages (and some would question at least the last two of these claims), these qualities are the results, not the causes, of its importance in the world. Simply stated, what makes a language important is the importance of the people who use it and the uses to which they put it. Since the eighteenth century, speakers of English—at first from the British Isles and later from America and the dominions—have played a dominant role in colonial expansion, industrial and technological development, and world politics. The position of English in the world is the direct result of the history of those who speak it.

What is modern English, this great world language, like? Before we can answer that question at all meaningfully, we must deal with the broader questions What is a language like? and What qualities, if any, are shared by all languages, regardless of their relative prominence or obscurity? These are questions which are central to the study called linguistics. They cannot be completely answered by linguistics in its present state; probably they will never be completely answered. But linguistics has progressed sufficiently so that partial answers, dealing with the larger aspects of the questions, can be tentatively suggested. Like the answers put forward by most sciences, these are subject to revision in the future as new insights and new techniques are brought to bear and new minds take up the old problems from new angles. All we can say is that this is what we know, or think we know, now.

In the first place, language is a uniquely human possession, at least in that little corner of the universe that we know about. All races, tribes, and families of men have language; no animals do. Some people might question the second of these statements, since we know that animals communicate with one another by sounds. But when we identify the particular qualities of genuine language, we discover that animal communication systems are different in several fundamental ways. Why this is so, when we share so much of our anatomy, physiology, and psychology with the animals, especially the apes and monkeys, science cannot yet clearly explain. It seems to be largely due to the structure of our brains, though other physical differences, especially in the anatomy of the throat and mouth, may have something to do with it. Much research is going on now in the attempt to answer this question. Meanwhile it is certainly a deeply ingrained part of our human nature to consider language as belonging to man alone. There is something a bit eerie about those animals, mostly birds, which can be taught to mimic the sounds of language. All the stories, whether fables, fairy tales, or fantasies, that endow animals with speech also give them other human qualities as well, so that they cease to be animals and become humans in disguise. On the other hand, we find it hard to imagine a human society lacking language. None has ever been found. If there still are tribes unknown to us living in isolation in Amazonian jungles, we are confident that they have language.

It is paradoxical that in spite of this universality of language among humans it still must be learned afresh by each individual person. There is considerable debate among linguists and psychologists as to how much of our linguistic ability we inherit and how much we have to learn from others. A conservative position would be that we inherit a remarkable aptitude for learning language, or at least one language, together with a very strong motivation to learn it early in life. Some linguists go much farther, as far as to maintain that we inherit not only an aptitude and a desire to learn, but actually a good part of the underlying system that is much the same in all languages. In any case, three conditions meet together to allow us to learn a language rapidly and successfully while we are still very young children: aptitude, strong motivation, and exposure to older people actually using language as they go about their lives. All normal children seem to have the first two of these; the third supplies the input which decides what particular language, or sometimes languages, we learn. It is thus a factor of our heredity that we are able and eager to learn a language, and an accident of our environment that the language we learn is English or French or some other of the three thousand or so living languages. The normal circumstance is to learn the language surrounding us in early childhood and to speak it the rest of our lives; it is our NATIVE SPEECH or MOTHER TONGUE. Occasionally the environment is such that the child learns two mother tongues at the same time and is thus a native bilingual. Even more rarely, the child

1 According to figures compiled by the Center for Applied Linguistics, Arlington, Va., in 1976.

may begin with one native speech but switch to another at such an early age that he forgets the first one completely. Whatever the situation, it is wholly a result of the environment. Most people are monolingual native speakers simply because most families and communities are homogeneously monolingual.

The fact that every normal human learns whatever language he happens to be surrounded by in childhood and that the amount of time and effort expended in this learning seems to be about the same for all languages suggests that languages must be essentially similar in their general form, however different they may be in details. Linguistics supports this supposition. It is possible to list a large number of qualities as being characteristic of language in general and hence of all known languages. Linguists call these LANGUAGE UNIVERSALS.

In the first place, languages are very versatile and adaptable. Their versatility is shown by the fact that all kinds of people, from scholars and mystics to laborers and mechanics, can make use of the same language to carry on their work, their social life, their thoughts, and their recreations. There are differences between the ways in which these different groups use their language, but it is at bottom the same means of communication. Another sign of the versatility of language is the fact that speakers are constantly saying new things that they never heard before, and others understand their utterances with equal ease, often without even realizing that they are new. This is one of the great differences between language proper and the pseudolanguages used by animals. So far as we know, all animal communications consist of a relatively short list of utterances which cannot be changed, expanded, or used in new and different ways. An animal "language", then, is rather like one of those little pocket phrase books for travelers. Even if he memorizes the book, the traveler is restricted to the immediate practical needs covered by the repertory of messages in the book. He can ask the way to his hotel or the price of a souvenir, but he can't comment very effectively on the sunset or describe the way things are in his hometown. And if something he says moves a speaker of the language to engage in real conversation, the traveler is lost. But two speakers of the same language, even though they may be very different in background, experience, education, and personality, can find a way to talk about anything they want to, using sentences that were never printed in any phrase book because nobody ever used them before.

The adaptability of language is related to its versatility. Like other human institutions, a language is adjusted by long use to the particular needs of the people and the society that use it. When these needs change, the language also changes, usually much more rapidly than most other institutions. This is why it is that in 1500 years—a relatively short space of time in human history—English has changed from the language of a rough, warlike, rather savage, agrarian, tribal society like that of the Anglo-Saxons to the typical language of the most complicated technological civilization yet developed on earth. It has always been easily adjusted to meet the new needs put upon it by a new religion, a new social system, an age of worldwide exploration, conquest, and colonization, and a series of political, agricultural, industrial, scientific, technological, and electronic revolutions. Other languages have done the same, and the process is going on today as the peoples of many different cultures around the world cope with the problem of adapting to Western society. Here again language shows itself fundamentally different from the communication systems of animals. A group of animals transplanted from their natural habitat to a new and different one do not devise new cries to deal with the new circumstances. They have only their little phrase book of specific and unalterable utterances, many of which are irrelevant to their new condition.

The versatility and adaptability that characterize all languages, as well as the fact that they all can be learned readily by any people, come from their organization or structure. Basically a language consists of four main parts or systems, each of which has its own organization while also being related to the others. First, and certainly most obvious in a dictionary like this one, is the VOCABULARY or LEXICON, a relatively large collection of words and word parts. Then there is the GRAMMAR, a set of rules governing the ways in which items from the lexicon can be combined into larger units. These words and sentences are related to the vast variety of things, events, and ideas that we talk about by a system of meanings, a SEMANTIC SYSTEM. Finally a tightly organized system of sound patterns, which linguists call the PHONOLOGY, controls the way in which the strings of words put in order according to the grammar are translated into sounds that can be spoken and heard. All languages have these four parts. Many languages, including English, have a fifth part, a WRITING SYSTEM, which supplies an alternative, visual way in which the ordered strings of words can be expressed. Unlike the other four systems, which seem to be as old as language itself, writing is a relatively new invention, probably not more than 6000 years old. Usually it is a kind of visual imitation of the phonology, using about the same number of units and following the same patterns of arrangement, though some writing systems—notably the Chinese—are based directly on the words themselves, rather than on the way they sound.

The vocabulary is the most loosely organized of the systems of language, and hence the one most open to change. It is relatively easy to add a new word to it. There are three requirements: first a need, second an inventive person, and third a group of speakers to pick up the new word and use it. The need may be of various kinds, the most obvious of which is some new element in the culture that must be named. Thus when lysergic acid diethylamide, which had been known to chemists under that ponderous name for some time, began to be used widely as a hallucinogenic drug, its name became shortened to LSD. There was also a need for a word to describe the people who use it. They could have been called *lysergic acid diethylamide users* or *LSD addicts,* but the inventiveness of some anonymous word coiner came up with *acidhead*, neatly combining a quality of the substance itself with the part of the body affected. Since the group that took up this term consisted chiefly of the drug users themselves and their associates on the fringes of society, the new word was at first considered slang, but it has now been used so widely that it has become an item in the regular vocabulary of English. Its future, like that of most slang words as well as many words in the more respectable part of the vocabulary, is in doubt, for social, not linguistic, reasons. If the use of LSD turns out to be a passing fad, the term will die out with the practice, and a future generation will find it as quaint as the present one finds outmoded expressions of the twenties, like *lounge lizard* and *flapper*.

The need may be of other kinds as well. Sometimes words acquire associations with unpleasant, antisocial, or otherwise undesirable ideas or experiences, so that people become reluctant to use them. There is then a need for a substitute that people find innocuous enough to use in ordinary conversation. Men who work on the land were once called *villains* in English (ultimately from the Latin word *villa* 'farm'); now they are called *farm labourers* or even *agricultural labourers* in England and *farmhands* in

the United States. Sometimes the need is for more controllable precision, as in technical and scientific language. Thus linguists coined the word *phoneme* when the older *speech-sound* turned out to be too general and vague. Or the need may be for vocabulary items that identify the speaker with a particular social group. The special vocabularies of sailors, surfers, skiers, airplane pilots, and hundreds of other groups are full of terms which in a way serve the need for precision, but also serve to show that the speaker is "in" and to mystify and exclude those who are "out". Often these terms have perfectly good synonyms in the regular vocabulary. This is an old social use of language. Shakespeare makes amusing use of it when he shows that Prince Hal got along so well with the tavern *drawers* (waiters) that they taught him their "in" language. As the Prince puts it:

> They call drinking deep, dying scarlet; and when you breathe in your watering, they cry 'hem!' and bid you play it off. To conclude, I am so good a proficient in one quarter of an hour that I can drink with any tinker in his own language during my life. [1 Henry IV, II.iv]

The sources of new vocabulary items are many and varied and may change in popularity from one period to another or from one language to another. Very commonly the new words are not new at all in form, but are simply new uses of established words, such as the modern *acid* for *LSD* or Prince Hal's *dying scarlet* for drinking deep. Commonly also new combinations of old words or word parts are put together into what linguists call COMPOUNDS. The term *acidhead* is an example using whole words. The newly popular *astronaut* uses two word parts, originally from Greek, which are already familiar through their appearance in words like *astronomy* and *nautical*. Once a new word is established, a whole family of new words can be made out of it by the process of DERIVATION, the adding on of prefixes and suffixes primarily to change the grammatical function of the word. Thus as soon as English had *psychiatry* (ultimately from Greek elements meaning 'soul' and 'doctor'), the related *psychiatrist* and *psychiatric* were easily added. In English, as in many languages which at some time in their history have been in contact with one or more other languages, it is common to get new words by BORROWING. This is the process which accounts for the fact that a large majority of the words in the English lexicon are ultimately Latin or French. These four —transferred meaning, compounding, derivation, and borrowing—are the major ways in which a language gets new words. There are several minor ways as well, among which may be mentioned CLIPPING (as in *mini* from *miniskirt,* itself a compound), BLENDS (as in *brunch* from *breakfast* plus *lunch*), IMITATIONS (as in the verb *whiz*), ACRONYMS (as in *NASA* from *National Aeronautics and Space Administration*), ABBREVIATIONS (as in *emcee* and *deejay* for *master of ceremonies* and *disc jockey*), and COINAGES (*boondoggle, quark*). The last are the rarest of all, at least in English. We seem to resist the idea of making up a word completely afresh, without any reference to words already in existence.

Just as new words keep coming into the language, so old ones keep going out of use and eventually out of memory. The usual reason is that the things they refer to are no longer talked about; the generation born since World War II does not know words like *stuka* and *panzer,* which refer to modes of warfare that are no longer employed. Sometimes, however, an old word will be replaced by a new one for no apparent reason, as in the case of *eme,* the Old English word replaced by its French synonym *uncle*. These processes are natural ones, too, common to all languages. As the great lexicographer Samuel Johnson said, in answer to Swift's wish that words should be prevented from becoming obsolete, "But what makes a word obsolete, more than general agreement to forbear it? and how shall it be continued, when it conveys an offensive idea, or recalled again into the mouths of mankind, when it has once by disuse become unfamiliar, and by unfamiliarity unpleasing." [from Preface to *A Dictionary of the English Language,* 1755]

The other part of the central core of a language is its grammar. The largest and most complicated vocabulary would be of little value without a grammar to control the ways in which words can be put together to make larger constructions. Without a grammar the lexicon is only a list of separate items, like the entries in this dictionary. Many of these words can be used alone to make brief messages, but mostly they depend on being combined with other words to make utterances worth saying or listening to. Nor is it enough simply to put words alongside each other, in the fashion of the classic "Me Tarzan you Jane." Any sentence in this essay, any definition in this dictionary, will illustrate how complex and how delicate are the conventions governing combinations of words. They are not just strung along like beads in a necklace; they are fitted together into interlocking arrangements as intricate as the works of a watch. A change in the relationships of the parts usually changes the whole utterance: consider the difference between *Rats are our enemies* and *Our enemies are rats*. The words are the same but the messages are different.

There are various ways we can look at the grammar of a language. One analogy might be the rules of such a game as chess. The basic rules of chess are quite simple. There are only six kinds of pieces, each of which has the privilege of moving in a particular way. When certain combinations occur, certain moves are obligatory. Otherwise the player has many options each time it is his turn to move. As they move in turn, the two players construct a series of patterns on the board which is not like any series either of them has seen before. In the same way the words of a language are classified as belonging to certain classes, traditionally called PARTS OF SPEECH. The functions of these are different, just as the moves of the chess pieces are. Nouns can be subjects and objects, adjectives are modifiers, pronouns substitute for nouns, and so on. The rules are more complicated than those of chess, but not so complicated that they cannot be learned by a five-year-old child. Just as the chess players create a new game, unlike any other played in the past, so the speaker is constantly making up new sentences, many —perhaps most—of which are unlike any he ever heard or spoke in the past. The secret is in the fact that the grammar rules may be applied in many different combinations, some of them over and over, as sentences are created. Here is the major difference between animal communication and human language. Animal communication, again like the traveler's phrase book, has little or no grammar. Neither the animal nor the traveler has the power to use rules in new combinations to make original utterances. When we consider this fact, we realize that grammar is one of the greatest of all human inventions.

Another way of looking at grammar is to consider it as a set of patterns of behavior which the person using the language has somehow built into his mental structure. These patterns are sometimes called rules, but they are rules in a different sense from the rules of a game. These latter are imposed from the outside and consciously learned. But the rules of grammar, particularly those of the native language, are, as it were, invented by the child as he learns the language; they are largely unconscious, self-invented, and self-imposed. Only if he should happen

to study formal grammar much later in life will the speaker encounter explicit formulations of these rules, and even then he may not recognize them. It seems rather paradoxical that many people find the study of grammar difficult, when all it is is an attempt to formulate what they themselves invented when they were children!

When grammar is looked at in this way, it is easy to see why it is much less subject to change than is vocabulary. The grammar rules are a closely integrated system, so that if a change is made in one part it may affect many other parts of the system. The vocabulary, on the other hand, is like the population of a city, where individuals may be born and die, or move in from outside, with only minor effects on the whole organization. As we shall see when we retrace the history of English, there have been a good many changes in the grammar of English, but they have occurred very slowly and gradually over a long period of time. In many of its aspects English grammar is still much like that of German, although the two languages, once the same, diverged and went their separate ways two thousand years ago.

The third major system of language is the sound system, or phonology. It is important because it controls the principal channel through which we send messages back and forth to each other. No matter how large a person's vocabulary and how carefully constructed his sentences, he would not be able to communicate normally if he did not know how to turn them into the modulated flow of sound we call speech. Underlying this continuous flow is a tightly organized system, which depends on our ability to make and to recognize sounds that contrast with one another. Thus for the middle part of *pit* we make a sound which is clearly different from the middle sounds of *pat* and *pot*. Similarly we contrast the first part of *pit* with the first part of *bit* or *nit,* and the last part with the last part of *pick*. There doesn't happen to be an English word *pid,* but if there were we would never confuse it with *pit* or *bid* or *pod*. There are normally only 25 to 50 of these contrasting sound units in a language (30 to 40 in English, depending on the dialect), but they are enough to permit us to give each word its characteristic shape. There are, of course, many cases of HOMOPHONES (words that sound alike) like *doe* and *dough,* but we are seldom confused by these because they usually appear in different contexts.

In addition to these contrasting units, which linguists call PHONEMES, each language has quite rigorous rules about how they may be combined in syllables and words. They cannot be strung along in any and all possible combinations. In a language like Hawaiian, for example, each syllable must be either just a vowel or a single consonant followed by a vowel. The few Hawaiian words and names we all know illustrate this rule: *hula, aloha, Honolulu, Waikiki.* In contrast, English syllables have only one vowel or diphthong but may have as many as three consonants before it and three after, as in *splints.* But the rules governing which consonants may be used are quite strict. For example, if there are three at the beginning of a word, the first must be *s,* the second *p, t,* or *k,* and the third *r, l, w,* or *y* (remember we are talking about sounds, not spellings). If you will look in the *s*-section of this dictionary, you will find how closely this rule is followed; the only words that break this rule are recent borrowings from other languages, and even these are usually changed to fit the English pattern.

A third part of the sound system concerns not the individual sounds but the features of rhythm, accent, and even musical pitch which are part of the flow of speech. Since most of these are related to whole clauses and sentences, rather than individual words, they are not given much attention in a dictionary, which deals primarily with single words. But an important exception is STRESS, which in English is a feature of individual words. The rules for assigning stress to the correct syllables of an English word are quite rigorous, and the native speaker of English knows them as he knows the rules of grammar. But there are some doubtful cases, such as *contemplative, hospitable,* and *altimeter,* for which we turn to the dictionary.

Because of its tight structure, the phonological system of a language does not usually change very much or very fast. Such changes as do occur usually affect the minor details of pronunciation, rather than the underlying system of contrasts. But this may change also, by the addition or disappearance of phonemes, by changes in the combining rules, or in the rules of stress. Thus Chaucer's English of six hundred years ago had a frictional sound made in the back of the mouth, as in modern German *Nacht,* and the ancestor of our word *courage* had three syllables with the stress on the second \kù-ˈrȧ-jə\.

As has been already noted, writing systems are comparatively recent innovations, as compared to the venerable antiquity of language itself with its basic systems of vocabulary, grammar, and phonology. The human race got along for several hundred thousand years with only the channel of speech through which to communicate verbal messages. But when societies became so complex that their essential records could no longer be kept in the memories of men and when they found it necessary to transmit at a distance messages that could not be entrusted safely to the memory of a messenger, various modes of writing were invented. The earliest of these seem to have been based on the word as a unit, and made use of a separate symbol or CHARACTER, originally a conventionalized picture, for each word. The Chinese system is still based on this principle, with some modifications. Systems of this sort have certain advantages, the chief of which is that they are largely independent of pronunciation. In fact, the Chinese system is used by a number of different languages, so that people who cannot understand one another's speech can communicate by writing. But the disadvantage of having to invent and learn to read and draw thousands of characters to represent the vocabulary of a language led people to devise new types of writing systems, based on the phonological structure, which, as we have seen, has many fewer units than the vocabulary and was already in full development as a channel of communication. At first the syllable was used as the unit to be represented. Symbols representing syllables could be strung along in the same order as the syllables of speech, usually with some additional indication as to where the boundaries between words fell. Finally the phoneme became the unit to be represented, and the ALPHABET was born. Most present-day writing systems are alphabetic, though because of accidents of history they have departed more or less from the principle of consistently representing each phoneme by a single character. Alphabets are rather readily adaptable to other languages besides those for which they were originally developed. Thus our Roman alphabet, originally devised for Latin, has been adopted by most of the languages of western Europe and the New World. Other familiar alphabets are the Cyrillic, used for Russian and other Slavic languages; the Arabic, used also for Persian and Urdu and formerly for Turkish; the Hebrew, also used for Yiddish; the Devanagari of India; and the Greek.

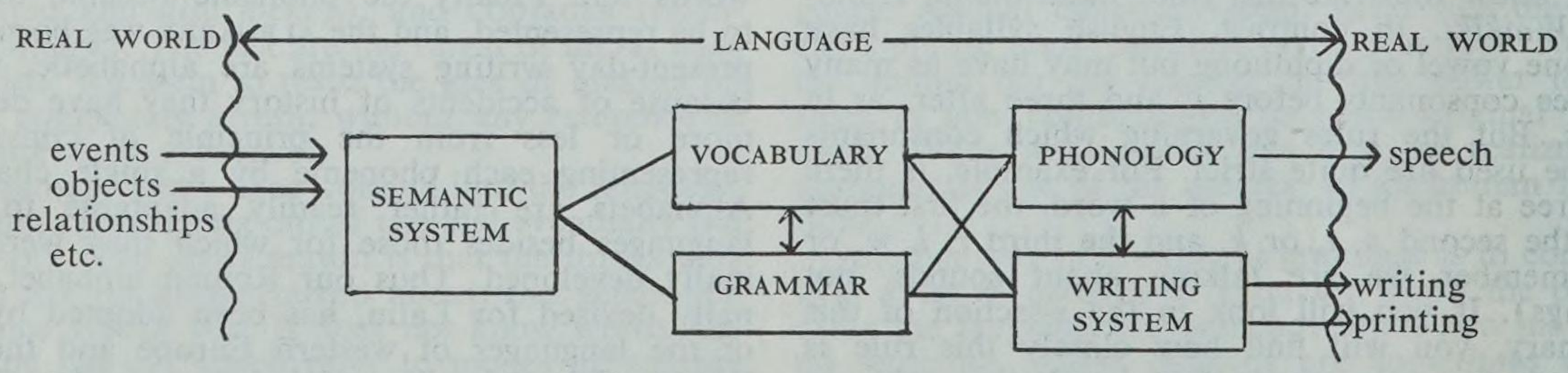
Alphabetic writing systems resemble phonological systems in that they have a relatively small number

of units and a set of rules, sometimes quite elaborate, governing the ways in which the units may and may not be combined. Some of these rules are, as might be expected, simply reflections of the rules of the phonology. But others belong to the writing systems themselves. In English, for example, though we have many words ending in the sounds of *v* and *j*, there is a strong rule, with very few exceptions, against ending a word with either of these letters. Instead we write *-ge* or *-dge* for a final *j*-sound and *-ve* for a final *v*-sound. There is also a rule against doubling these letters, and *k* as well, even for the usual purpose of indicating that the preceding vowel is short. So we write *liver, flicker,* and *badger,* instead of the more consistent *livver, flikker, bajjer.*[2] It is these rules, which are known unconsciously by all literate users of English, that give English its characteristic look on the page. Combinations like *zdenek, lliiji,* and *mbau* simply don't look English, while *flace, crasp,* and *splick* could very well represent English words, though they don't happen to. In short, our system, for all its inconsistencies, is indeed a system and one which most people can learn to use easily and accurately. But it is also true that checking on spelling is one of the most common reasons for using the dictionary.

The semantic system has been left to the last partly because we know least about it in a formal way. It is probably not obvious to the ordinary observer that there is such a system. Everyone knows that meaning is an important part of language, but somehow they feel that words and sentences represent meaning directly, without the intervention of another formal system. But a little thought about how language works, and especially some comparisons of how different languages convey similar facts and ideas, leads us to the conclusion that there is a quite elaborate formally structured system between the infinite variety of the outside world and our ways of talking about it. Take the question of measurements. English, like the other languages in the western European tradition, has an elaborate system of ways of describing the size of things in terms of abstract standard units that can be counted, added, subtracted, multiplied, and divided. If asked how big a book or a desk is, we think of applying a ruler to it and giving the answer in inches or feet and fractions of these units. The whole repertory of miles, pounds, pints, cubic feet, acres, and all the rest is based on this underlying assumption that numerically manipulable standard units are the way to measure things. We are so committed to this way of measuring that we can hardly imagine any other. But many cultures, and the languages associated with them, measure distance in terms of time; two localities may be "two days' journey" apart. According to our system, one 20-mile stretch across country is equal to another, though the first may be across a level plain and the other across rough broken country or through a jungle. Another system might find these two not equal at all; the first might be "half a day's walk" and the second "two days' walk."[3]

Another illustration of the formal structuring of meanings, also taken from the general area of measurements, is the description of dimensions. In English we do this with pairs of words signifying opposite poles of measurement along a certain line, such as *tall : short* and *far : near*. Furthermore we have two sets of these, one set in which the line of measurement is related to a fixed point, often but not always that of the observer or speaker, and another set in which the line of measurement is related rather to the shape of the object being measured. Thus the first set has three main pairs: *far* and *near* (measured along a line extending from the observer in a specified direction), *high* and *low* (measured along a vertical line perpendicular to the observer's line of sight), *wide* and *narrow* (measured along a horizontal line perpendicular to the observer's line of sight). The second set has more dimensions—at least five—but they are still signified by pairs of opposed words: *large* (*big*) and *small* (*little*), *long* and *short, tall* and *short, deep* and *shallow, wide* (*broad*) and *narrow, thick* and *thin.* A further interesting point about English is that in each of these pairs one, which is somehow the larger one, is chosen for giving a neutral measurement or asking a neutral question about one of the dimensions. We say "The door is three feet *wide,*" "The water is three feet *deep,*" or "How *tall* is John?" rather than "The door is three feet *narrow,*" "The water is three feet *shallow,*" or "How *short* is John?" We would say the latter if someone else had already said "John is quite short," and even then the answer would be "He is only five feet *tall.*" Similarly we choose the larger dimension for the neutral nouns describing these dimensions: the *length* of the journey, the *height* of the building, the *depth* of the water. There are also nouns for the small dimensions, but they are all what linguists would call SEMANTICALLY MARKED. Note that "the *shortness* of the journey," "the *lowness* of the building," "the *shallowness* of the water" all convey special meanings beyond a mere neutral indication of dimension. It is clear that systems like these are not merely parts of the natural world; they impose a structural framework on the natural world which makes it easier to talk about it. This is what we mean by speaking of a semantic system that is part of language.

The relationships among these various systems are quite complex, but they may be suggested in a diagram such as this:



2 A few violations of this rule are beginning to appear, usually in slang, dialectal, and humorous words like *flivver* and *yakking*.

3 One unit of distance in terms of time that we do use is the *light-year*. But since the speed of light is constant, this is still an abstract standard: it is simply easier to say "one light-year" than "5,878,000,000,000 miles."

Here we see language, which is inside the minds of people, in contact with the outside world in two places, which scientists might call *interfaces*. At one end the semantic system sorts out, classifies, and arranges the jumble of events, objects, and relationships fed in by the outside world. At the other, the phonology and the writing system give instructions which control the actual performance of the speaker or writer. Within language itself, the internal structures of the various parts, as well as the relationships among them, are very complicated. It is the function of the dictionary to give information about many of these. Thus the main entries, in giving the correct spelling, indicate the relationship between the vocabulary and the writing system. Pronunciation cues indicate the relationship between vocabulary and phonology; definitions, that between vocabulary and the semantic system and sometimes between the semantic system and the real world. Each word is also classified under one or more parts of speech, which suggests the relationship between vocabulary and grammar. Thus the dictionary, centering on the vocabulary, also involves all the other parts of language.

The History of English

Language, like all other aspects of human culture, is constantly changing. This is implied in a good deal that is said above. Certainly the adaptability of language is one of the major sources of change; as the circumstances and needs of the speakers of a language change, they change the language to meet them. This is particularly apparent in vocabulary, where change is easiest to observe and most rapid. There are many words in this dictionary which were not included in Webster's Third New International Dictionary, published only twelve years ago. Less obviously, there are words now considered obsolete that were in current use not many decades ago. It is, of course, harder to decide that a word has left the vocabulary than that one has joined it, because the old words are enshrined in the older books even though people may not use them in speech. Hence the vocabulary, and the dictionary that reports it, has a category of ARCHAIC words—museum specimens, no longer completely alive, but still needed in special ways.

Change goes on in other parts of the language as well, though it is harder to observe. Anyone who has lived a moderately long life is not using exactly the same grammar and pronunciation that he learned as a child, though he himself is usually unaware of the changes that have taken place. These changes usually happen so slowly and gradually that they are imperceptible to the people in whose language they occur. It is only when we look back over a period of a century or more that language begins to look a little old-fashioned. Until recently it has not been possible to compare a person's pronunciation at various ages, as well as to observe what changes take place across the generations. Modern means of voice recording will make this possible in the future.

In order to see how the old-fashioned quality of language ultimately changes to complete unintelligibility if we go far enough back in time, let us take a retrospective trip into the older stages of English, making stops every two hundred years or so. The passages which will be used for illustration are all quite formal documents—in all cases but one they are public notices or proclamations—so that their kind of language is the kind that changes most slowly. Slang, informal conversation, personal letters, are all more unstable and changeable than the formal language of laws, legal documents, public announcements, and royal proclamations, which tends to retain archaic vocabulary and to some extent grammar as well. Yet we shall see that when we go back as far as five and a half centuries, even this conservative formal language becomes quite strange.

Our first example is from a document which is—or at least ought to be—familiar to all Americans: the Declaration of Independence, 1776.

> Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.

Probably what strikes the twentieth-century reader of this passage first is its extreme formality. It may even take a bit of study to realize that "the forms to which they are accustomed" means what we would more informally express as "the type of government they are used to," and we would feel easier with "the need that forces them to change the government" than we do with "the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government." The more formal passages are still quite possible in modern English, however. It is rather a matter of style than age which makes them seem a bit out-of-date to us. The same may be said of the fact that the subjects of a good many of the sentences are abstract qualities: "Prudence . . . will dictate," "experience hath shewn," "necessity . . . constrains"—it is as though the actors in the drama were these abstractions, rather than people. But this is a characteristic feature of eighteenth-century style, which helps to emphasize that the only actual person mentioned is the villain, "the present King of Great Britain."

When we look a bit more closely, however, we find some features of vocabulary and grammar that are indeed old-fashioned to the point of being archaic. Words like *suffer, train, reduce,* and *object* are used in ways and with meanings that present-day writers would not use; we would be more likely to say *endure, series* or *succession, subject,* and

aim. In grammar we note the form *hath,* which was already archaic in 1776, the treatment of *mankind* as a plural noun (*mankind are*), and the unusual word order of *Governments long established* and *pursuing invariably the same Object*. And *shew,* a variant spelling of *show,* long ago passed from common use.

What these various matters of style, vocabulary, and grammar add up to is a slight feeling of strangeness that can be a barrier to full understanding. The cautious reader might feel the need to go to the dictionary to check such words as *transient* and *suffer*. Nor would he expect the modern Congress, no matter how formal the situation, to produce a document quite like this. But he can still accept it as essentially his own language.

We go back another hundred and fifty years for the next example, a selection from a pamphlet written by John Winthrop and others of the Puritan pioneers from their ship, the *Arbella,* which was just about to set out across the ocean to establish Boston and the other settlements of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The year is 1630, and the document bears a long and quaint title, *The Humble Request of His Maiesties loyall Subjects, the Governour and the Company late gone for New-England; To the rest of their Brethren, in and of the Church of England. For the obtaining of their Prayers and the removall of suspitions, and misconstructions of their Intentions*. Like many seventeenth-century titles, this one is really a summary of what the little pamphlet is about. The colonists are writing to those they are leaving behind, asking for understanding of their motives in leaving their country and their church to set up new settlements and a new church in the New World.

> If any there be, who through want of cleare intelligence of our course, or tendernesse of affection towards us, cannot conceive so well of our way as we could desire, we would intreat such not to despise us, nor to desert us in their prayers & affections, but to consider rather, that they are so much the more bound to expresse the bowels of their compassion towards us, remembring alwaies that both Nature and Grace, doth ever binde us to relieve and rescue with our utmost & speediest power, such as are deare unto us, when wee conceive them to be running uncomfortable hazards.
>
> What goodnes you shall extend to us in this or any other Christian kindnesse, wee your Brethren in CHRIST IESVS shall labour to repay in what dutie wee are or shall be able to performe, promising so farre as God shall enable us to give him no rest on your behalfes, wishing our heads and hearts may be as fountaines of teares for your everlasting welfare, when wee shall be in our poore Cottages in the wildernesse, . . .

Certainly one thing that strikes us here is the complexity of the sentences. The whole passage of 182 words comprises only two sentences; actually the second sentence has been broken off before its end, and runs on in the original for 23 more words. In spite of this, however, its tone is more personal and less abstract than that of the Declaration; the actors are people ("wee" and "you") rather than abstractions like "Prudence" and "necessity". Perhaps because of this more familiar tone, the vocabulary presents relatively few problems, though even in the first clause we realize that *want, intelligence,* and *affection* are being used in senses no longer current today—we would say *lack, understanding* or *knowledge,* and *feeling* (note that we now use just the word *affection* to mean what is here expressed by *tendernesse of affection*).

In other matters, however, the passage clearly declares itself as older than the Declaration. Even the spelling, which in our day is strictly standardized, is different, particularly in the matter of putting a final *-e* onto a good many words which we end with a consonant: *cleare, expresse, binde, deare, farre,* etc. Other spellings which are no longer current are *alwaies, wee,* and *dutie*. But it is probably the combination of grammatical complexity and archaic turns of phrase that gives the passage its antique flavor. A modern translation of the first sentence might go somewhat like this:

> If there are any people who, either because of lack of understanding of what we are doing or because of their fondness for us, do not approve our actions as highly as we would like them to, we ask them not to despise us or to give up praying for us and loving us. Instead, they should realize that they have a greater obligation to show us their affection and understanding. They should remember that it is both natural and moral to do our best to help save those we love when we think they are taking dangerous risks.

Here the original sentence of 105 words has been broken up into three sentences, much of the complicated sentence-structure has been simplified, and quaint turns of phrase like "the bowels of their compassion" have been put into ordinary modern English. Though the reader may miss the old-fashioned flavor of the original, it is safe to say he is clearer about what is being said.

In spite of the fact that the second of these passages is 340 years old, both of them fall into what linguists call the Modern English period. Our next example, however, goes back another two centuries into what we call Middle English. It is "A Crye Made for a Commune Passage Toward Hareflieu," actually a proclamation issued in the name of King Henry V for the assembling of supplies in support of his invasion of France in 1415.

> Be ther proclamacioun made, that alle manere of men, marchauntz, artificers, or other, of what estat, degre, or condicioun, that euere they be, that willen toward oure liege lorde the kyng, beyng atte harflewe in the costes of Normandye, that god him spede, with corne, brede, mele, or flour, wyne, ale, or biere, fyssh, flessh or any other viteille, clothe, lynnen, wollen or eny merchaundise, shertys, breches, doublettys, hosen, shone, or eny other manere ware of armure, artilrye, or of othere stuffe, lette hem apparaille and make redy betwen this and to-day seuenyght their bodyes, goodes, merchaundyses, ware, stoffure, viteille, what that euer it be; and in the mene while come to the Mair, and he shall dispose and assigne theym redy shippyng and passage vnto the forseide costes. [Text from Chambers & Daunt, *A Book of London English 1384–1425,* Oxford, 1931]

The first thing that the modern reader notices about this passage is undoubtedly the spelling. Just about half the running words are spelled differently from their modern forms. When we consider individual words, the difference is even more striking: only 29 of the 83 different words in the passage are spelled as in modern English. This certainly contributes to the superficial strangeness of the passage, but a closer look reveals that this in itself does not constitute a serious barrier to understanding, since most if not all of the words are easily identified in spite of their different spellings. In most cases the spellings conform to the general rules of modern English, the difference being in the alternatives chosen: thus *spede, mele,* and *mene* are perfectly possible modern spellings but they don't happen to be the accepted ways of spelling *speed, meal,* and *mean*. Some spellings, however, seem to indicate pronunciation differences. Thus *shertys* and *doublettys* for *shirts* and *doublets,* and perhaps *costes*

for *coasts,* suggest that the plural ending in these words which end in *-t* was a full syllable, as it is to this day in some regional dialects where *posts* is pronounced as if spelled *postiz.*

Looking at the vocabulary of the proclamation, we find that once we get past the spelling so that we can identify the words, virtually all of them are still current in English. In fact, only *stoffure* ("material used for furnishing, supply, or outfit") is listed as completely obsolete by the Oxford English Dictionary. Nobody wears a *doublet* ("a quilted undergarment reinforced by rings of mail and worn under armor") nowadays, but the word turns up in enough historical fiction to be entered unlabeled in Webster's Third New International Dictionary. (The thing, not the word, is obsolete.) And *seuenyght,* which appears in the same dictionary under its later form *sennight,* is labeled archaic and illustrated by quotations from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Some might wonder at *viteille,* but in its later form *victuals* it is still occasionally used.

It is another matter, however, when we consider the meanings of the words. A large number of them, including some of the most familiar ones, are used in senses that are either quite infrequent or impossible in modern English. Among these we might list *manere* ('kind'), *artificers* ('craftsmen'), *estat* ('rank'), *spede* ('help, prosper'), *artilrye* ('arms, munitions'), *apparaille* ('prepare'), *to-day seuenyght* ('a week from today'), *dispose* ('order'). Since these are some of the key words in the passage, to give them their usual modern meanings would distort its total meaning quite badly. Once again we are reminded that changes in the meanings of words that remain in the language are probably more important in their effect than the coming in of new words or the passing away of old ones.

Another fact about the vocabulary that we become aware of in studying this passage is that there are two major sources of English words: native English and borrowed Romance. We are reminded that for about two centuries before this proclamation was written it had been quite common for writers and speakers of English, many of whom also knew and used French, to slip French words into their English. Many of these words were taken up by others and eventually naturalized in English. In this passage 23 of the 83 different words, or about 30%, are from French. They include *proclamacioun, manere, marchauntz, artificers, estat, degre, condicioun,* and so on down to *passage* and *costes.* The native words make up 70% of the vocabulary but 77% of the running words, since many of them are the little grammatical words that are frequently repeated, like *that, and, or, the,* and *other.* Some, however, are important "content" words like *lorde, kyng, corne, ale, fyssh, wollen,* and *shertys.* Since the language of the proclamation is legalistic and hence rather repetitious, we sometimes find a native word and its French synonym coupled together, as in *apparaille and make redy* or *shippyng and passage.* But this is probably accidental, since other repetitive strings may be all French words (*dispose and assigne*) or mixed (*goodes, merchaundyses, ware*—native, French, native). It is of some interest to compare the percentages of native and French words in this passage with that in our most recent example, the selection from the Declaration of Independence, in which 48% are native, 42% French, and 9% direct from Latin. Obviously the habit of borrowing continued during the period of three and a half centuries between Henry V and our founding fathers.

The grammar, too, of this passage is more than a bit strange to the modern reader. The opening phrase is impossible in modern English, even of the most formal sort; we would have to say "Let there be made a proclamation" or more likely "Let it be proclaimed". Modern English has made a whole new set of indefinite pronouns by tacking *ever* onto *who, which,* and *what;* here, as in *of what estat . . . that euere they be,* the *ever* is still a separate adverb. Plural forms like *hosen* and *shone* have gone out; *hose* has become a sort of plural without a singular, like *trousers* and *scissors,* while *shone* has adopted the regular plural ending and become *shoes.* In sum, while the passage is clearly English, the modern reader inexperienced in the Middle English of Chaucer and his contemporaries has difficulties in reading it.

These difficulties increase considerably when we go back another century and a half to 1258. Here is part of a proclamation by another King Henry, the Third, in which he confirms his acceptance of the Provisions of Oxford, a document which a group of barons had forced him to sign in much the same way the Magna Carta had been extracted from King John forty-odd years earlier.

> Henri, þurȝ Godes fultume King on Engleneloande, Lhoauerd on Yrloande, Duk on Normandi, on Aquitaine, and Eorl on Aniow, send igretinge to alle hise holde, ilærde and ileawede, on Huntendoneschire. Þæt witen ȝe wel alle þæt we willen and vnnen þæt, þæt vre rædesmen alle, oþer þe moare dæl of heom, þæt beoþ ichosen þurȝ us and þurȝ þæt loandes folk on vre kuneriche, habbeþ idon and shullen don in þe worþnesse of Gode and on vre treowþe, for þe freme of þe loande þurȝ þe besiȝte of þan toforeniseide redesmen, beo stedefæst and ilestinde in alle þinge a buten ænde. And we hoaten alle vre treowe in þe treowþe þæt heo vs oȝen, þæt heo stedefæstliche healden and swerien to healden and to werien þo isetnesses þæt beon imakede and beon to makien, þurȝ þan toforeniseide rædesmen, oþer þurȝ þe moare dæl of heom, alswo alse hit is biforen iseid; and þæt æhc oþer helpe þæt for to done bi þan ilche oþe aȝenes alle men riȝt for to done and to foangen. [Text from Dickins & Wilson, *Early Middle English Texts,* Cambridge, 1951]

One surprising thing about this document is that it is in English at all, rather than in French, which was the official language of the government at this time. Actually it was promulgated in French as well; the parallel English version is probably the result of a contemporary nationalistic movement to restore English to official use. In any case, the modern reader probably finds the English version as difficult as he would the French. A modern translation might go somewhat as follows:

> Henry, by the grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and Earl of Anjou, sends greetings to all his subjects, both clerical and lay, in Huntingdonshire. You are all to know well that we will and agree that whatever all our councillors, or the majority of them, who have been chosen by us and by the common people in our kingdom have done and shall do, to the honor of God and in fidelity to us, for the benefit of the country by the wisdom of the said councillors, is to be firm and lasting in all respects without end. And we command all our faithful followers by the loyalty that they owe to us to hold firmly and swear to hold and to defend the provisions that have been made and are to be made by the aforesaid councillors, or the majority of them, as is stated above; and [we further command] them to help one another to do so, by virtue of that same oath—to render justice to and receive it from all men.

Once again, spelling is the first obstacle to the

modern reader who attempts to interpret the original. For one thing, there are three strange letters in the alphabet: þ, called 'thorn', which stands for the sounds now spelled *th;* ȝ, called 'yogh', which represents consonantal *y* at the beginning of a word or medially before a stressed vowel, *gh* at the end of a word or before another consonant, and *w* between vowels; and æ, called 'ash', which spells the vowel of modern English *hat.* With these clues it is easier to see that þurȝ is our word *through* or *thorough,* ȝe is the pronoun *ye,* an archaic form of *you,* riȝt is *right,* oȝen is *owe* or *own,* and þæt is *that.* A few more hints help a bit more, such as that *u* and *v* are used interchangeably for both the vowel *u* and the consonant *v,* with *v* appearing at the beginnings of words and *u* in the middle, so that vre is *ure* (= *our*); and that *oa* is used to spell an *aw*-type of vowel, as it still is in one word, *broad.*

But even if the spelling were to be completely converted to modern forms, we would still have difficulties with words. A major reason for this is that, although the proclamation was written nearly two centuries after the Norman Conquest, it comes before the great influx of French words into the language. In fact, the same nationalistic motives mentioned above may have led the writer (quite possibly the translator, since it is likely that the French version was written first) to consciously avoid using any French words at all. In any case, except for the title *Duk,* the king's given name *Henri,* and the names of the three French provinces where he claimed feudal title—*Normandi, Aquitaine,* and *Aniow*—there are no French words at all in this selection. Instead, the proclamation frequently uses Old English words and phrases that have since been replaced by French synonyms and hence have become obsolete. Some of these, with their modern equivalents, are:

þurȝ Godes fultume	through God's help
holde	subjects, vassals
vnnen	agree
rædesmen	councillors, advisors
moare dæl	larger part, majority
þæt loandes folk	the common people
freme	benefit
hoaten	command
treowþe	loyalty, fidelity
werien	defend, protect
isetnesses	agreements, provisions
foangen	receive

With the exception of *protect* and *defend,* which were taken directly from Latin, and the native word *help,* all the words in the right-hand column are of French origin. It is obvious that what amounted to a virtual revolution in the English vocabulary, especially its more formal layers, took place in the century and a half between Henry III and Henry V.

In grammar as well we find forms and constructions that are no longer current, though here the change has been more gradual. We may observe, for example, the contrast between the ending *-ing,* which marks verbal nouns, and *-ind,* which marks present participles, as in the words *igretinge* and *ilestinde.* At a somewhat later date, this distinction, which still prevails in modern German, was lost, and the *-ing* ending came to be used for both. This is in a way unfortunate since it can lead to ambiguity, as in *pursuing girls may be fun*—which can mean either 'the pursuit of girls' (verbal noun) or 'girls who pursue' (participle). Another grammatical marker that has since disappeared is the prefix *i-,* descended from an earlier *ge-,* which frequently appears with past participles, as in *idon, imakede,* and *iseid.* This prefix *ge-* has also survived in modern German. For the most part the word order is not far different from that of modern English, as comparison of the original with the translation will show. But word order such as *ælc oþer helpe þæt for to done* ('each the other help that for to do'), with two instances of the direct object coming before the verb, has to be changed to *each help the other to do that* to accord with modern grammar.

All these things—strange spelling, often reflecting a quite different pronunciation, obsolete words, and grammatical differences—add up to making the language of this passage seem like a foreign language, though paradoxically its freedom from French words makes it very pure English for its time. By the time we take another giant step backward, this time of nearly two and a half centuries, we are indeed dealing with an almost wholly unfamiliar language, in spite of the fact that we can trace an unbroken tradition of nearly a thousand years down to our own time. Linguists call this language OLD ENGLISH or ANGLO-SAXON. Here is part of another royal document, a writ, dated 1020, of King Cnut (or Canute, as he is more commonly known), a Danish Viking who was king of England for twenty years (1016–35) and of Denmark and Norway for shorter periods. He had just returned to England from a successful expedition to Denmark to make good his claim to the throne there, and put out this writ to reassure the English people of his intent to keep the peace. As a Dane, it is quite likely that he did not himself speak English, but had this document written by some clerk of his household. Also, in spite of his pagan background he had become a Christian, a fact which he emphasizes strongly in this document.

Cnut cyning gret his arcebiscopas and his leodbiscopas and Þurcyl eorl and ealle his eorlas and ealne his þeodscype, twelfhynde and twyhynde, gehadode and læwede, on Englalande freondlice. And ic cyðe eow, þæt ic wylle beon hold hlaford and unswicende to godes gerihtum and to rihtre woroldlage.

Ic nam me to gemynde þa gewritu and þa word, þe se arcebiscop Lyfing me fram þam papan brohte of Rome, þæt ic scolde æghwær godes lof upp aræran and unriht alecgan and full frið wyrcean be ðære mihte, þe me god syllan wolde.

Nu ne wandode ic na minum sceattum, þa hwile þe eow unfrið on handa stod: nu ic mid godes fultume þæt totwæmde mid minum scattum. Þa cydde man me, þæt us mara hearm to fundode, þonne us wel licode: and þa for ic me sylf mid þam mannum þe me mid foron into Denmearcon, þe eow mæst hearm of com: and þæt hæbbe mid godes fultume forene forfangen, þæt eow næfre heonon forð þanon nan unfrið to ne cymð, þa hwile þe ge me rihtlice healdað and min lif byð. [Text from Kaiser, *Medieval English,* Berlin, 1958]

There is no doubt about this being virtually as strange as a foreign language. Only a few words—mostly pronouns and other function words—look like their modern descendants: *his, and, on, to, me, us, into.* There is another new character, ð, called 'edh', which is in variation with þ as a means of writing the sounds we spell with *th.* Even a full understanding of the spelling conventions would not help the modern reader very much. He cannot understand it without a translation, which might go as follows:

Canute the king greets his archbishops and his provincial bishops and Earl Thurcyl and all his earls and all his people, rich and poor, ordained and lay, in England, in friendly fashion. And I assure you that I wish to be a gracious lord and devoted to the laws of God and to just human law.

I have remembered the writs and the words that Archbishop Lyfing brought me from the Pope of Rome, [to the effect] that I should in all ways support the praise of God and put down injustice and promote perfect peace to the extent of the strength

that God would grant me.

I have never spared my wealth as long as discord was among you; now with God's help I have dispersed it [discord] with my wealth. When I was informed that more affliction had come upon us than we could put up with, then I went myself to Denmark with those men who caused you the most injury; and with God's help I have now seen to it that from this time on no breach of the peace will ever come to you from that source, so long as you obey me properly and my life endures.

With the exception of the ecclesiastical titles *arcebiscop* and *leodbiscop* and the Danish names Cnut and Thurcyl, the vocabulary here is totally English. Many of the words have survived into modern English, with changes in spelling that reflect changes in pronunciation: *cyning* (*king*), *hlaford* (*lord*), *brohte* (*brought*), *scolde* (*should*), *licode* (*liked*), *rihtlice* (*rightly*), etc. But many have become obsolete during the nine and a half centuries since this was written: *þeodscype* ('people'), *cyðe,* past *cydde* ('make known'), *unswicende* ('unyielding'), *lof* ('praise'), *frið* ('peace'), *wandode,* from *wandian* ('hesitate, omit'), etc. Of the 96 different words in the passage, 31 are now obsolete and 7 more have undergone rather drastic changes of meaning, so that even if the reader knew enough about Old English spelling to recognize the survivors, he would have to go to a dictionary of Old English for the meanings of 40% of the words.

In terms of grammar also, this English of 1020 shows more clearly its affiliation with the other Germanic languages. As in modern German, not only nouns but adjectives and even the definite article are INFLECTED; that is, they have special endings indicating the case, number, and sometimes gender. Some examples illustrating this:

se arcebiscop	'the archbishop'	masculine singular nominative
þam papan	'the pope'	masculine singular dative
ðære mihte	'the might'	feminine singular dative
þa gewritu	'the writs'	neuter plural accusative
þam mannum	'the men'	masculine plural dative
ealle his eorlas	'all his earls'	masculine plural accusative
ealne his þeodscype	'all his people'	masculine singular accusative
min lif	'my life'	neuter singular nominative
minum sceattum	'my treasures'	masculine plural dative

Verbs also have inflections, many of which have survived into modern English. We still have the distinction between STRONG verbs—those that form the past tense by changing the stem vowel—and WEAK verbs —those that add an ending containing a *d* or *t*.[4] The following are some forms from this passage illustrating these two types:

Strong past tense forms
- nam, from niman, 'take'
- stod, from standan, 'stand'
- for (sing.) and foron (plural) from faran, 'go, travel'
- com, from cuman, 'come'

Weak past tense forms
- brohte, from bringan, 'bring'
- wandode, from wandian, 'omit, neglect'
- totwæmde, from totwæman, 'break up, scatter'
- cydde, from cyðan, 'proclaim, make known'

In another important grammatical feature, the order of the elements in constructions, this passage shows many differences from modern English. In fact, only the subject-verb-object order of main clauses, as in *Cnut cyning gret his arcebiscopas,* is the same as ours. This is inverted if an adverb begins the sentence, as in *þa for ic* 'then went I.' This inversion survives today with only a few adverbs, such as *never* and *seldom*. The order in subordinate clauses, however, is quite different from ours. Here the rule is that the verb comes at the end of the clause, which makes the other elements come in an order that seems very unnatural to us, especially when it is combined with the practice of putting prepositions after their objects, often with other elements in between. All this is illustrated by *þe eow mæst hearm of com* ('whom to you most harm from came') and *þæt eow næfre heonon forð þanon nan unfrið to ne cymð* ('that you never hence forth thence no war to not comes'), where *eow* is the object of the preposition *to,* which doesn't come until seven words later. This last clause also illustrates the manner of emphasizing negation by multiple negative forms, which is still common in substandard speech ("I ain't never had no luck") but is generally considered unacceptable in standard English.

Many more points of difference could be found by further analysis of this passage, but this is enough to show that when we trace English back as much as two-thirds of its 1500-year history we discover that it has many of the features which we associate with a foreign language. In fact, we could only continue our backward journey by means of written texts about three centuries farther. After that we would come to a time when English was rarely or never written down, and we would have to depend on the various ingenious indirect methods which philologists use to reconstruct the unwritten early stages of the history of a language. By these methods we could push our horizon back to the time, about the beginning of the Christian era, when English was not a separate language at all but simply one of the dialects of the common Germanic language of northern Europe. By even more ingenious methods, involving comparison with other language families like Celtic, Slavic, Indic, Latin, and Greek, we can go back another two or three thousand years and draw hypothetical inferences about the common Indo-European tongue from which most of the languages of Europe ultimately derive. That is as far as we can go. Tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of years of the history of our language are irretrievably lost in the mists of time.

4 Some weak verbs such as *deal—dealt* and *creep—crept* also show vowel change in the past, but this is due to vowel shortening in Middle English, much later than the vowel shifts in strong verbs which go back to Proto-Germanic.

TABULAR HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Date & Period	Historical Events	Linguistic Events
About 3000 B.C. Proto-Indo-European	Neolithic Age. Indo-Europeans living in north central Europe.	Indo-European undifferentiated, except dialectally.
3000–500 B.C. Indo-European Proto-Germanic	Extensive migrations of Indo-European speakers to India, Greece, and western Europe.	Differentiation of Indo-European language families, including Germanic. Earliest documents in Sanskrit, Greek, etc.
500–0 B.C. Germanic	Celts in Britain. Contact of Roman Empire with Germanic peoples.	Germanic undifferentiated except dialectally. First borrowings from Latin.
0–300 A.D. West Germanic	Expansion and power of Roman Empire. Romanization of Britain. Growth and migrations of Germanic tribes.	Differentiation of West, North, and East branches of Germanic. Continued Latin borrowings.
300–500 Proto Old English	Breakup of Roman Empire. Anglo-Saxon invasions of Britain.	Beginnings of differentiation of Vulgar Latin. Emergence of Old English. Contact with Celts. Oldest Germanic documents (Gothic Bible c. 350).
500–700 Early Old English	Conversion of Anglo-Saxons. Northumbrian culture. Earliest surviving literature.	Borrowings from Latin and occasionally Celtic. Increased diversity of dialects. Adoption of alphabet.
700–1000 Old English	Danish and Norse raids and invasions. Alfred and the political ascendancy of Wessex. Establishment of the Danelaw. Cynewulf, Aelfric, and other writers.	West Saxon dominant dialect. More Latin borrowings. Development of Old French and other Romance languages.
1000–1150 Late Old English	Viking raids; Danish kings of England. Norman Conquest. Replacement of native ruling class by French speakers.	Extensive borrowings from Norse, especially in the North. French the official language. English "submerged". Further differentiation of dialects.
1150–1300 Early Middle English	Gradual loss of continental possessions of English kings. Continued dominance of French speakers in politics, law, church. Beginnings of revival of literature in English.	Breakdown and loss of Old English inflections. Extensive phonological and syntactic changes. Borrowings from French (Anglo-Norman).
1300–1475 Middle English	Hundred Years' War. Growth of nationalism; decay of feudalism. Chaucer, Gower, Langland, "Gawain Poet", Wyclif. Mystery and Morality plays.	Emergence of English (dialect of London) as the standard literary and official language. Extensive borrowings from French.
1475–1650 Early Modern English	Caxton and printing. Renaissance humanism: revived study of Greek and Latin classics. Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, biblical translations. Age of discovery and exploration.	Great vowel shift and loss of final -e. Beginning of standardized spelling. Extensive borrowings from Latin, some from Greek. Changes in grammar, especially verb system.
1650–1800 Later Modern English	Settlement of America and growth of British Empire. Opening of India and the Orient. Beginnings of industrial and scientific revolutions. Augustan age and Enlightenment.	Development of American and other colonial dialects. Spread of English around the world; borrowings from many languages. Johnson's Dictionary. Prescriptive grammarians (Lowth).
1800– Recent and Present-Day English	Independence and expansion of U.S. General education and literacy. Acceleration of scientific, industrial, and technological research and development. Journalism, telephone, radio, motion pictures, television.	Growth of scientific and technical vocabularies. English as dominant world language. Development of linguistics. Oxford, Century, and Merriam-Webster dictionaries. Extensive study and teaching of grammar.

Abbreviations in This Work

A.&M.	Agricultural and Mechanical
ab	about
abbr	abbreviation
abl	ablative
Acad	Academy
acc	accusative
act	active
A.D.	anno Domini
adj	adjective
adv	adverb
AF	Anglo-French
AFB	Air Force Base
Afrik	Afrikaans
Agric	Agriculture
Alb	Albanian
alter	alteration
Am	America, American
Amer	American
AmerF	American French
AmerInd	American Indian
AmerSp	American Spanish
anc	ancient, anciently
ant	antonym
anthropol	anthropologist, anthropology
aor	aorist
Ar	Arabic
Arab	Arabian
Aram	Aramaic
archaeol	archaeologist
Arm	Armenian
art	article
Assyr	Assyrian
astron	astronomer, astronomy
attrib	attributive
atty	attorney
aug	augmentative
Austral	Australian
Av	Avestan
AV	Authorized Version
b	born
Bab	Babylonian
bacteriol	bacteriologist
B.C.	before Christ, British Columbia
Belg	Belgian
Beng	Bengali
bib	biblical
biochem	biochemist
Braz	Brazilian
Bret	Breton
Brit	Britain, British
bro	brother
Bulg	Bulgarian
C	centigrade, College
Canad	Canadian
CanF	Canadian French
Cant	Cantonese
cap	capital, capitalized
Catal	Catalan
caus	causative
Celt	Celtic
cen	central
cent	century
chem	chemist
Chin	Chinese
comb	combining
Comm	Community
compar	comparative
Confed	Confederate
conj	conjugation, conjunction
constr	construction
contr	contraction
Copt	Coptic
Corn	Cornish
criminol	criminologist
d	died
D	Dutch
Dan	Danish
dat	dative
dau	daughter
def	definite
deriv	derivative
dial	dialect
dim	diminutive
disc	discovered
Dor	Doric
dram	dramatist
Du	Dutch
DV	Douay Version
e	eastern
E	east, eastern, English
econ	economist
Ed	Education
educ	educator
EGmc	East Germanic
Egypt	Egyptian
emp	emperor
Eng	England, English
equiv	equivalent
Esk	Eskimo
esp	especially
est	estimated
Eth	Ethiopic
ethnol	ethnologist
F	Fahrenheit, French
fem	feminine
Finn	Finnish
fl	flourished
Flem	Flemish
fr	from
Fr	France, French
freq	frequentative
Fris	Frisian
ft	feet
fut	future
G	German
Gael	Gaelic
gen	general, genitive
Ger	German
Gk	Greek
Gmc	Germanic
Goth	Gothic
gov	governor
govt	government
Gr Brit	Great Britain
Heb	Hebrew
hist	historian
Hitt	Hittite
Hung	Hungarian
I	island
Icel	Icelandic
IE	Indo-European
imit	imitative
imper	imperative
incho	inchoative
indef	indefinite
indic	indicative
infin	infinitive
Inst	Institute
instr	instrumental
intens	intensive
interj	interjection
interrog	interrogative
Ion	Ionic
Ir	Irish
IrGael	Irish Gaelic
irreg	irregular
ISV	International Scientific Vocabulary
It, Ital	Italian
Jap	Japanese
Jav	Javanese
L	Latin
LaF	Louisiana French
lat	latitude
Lat	Latin
LG	Low German
LGk	Late Greek
LHeb	Late Hebrew
lit	literally, literary
Lith	Lithuanian
LL	Late Latin
long	longitude
m	miles
manuf	manufacturer
masc	masculine
math	mathematician
MBret	Middle Breton
MD	Middle Dutch
ME	Middle English
Mech	Mechanical
Med	Medical
Mex	Mexican, Mexico
MexSp	Mexican Spanish
MF	Middle French
MFlem	Middle Flemish
MGk	Middle Greek
MHG	Middle High German
mil	military
min	minister
MIr	Middle Irish
ML	Medieval Latin
MLG	Middle Low German
modif	modification
MPer	Middle Persian
MS	manuscript
mt	mountain
Mt	Mount
MW	Middle Welsh
n	northern, noun
N	north, northern
naut	nautical
NE	New England
neut	neuter
NewEng	New England
NGk	New Greek
NGmc	North Germanic
NHeb	New Hebrew
NL	New Latin
nom	nominative
nonstand	nonstandard
Norw	Norwegian
nov	novelist
n pl	noun plural
obs	obsolete
OCatal	Old Catalan
occas	occasionally
OE	Old English
OF	Old French
OFris	Old Frisian
OHG	Old High German
OIr	Old Irish
OIt	Old Italian
OL	Old Latin
ON	Old Norse
ONF	Old North French
OPer	Old Persian
OPg	Old Portuguese
OProv	Old Provençal
OPruss	Old Prussian
orig	originally
ORuss	Old Russian
OS	Old Saxon
OSlav	Old Slavic
OSp	Old Spanish
OW	Old Welsh
PaG	Pennsylvania German
part	participle
pass	passive
Pek	Pekingese
Per, Pers	Persian
perf	perfect
perh	perhaps
pers	person
Pg	Portuguese
philos	philosopher
PhilSp	Philippine Spanish
physiol	physiologist
pl	plural
Pol	Polish
polit	political, politician
pop	population
Port	Portuguese
pp	past participle
prec	preceding
prep	preposition
pres	present, president
prob	probably
pron	pronoun, pronunciation
pronunc	pronunciation
Prov	Provençal
prp	present participle
Pruss	Prussian
pseud	pseudonym
psychol	psychologist
R.C.	Roman Catholic
redupl	reduplication
refl	reflexive
rel	relative
resp	respectively
rev	revolution
Rom	Roman
RSV	Revised Standard Version
Rum	Rumanian
Russ	Russian
S	south, southern
Sc	Scotch, Scots
Scand	Scandinavian
ScGael	Scottish Gaelic
Sch	School
Scot	Scotland, Scottish
secy	secretary
Sem	Seminary, Semitic
Serb	Serbian
Shak	Shakespeare
sing	singular
Skt	Sanskrit
Slav	Slavic
So Afr	South Africa
sociol	sociologist
Sp, Span	Spanish
specif	specifically
spp	species
St	Saint
Ste	Sainte
subj	subjunctive
substand	substandard
superl	superlative
Sw, Swed	Swedish
syn	synonym, synonymy
Syr	Syriac
Tag	Tagalog
Tech	Technology
theol	theologian
Theol	Theological
Toch	Tocharian
trans	translation
treas	treasury
Turk	Turkish
U	University
usu	usually
var	variant
vb	verb
vi	verb intransitive
VL	Vulgar Latin
voc	vocative
vt	verb transitive
W	Welsh, west, western
WGmc	West Germanic
zool	zoologist

Pronunciation Symbols

ə .....**b**a**n**a**n**a, c**o**llide, **a**but

ˈə, ˌə .....h**u**mdr**u**m, ab**u**t

ᵊ .....immediately preceding \l\, \n\, \m\, \ŋ\, as in batt**le**, mitt**en**, eat**en**, and sometimes cap **and** bells \-ᵊm-\, lock **and** key \-ᵊŋ-\; immediately following \l\, \m\, \r\, as often in French tab**le**, pris**me**, titr**e**

ər .....op**er**ation, f**ur**th**er**, **ur**ger

ˈər-, ˈə-r .....as in two different pronunciations of h**urr**y \ˈhər-ē, ˈhə-rē\

a .....m**a**t, m**a**p, m**a**d, g**a**g, sn**a**p, p**a**tch

ā .....d**ay**, f**a**de, d**a**te, **a**orta, dr**a**pe, c**a**pe

ä .....b**o**ther, c**o**t, and, with most American speakers, f**a**ther, c**a**rt

å .....**a**ther as pronounced by speakers who do not rhyme it with b**o**ther

au̇ .....n**ow**, l**ou**d, **ou**t

b .....**b**a**b**y, ri**b**

ch .....**ch**in, nature \ˈnā-chər\ (actually, this sound is \t\ + \sh\)

d .....**d**i**d**, a**dd**er

e .....b**e**t, b**e**d, p**e**ck

ˈē, ˌē .....b**ea**t, nosebl**ee**d, **e**venly, **ea**sy

ē .....eas**y**, meal**y**

f .....**f**i**f**ty, cu**ff**

g .....**g**o, bi**g**, **g**ift

h .....**h**at, a**h**ead

hw .....**wh**ale as pronounced by those who do not have the same pronunciation for both *whale* and *wail*

i .....t**i**p, banish, act**i**ve

ī .....s**i**te, s**i**de, b**uy**, tr**i**pe (actually, this sound is \ä\ + \i\, or \å\ + \i\)

j .....**j**ob, **g**em, e**dge**, **j**oin, **ju**dge (actually, this sound is \d\ + \zh\)

k .....**k**in, **c**oo**k**, a**ch**e

k .....German i**ch**, Bu**ch**

l .....**l**ily, **l**ool

m .....**m**ur**m**ur, di**m**, nym**ph**

n .....**n**o, o**wn**

n .....indicates that a preceding vowel or diphthong is pronounced with the nasal passages open, as in French *un bon vin blanc* \œⁿ-bōⁿ-vaⁿ-blämⁿ\

ŋ .....sing \ˈsiŋ\, singer \ˈsiŋ-ər\, finger \ˈfiŋ-gər\, ink \ˈiŋk\

ō .....b**o**ne, kn**ow**, b**eau**

ȯ .....s**aw**, **a**ll, gn**aw**

œ .....French b**oeu**f, German H**ö**lle

œ̄ .....French f**eu**, German H**öh**le

ȯi .....c**oi**n, destr**oy**, s**aw**ing

p .....**p**e**pp**er, li**p**

r .....**r**ed, ca**r**, **r**arity

s .....**s**our**c**e, le**ss**

sh .....with nothing between, as in **sh**y, mi**ss**ion, ma**ch**ine, spe**ci**al (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a hyphen between, two sounds as in death'**s-h**ead \ˈdeths-ˌhed\

t .....**t**ie, a**tt**ack

th .....with nothing between, as in **th**in, e**th**er (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a hyphen between, two sounds as in knigh**th**ood \ˈnīt-ˌhu̇d\

th .....**th**en, ei**th**er, **th**is (actually, this is a single sound, not two)

ü .....r**u**le, y**ou**th, union \ˈyün-yən\, few \ˈfyü\

u̇ .....p**u**ll, w**oo**d, b**oo**k, curable \ˈkyu̇r-ə-bəl\

ue .....German f**ü**llen, h**ü**bsch

ue̅ .....French r**ue**, German f**üh**len

v .....**v**i**v**id, gi**v**e

w .....**w**e, a**w**ay; in some words having final \(ˌ)ō\ a variant \ə-w\ occurs before vowels, as in \ˈfäl-ə-wiŋ\, covered by the variant \ə(-w)\ at the entry word

y .....**y**ard, **y**oung, cue \ˈkyü\, union \ˈyün-yən\

ʸ .....indicates that during the articulation of the sound represented by the preceding character the front of the tongue has substantially the position it has for the articulation of the first sound of *yard*, as in French *digne* \dēnʸ\

yü .....**you**th, **u**nion, c**ue**, f**ew**, m**u**te

yu̇ .....c**u**rable, f**u**ry

z .....**z**one, rai**s**e

zh .....with nothing between, as in vi**si**on, a**z**ure \ˈazh-ər\ (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a hyphen between, two sounds as in ga**z**ehound \ˈgāz-ˌhau̇nd\

\ .....slant line used in pairs to mark the beginning and end of a transcription: \ˈpen\

ˈ .....mark preceding a syllable with primary (strongest) stress: \ˈpen-mən-ˌship\

ˌ .....mark preceding a syllable with secondary (next-strongest) stress: \ˈpen-mən-ˌship\

- .....mark of syllable division

( ) .....indicate that what is symbolized between is present in some utterances but not in others: *factory* \ˈfak-t(ə-)rē\

A Dictionary of the English Language



[1]a \'ā\ *n, pl* **a's** *or* **as** \'āz\ *often cap, often attrib* **1 a** : the 1st letter of the English alphabet **b** : a graphic representation of this letter **c** : a speech counterpart of orthographic *a* **2** : the 6th tone of a C-major scale **3** : a graphic device for reproducing the letter *a* **4** : one designated *a* esp. as the 1st in order or class **5 a** : a grade rating a student's work as superior in quality **b** : one graded or rated with an A **6** : something shaped like the letter A

[2]a \ə, (')ā\ *indefinite article* [ME, fr. OE *ān* one — more at ONE] **1** — used as a function word before singular nouns when the referent is unspecified ⟨*a* man overboard⟩ and before number collectives and some numbers ⟨*a* dozen⟩ ; used before words with an initial consonant sound **2** : the same ⟨birds of *a* feather⟩ ⟨swords all of *a* length⟩ **3 a** — used as a function word before a singular noun followed by a restrictive modifier ⟨*a* man who was here yesterday⟩ **b** : ANY ⟨*a* man who is sick can't work⟩ **c** — used as a function word before a mass noun to denote a particular type or instance ⟨*a* bronze made in ancient times⟩ ⟨glucose is *a* simple sugar⟩

[3]a \ə\ *prep* [ME, fr. OE *a-, an, on*] **1** *chiefly dial* : ON, IN, AT **2** : in, to, or for each ⟨twice *a* week⟩ ⟨five dollars *a* dozen⟩ — used before words with an initial consonant sound

[4]a \ə, (')a\ *vb* [ME, contr. of *have*] *archaic* : HAVE ⟨I might *a* had husbands afore now — John Bunyan⟩

[5]a \ə\ *prep* [ME, by contr.] : OF — often attached to the preceding word ⟨kind*a*⟩ ⟨lott*a*⟩

[6]a *abbr, often cap* **1** absent **2** acceleration **3** ace **4** acre **5** adult **6** alto **7** ampere **8** anode **9** answer **10** ante **11** anterior **12** are **13** area **14** author

A *symbol* angstrom unit

[1]a- \ə\ *prefix* [ME, fr. OE] **1** : on : in : at ⟨*a*bed⟩ **2** : in (such) a state or condition ⟨*a*fire⟩ **3** : in (such) a manner ⟨*a*loud⟩ **4** : in the act or process of ⟨gone *a*-hunting⟩ ⟨*a*tingle⟩

[2]a- \(')ā *also* (')a *or* (')ä\ *or* **an-** \(')an\ *prefix* [L & Gk; L, fr. Gk — more at UN-] : not : without ⟨*a*sexual⟩ — *a-* before consonants other than *h* and sometimes even before *h*, *an-* before vowels and usu. before *h* ⟨*a*chromatic⟩ ⟨*a*historical⟩ ⟨*an*astigmatic⟩ ⟨*an*harmonic⟩

-a- *comb form* [ISV] : replacing carbon esp. in a ring ⟨*a*za-⟩

-a \ə\ *n suffix* [NL, fr. *-a* (as in *magnesia*)] : OXIDE ⟨thori*a*⟩

aa *abbr* ana

AA *abbr* **1** Alcoholics Anonymous **2** antiaircraft **3** associate in arts **4** author's alterations

AAA *abbr* **1** Agricultural Adjustment Administration **2** American Automobile Association

AAAL *abbr* American Academy of Arts and Letters

AAAS \ˌtrip-ə-(ˌ)lā-'es\ *abbr* American Association for the Advancement of Science

AACS *abbr* Airways and Air Communications Service

AAGO *abbr* Associate, American Guild of Organists

aah \'ä, *often prolonged and/or followed by* ə\ *vi* : to exclaim in amazement, joy, or surprise ⟨one finds oneself oohing and ~*ing* over the exciting new TV commercials — Walter Goodman⟩ — **aah** *n*

A and M *abbr* **1** agricultural and mechanical **2** ancient and modern

A and R *abbr* artists and repertory

AAR *abbr* against all risks

aard·vark \'ärd-ˌvärk\ *n* [obs. Afrik, fr. Afrik *aard* earth + *vark* pig] : a large burrowing nocturnal African mammal (*Orycteropus afer* of the order Tubulidentata) that has an extensile tongue, powerful claws, large ears, and heavy tail and feeds on ants and termites

aard·wolf \-ˌwůlf\ *n* [Afrik, fr. *aard* + *wolf*] : a maned striped mammal (*Proteles cristata*) of southern and eastern Africa that resembles the related hyenas and feeds chiefly on carrion and insects

Aar·on \'ar-ən, 'er-\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *Aarōn*, fr. Heb *Ahărōn*] : a brother of Moses and high priest of the Hebrews

Aa·ron·ic \a-'rän-ik, e-\ *adj* **1** : of or stemming from Aaron **2** : of or relating to the lower order of the Mormon priesthood

AAS *abbr* associate in applied science

AAU *abbr* Amateur Athletic Union

AAUN *abbr* American Association for the United Nations

AAUP *abbr* American Association of University Professors

AAUW *abbr* American Association of University Women

[1]Ab \'äb, 'äv, 'öv\ *n* [Heb *Ābh*] : the 11th month of the civil year or the 5th month of the ecclesiastical year in the Jewish calendar — see MONTH table

[2]Ab *abbr* abortion

AB *abbr* **1** able-bodied seaman **2** airborne **3** airman basic **4** [NL *artium baccalaureus*] bachelor of arts

ab- *prefix* [ME, fr. OF & L; OF, fr. L *ab-, abs-, a-*, fr. *ab, a* — more at OF] : from : away : off ⟨*ab*axial⟩ ⟨*abs*trict⟩

aba \ə-'bä, ä-'bä\ *n* [Ar *'abā'*] **1** : a fabric woven from the hair of camels or goats **2** : a loose sleeveless outer garment worn by Arabs

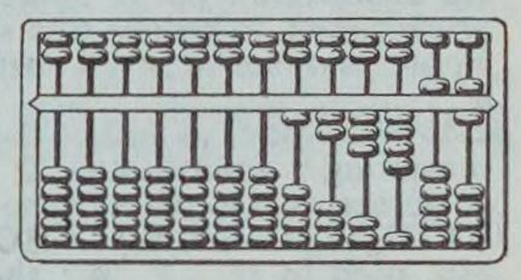
ABA *abbr* **1** American Bankers Association **2** American Bar Association **3** American Basketball Association **4** American Booksellers Association

ab·a·ca \ˌab-ə-'kä\ *n* [Sp *abacá*, fr. Tag *abaká*] **1** : a fiber obtained from the leafstalk of a banana (*Musa textilis*) native to the Philippines — called also *Manila hemp* **2** : the plant that yields abaca

aback \ə-'bak\ *adv* **1** *archaic* : BACKWARD, BACK **2** : in a position to catch the wind upon the forward surface of a square sail **3** : by surprise : UNAWARES ⟨was taken ~ by her sharp retort⟩

abac·te·ri·al \ˌā-(ˌ)bak-'tir-ē-əl\ *adj* : not caused by or characterized by the presence of bacteria ⟨an ~ inflammation⟩

aba·cus \'ab-ə-kəs, ə-'bak-əs\ *n, pl* **aba·ci** \'ab-ə-ˌsī, -ˌkē; ə-'bak-ˌī\ *or* **aba·cus·es** [L, fr. Gk *abak-, abax*, lit., slab] **1** : a slab that forms the uppermost member or division of the capital of a column **2** : an instrument for performing calculations by sliding counters along rods or in grooves



abacus 2

[1]abaft \ə-'baft\ *adv* [*[1]a-* + *baft* (aft)] : toward or at the stern : AFT

[2]abaft *prep* : to the rear of; *specif* : toward the stern from

ab·a·lo·ne \ˌab-ə-'lō-nē\ *n* [AmerSp *abulón*] : any of a genus (*Haliotis*) of rock-clinging gastropod mollusks that have a flattened shell slightly spiral in form, lined with mother-of-pearl, and with a row of apertures along its outer edge

[1]aban·don \ə-'ban-dən\ *vt* [ME *abandounen*, fr. MF *abandoner*, fr. *abandon*, n., surrender, fr. *a bandon* in one's power] **1** : to give up with the intent of never again claiming a right or interest in **2** : to withdraw from often in the face of danger or encroachment ⟨~ ship⟩ **3** : to withdraw protection, support, or help from **4** : to give (oneself) over unrestrainedly to a feeling or emotion **5 a** : to cease from maintaining, practicing, or using ⟨immigrants slow to ~ their native language⟩ **b** : to cease intending or attempting to perform ⟨~*ed* their attempts to escape⟩ — **aban·don·er** *n* — **aban·don·ment** \-dən-mənt\ *n*

syn **1** ABANDON, DESERT, FORSAKE *shared meaning element* : to give up completely. ABANDON tends to suggest complete disinterest in the fate of what is given up ⟨*abandon* an old car⟩ ⟨*abandon* a too difficult task⟩ DESERT implies a relationship (as of occupancy or guardianship); it can suggest desolation ⟨*deserted* farms growing up to brush⟩ or culpability ⟨soldiers who *desert* their posts⟩ FORSAKE implies a breaking of a close association by repudiation or renunciation ⟨young men *forsake* their parents to form families of their own⟩ ***ant*** reclaim

2 see RELINQUISH ***ant*** cherish (*as hopes*), restrain (*oneself*)

[2]abandon *n* **1** : a thorough yielding to natural impulses **2** : ENTHUSIASM, EXUBERANCE ***syn*** see UNCONSTRAINT

aban·doned \ə-'ban-dənd\ *adj* **1** : given up : FORSAKEN **2** : wholly free from restraint

à bas \ä-'bä\ [F] : down with ⟨*à bas* the profiteers⟩

abase \ə-'bās\ *vt* **abased; abas·ing** [ME *abassen*, fr. MF *abaisser*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + (assumed) VL *bassiare* to lower] **1** *archaic* : to lower physically **2** : to lower in rank, office, prestige, or esteem — **abase·ment** \-'bā-smənt\ *n*

syn ABASE, DEMEAN, DEBASE, DEGRADE, HUMBLE, HUMILIATE *shared meaning element* : to lessen in dignity or status ***ant*** exalt, extol

abash \ə-'bash\ *vt* [ME *abaishen*, fr. (assumed) MF *abaiss-, abair* to astonish, alter. of MF *esbair*, fr. *ex-* + *baer* to yawn — more at

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ə abut ᵊ kitten ər further a back ā bake ä cot, cart
aů out ch chin e less ē easy g gift i trip ī life
j joke ŋ sing ō flow ȯ flaw ȯi coin th thin th this
ü loot ů foot y yet yü few yů furious zh vision

ABEYANCE] : to destroy the self-possession or self-confidence of : DISCONCERT ***syn*** see EMBARRASS ***ant*** embolden, reassure — **abash·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

abate \ə-'bāt\ *vb* **abat·ed; abat·ing** [ME *abaten*, fr. OF *abattre* to beat down — more at REBATE] *vt* **1** : to put an end to : NULLIFY ⟨~ a nuisance⟩ **2 a** : to reduce in degree or intensity : MODERATE **b** : to reduce in value or amount : make less esp. by way of relief ⟨~ a tax⟩ **3** : DEDUCT, OMIT ⟨~ part of the price⟩ **4 a** : to beat down or cut away so as to leave a figure in relief **b** *obs* : BLUNT **5** : DEPRIVE ~ *vi* **1** : to decrease in force or intensity **2 a** : to become defeated or become null or void **b** : to decrease in amount or value — **abat·er** *n*

syn **1** see DECREASE ***ant*** augment, accelerate (*as speed*), intensify (*as hopes, a fever*)

2 ABATE, SUBSIDE, WANE, EBB *shared meaning element* : to die down in force or intensity ***ant*** rise, revive

abate·ment \ə-'bāt-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act or process of abating : the state of being abated **2** : an amount abated; *esp* : a deduction from the full amount of a tax

ab·a·tis \'ab-ə-ˌtē, 'ab-ət-əs\ *n, pl* **ab·a·tis** \'ab-ə-ˌtēz\ *or* **ab·a·tis·es** \-ət-ə-səz\ [F, fr. *abattre*] : a defensive obstacle formed by felled trees with sharpened branches facing the enemy

A battery *n* : a battery used to heat the filaments or cathode heaters of electron tubes

ab·at·toir \'ab-ə-ˌtwär\ *n* [F, fr. *abattre*] : SLAUGHTERHOUSE

ab·ax·i·al \(')a-'bak-sē-əl\ *adj* : situated out of or directed away from the axis

ab·ba·cy \'ab-ə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** [ME *abbatie*, fr. LL *abbatia*] : the office, dignity, jurisdiction, or tenure of an abbot

Ab·bas·id \ə-'bas-əd, 'ab-ə-səd\ *n* : a member of a dynasty of caliphs ruling the Muslim Empire (750–1258) and claiming descent from Abbas the uncle of Muhammad

ab·ba·tial \ə-'bā-shəl, a-\ *adj* : of or relating to an abbot, abbess, or abbey

ab·bé \a-'bā, 'ab-ˌā\ *n* [F, fr. LL *abbat-, abbas*] : a member of the French secular clergy in major or minor orders — used as a title

ab·bess \'ab-əs\ *n* [ME *abbesse*, fr. OF, fr. LL *abbatissa*, fem. of *abbat-, abbas*] : a woman who is the superior of a convent of nuns

Abbe·vil·li·an \ˌab-(ə-)'vil-ē-ən\ *adj* [*Abbeville*, France] : of or relating to an early lower Paleolithic culture characterized by bifacial stone hand axes

ab·bey \'ab-ē\ *n, pl* **abbeys** [ME, fr. OF *abaïe*, fr. LL *abbatia* abbey, fr. *abbat-, abbas*] **1 a** : a monastery ruled by an abbot **b** : a convent ruled by an abbess **2** : an abbey church

ab·bot \'ab-ət\ *n* [ME *abbod*, fr. OE, fr. LL *abbat-, abbas*, fr. LGk *abbas*, fr. Aram *abbā* father] : the superior of a monastery for men

ab·bre·vi·ate \ə-'brē-vē-ˌāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [ME *abbreviaten*, fr. LL *abbreviatus*, pp. of *abbreviare* — more at ABRIDGE] : to make briefer; *esp* : to reduce to a shorter form intended to stand for the whole ***syn*** see SHORTEN ***ant*** lengthen — **ab·bre·vi·a·tor** \-ˌāt-ər\ *n*

ab·bre·vi·a·tion \əˌ-brē-vē-'ā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or result of abbreviating : ABRIDGMENT **2** : a shortened form of a written word or phrase used in place of the whole ⟨*amt* is an ~ for *amount*⟩

[1]ABC \ˌā-(ˌ)bē-'sē\ *n, pl* **ABC's** *or* **ABCs** \-'sēz\ **1** : ALPHABET — usu. used in pl. **2 a** : the rudiments of reading, writing, and spelling — usu. used in pl. **b** : the rudiments of a subject

[2]ABC *abbr* **1** American Bowling Congress **2** American Broadcasting Company **3** Australian Broadcasting Company

ABCD *abbr* accelerated business collection and delivery

ABC powers *n pl, often cap P* : Argentina, Brazil, and Chile

ABC soil *n* : a soil that has a well-differentiated profile with distinct A-, B-, and C-horizons

abd *or* **abdom** *abbr* abdomen; abdominal

ABD *abbr* all but dissertation

Ab·di·as \ab-'dī-əs\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk] : OBADIAH

ab·di·cate \'ab-di-ˌkāt\ *vb* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *abdicatus*, pp. *of abdicare*, fr. *ab-* + *dicare* to proclaim — more at DICTION] *vt* : to relinquish (as sovereign power) formally ~ *vi* : to renounce a throne, high office, dignity, or function — **ab·di·ca·ble** \-kə-bəl\ *adj* — **ab·di·ca·tion** \ˌab-di-'kā-shən\ *n* — **ab·di·ca·tor** \'ab-diˌkāt-ər\ *n*

syn ABDICATE, RENOUNCE, RESIGN *shared meaning element* : to give up formally or definitely ***ant*** assume (*as power, office*), usurp

ab·do·men \'ab-də-mən, ab-'dō-mən\ *n* [MF & L; MF, fr. L] **1** : the part of the body between the thorax and the pelvis; *also* : the cavity of this part of the trunk containing the chief viscera **2** : the posterior section of the body behind the thorax in an arthropod — see INSECT illustration — **ab·dom·i·nal** \ab-'däm-ən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **ab·dom·i·nal·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

ab·duce \ab-'d(y)üs\ *vt* **ab·duced; ab·duc·ing** [L *abducere*] : ABDUCT

ab·du·cens \ab-'d(y)ü-ˌsenz\ *n, pl* **ab·du·cen·tes** \ˌab-d(y)ù-'sent-(ˌ)ēz\ : ABDUCENS NERVE

abducens nerve *n* [NL *abducent; abducens*, fr. L, prp.] : either of the 6th pair of cranial nerves which are motor nerves that supply muscles of the eye — called also *abducent nerve*

ab·du·cent \ab-'d(y)üs-ᵊnt\ *adj* [L *abducent-, abducens*, prp. of *abducere*] : serving to abduct ⟨an ~ muscle⟩

ab·duct \ab-'dəkt\ *vt* [L *abductus*, pp. of *abducere*, lit., to lead away, fr. *ab-* + *ducere* to lead — more at TOW] **1** : to carry off (as a person) by force **2** : to draw away (as a limb) from a position near or parallel to the median axis of the body; *also* : to move (similar parts) apart — **ab·duc·tor** \-'dək-tər\ *n*

ab·duc·tion \ab-'dək-shən\ *n* **1** : the action of abducting : the condition of being abducted **2** : the unlawful carrying away of a woman for marriage or intercourse

abeam \ə-'bēm\ *adv or adj* : on a line at right angles to a ship's keel

[1]abe·ce·dar·i·an \ˌā-bē-(ˌ)sē-'der-ē-ən\ *n* [ME *abecedary*, fr. ML *abecedarium* alphabet, fr. LL, neut. of *abecedarius* of the alphabet, fr. the letters *a* + *b* + *c* + *d*] : one learning the rudiments of something (as the alphabet)

[2]abecedarian *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to the alphabet **b** : alphabetically arranged **2** : RUDIMENTARY

abed \ə-'bed\ *adv or adj* : in bed

Abel \'ā-bəl\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk, fr. Heb *Hebhel*] : a son of Adam and Eve killed by his brother Cain

Abe·li·an \ə-'bē-lē-ən\ *adj* [Niels *Abel* †1829 Norw. mathematician] : COMMUTATIVE 2 ⟨~ group⟩ ⟨~ ring⟩

abel·mosk \'ā-bəl-ˌmäsk\ *n* [deriv. of Ar *abū -l- misk* father of the musk] : a bushy herb (*Hibiscus moschatus*) of the mallow family native to tropical Asia and the East Indies whose musky seeds are used in perfumery and in flavoring coffee

Ab·er·deen An·gus \ˌab-ər-ˌdē-'naŋ-gəs\ *n* [*Aberdeen & Angus*, counties in Scotland] : any of a breed of black hornless beef cattle originating in Scotland

[1]ab·er·rant \a-'ber-ənt\ *adj* [L *aberrant-, aberrans*, prp. of *aberrare* to go astray, fr. *ab-* + *errare* to wander, err] **1** : straying from the right or normal way **2** : deviating from the usual or natural type : ATYPICAL — **ab·er·rance** \-ən(t)s\ *n* — **ab·er·ran·cy** \-ən-sē\ *n* — **ab·er·rant·ly** *adv*

[2]aberrant *n* **1** : an aberrant natural group, individual, or structure **2** : a person whose behavior departs substantially from the standard

ab·er·rat·ed \'ab-ə-ˌrāt-əd\ *adj* [L *aberratus*] : ABERRANT

ab·er·ra·tion \ˌab-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* [L *aberratus*, pp. of *aberrare*] **1** : the act of being aberrant esp. from a moral standard or normal state **2** : failure of a mirror, refracting surface, or lens to produce exact point-to-point correspondence between an object and its image **3** : unsoundness or disorder of the mind **4** : a small periodic change of apparent position in celestial bodies due to the combined effect of the motion of light and the motion of the observer **5** : an aberrant organ or individual : SPORT 5 — **ab·er·ra·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

abet \ə-'bet\ *vt* **abet·ted; abet·ting** [ME *abetten*, fr. MF *abeter*, fr. OF, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *beter* to bait, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *bǣtan* to bait] **1** : to actively second and encourage (an activity or plan) : FORWARD **2** : to assist or support in the achievement of a purpose ⟨*abetted* the cause of justice⟩ ***syn*** see INCITE ***ant*** deter — **abet·ment** \-mənt\ *n* — **abet·tor** *or* **abet·ter** \-'bet-ər\ *n*

abey·ance \ə-'bā-ən(t)s\ *n* [MF *abeance* expectation, fr. *abaer* to desire, fr. *a-* + *baer* to yawn, fr. ML *batare*] **1** : a lapse in succession during which there is no person in whom a title is vested **2** : temporary inactivity : SUSPENSION

abey·ant \-ənt\ *adj* [back-formation fr. *abeyance*] : being in abeyance ***syn*** see LATENT ***ant*** operative, active

ab·hor \əb-'hȯ(ə)r, ab-\ *vt* **ab·horred; ab·hor·ring** [ME *abhorren*, fr. L *abhorrēre*, fr. *ab-* + *horrēre* to shudder — more at HORROR] **1** : to regard with extreme repugnance : LOATHE **2** : to turn aside or keep away from esp. in scorn or shuddering fear : REJECT ⟨the university should ~ mediocrity — Walter Moberly⟩

syn see HATE ***ant*** admire (*as people or deeds*), enjoy (*things which are a matter of taste*) — **ab·hor·rer** \-'hȯr-ər\ *n*

ab·hor·rence \əb-'hȯr-ən(t)s, -'här-\ *n* **1 a** : the act or state of abhorring **b** : the feeling of one who abhors **2** : one that is abhorred

ab·hor·rent \-ənt\ *adj* [L *abhorrent-, abhorrens*, prp. of *abhorrēre*] **1 a** *archaic* : strongly opposed **b** : feeling or showing abhorrence **2** : not agreeable : CONTRARY ⟨a notion ~ to their philosophy⟩ **3** : being so repugnant as to stir up positive antagonism ⟨acts ~ to every right-minded person⟩ ***syn*** see REPUGNANT ***ant*** congenial — **ab·hor·rent·ly** *adv*

Abib \ä-'vēv\ *n* [Heb Ābhībh, lit., ear of grain] : the 1st month of the ancient Hebrew calendar corresponding to Nisan

abid·ance \ə-'bīd-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* **1** : an act or state of abiding : CONTINUANCE **2** : COMPLIANCE ⟨~ by the rules⟩

abide \ə-'bīd\ *vb* **abode** \-'bōd\ *or* **abid·ed; abid·ing** [ME *abiden*, fr. OE *ābīdan*, fr. *ā-*, perfective prefix + *bīdan* to bide; akin to OHG *ir-*, perfective prefix] *vt* **1** *archaic* : to wait for : AWAIT **2 a** : to endure without yielding : WITHSTAND **b** : to bear patiently : TOLERATE ⟨cannot ~ such bigots⟩ **3** : to accept without objection ~ *vi* **1** : to remain stable or fixed in a state **2** : to continue in a place : SOJOURN ***syn*** see STAY, CONTINUE, BEAR — **abid·er** *n* — **abide by** **1** : to conform to **2** : to acquiesce in

abid·ing \ə-'bīd-iŋ\ *adj* : ENDURING, CONTINUING ⟨an ~ interest in nature⟩ — **abid·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

ab·i·gail \'ab-ə-ˌgāl\ *n* [*Abigail*, servant in *The Scornful Lady*, a play by Francis Beaumont & John Fletcher] : a lady's personal maid

abil·i·ty \ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *abilite*, fr. MF *habilité*, fr. L *habilitat-, habilitas*, fr. *habilis* apt, skillful — more at ABLE] **1 a** : the quality or state of being able; *esp* : physical, mental, or legal power to perform **b** : competence in doing : SKILL **2** : natural talent or acquired proficiency : APTITUDE ⟨children whose *abilities* warrant higher education⟩

-abil·i·ty *also* **-ibil·i·ty** \ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n suffix* [ME *-abilite, -ibilite*, fr. MF *-abilité, -ibilité*, fr. L *-abilitas, -ibilitas*, fr. *-abilis, -ibilis*, -able + *-tas* -ty] : capacity, fitness, or tendency to act or be acted on in a (specified) way ⟨ensil*ability*⟩

ab initio \ˌab-ə-'nish-ē-ˌō\ *adv* [L] : from the beginning

abio·gen·e·sis \ˌā-ˌbī-ō-'jen-ə-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. [2]*a-* + *bio-* + L *genesis*] : the origination of living from lifeless matter — **abio·ge·net·ic** \-ō-jə-'net-ik\ *or* **abio·ge·net·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **abio·ge·net·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **abi·og·e·nist** \ˌā-(ˌ)bī-'äj-ə-nəst\ *n*

abi·o·log·i·cal \ˌā-ˌbī-ə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* : not biological; *esp* : not involving or produced by organisms ⟨~ synthesis of amino acids⟩ — **abi·o·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

abi·ot·ic \ˌā-(ˌ)bī-'ät-ik\ *adj* : not biotic : ABIOLOGICAL — **abi·ot·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ab·ject \'ab-ˌjekt, ab-'\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *abjectus*, fr. pp. of *abicere* to cast off, fr. *ab-* + *jacere* to throw — more at JET] **1** : sunk to or existing in a low state or condition ⟨to lowest pitch of ~ fortune thou art fallen —John Milton⟩ **2 a** : cast down in spirit : SERVILE, SPIRITLESS ⟨a man made ~ by suffering⟩ **b** : showing utter hopelessness or resignation ⟨~ surrender⟩ **3** : expressing or offered in a humble and often ingratiating spirit ⟨~ flattery⟩ ⟨an ~ apology⟩ ***syn*** see MEAN ***ant*** exalted (*as in rank or mood*), imperious (*as in manner*) — **ab·ject·ly** \'ab-ˌjek-(t)lē, ab-'\ *adv* — **ab·ject·ness** \-ˌjek(t)-nəs, -'jek(t)-\ *n*

ab·jec·tion \ab-'jek-shən\ *n* **1** : a low or downcast state : DEGRADATION **2** : the act of making abject : HUMBLING, REJECTION ⟨I protest . . . this vile ~ of youth to age — G. B. Shaw⟩
ab·ju·ra·tion \ˌab-jə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of abjuring **2** : an oath of abjuring
ab·jure \ab-'jù(ə)r\ *vt* **ab·jured; ab·jur·ing** [ME *abjuren*, fr. MF or L; MF *abjurer*, fr. L *abjurare*, fr. *ab-* + *jurare* to swear — more at JURY] **1 a** : to renounce upon oath **b** : to reject solemnly **2** : to abstain from : AVOID ⟨~ extravagance⟩ — **ab·jur·er** *n*
syn ABJURE, RENOUNCE, FORSWEAR, RECANT, RETRACT *shared meaning element* : to withdraw a vow or a given word ***ant*** pledge (*as allegiance, a vow*), elect (*as a way of life, an end*)
abl *abbr* ablative
ab·late \a-'blāt\ *vb* **ab·lat·ed; ab·lat·ing** [L *ablatus* (suppletive pp. of *auferre* to remove, fr. *au-* away + *ferre* to carry), fr. *ab-* + *latus*, suppletive pp. of *ferre* — more at UKASE, BEAR, TOLERATE] *vt* : to remove by cutting, erosion, melting, evaporation, or vaporization ~ *vi* : to become ablated
ab·la·tion \a-'blā-shən\ *n* : the process of ablating: as **a** : surgical removal **b** : removal of a part (as the outside of a nose cone) by melting or vaporization
[1]ab·la·tive \'ab-lət-iv\ *adj* : of, relating to, or constituting a grammatical case expressing typically the relations of separation and source and also frequently such relations as cause or instrument — **ablative** *n*
[2]ab·la·tive \a-'blāt-iv\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to ablation **2** : tending to ablate ⟨~ material on a nose cone⟩ — **ab·la·tive·ly** *adv*
ablative absolute \ˌab-lət-iv-\ *n* : a construction in Latin in which a noun or pronoun and its adjunct both in the ablative case form together an adverbial phrase expressing generally the time, cause, or an attendant circumstance of an action
ab·laut \'äp-ˌlaůt, 'ab-\ *n* [G, fr. *ab* away from + *laut* sound] : a systematic variation of vowels in the same root or affix or in related roots or affixes esp. in the Indo-European languages that is usu. paralleled by differences in use or meaning (as in *sing, sang, sung, song*)
ablaze \ə-'blāz\ *adj or adv* **1** : being on fire **2** : having radiant light or bright color : GLOWING ⟨his face all ~ with excitement — Bram Stoker⟩
able \'ā-bəl\ *adj* **abler** \-b(ə-)lər\; **ablest** \-b(ə-)ləst\ [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *habilis* apt, fr. *habēre* to have — more at HABIT] **1 a** : having sufficient power, skill, or resources to accomplish an object **b** : susceptible to action or treatment **2** : marked by intelligence, knowledge, skill, or competence
syn ABLE, CAPABLE, COMPETENT, QUALIFIED *shared meaning element* : having power or fitness (as for work or a way of life) ***ant*** inept, unable
-able *also* **-ible** \ə-bəl\ *adj suffix* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *-abilis, -ibilis*, fr. *-a-, -i-*, verb stem vowels + *-bilis* capable or worthy of] **1** : capable of, fit for, or worthy of (being so acted upon or toward) — chiefly in adjectives derived from verbs ⟨break*able*⟩ ⟨collect*ible*⟩ **2** : tending, given, or liable to ⟨knowledge*able*⟩ ⟨perish*able*⟩
able-bod·ied \ˌā-bəl-'bäd-ēd\ *adj* : having a sound strong body
able-bodied seaman *n* : ABLE SEAMAN
able seaman *n* : an experienced deck-department seaman qualified to perform routine duties at sea
ab·loom \ə-'blüm\ *adj* : abounding with blooms : BLOOMING ⟨parks ~ with roses⟩
ab·lut·ed \ə-'blüt-əd, a-\ *adj* [back-formation fr. *ablution*] : washed clean
ab·lu·tion \ə-'blü-shən, a-'blü-\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *ablution-, ablutio*, fr. *ablutus*, pp. of *abluere* to wash away, fr. *ab-* + *lavere* to wash — more at LYE] **1** : the washing of one's body or part of it (as in a religious rite) **2** *pl* : a building housing bathing and toilet facilities on a military base — **ab·lu·tion·ary** \-shə-ˌner-ē\ *adj*
ably \'ā-blē\ *adv* : in an able manner
ABM \ˌā-(ˌ)bē-'em\ *n* : ANTIBALLISTIC MISSILE
abn *abbr* airborne
Ab·na·ki \ab-'näk-ē\ *n, pl* **Abnaki** *or* **Abnakis** **1** : a member of an Amerindian people of Maine and southern Quebec **2** : an Algonquian language of the Abnaki and Penobscot peoples
ab·ne·gate \'ab-ni-ˌgāt\ *vt* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** [back-formation fr. *abnegation*] **1** : SURRENDER, RELINQUISH ⟨*abnegated* his powers⟩ **2** : DENY, RENOUNCE ⟨*abnegated* his God⟩ — **ab·ne·ga·tor** \-ˌgāt-ər\ *n*
ab·ne·ga·tion \ˌab-ni-'gā-shən\ *n* [LL *abnegation-, abnegatio*, fr. L *abnegatus*, pp. of *abnegare* to refute, fr. *ab-* + *negare* to deny — more at NEGATE] : DENIAL; *esp* : SELF-DENIAL
[1]ab·nor·mal \(ˌ)ab-'nȯr-məl\ *adj* [F *anormal*, fr. ML *anormalis*, fr. L *a-* + LL *normalis* normal] **1** : deviating from the normal or average; *esp* : markedly irregular ⟨~ behavior⟩ **2** : characterized by mental deficiency or disorder ⟨~ children⟩ — **ab·nor·mal·ly** \-mə-lē\ *adv*
[2]abnormal *n* : an abnormal person
ab·nor·mal·i·ty \ˌab-nər-'mal-ət-ē, -(ˌ)nȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being abnormal **2** : something abnormal
abnormal psychology *n* : the psychology of mental and behavioral disorder : PSYCHOPATHOLOGY
abo \'ab-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **ab·os** *Austral* : ABORIGINE
[1]aboard \ə-'bō(ə)rd, -'bȯ(ə)rd\ *adv or adj* **1** : on, onto, or within a car, ship, or airplane **2** : ALONGSIDE **3** *baseball* : on base
[2]aboard *prep* : ON, ONTO, WITHIN ⟨go ~ ship⟩ ⟨~ a plane⟩
abode \ə-'bōd\ *n* [ME *abod*, fr. *abiden* to abide] **1** *obs* : WAIT, DELAY **2** : a temporary stay : SOJOURN **3** : the place where one abides : HOME
aboil \ə-'bȯi(ə)l\ *adj or adv* **1** : being at the boiling point : BOILING **2** : intensely excited or stirred up ⟨the meeting was ~ with controversy⟩
abol·ish \ə-'bäl-ish\ *vt* [ME *abolisshen*, fr. MF *aboliss-*, stem of *abolir*, fr. L *abolēre*, prob. back-formation fr. *abolescere* to disappear, fr. *ab-* + *-olescere* (as in *adolescere* to grow up) — more at ADULT] **1** : to do away with wholly : ANNUL **2** : to destroy completely — **abol·ish·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **abol·ish·er** *n* — **abol·ish·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
syn ABOLISH, ANNIHILATE, EXTINGUISH *shared meaning element* : to make nonexistent or wholly ineffective or inactive ***ant*** establish
ab·o·li·tion \ˌab-ə-'lish-ən\ *n* [MF, fr. L *abolition-, abolitio*, fr. *abolitus*, pp. of *abolēre*] **1** : the act of abolishing : the state of being abolished **2** : the abolishing of slavery — **ab·o·li·tion·ary** \-'lish-ə-ˌner-ē\ *adj*
ab·o·li·tion·ism \-'lish-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* : principles or measures fostering abolition esp. of slavery — **ab·o·li·tion·ist** \-'lish-(ə-)nəst\ *n or adj*
ab·oma·sum \ˌab-ō-'mā-səm\ *n, pl* **-sa** \-sə\ [NL, fr. L *ab-* + *omasum* tripe of a bullock] : the fourth or true digestive stomach of a ruminant — **ab·oma·sal** \-səl\ *adj*
A–bomb \'ā-ˌbäm\ *n* : ATOM BOMB — **A–bomb** *vb*
abom·i·na·ble \ə-'bäm-(ə-)nə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : worthy of or causing disgust or hatred : DETESTABLE ⟨the ~ treatment of the poor⟩ **2** : quite disagreeable or unpleasant ⟨~ weather⟩ — **abom·i·na·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
abominable snow·man \-'snō-mən, -ˌman\ *n, often cap A&S* : a mysterious animal reported as existing in the high Himalayas and usu. thought to be a bear — called also *yeti*
abom·i·nate \ə-'bäm-ə-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [L *abominatus*, pp. of *abominari*, lit., to deprecate as an ill omen, fr. *ab-* + *omin-, omen* omen] : to hate or loathe intensely : ABHOR ***syn*** see HATE ***ant*** esteem, enjoy — **abom·i·na·tor** \-ˌnāt-ər\ *n*
abom·i·na·tion \ə-ˌbäm-ə-'nā-shən\ *n* **1** : something abominable **2** : extreme disgust and hatred : LOATHING
ab·oral \(')a-'bōr-əl, -'bȯr-\ *adj* : situated opposite to or away from the mouth — **ab·oral·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*
[1]ab·orig·i·nal \ˌab-ə-'rij-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : being the first of its kind present in a region and often primitive in comparison with more advanced types **2** : of or relating to aborigines ***syn*** see NATIVE — **ab·orig·i·nal·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
[2]aboriginal *n* : ABORIGINE; *specif* : an Australian aborigine
ab·orig·i·ne \ˌab-ə-'rij-ə-(ˌ)nē\ *n* [L *aborigines*, pl., fr. *ab origine* from the beginning] **1** : an aboriginal inhabitant esp. as contrasted with an invading or colonizing people **2** *pl* : the original fauna and flora of a geographical area
aborn·ing \ə-'bȯ(ə)r-niŋ\ *adv* [[1]*a-* + E dial. *borning* (birth)] : while being born or produced ⟨a resolution that died ~⟩
[1]abort \ə-'bȯ(ə)rt\ *vb* [L *abortare*, fr. *abortus*, pp. of *aboriri* to miscarry, fr. *ab-* + *oriri* to rise, be born — more at RISE] *vi* **1** : to bring forth premature or stillborn offspring **2** : to become checked in development so as to remain rudimentary or to shrink away ~ *vt* **1 a** : to give birth to prematurely **b** : to terminate the pregnancy of before term **2 a** : to terminate prematurely : CANCEL ⟨~ a project⟩ ⟨~ a spaceflight⟩ **b** : to stop in the early stages ⟨~ a disease⟩ — **abort·er** *n*
[2]abort *n* : the premature termination of the flight of an aircraft on a combat or bombing mission; *also* : such termination of an action, procedure, or mission relating to a rocket or spacecraft ⟨a launch ~⟩
abor·ti·fa·cient \ə-ˌbȯrt-ə-'fā-shənt\ *adj* : inducing abortion — **abortifacient** *n*
abor·tion \ə-'bȯr-shən\ *n* **1** : the expulsion of a nonviable fetus: as **a** : spontaneous expulsion of a human fetus during the first 12 weeks of gestation — compare MISCARRIAGE **b** : induced abortion **2** : MONSTROSITY **3 a** : arrest of development (as of a part or process) resulting in imperfection **b** : a result of such arrest
abor·tion·ist \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n* : a producer of abortions
abor·tive \ə-'bȯrt-iv\ *adj* **1** *obs* : prematurely born **2** : FRUITLESS, UNSUCCESSFUL **3** : imperfectly formed or developed **4** : tending to cut short — **abor·tive·ly** *adv* — **abor·tive·ness** *n*
ABO system \ˌā-(ˌ)bē-'ō-\ *n* : the basic system of antigens of human blood behaving in heredity as an allelic unit to produce any of the four blood groups A, B, AB, or O — called also *ABO group*
abound \ə-'baůnd\ *vi* [ME *abounden*, fr. MF *abonder*, fr. L *abundare*, fr. *ab-* + *unda* wave — more at WATER] **1** : to be present in large numbers or in great quantity : be prevalent **2** : to become copiously supplied ⟨the old edition ~*ed* in . . . coloured pictures — *Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ ⟨institutions ~ with evidence of his success — *Johns Hopkins Mag.*⟩
[1]about \ə-'baůt\ *adv* [ME, fr. OE *abūtan*, fr. [1]*a-* + *būtan* outside — more at BUT] **1** : on all sides : AROUND **2 a** : in rotation **b** : around the outside **3 a** : APPROXIMATELY **b** : ALMOST ⟨~ starved⟩ **4** : here and there **5** : in the vicinity : NEAR **6** : in succession : ALTERNATELY ⟨turn ~ is fair play⟩ **7** : in the opposite direction ⟨face ~ ⟩ ⟨the other way ~⟩
[2]about *prep* **1** : on every side of : AROUND **2 a** : in the immediate neighborhood of : NEAR **b** : on or near the person of **c** : in the makeup of ⟨a mature wisdom ~ him⟩ **d** : at the command of ⟨has his wits ~ him⟩ **3 a** : engaged in **b** : on the verge of ⟨~ to join the army⟩ **4** : with regard to : CONCERNING **5** : over or in different parts of **6** — used with the negative to express intention or determination ⟨is not ~ to quit⟩
[3]about *adj* **1** : moving from place to place; *specif* : out of bed **2** : AROUND 2
about–face \ə-'baůt-'fās\ *n* [fr. the imper. phrase *about face*] **1** : a 180° turn to the right from the position of attention **2** : a reversal of direction **3** : a reversal of attitude or point of view — **about–face** *vi*
[1]above \ə-'bəv\ *adv* [ME, fr. OE *abufan*, fr. *a-* + *bufan* above, fr. *be-* + *ufan* above; akin to OE *ofer* over] **1 a** : in the sky : OVERHEAD **b** : in or to heaven **2 a** : in or to a higher place **b** : higher on the same page or on a preceding page **c** : UPSTAIRS **3**

: in or to a higher rank or number ⟨30 and ~⟩ **4** *archaic* : in addition : BESIDES **5** : UPSTAGE

²above *prep* **1** : in or to a higher place than : OVER **2 a** : superior to (as in rank, quality, or degree) **b** : out of reach of **c** : in preference to **d** : too proud or honorable to stoop to **3** : exceeding in number, quantity, or size : more than

³above *n, pl* **above** **1 a** : something that is above **b** : a person whose name is written above **2 a** : a higher authority **b** : HEAVEN

⁴above *adj* : written or discussed higher on the same page or on a preceding page

above all *adv* : before every other consideration : ESPECIALLY

¹above·board \ə-'bəv-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *adv* [fr. the difficulty of cheating at cards when the hands are above the table] : in a straightforward manner : OPENLY

²aboveboard *adj* : free from all traces of deceit or duplicity ***syn*** see STRAIGHTFORWARD ***ant*** underhand, underhanded

above·ground \ə-'bəv-ˌgraůnd\ *adj* **1** : located on or above the surface of the ground **2** : existing, produced, or published by or within the establishment ⟨~ movies⟩

ab ovo \a-'bō-(ˌ)vō\ *adv* [L, lit., from the egg] : from the beginning

abp *abbr* archbishop

abr *abbr* abridged; abridgment

ab·ra·ca·dab·ra \ˌab-rə-kə-'dab-rə\ *n* [LL] **1** : a magical charm or incantation used to ward off calamity **2** : unintelligible language

abrad·ant \ə-'brād-ᵊnt\ *n* : ABRASIVE

abrade \ə-'brād\ *vb* **abrad·ed; abrad·ing** [L *abradere* to scrape off, fr. *ab-* + *radere* to scrape — more at RAT] *vt* **1 a** : to rub or wear away esp. by friction : ERODE **b** : to irritate or roughen by rubbing **2** : to wear down in spirit : IRRITATE, WEARY ~ *vi* : to undergo abrasion — **abrad·able** \-'brād-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **abrad·er** *n*

Abra·ham \'ā-brə-ˌham\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *Abraam*, fr. Heb *'Abhrāhām*] : an Old Testament patriarch and founder of the Hebrew people

abra·sion \ə-'brā-zhən\ *n* [ML *abrasion-, abrasio*, fr. L *abrasus*, pp. of *abradere*] **1 a** : a wearing, grinding, or rubbing away by friction **b** : IRRITATION **2** : an abraded area of the skin or mucous membrane

¹abra·sive \ə-'brā-siv, -ziv\ *adj* **1** : tending to abrade **2** : causing irritation ⟨~ manners⟩ — **abra·sive·ly** *adv* — **abra·sive·ness** *n*

²abrasive *n* : a substance (as emery or pumice) used for abrading, smoothing, or polishing

ab·re·act \ˌab-rē-'akt\ *vt* [part trans. of G *abreagieren*, fr. *ab* away from + *reagieren* to react] : to release (a repressed or forgotten emotion) by or as if by verbalization esp. in psychoanalysis — **ab·re·ac·tion** \-'ak-shən\ *n*

abreast \ə-'brest\ *adv or adj* **1** : beside one another with bodies in line ⟨columns of men five ~⟩ **2** : up to a particular standard or level esp. of knowledge of recent developments ⟨keeps ~ of the latest trends⟩

abridge \ə-'brij\ *vt* **abridged; abridg·ing** [ME *abregen*, fr. MF *abregier*, fr. LL *abbreviare*, fr. L *ad-* + *brevis* short — more at BRIEF] **1 a** *archaic* : DEPRIVE **b** : to reduce in scope : DIMINISH ⟨attempts to ~ the right of free speech⟩ **2** : to shorten in duration or extent ⟨modern transportation that ~s distance⟩ **3** : to shorten by omission of words without sacrifice of sense : CONDENSE ***syn*** see SHORTEN ***ant*** expand, extend — **abridg·er** *n*

abridg·ment *or* **abridge·ment** \ə-'brij-mənt\ *n* **1** : the action of abridging : the state of being abridged **2** : a shortened form of a work retaining the general sense and unity of the original
syn ABRIDGMENT, ABSTRACT, SYNOPSIS, CONSPECTUS, EPITOME *shared meaning element* : a shorter version of a larger work or treatment ***ant*** expansion

abroach \ə-'brōch\ *adv or adj* **1** : in a condition for letting out a liquid (as wine) ⟨a cask set ~⟩ **2** : in action or agitation : ASTIR ⟨mischiefs that I set ~ —Shak.⟩

abroad \ə-'brȯd\ *adv or adj* **1** : over a wide area : WIDELY **2** : away from one's home **3** : beyond the boundaries of one's country **4** : in wide circulation : ABOUT **5** : wide of the mark : ASTRAY

ab·ro·gate \'ab-rə-ˌgāt\ *vt* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** [L *abrogatus*, pp. of *abrogare*, fr. *ab-* + *rogare* to ask, propose a law — more at RIGHT] **1** : to abolish by authoritative action : ANNUL **2** : to do away with ***syn*** see NULLIFY ***ant*** establish, fix (*as a right or custom*) — **ab·ro·ga·tion** \ˌab-rə-'gā-shən\ *n*

abrupt \ə-'brəpt\ *adj* [L *abruptus*, fr. pp. of *abrumpere* to break off, fr. *ab-* + *rumpere* to break — more at REAVE] **1 a** : broken off **b** : suddenly terminating as if cut or broken off ⟨~ plant filaments⟩ **2 a** : occurring without warning : UNEXPECTED ⟨~ weather changes⟩ **b** : unceremoniously curt ⟨an ~ manner⟩ **c** : marked by sudden changes in subject matter : DISCONNECTED **3** : rising or dropping sharply as if broken off ⟨a high ~ bank bounded the stream⟩ ***syn*** **1** see STEEP **2** see PRECIPITATE ***ant*** deliberate, leisurely — **abrupt·ly** \ə-'brəp-(t)lē\ *adv* — **abrupt·ness** \ə-'brəp(t)-nəs\ *n*

abrup·tion \ə-'brəp-shən\ *n* : a sudden breaking off or away

abs *abbr* **1** absolute **2** abstract

ABS *abbr* American Bible Society

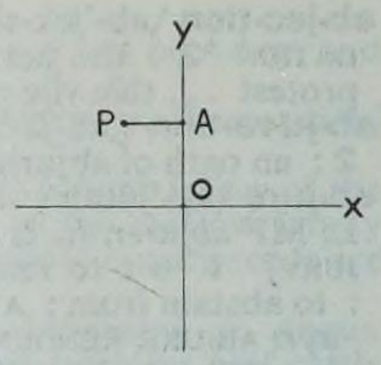
ab·scess \'ab-ˌses\ *n* [L *abscessus*, lit., act of going away, fr. *abscessus*, pp. of *abscedere* to go away, fr. *abs-, ab-* + *cedere* to go — more at CEDE] : a localized collection of pus surrounded by inflamed tissue — **ab·scessed** \-ˌsest\ *adj*

ab·scise \ab-'sīz\ *vb* **ab·scised; ab·scis·ing** [L *abscisus*, pp. of *abscidere*, fr. *abs-* + *caedere* to cut — more at CONCISE] *vt* : to cut off by abscission ~ *vi* : to separate by abscission

ab·scis·ic acid \ˌab-ˌsiz-ik-, -ˌsis-\ *n* [*abscision* (var. of *abscission*) + *-ic*] : a plant hormone $C_{15}H_{20}O_4$ that is widespread in nature and is made synthetically and that typically promotes leaf abscission and dormancy and has an inhibitory effect on cell elongation — called also *abscisin II, dormin*

ab·sci·sin *also* **ab·scis·sin** \'ab-sə-sən, ab-'sis-ᵊn\ *n* [*abscision, abscission* + *-in*] : any of a group of plant regulatory substances orig. found in young cotton bolls that tend to promote leaf abscission and inhibit various growth processes — compare ABSCISIC ACID

ab·scis·sa \ab-'sis-ə\ *n, pl* **abscissas** *also* **ab·scis·sae** \-'sis-(ˌ)ē\ [NL, fr. L, fem. of *abscissus*, pp. of *abscindere* to cut off, fr. *ab-* + *scindere* to cut — more at SHED] : the horizontal coordinate of a point in a plane Cartesian coordinate system obtained by measuring parallel to the x-axis — compare ORDINATE



AP abscissa of point *P*

ab·scis·sion \ab-'sizh-ən\ *n* [L *abscission-, abscissio*, fr. *abscissus*] **1** : the act or process of cutting off : REMOVAL **2** : the natural separation of flowers, fruit, or leaves from plants at a special separation layer

ab·scond \ab-'skänd\ *vi* [L *abscondere* to hide away, fr. *abs-* + *condere* to store up, conceal — more at CONDIMENT] : to depart secretly and hide oneself — **ab·scond·er** *n*

ab·sence \'ab-sən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the state of being absent **2** : the period of time that one is absent **3** : WANT, LACK ⟨an ~ of detail⟩ **4** : inattention to present surroundings or occurrences ⟨~ of mind⟩

¹ab·sent \'ab-sənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *absent-, absens*, prp. of *abesse* to be absent, fr. *ab-* + *esse* to be — more at IS] **1** : not present or attending : MISSING **2** : not existing : LACKING ⟨danger in a situation where [illegible]wer is ~ —M. H. Trytten⟩ **3** : INATTENTIVE, PREOCCUPIED — [illegible]**·sent·ly** *adv*

²ab·sent \ab-'sent\ *vt* : to keep (oneself) away

ab·sen·tee \ˌab-sən-'tē\ *n* : one that is absent or that absents himself; *specif* : a proprietor that lives away from his estate or business — **absentee** *adj*

absentee ballot *n* : a ballot submitted (as by mail) in advance of an election by a voter who is unable to be present at the polls

ab·sen·tee·ism \ˌab-sən-'tē-ˌiz-əm\ *n* **1** : prolonged absence of an owner from his property **2** : chronic absence from duty (as work)

absentee voter *n* : a registered voter who is permitted to vote by absentee ballot

ab·sent-mind·ed \ˌab-sənt-'mīn-dəd\ *adj* : lost in thought and unaware of one's surroundings or action : PREOCCUPIED; *also* : given to absence of mind — **ab·sent-mind·ed·ly** *adv* — **ab·sent-mind·ed·ness** *n*

absent without leave *adj* : absent without authority from one's place of duty in the armed forces

ab·sinthe *or* **ab·sinth** \'ab-ˌsin(t)th\ *n* [F *absinthe*, fr. L *absinthium*, fr. Gk *apsinthion*] **1** : WORMWOOD 1; *esp* : a common European wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*) **2** : a green liqueur flavored with wormwood or a substitute, anise, and other aromatics

ab·so·lute \'ab-sə-ˌlüt, ˌab-sə-'\ *adj* [ME *absolut*, fr. L *absolutus*, fr. pp. of *absolvere* to set free, absolve] **1 a** : free from imperfection : PERFECT **b** : free or relatively free from mixture : PURE ⟨~ alcohol⟩ **c** : OUTRIGHT, UNMITIGATED ⟨an ~ lie⟩ **2** : being, governed by, or characteristic of a ruler or authority completely free from constitutional or other restraint **3 a** : standing apart from a normal or usual syntactical relation with other words or sentence elements ⟨the ~ construction *this being the case* in the sentence "this being the case, let us go"⟩ **b** *of an adjective or possessive pronoun* : standing alone without a modified substantive ⟨*blind* in "help the blind" and *ours* in "your work and ours" are ~⟩ **c** *of a verb* : having no object in the particular construction under consideration though normally transitive ⟨*kill* in "if looks could kill" is an ~ verb⟩ **4** : having no restriction, exception, or qualification ⟨an ~ requirement⟩ ⟨~ freedom⟩ **5** : POSITIVE, UNQUESTIONABLE ⟨~ proof⟩ **6 a** : independent of arbitrary standards of measurement **b** : relating to or derived in the simplest manner from the fundamental units of length, mass, and time ⟨~ electric units⟩ **c** : relating to the absolute-temperature scale ⟨10° ~⟩ **7** : FUNDAMENTAL, ULTIMATE ⟨~ knowledge⟩ **8** : perfectly embodying the nature of a thing ⟨~ justice⟩ **9** : being self-sufficient and free of external references or relationships ⟨an ~ term in logic⟩ ⟨~ music⟩ **10** : measuring or representing the distance from an aircraft to the ground or water beneath — **absolute** *n* — **ab·so·lute·ly** *adv* — **ab·so·lute·ness** *n*

absolute ceiling *n* : the maximum height above sea level at which a particular airplane can maintain horizontal flight under standard air conditions — called also *ceiling*

absolute humidity *n* : the amount of water vapor present in a unit volume of air

absolute magnitude *n* : the intrinsic luminosity of a celestial body (as a star) if viewed from a distance of 10 parsecs

absolute pitch *n* **1** : the position of a tone in a standard scale independently determined by its rate of vibration **2** : the ability to sing or name a note asked for or heard

absolute scale *n* : a temperature scale based on absolute zero

absolute space *n* : SPACE 4b

absolute temperature *n* : temperature measured on the absolute scale

absolute value *n* **1** : the numerical value of a real number irrespective of sign **2** : the positive square root of the sum of the squares of the real and imaginary parts of a complex number

absolute zero *n* : a hypothetical temperature characterized by complete absence of heat and equivalent to approximately −273.15°C or −459.67°F

ab·so·lu·tion \ˌab-sə-'lü-shən\ *n* : the act of absolving; *specif* : a remission of sins pronounced by a priest (as in the sacrament of penance)

ab·so·lut·ism \'ab-sə-ˌlüt-ˌiz-əm\ *n* **1 a** : a political theory that absolute power should be vested in one or more rulers **b** : government by an absolute ruler or authority : DESPOTISM **2** : advocacy of a rule by absolute standards or principles **3** : an absolute standard or principle — **ab·so·lut·ist** \-ˌlüt-əst\ *n or adj* — **ab·so·lu·tis·tic** \ˌab-sə-(ˌ)lü-'tis-tik\ *adj*

ab·so·lut·ize \'ab-sə-ˌlüt-ˌīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to make absolute : convert into an absolute

ab·solve \əb-'zälv, -'sälv, -'zȯlv, -'sȯlv\ *vt* **ab·solved; ab·solv·ing** [ME *absolven*, fr. L *absolvere*, fr. *ab-* + *solvere* to loosen — more at

SOLVE] **1** : to set free from an obligation or the consequences of guilt **2** : to remit (a sin) by absolution — **ab·solv·er** *n*

ab·sorb \əb-'sȯ(ə)rb, -'zȯ(ə)rb\ *vt* [MF *absorber*, fr. L *absorbēre*, fr. *ab-* + *sorbēre* to suck up; akin to Gk *rhophein* to suck up] **1** : to take in and make part of an existent whole ⟨the capacity of China to ~ invaders⟩ **2 a** : to suck up or take up ⟨a sponge ~*s* water⟩ ⟨charcoal ~*s* gas⟩ ⟨plant roots ~ water⟩ **b** : to take in ⟨convictions ~*ed* in youth —M. R. Cohen⟩ **3** : to engage or engross wholly ⟨~*ed* in thought⟩ **4 a** : to receive without recoil or echo ⟨provided with a sound-*absorbing* surface⟩ **b** : to transform (radiant energy) into a different form usu. with a resulting rise in temperature ⟨the earth ~*s* the sun's rays⟩ **5** : to take over (a cost) — **ab·sorb·abil·i·ty** \əb-ˌsȯr-bə-'bil-ət-ē, -ˌzȯr-\ *n* — **ab·sorb·able** \əb-'sȯr-bə-bəl, -'zȯr-\ *adj* — **ab·sorb·er** *n*

syn **1** ABSORB, IMBIBE, ASSIMILATE *shared meaning element* : to take in and incorporate something (as into the substance or mind) ***ant*** dissipate (*as time, energies*) **2** see MONOPOLIZE

ab·sor·bance \əb-'sȯr-bən(t)s, -'zȯr-\ *n* : ABSORBENCY 2

ab·sor·ben·cy \əb-'sȯr-bən-sē, -'zȯr-\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the quality or state of being absorbent **2** *or* **ab·sor·ban·cy** : the ability of a layer of a substance to absorb radiation expressed mathematically as the negative common logarithm of transmittance

ab·sor·bent *also* **ab·sor·bant** \-bənt\ *adj* [L *absorbent-, absorbens*, prp. of *absorbēre*] : able to absorb ⟨as ~ as a sponge⟩ — **absorbent** *also* **absorbant** *n*

ab·sorb·ing *adj* : fully taking one's attention : ENGROSSING ⟨an ~ novel⟩ — **ab·sorb·ing·ly** \-biŋ-lē\ *adv*

ab·sorp·tance \əb-'sȯrp-tən(t)s, -'zȯrp-\ *n* [*absorption* + *-ance*] : the ratio of the radiant energy absorbed by a body to that incident upon it

ab·sorp·tion \əb-'sȯrp-shən, -'zȯrp-\ *n* [F & L; F, fr. L *absorption-, absorptio*, fr. *absorptus*, pp. of *absorbēre*] **1 a** : the process of absorbing or of being absorbed — compare ADSORPTION **b** : interception of radiant energy or sound waves **2** : entire occupation of the mind ⟨~ in his work⟩ — **ab·sorp·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **ab·sorp·tive** \-tiv\ *adj*

ab·stain \əb-'stān\ *vi* [ME *absteinen*, fr. MF *abstenir*, fr. L *abstinēre*, fr. *abs-, ab-* + *tenēre* to hold — more at THIN] : to refrain deliberately and often with an effort of self-denial from an action or practice ***syn*** see REFRAIN — **ab·stain·er** *n*

ab·ste·mi·ous \ab-'stē-mē-əs\ *adj* [L *abstemius*, fr. *abs-* + *temetum* mead; akin to L *tenebrae* darkness — more at TEMERITY] **1** : sparing esp. in eating or drinking **2** : sparingly used or indulged in ⟨~ diet⟩ — **ab·ste·mi·ous·ly** *adv*

ab·sten·tion \əb-'sten-chən\ *n* [LL *abstention-, abstentio*, fr. L *abstentus*, pp. of *abstinēre*] : the act or practice of abstaining — **ab·sten·tious** \-chəs\ *adj*

ab·sti·nence \'ab-stə-nən(t)s\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *abstinentia*, fr. *abstinent-, abstinens*, prp. of *abstinēre*] **1** : voluntary forbearance esp. from indulgence of appetite or from eating some foods : ABSTENTION **2** : habitual abstaining from intoxicating beverages — **ab·sti·nent** \-nənt\ *adj* — **ab·sti·nent·ly** *adv*

abstr *abbr* abstract

[1]ab·stract \ab-'strakt, 'ab-ˌ\ *adj* [ML *abstractus*, fr. L, pp. of *abstrahere* to draw away, fr. *abs-, ab-* + *trahere* to draw — more at DRAW] **1 a** : disassociated from any specific instance ⟨~ entity⟩ **b** : difficult to understand : ABSTRUSE ⟨~ problems⟩ **c** : IDEAL ⟨~ justice⟩ **d** : insufficiently factual : FORMAL ⟨possessed only an ~ right⟩ **2** : expressing a quality apart from an object ⟨the word *poem* is concrete, *poetry* is ~⟩ **3 a** : dealing with a subject in its abstract aspects : THEORETICAL ⟨~ science⟩ **b** : IMPERSONAL, DETACHED ⟨the ~ compassion of a surgeon —*Time*⟩ **4** : having only intrinsic form with little or no attempt at pictorial representation ⟨~ painting⟩ — **ab·stract·ly** \ab-'strak-(t)lē, 'ab-ˌ\ *adv* — **ab·stract·ness** \ab-'strak(t)-nəs, 'ab-ˌ\ *n*

[2]ab·stract \'ab-ˌstrakt, *in sense 2 also* ab-'\ *n* [ME, fr. L *abstractus*] **1** : a summary of points (as of a writing) usu. presented in skeletal form **2** : an abstract thing or state **3** : ABSTRACTION 4 ***syn*** see ABRIDGMENT ***ant*** amplification

[3]ab·stract \ab-'strakt, 'ab-ˌ, *in sense 3 usu* 'ab-ˌ\ *vt* **1** : REMOVE, SEPARATE **2** : to consider apart from application to a particular instance **3** : to make an abstract of : SUMMARIZE **4** : to draw away the attention of **5** : STEAL, PURLOIN ~ *vi* : to make an abstraction — **ab·stract·able** \-'strak-tə-bəl, -ˌstrak-\ *adj* — **ab·strac·tor** *or* **ab·stract·er** \-tər\ *n*

ab·stract·ed \ab-'strak-təd, 'ab-ˌ\ *adj* : PREOCCUPIED, ABSENT-MINDED ⟨the ~ look of a professor⟩ — **ab·stract·ed·ly** *adv* — **ab·stract·ed·ness** *n*

abstract expressionism *n* : art in which the artist attempts to convey his attitudes and emotions through nonrepresentational means — **abstract expressionist** *n*

ab·strac·tion \ab-'strak-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the act or process of abstracting : the state of being abstracted **b** : an abstract idea or term **2** : absence of mind **3** : abstract quality or character **4** : an abstract composition or creation in art — **ab·strac·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **ab·strac·tive** \ab-'strak-tiv, 'ab-ˌ\ *adj*

ab·strac·tion·ism \ab-'strak-shə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* : the principles or practice of creating abstract art — **ab·strac·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *adj or n*

abstract of title : a summary statement of the successive conveyances and other facts on which a person's title to a piece of land rests

ab·strict \ab-'strikt\ *vt* [*ab-* + L *strictus*, pp. of *stringere* to draw tight — more at STRAIN] : to cut off in or as if in abstriction

ab·stric·tion \-'strik-shən\ *n* : the formation of spores by the cutting off of portions of the sporophore through the growth of septa

ab·struse \əb-'strüs, ab-\ *adj* [L *abstrusus*, fr. pp. of *abstrudere* to conceal, fr. *abs-, ab-* + *trudere* to push — more at THREAT] : difficult to comprehend : RECONDITE ⟨the ~ calculations of mathematicians⟩ — **ab·struse·ly** *adv* — **ab·struse·ness** *n*

ab·stru·si·ty \-'strü-sət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being abstruse : ABSTRUSENESS **2** : something that is abstruse

[1]ab·surd \əb-'sərd, -'zərd\ *adj* [MF *absurde*, fr. L *absurdus*, fr. *ab-* + *surdus* deaf, stupid — more at SURD] **1** : ridiculously unreasonable, unsound, or incongruous **2** : having no rational or orderly relationship to man's life : MEANINGLESS; *also* : lacking order or value **3** : dealing with the absurd or with absurdism — **ab·surd·ly** *adv* — **ab·surd·ness** *n*

[2]absurd *n* : the state or condition in which man exists in an irrational and meaningless universe and in which man's life has no meaning outside his own existence

ab·surd·ism \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : a philosophy based on the belief that man exists in an irrational and meaningless universe and that his search for order brings him into conflict with his universe — compare EXISTENTIALISM — **ab·surd·ist** \-əst\ *n or adj*

ab·sur·di·ty \əb-'sərd-ət-ē, -'zərd-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being absurd : ABSURDNESS **2** : something that is absurd

absurd theater *n* : THEATER OF THE ABSURD

abub·ble \ə-'bəb-əl\ *adj* **1** : being in the process of bubbling : EFFERVESCENT **2** : being in a state of agitated activity or motion : ASTIR

abuild·ing \ə-'bil-diŋ\ *adj* : being in the process of building or of being built

abun·dance \ə-'bən-dən(t)s\ *n* **1** : an ample quantity : PROFUSION **2** : AFFLUENCE, WEALTH **3** : relative degree of plentifulness ⟨low ~*s* of uranium and thorium —H. C. Urey⟩

abun·dant \-dənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *abundant-, abundans*, prp. of *abundare* to abound] **1 a** : marked by great plenty (as of resources) ⟨a fair and ~ land⟩ **b** : amply supplied : ABOUNDING ⟨~ with fly life and other natural trout food —Alexander MacDonald⟩ **2** : occurring in abundance ⟨~ rainfall⟩ ***syn*** see PLENTIFUL ***ant*** scarce — **abun·dant·ly** *adv*

abundant year *n* : PERFECT YEAR

[1]abuse \ə-'byüz\ *vt* **abused; abus·ing** [ME *abusen*, fr. MF *abuser*, fr. L *abusus*, pp. of *abuti*, fr. *ab-* + *uti* to use — more at USE] **1** : to attack in words : REVILE **2** *obs* : DECEIVE **3** : to put to a wrong or improper use ⟨~ a privilege⟩ **4** : to use so as to injure or damage : MALTREAT ⟨~ a dog⟩ — **abus·able** \-'byü-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **abus·er** *n*

[2]abuse \ə-'byüs\ *n* **1** : a corrupt practice or custom **2** : improper use or treatment : MISUSE ⟨drug ~⟩ **3** *obs* : a deceitful act : DECEPTION **4** : abusive language **5** : physical maltreatment ***syn*** ABUSE, VITUPERATION, INVECTIVE, OBLOQUY, SCURRILITY, BILLINGSGATE *shared meaning element* : vehemently expressed condemnation or disapproval ***ant*** adulation

abu·sive \ə-'byü-siv, -ziv\ *adj* **1** : characterized by wrong or improper use or action : CORRUPT ⟨~ financial practices⟩ **2 a** : characterized by or serving for verbal abuse **b** : physically injurious ⟨received ~ treatment⟩ — **abu·sive·ly** *adv* — **abu·sive·ness** *n*

abut \ə-'bət\ *vb* **abut·ted; abut·ting** [ME *abutten*, partly fr. OF *aboter* to border on, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *bout* blow, end, fr. *boter* to strike; partly fr. OF *abuter* to come to an end, fr. *a-* + *but* end, aim — more at [1]BUTT, [3]BUTT] *vi* **1** : to touch along a border or with a projecting part ⟨land ~*s* on the road⟩ **2 a** : to terminate at a point of contact **b** : to lean for support ~ *vt* **1** : to border on : TOUCH **2** : to cause to abut — **abut·ter** *n*

abu·ti·lon \ə-'byüt-ᵊl-ˌän\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Ar *awbūtīlūn* abutilon] : any of a genus (*Abutilon*) of plants of the mallow family with usu. lobed leaves and showy solitary bell-shaped flowers

abut·ment \ə-'bət-mənt\ *n* **1** : the place at which abutting occurs **2 a** : the part of a structure that directly receives thrust or pressure (as of an arch) **b** : an anchorage for the cables of a suspension bridge or aerial railway

abut·tals \ə-'bət-ᵊlz\ *n pl* : the boundaries of lands with respect to adjacent lands

abut·ting *adj* : that abuts or serves as an abutment : ADJOINING, BORDERING ***syn*** see ADJACENT

abuzz \ə-'bəz\ *adj* : filled or resounding with or as if with a buzzing sound ⟨a lake ~ with outboards⟩ ⟨a town ~ with excitement⟩

aby *or* **abye** \ə-'bī\ *vt* [ME *abien*, fr. OE *ābycgan*, fr. *ā-* + *bycgan* to buy — more at ABIDE, BUY] *archaic* : to suffer a penalty for

abysm \ə-'biz-əm\ *n* [ME *abime*, fr. OF *abisme*, modif. of LL *abyssus*] : ABYSS ⟨the dark backward and ~ of time —Shak.⟩

abys·mal \ə-'biz-məl\ *adj* **1 a** : having immense or fathomless extension downward, backward, or inward ⟨an ~ cliff⟩ **b** : immeasurably great : PROFOUND ⟨~ ignorance⟩ ⟨the ~ sufferings of the dispossessed⟩ **2** : ABYSSAL ***syn*** see DEEP — **abys·mal·ly** \-mə-lē\ *adv*

abyss \ə-'bis\ *n* [ME *abissus*, fr. LL *abyssus*, fr. Gk *abyssos*, fr. *abyssos* bottomless, fr. *a-* + *byssos* depth; akin to Gk *bathys* deep — more at BATHY-] **1** : the bottomless gulf, pit, or chaos of the old cosmogonies **2 a** : an immeasurably deep gulf or great space **b** : intellectual or spiritual profundity

abys·sal \ə-'bis-əl\ *adj* **1** : UNFATHOMABLE a **2** : of or relating to the bottom waters of the ocean depths

Ab·ys·sin·i·an cat \ˌab-ə-ˌsin-ē-ən-, -ˌsin-yən-\ *n* [*Abyssinia*, kingdom in Africa] : any of a breed of small slender cats of African origin with short brownish hair ticked with darker color

ac *abbr* **1** account **2** money of account

[1]Ac *abbr* altocumulus

[2]Ac *symbol* actinium

AC *abbr* **1** alternating current **2** [L *ante Christum*] before Christ **3** [L *ante cibum*] before meals **4** area code **5** athletic club

ac- — see AD-

-ac \ˌak, *in a few words* ik *or* ək\ *n suffix* [NL *-acus* of or relating to, fr. Gk *-akos*] : one affected with ⟨nostalgi*ac*⟩

aca·cia \ə-'kā-shə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, acacia tree, fr. Gk *akakia* shittah] **1** : any of a genus (*Acacia*) of woody leguminous plants of warm regions with leaves pinnate or reduced to phyllodes and white or yellow flower clusters **2** : GUM ARABIC



acacia 1

acad *abbr* academic; academy

ac·a·deme \'ak-ə-ˌdēm\ *n* [irreg. fr. NL *academia*] **1 a** : a place of instruction : SCHOOL **b** : the academic environment **c** (1) : the academic community (2) : academic life **2** : ACADEMIC; *esp* : PEDANT

ac·a·de·mia \ˌak-ə-'dē-mē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. L, academy] : ACADEME 1c

¹ac·a·dem·ic \ˌak-ə-'dem-ik\ *also* **ac·a·dem·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* **1 a** : of, relating to, or associated with an academy or school esp. of higher learning **b** : of or relating to performance in academic courses **c** : very learned but inexperienced in practical matters ⟨~ thinkers⟩ **d** : based on formal study esp. at an institution of higher learning **2** : of or relating to literary or art rather than technical or professional studies **3** : conforming to the traditions or rules of a school (as of literature or art) or an official academy : CONVENTIONAL **4 a** : theoretical without having an immediate or practical bearing : ABSTRACT ⟨an ~ question⟩ **b** : having no practical or useful significance ***syn*** see PEDANTIC, THEORETICAL — **ac·a·dem·i·cal·ly** \ik-(ə-)lē\ *adv*

²academic *n* **1** : a member of an institution of learning **2** : one who is academic in background, outlook, or methods

academic freedom *n* : freedom to teach or to learn without interference (as by government officials)

ac·a·de·mi·cian \ˌak-əd-ə-'mish-ən, ə-ˌkad-ə-\ *n* **1 a** : a member of an academy for promoting science, art, or literature **b** : a follower of an artistic or philosophical tradition or a promoter of its ideas **2** : ACADEMIC

ac·a·dem·i·cism \ˌak-ə-'dem-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *also* **acad·e·mism** \ə-'kad-ə-ˌmiz-əm\ *n* **1** : the doctrines of Plato's Academy; *specif* : the skeptical doctrines of the later Academy holding that nothing can be known — compare PYRRHONISM **2** : purely speculative thoughts and attitudes

academic year *n* : the annual period of sessions of an educational institution usu. beginning in September and ending in June

acad·e·my \ə-'kad-ə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** [L *academia*, fr. Gk *Akadēmeia*, fr. *Akadēmeia*, gymnasium where Plato taught, fr. *Akadēmos* Attic mythological hero] **1** *cap* **a** : the school for advanced education founded by Plato **b** : the philosophical doctrines associated with Plato's Academy: (1) : PLATONISM (2) : ACADEMICISM **2 a** : a school usu. above the elementary level; *esp* : a private high school **b** : a high school or college in which special subjects or skills are taught **c** : higher education ⟨the functions of the ~ in modern society⟩ **3** : a society of learned persons organized to advance art, science, or literature **4** : a body of established opinion in a particular field widely accepted as authoritative

Aca·di·an \ə-'kād-ē-ən\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Acadia **2 a** : a Louisianian descended from French-speaking immigrants from Acadia **b** : a dialect of French spoken by Acadians — **Acadian** *adj*

AC and U *abbr* Association of Colleges and Universities

acanth- *or* **acantho-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *akanth-*, *akantho-*, fr. *akantha*; akin to ON *ögn* awn — more at AWN] : thorn : spine ⟨*acanth*ous⟩ ⟨*acantho*cephalan⟩

acan·tho·ceph·a·lan \ə-ˌkan(t)-thə-'sef-ə-lən\ *n* [deriv. of *acanth-* + Gk *kephalē* head — more at CEPHALIC] : any of a group (Acanthocephala) of intestinal worms with a hooked proboscis that as adults lack a digestive tract and absorb food through the body wall — **acanthocephalan** *adj*

ac·an·thop·ter·yg·i·an \ˌak-ən-ˌthäp-tə-'rij-ē-ən\ *n* [deriv. of *acanth-* + Gk *pteryg-*, *pteryx* wing, fin — more at PTERYGOID] : any of a major division (Acanthopterygii) of teleost fishes including most spiny-finned fishes (as basses, perches, and mackerels) and some soft-finned fishes — **acanthopterygian** *adj*

acan·thus \ə-'kan(t)-thəs\ *n, pl* **acan·thus·es** *also* **acan·thi** \-'kan-ˌthī\ [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *akanthos*, an acanthus, fr. *akantha*] **1** : any of a genus (*Acanthus* of the family Acanthaceae, the acanthus family) of prickly herbs of the Mediterranean region **2** : an ornamentation (as in a Corinthian capital) representing or suggesting the leaves of the acanthus



acanthus 2

a cap·pel·la *also* **a ca·pel·la** \ˌäk-ə-'pel-ə\ *adv or adj* [It *a cappella* in chapel style] : without instrumental accompaniment

ac·a·ri·a·sis \ˌak-ə-'rī-ə-səs\ *n* : infestation with or disease caused by mites

ac·a·rid \'ak-ə-rəd\ *n* : any of an order (Acarina) of arachnids including the mites and ticks; *esp* : a typical mite (family Acaridae) — **acarid** *adj*

ac·a·roid resin \ˌak-ə-ˌrȯid-\ *n* [NL *acaroides*] : an alcohol-soluble resin from Australian grass trees

acar·pel·ous *or* **acar·pel·lous** \(')ā-'kär-pə-ləs\ *adj* : having no carpels

ac·a·rus \'ak-ə-rəs\ *n, pl* **-ri** \-ˌrī\ [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *akari*, a mite] : MITE; *esp* : one of a formerly extensive genus (*Acarus*)

acat·a·lec·tic \(ˌ)ā-ˌkat-ᵊl-'ek-tik\ *adj* [LL *acatalecticus*, fr. *acatalectus*, fr. Gk *akatalēktos*, fr. *a-* + *katalēgein* to leave off — more at CATALECTIC] : not catalectic ⟨~ verse⟩ — **acatalectic** *n*

acau·les·cent \ˌā-kȯ-'les-ᵊnt\ *adj* [*a-* + L *caulis* stem — more at HOLE] : having no stem or appearing to have none — **acau·les·cence** \-ᵊn(t)s\ *n*

acc *abbr* accusative

ACC *abbr* Air Coordinating Committee

ac·cede \ak-'sēd\ *vi* **ac·ced·ed; ac·ced·ing** [ME *acceden*, fr. L *accedere* to go to, be added, fr. *ad-* + *cedere* to go — more at CEDE] **1** *archaic* : APPROACH **2 a** : to become a party (as to an agreement) **b** : to express approval or give consent often in response to urging : CONCEDE **3** : to enter upon an office or position ***syn*** see ASSENT ***ant*** demur

ac·ce·le·ran·do \(ˌ)ä-ˌchel-ə-'rän-(ˌ)dō\ *adv or adj* [It, lit., accelerating, fr. L *accelerandum*, gerund of *accelerare*] : gradually faster — used as a direction in music

ac·cel·er·ate \ik-'sel-ə-ˌrāt, ak-\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *acceleratus*, pp. of *accelerare*, fr. *ad-* + *celer* swift — more at CELERITY] *vt* **1** : to bring about at an earlier time **2** : to cause to move faster; *also* : to cause to undergo acceleration **3 a** : to hasten the progress or development of **b** : to cause to grow : INCREASE ⟨~ food production⟩ **4 a** : to enable (a student) to complete a course in less than usual time **b** : to speed up (a course of study) ~ *vi* **1 a** : to move faster : gain speed **b** : GROW, INCREASE ⟨believed inflation was *accelerating*⟩ **2** : to follow a speeded-up educational program — **ac·cel·er·at·ing·ly** \-ˌrāt-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

ac·cel·er·a·tion \ik-ˌsel-ə-'rā-shən, (ˌ)ak-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of accelerating : the state of being accelerated **2** : change of velocity; *also* : the rate of this change

acceleration of gravity : the acceleration of a freely falling body under the influence of gravity expressed as the rate of increase of velocity per unit of time with the value at sea level in latitude 45 degrees being 980.616 centimeters per second per second

acceleration principle *n* : a theory in economics: an increase or decrease in income induces a corresponding but magnified change in investment

ac·cel·er·a·tive \ik-'sel-ə-ˌrāt-iv, ak-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or tending to cause acceleration : ACCELERATING
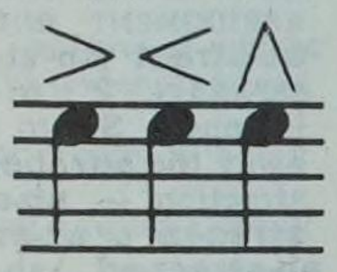
ac·cel·er·a·tor \ik-'sel-ə-ˌrāt-ər, ak-\ *n* : one that accelerates: as **a** : a muscle or nerve that speeds the performance of an action **b** : a device for increasing the speed of a motor vehicle engine; *esp* : a foot-operated throttle that varies the supply of fuel-air mixture to the combustion chamber **c** : a substance that speeds a chemical reaction **d** : an apparatus for imparting high velocities to charged particles (as electrons)

ac·cel·er·om·e·ter \ik-ˌsel-ə-'räm-ət-ər, ak-\ *n* [ISV *acceler*ation + *-o-* + *-meter*] : an instrument for measuring acceleration or for detecting and measuring vibrations

¹ac·cent \'ak-ˌsent\ *n* [MF, fr. L *accentus*, fr. *ad-* + *cantus* song, fr. *cantus*, pp. of *canere* to sing — more at CHANT] **1** : a distinctive manner of expression: as **a** : the inflection, tone, or choice of words taken to be unique in or highly characteristic of an individual — usu. used in pl. **b** : speech habits typical of the natives or residents of a region or of any other group **2** : an articulative effort giving prominence to one syllable over adjacent syllables; *also* : the prominence thus given a syllable **3** : rhythmically significant stress on the syllables of a verse usu. at regular intervals **4** *archaic* : UTTERANCE **5 a** : a mark (as ´, `, ^) used in writing or printing to indicate a specific sound value, stress, or pitch, to distinguish words otherwise identically spelled, or to indicate that an ordinarily mute vowel should be pronounced **b** : an accented letter **6 a** : greater stress given to one musical tone than to its neighbors **b** (1) : the principle of regularly recurring stresses which serve to distribute a succession of pulses into measures (2) : special emphasis placed exceptionally upon tones not subject to such accent **c** : ACCENT MARK 2 **7 a** : emphasis laid on a part of an artistic design or composition **b** : an emphasized detail or area; *esp* : a small detail in sharp contrast with its surroundings **c** : a substance or object used for emphasis **8** : a mark placed to the right of a letter or number and usu. slightly above it: **a** (1) : a double prime (2) : PRIME **b** : a mark used singly with numbers to denote minutes and doubly to denote seconds of time or to denote minutes and seconds of an angle or arc **c** : a mark used singly with numbers to denote feet and doubly to denote inches **9** : special concern or attention : EMPHASIS ⟨an ~ on youth⟩ — **accent·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

²ac·cent \'ak-ˌsent, ak-'\ *vt* **1 a** : to pronounce with accent : STRESS **b** : to mark with a written or printed accent **2** : to give prominence to : make more prominent

accent mark *n* **1** : ACCENT 5a, 8 **2 a** : a symbol used to indicate musical stress **b** : a mark placed after a letter designating a note of music to indicate in which octave the note occurs



accent mark 2a

ac·cen·tu·al \ak-'sench-(ə-)wəl\ *adj* [L *accentus*] : of, relating to, or characterized by accent; *specif* : based on accent rather than on quantity or syllabic recurrence — **ac·cen·tu·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

ac·cen·tu·ate \ak-'sen-chə-ˌwāt, ik-\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [ML *accentuatus*, pp. of *accentuare*, fr. L *accentus*] : ACCENT, EMPHASIZE — **ac·cen·tu·a·tion** \(ˌ)ak-ˌsen-chə-'wā-shən, ik-\ *n*

ac·cept \ik-'sept, ak-\ *vb* [ME *accepten*, fr. MF *accepter*, fr. L *acceptare*, fr. *acceptus*, pp. of *accipere* to receive, fr. *ad-* + *capere* to take — more at HEAVE] *vt* **1 a** : to receive with consent ⟨~ a gift⟩ **b** : to be able or designed to take or hold (something applied) ⟨a surface that will not ~ ink⟩ **2** : to give admittance or approval to ⟨~ her as one of the group⟩ **3 a** : to endure without protest ⟨~ poor living conditions⟩ **b** : to regard as proper, normal, or inevitable ⟨the idea of universal education is widely ~*ed*⟩ **c** : to receive as true ⟨refused to ~ the hypothesis⟩ **d** : to receive into the mind : UNDERSTAND ⟨users of a language ~ words to mean certain things⟩ **4 a** : to make a favorable response to ⟨~ an offer⟩ **b** : to undertake the responsibility of ⟨~ a job⟩ **5** : to assume an obligation to pay **6** : to receive (a legislative report) officially ~ *vi* : to receive favorably something offered — usu. used with *of* ***syn*** see RECEIVE — **ac·cept·ing·ly** \-'sep-tiŋ-lē\ *adv* — **ac·cept·ing·ness** \-iŋ-nəs\ *n*

ac·cept·able \ik-'sep-tə-bəl, ak-\ *adj* **1** : capable or worthy of being accepted ⟨no compromise would be ~⟩ **2 a** : WELCOME, PLEASING ⟨compliments are always ~⟩ **b** : barely satisfactory or adequate ⟨performances varied from excellent to ~⟩ — **ac·cept·**

abil·i·ty \ik-ˌsep-tə-'bil-ət-ē, (ˌ)ak-\ *n* — **ac·cept·able·ness** \ik-'sep-tə-bəl-nəs, ak-\ *n* — **ac·cept·ably** \-blē\ *adv*
ac·cep·tance \ik-'sep-tən(t)s, ak-\ *n* **1** : the act of accepting : APPROVAL **2** : the quality or state of being accepted or acceptable **3** : an agreeing either expressly or by conduct to the act or offer of another so that a contract is concluded and the parties become legally bound **4 a** : the act of accepting a time draft or bill of exchange for payment when due according to the specified terms **b** : an accepted draft or bill of exchange **5** : ACCEPTATION 2
ac·cep·tant \-tənt\ *adj* : willing to accept : RECEPTIVE
ac·cep·ta·tion \ˌak-ˌsep-'tā-shən\ *n* **1** : ACCEPTANCE; *esp* : favorable reception or approval **2** : a generally accepted meaning of a word or understanding of a concept ***syn*** see MEANING
ac·cept·ed *adj* : generally approved or used — **ac·cept·ed·ly** *adv*
ac·cept·er \ik-'sep-tər, ak-\ *n* **1** : one that accepts **2** : ACCEPTOR 2
ac·cep·tive \ak-'sep-tiv\ *adj* **1** : RECEPTIVE **2** : ACCEPTABLE
ac·cep·tor \ik-'sep-tər, ak-\ *n* **1** : ACCEPTER 1 **2** : one that accepts an order or a bill of exchange **3** : a compound, atom, or elementary particle capable of combining with another entity (as an atom, radical, or elementary particle) — compare DONOR 3a
[1]ac·cess \'ak-ˌses\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF *acces* arrival, fr. L *accessus* approach, fr. *accessus*, pp. of *accedere* to approach — more at ACCEDE] **1 a** : ONSET 2 **b** : a fit of intense feeling : OUTBURST **2 a** : permission, liberty, or ability to enter, approach, communicate with, or pass to and from **b** : freedom or ability to obtain or make use of **c** : a way or means of access **d** : the action of going to or reaching **3** : an increase by addition
[2]access *vt* : to get at : gain access to ⟨accumulator and index registers can be ~*ed* by the programmer — *Datamation*⟩
ac·ces·si·ble \ik-'ses-ə-bəl, ak-\ *adj* **1** : usable for access **2 a** : capable of being reached ⟨~ by rail⟩ **b** : easy to get along with ⟨~ people⟩ **3** : capable of being influenced : OPEN **4** : capable of being used or seen — **ac·ces·si·bil·i·ty** \ik-ˌses-ə-'bil-ət-ē, ak-\ *n* — **ac·ces·si·ble·ness** \ik-'ses-ə-bəl-nəs, ak-\ *n* — **ac·ces·si·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
[1]ac·ces·sion \ik-'sesh-ən, ak-\ *n* **1** : something added : ACQUISITION **2 a** : the act of becoming joined : ADHERENCE **b** : the act by which one nation becomes party to an agreement already in force between other powers **3 a** : increase by something added **b** : acquisition of additional property by growth, increase, or other addition to existing property **4** : the act of assenting or agreeing **5 a** : an act of coming near or to : APPROACH, ADMITTANCE **b** : the act of coming to high office or a position of honor or power **6** : a sudden fit or outburst : ACCESS — **ac·ces·sion·al** \-'sesh-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj*
[2]accession *vt* : to record in order of acquisition
ac·ces·so·ri·al \ˌak-sə-'sōr-ē-əl, -'sȯr-\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to an accessory ⟨~ liability⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or constituting an accession : SUPPLEMENTARY ⟨~ services⟩
ac·ces·so·rize \ik-'ses-ə-ˌrīz, ak-\ *vb* **-rized; -riz·ing** *vt* : to furnish with accessories ~ *vi* : to wear clothing accessories
[1]ac·ces·so·ry *also* **ac·ces·sa·ry** \ik-'ses-(ə-)rē, ak-\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1 a** : a thing of secondary or subordinate importance : ADJUNCT **b** : an object or device not essential in itself but adding to the beauty, convenience, or effectiveness of something else ⟨auto *accessories*⟩ ⟨clothing *accessories*⟩ **2 a** : a person not actually or constructively present but contributing as an assistant or instigator to the commission of an offense — called also *accessory before the fact* **b** : one who knowing that a crime has been committed aids or shelters the offender with intent to defeat justice — called also *accessory after the fact*
[2]accessory *adj* **1** : aiding or contributing in a secondary way : SUPPLEMENTARY **2** : assisting as a subordinate; *esp* : contributing to a crime but not as the chief agent **3** : present in a minor amount and not essential as a constituent ⟨an ~ mineral in a rock⟩
accessory fruit *n* : a fruit (as the apple) of which a conspicuous part consists of tissue other than that of the ripened ovary
accessory nerve *n* : either of a pair of motor nerves that are the 11th cranial nerves of higher vertebrates, arise from the medulla and the upper part of the spinal cord, and supply chiefly the pharynx and muscles of the upper chest, back, and shoulders
accessory shoe *n* : SHOE 5b
access road *n* : a road that provides access to a particular area
access time *n* : the time lag between the time stored information (as in a computer) is requested and the time it is delivered
ac·ciac·ca·tu·ra \(ˌ)ä-ˌchäk-ə-'tůr-ə\ *n* [It, lit., crushing] : a dissonant note sounded with a principal note or chord and immediately released
ac·ci·dence \'ak-səd-ən(t)s, -sə-ˌden(t)s\ *n* [L *accidentia* inflections of words, nonessential qualities, pl. of *accident-, accidens*, n.] : a part of grammar that deals with inflections
ac·ci·dent \'ak-səd-ənt, -sə-ˌdent\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *accident-, accidens* nonessential quality, chance, fr. prp. of *accidere* to happen, fr. *ad-* + *cadere* to fall — more at CHANCE] **1 a** : an event occurring by chance or arising from unknown causes **b** : lack of intention or necessity : CHANCE ⟨met by ~ rather than by design⟩ **2 a** : an unfortunate event resulting from carelessness, unawareness, ignorance, or a combination of causes **b** : an unexpected happening causing loss or injury which is not due to any fault or misconduct on the part of the person injured but from the consequences of which he may be entitled to some legal relief **3** : a nonessential property of an entity or circumstance ⟨the ~ of appearance⟩ **4** : an irregularity of a surface (as of the moon)
[1]ac·ci·den·tal \ˌak-sə-'dent-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : arising from extrinsic causes : NONESSENTIAL **2 a** : occurring unexpectedly or by chance **b** : happening without intent or through carelessness and often with unfortunate results — **ac·ci·den·tal·ly** \-'dent-lē, -ᵊl-ē\ *also* **ac·ci·dent·ly** \-'dent-lē\ *adv* — **ac·ci·den·tal·ness** \-'dent-ᵊl-nəs\ *n*
syn **1** ACCIDENTAL, FORTUITOUS, CONTINGENT, CASUAL *shared meaning element* : happening by chance ***ant*** planned
2 ACCIDENTAL, INCIDENTAL, ADVENTITIOUS *shared meaning element* : not part of the real or essential element of something ***ant*** essential
[2]accidental *n* **1** : a nonessential property **2 a** : a chromatically altered note (as a sharp or flat) foreign to a key indicated by a signature **b** : a prefixed sign indicating an accidental
accident insurance *n* : insurance against loss through accidental bodily injury to the insured
accident-prone *adj* **1** : having a greater than average number of accidents **2** : having personality traits that predispose to accidents
ac·cip·i·ter \ak-'sip-ət-ər\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, hawk] : any of a genus (*Accipiter*) of medium-sized short-winged long-legged hawks with low darting flight; *broadly* : a hawk (as of the family Accipitridae, the accipiter family) of similar appearance or habit of flight — **ac·cip·i·trine** \-'sip-ə-ˌtrīn\ *adj or n*
[1]ac·claim \ə-'klām\ *vb* [L *acclamare*, lit., to shout at, fr. *ad-* + *clamare* to shout — more at CLAIM] *vt* **1** : APPLAUD, PRAISE **2** : to declare by acclamation ~ *vi* : to shout praise or applause — **ac·claim·er** *n*
[2]acclaim *n* **1** : the act of acclaiming **2** : PRAISE, APPLAUSE
ac·cla·ma·tion \ˌak-lə-'mā-shən\ *n* [L *acclamation-, acclamatio*, fr. *acclamatus*, pp. of *acclamare*] **1** : a loud eager expression of approval, praise, or assent **2** : an overwhelming affirmative vote by cheers, shouts, or applause rather than by ballot
ac·cli·mate \'ak-lə-ˌmāt, ə-'klī-mət\ *vb* **-mat·ed; -mat·ing** [F *acclimater*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *climat* climate] : ACCLIMATIZE
ac·cli·ma·tion \ˌak-lə-'mā-shən, -ˌlī-\ *n* : acclimatization esp. under controlled (as laboratory) conditions
ac·cli·ma·ti·za·tion \ə-ˌklī-mət-ə-'zā-shən\ *n* : the process or result of acclimatizing
ac·cli·ma·tize \ə-'klī-mə-ˌtīz\ *vb* **-tized; -tiz·ing** *vt* : to adapt to a new temperature, altitude, climate, environment, or situation ~ *vi* : to become acclimatized — **ac·cli·ma·tiz·er** *n*
ac·cliv·i·ty \ə-'kliv-ət-ē, a-\ *n, pl* **-ties** [L *acclivitas*, fr. *acclivis* ascending, fr. *ad-* + *clivus* slope — more at DECLIVITY] : an ascending slope (as of a hill)
ac·co·lade \'ak-ə-ˌlād\ *n* [F, fr. *accoler* to embrace, fr. (assumed) VL *accollare*, fr. L *ad-* + *collum* neck — more at COLLAR] **1** : a ceremonial embrace **2 a** : a ceremony or salute to mark the conferring of knighthood **b** : a ceremony marking the recognition of special merit **3 a** : a mark of acknowledgment : AWARD **b** : an expression of praise **4** : a brace or a line used in music to join two or more staffs carrying simultaneous parts
ac·com·mo·date \ə-'käm-ə-ˌdāt\ *vb* **-dat·ed; -dat·ing** [L *accommodatus*, pp. of *accommodare*, fr. *ad-* + *commodare* to make fit, fr. *commodus* suitable — more at COMMODE] *vt* **1** : to make fit, suitable, or congruous **2** : to bring into agreement or concord : RECONCILE **3** : to furnish with something desired, needed, or suited: **a** : to grant a loan to esp. without security **b** : to provide with lodgings : HOUSE **4 a** : to make room for **b** : to hold without crowding or inconvenience **5** : to give consideration to : allow for ⟨~ the special interests of various groups⟩ ~ *vi* : to adapt oneself; *also* : to undergo visual accommodation ***syn*** **1** see ADAPT ***ant*** constrain **2** see OBLIGE ***ant*** incommode — **ac·com·mo·da·tive** \-ˌdāt-iv\ *adj* — **ac·com·mo·da·tive·ness** *n*
ac·com·mo·dat·ing *adj* : HELPFUL, OBLIGING — **ac·com·mo·dat·ing·ly** \-ˌdāt-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
ac·com·mo·da·tion \ə-ˌkäm-ə-'dā-shən\ *n* **1** : something supplied for convenience or to satisfy a need: as **a** : lodging, food, and services or seat, berth, or other space occupied together with services available — usu. used in pl. ⟨tourist ~*s* on the boat⟩ ⟨overnight ~*s*⟩ **b** : a public conveyance (as a train) that stops at all or nearly all points **c** : LOAN **2** : the act of accommodating : the state of being accommodated: as **a** : the provision of what is needed or desired for convenience **b** : ADAPTATION, ADJUSTMENT **c** : an adjustment of differences : SETTLEMENT **d** : the automatic adjustment of the eye for seeing at different distances effected chiefly by changes in the convexity of the crystalline lens; *also* : the range over which such adjustment is possible — **ac·com·mo·da·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*
accommodation ladder *n* : a light ladder or stairway hung over the side of a ship for ascending from or descending to small boats
accommodation paper *n* : a bill, draft, or note made, drawn, accepted, or endorsed by one person for another without consideration to enable that other to raise money or obtain credit
ac·com·mo·da·tor \ə-'käm-ə-ˌdāt-ər\ *n* : one that accommodates; *esp* : a part-time or special-occasion domestic worker
ac·com·pa·ni·ment \ə-'kəmp-(ə-)nē-mənt\ *n* **1** : a subordinate instrumental or vocal part designed to support or complement a principal voice or instrument **2 a** : an addition (as an ornament) intended to give completeness or symmetry : COMPLEMENT **b** : an accompanying situation or occurrence : CONCOMITANT
ac·com·pa·nist \ə-'kəmp-(ə-)nəst\ *n* : one (as a pianist) who plays an accompaniment
ac·com·pa·ny \ə-'kəmp-(ə-)nē\ *vb* **-nied; -ny·ing** [ME *accompanien*, fr. MF *acompaignier*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *compaing* companion, fr. LL *companio*] *vt* **1** : to go with or attend as an associate or companion **2** : to perform an accompaniment to or for **3 a** : to cause to be in association ⟨*accompanied* his advice with a warning⟩ **b** : to be in association with ⟨the pictures that ~ the text⟩ ~ *vi* : to perform an accompaniment
syn ACCOMPANY, ATTEND, ESCORT *shared meaning element* : to go along with

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ac·com·plice \ə-'käm-pləs, -'kəm-\ *n* [alter. (fr. incorrect division of *a complice*) of *complice*] : one associated with another esp. in wrongdoing

ac·com·plish \ə-'käm-plish, -'kəm-\ *vt* [ME *accomplisshen*, fr. MF *acompliss-*, stem of *acomplir*, fr. (assumed) VL *accomplēre*, fr. L *ad-* + *complēre* to fill up — more at COMPLETE] **1** : to bring to a successful conclusion : carry to completion ⟨when they had ~*ed* their journey⟩ ⟨I hope to ~ much more today⟩ **2** : to attain to (a measure of time or distance) : COVER ⟨at that rate will ~ only half the distance⟩ **3** *archaic* **a** : to equip thoroughly **b** : PERFECT ***syn*** see PERFORM — **ac·com·plish·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **ac·com·plish·er** *n*

ac·com·plished *adj* **1** : COMPLETED, EFFECTED ⟨an ~ fact⟩ **2 a** : complete in acquirements as the result of practice or training ⟨an ~ dancer⟩ **b** : having many social accomplishments

ac·com·plish·ment \ə-'käm-plish-mənt, -'kəm-\ *n* **1** : the act of accomplishing : COMPLETION **2** : something accomplished : ACHIEVEMENT **3 a** : a quality or ability equipping one for society **b** : a special skill or ability acquired by training or practice

[1]ac·cord \ə-'kȯ(ə)rd\ *vb* [ME *accorden*, fr. OF *acorder*, fr. (assumed) VL *accordare*, fr. L *ad-* + *cord-*, *cor* heart — more at HEART] *vt* **1** : to bring into agreement : RECONCILE **2 a** : to grant as suitable or proper **b** : to allow as a concession **c** : to confer something on as an award **d** : to assign as a portion ~ *vi* **1** *archaic* : to arrive at an agreement **2** *obs* : to give consent **3** : to exhibit perfect fitness in a relationship or association : adjust or fit harmoniously ***syn*** **1** see AGREE ***ant*** conflict **2** see GRANT ***ant*** withhold

[2]accord *n* [ME, fr. OF *acort*, fr. *acorder*] **1 a** : AGREEMENT, CONFORMITY ⟨acted in ~ with the company's policy⟩ **b** : a formal act of agreement : TREATY **2** : balanced interrelationship : HARMONY **3** *obs* : ASSENT **4** : voluntary or spontaneous impulse to act ⟨gave generously of their own ~⟩

ac·cor·dance \ə-'kȯrd-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* **1** : AGREEMENT, CONFORMITY ⟨in ~ with a rule⟩ **2** : the act of granting

ac·cor·dant \-ᵊnt\ *adj* **1** : CONSONANT, AGREEING **2** : HARMONIOUS, CORRESPONDENT — **ac·cor·dant·ly** *adv*

ac·cord·ing as *conj* **1** : in accord with the way in which **2 a** : depending on how **b** : depending on whether : IF

ac·cord·ing·ly \ə-'kȯrd-iŋ-lē\ *adv* **1** : in accordance : CORRESPONDINGLY **2** : CONSEQUENTLY, SO

according to *prep* **1** : in conformity with **2** : as stated or attested by **3** : depending on

[1]ac·cor·di·on \ə-'kȯrd-ē-ən\ *n* [G *akkordion*, fr. *akkord* chord, fr. F *accord*, fr. OF *acort*] : a portable keyboard wind instrument in which the wind is forced past free reeds by means of a hand-operated bellows — **ac·cor·di·on·ist** \-ē-ə-nəst\ *n*



accordion

[2]accordion *adj* : folding or creased or hinged to fold like an accordion ⟨an ~ pleat⟩ ⟨an ~ door⟩

ac·cost \ə-'kȯst, -'käst\ *vt* [MF *accoster*, deriv. of L *ad-* + *costa* rib, side — more at COAST] : to approach and speak to often in a challenging or aggressive way

ac·couche·ment \ˌa-ˌküsh-'mäⁿ, ə-'küsh-ˌ\ *n* [F] : LYING-IN; *esp* : PARTURITION

ac·cou·cheur \ˌa-ˌkü-'shər\ *n* [F] : one that assists at a birth ⟨without President Truman as ~ there would have been no Israel —B. C. Crum⟩; *esp* : OBSTETRICIAN

[1]ac·count \ə-'kau̇nt\ *n* **1** *archaic* : RECKONING, COMPUTATION **2 a** : a record of debit and credit entries chronologically posted to a ledger page to cover transactions involving a particular item or a particular person or concern **b** : a statement of transactions during a fiscal period **3** : a collection of items to be balanced — usu. used in pl. **4** : a statement explaining one's conduct **5 a** : a periodically rendered calculation listing charged purchases and credits ⟨a grocery ~⟩ **b** : the patronage involved in establishing or maintaining an account : BUSINESS ⟨glad to get that customer's ~⟩ **6 a** : VALUE, IMPORTANCE ⟨a man of no ~⟩ **b** : ESTEEM, JUDGMENT ⟨he stands high in their ~⟩ **7** : PROFIT, ADVANTAGE ⟨turned his wit to good ~⟩ **8 a** : a statement or exposition of reasons, causes, grounds, or motives ⟨no satisfactory ~ of these phenomena⟩ **b** : a reason for an action : BASIS ⟨on all ~*s* you must do it⟩ **c** : careful thought : CONSIDERATION ⟨left nothing out of ~⟩ **9** : a statement of facts or events : RELATION ⟨a newspaper ~⟩ **10** : HEARSAY, REPORT — usu. used in pl. ⟨by all ~*s* a rich man⟩ **11** : a sum of money or its equivalent deposited in the common cash of a bank and subject to withdrawal by the depositor — **on account of** : for the sake of : by reason of : because of — **on no account** : under no circumstances — **on one's own account** **1** : on one's own behalf **2** : at one's own risk **3** : by oneself : on one's own

[2]account *vb* [ME *accounten*, fr. MF *acompter*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *compter* to count] *vt* **1** : to probe into : ANALYZE **2** : to think of as : CONSIDER ⟨~*s* himself lucky⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to furnish a justifying analysis or explanation — used with *for* **2 a** : to be the sole or primary factor — used with *for* **b** : to bring about the capture, death, or destruction of something ⟨~*ed* for two rabbits⟩

ac·count·able \ə-'kau̇nt-ə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : subject to giving an account : ANSWERABLE **2** : capable of being accounted for : EXPLAINABLE — **ac·count·abil·i·ty** \-ˌkau̇nt-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **ac·count·able·ness** \-'kau̇nt-ə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **ac·count·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

ac·coun·tan·cy \ə-'kau̇nt-ᵊn-sē\ *n* : the profession or practice of accounting

ac·coun·tant \ə-'kau̇nt-ᵊnt\ *n* **1** : one that gives an account or is accountable **2** : one who is skilled in the practice of accounting or who is in charge of public or private accounts — **ac·coun·tant·ship** \-ᵊn(t)-ˌship\ *n*

account book *n* : a book in which accounts are kept : LEDGER

account executive *n* : a business executive (as in an advertising agency) responsible for the management of a client's account

ac·count·ing \ə-'kau̇nt-iŋ\ *n* **1** : the system of recording and summarizing business and financial transactions in books and analyzing, verifying, and reporting the results; *also* : the principles and procedures of accounting **2 a** : practical application of accounting **b** : an instance of applying the principles and procedures of accounting

accounting machine *n* : a business machine that is key-operated or uses stored data (as punch cards) and that tabulates, adds, subtracts, or totals

account payable *n, pl* **accounts payable** : the balance due to a creditor on a current account

account receivable *n, pl* **accounts receivable** : a balance due from a debtor on a current account

ac·cou·tre *or* **ac·cou·ter** \ə-'küt-ər\ *vt* **-cou·tred** *or* **-cou·tered; -cou·tring** *or* **-cou·ter·ing** \-'küt-ə-riŋ, -'kü-triŋ\ [F *accoutrer*, fr. MF *acoustrer*, fr. *a-* + *costure* seam, fr. (assumed) VL *consutura*, fr. L *consutus*, pp. of *consuere* to sew together, fr. *com-* + *suere* to sew — more at SEW] : to provide with equipment or furnishings : OUTFIT ***syn*** see FURNISH

ac·cou·tre·ment *or* **ac·cou·ter·ment** \ə-'kü-trə-mənt, -'küt-ər-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of accoutering : the state of being accoutered **2 a** : an article of equipment or dress esp. when used as an accessory **b** : EQUIPMENT, TRAPPINGS; *specif* : a soldier's outfit usu. not including clothes and weapons — usu. used in pl. **3** : an identifying and often superficial characteristic

ac·cred·it \ə-'kred-ət\ *vt* [F *accréditer*, fr. *ad-* + *crédit* credit] **1** : to consider or recognize as outstanding **2** : to give official authorization to or approval of: **a** : to provide with credentials; *esp* : to send (an envoy) with letters of authorization **b** : to recognize or vouch for as conforming with a standard **c** : to recognize (an educational institution) as maintaining standards that qualify the graduates for admission to higher or more specialized institutions or for professional practice **3** : CREDIT ***syn*** see APPROVE — **ac·cred·i·table** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **ac·cred·i·ta·tion** \ə-ˌkred-ə-'tā-shən\ *n*

ac·crete \ə-'krēt\ *vb* **ac·cret·ed; ac·cret·ing** [back-formation fr. *accretion*] *vi* : to grow or become attached by accretion ~ *vt* : to cause to adhere or become attached : ACCUMULATE

ac·cre·tion \ə-'krē-shən\ *n* [L *accretion-*, *accretio*, fr. *accretus*, pp. of *accrescere* — more at ACCRUE] **1** : the process of growth or enlargement: as **a** : increase by external addition or accumulation (as by adhesion of external parts or particles) **b** : the increase of land by the gradual or imperceptible action of natural forces **2** : a product of accretion; *esp* : an extraneous addition ⟨~*s* of grime⟩ **3** : coherence of separate particles : CONCRETION — **ac·cre·tion·ary** \-shə-ˌner-ē\ *adj* — **ac·cre·tive** \ə-'krēt-iv\ *adj*

ac·cru·al \ə-'krü-əl\ *n* **1** : the action or process of accruing **2** : something that accrues or has accrued

ac·crue \ə-'krü\ *vb* **ac·crued; ac·cru·ing** [ME *acreuen*, prob. fr. MF *acreue* increase, fr. *acreistre* to increase, fr. L *accrescere*, fr. *ad-* + *crescere* to grow — more at CRESCENT] *vi* **1** : to come into existence as a legally enforceable claim **2** : to come by way of increase or addition : arise as a growth or a result **3** : to be periodically accumulated whether as an increase or a decrease ~ *vt* : COLLECT, ACCUMULATE — **ac·cru·able** \-'krü-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **ac·crue·ment** \-'krü-mənt\ *n*

acct *abbr* account; accountant

ac·cul·tur·ate \ə-'kəl-chə-ˌrāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [back-formation fr. *acculturation*] : to change through acculturation

ac·cul·tur·a·tion \ə-ˌkəl-chə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : cultural modification of an individual, group, or people through prolonged and continuous interaction involving intercultural exchange and borrowing with a different culture; *esp* : modification in a primitive culture resulting from contact with an advanced society **2** : the process beginning at infancy by which a human being acquires the culture of his society — **ac·cul·tur·a·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **ac·cul·tur·a·tive** \ə-'kəl-chə-ˌrāt-iv\ *adj*

ac·cu·mu·late \ə-'kyü-myə-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *accumulatus*, pp. of *accumulare*, fr. *ad-* + *cumulare* to heap up — more at CUMULATE] *vt* **1** : to heap or pile up : AMASS ⟨~ a fortune⟩ **2** : COLLECT, GATHER ⟨a composer *accumulating* one award after another⟩ ~ *vi* : to increase in quantity or number

ac·cu·mu·la·tion \ə-ˌkyü-myə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1** : the action or process of accumulating : the state of being or having accumulated **2** : increase or growth by addition esp. when continuous or repeated ⟨~ of interest⟩ **3** : something that has accumulated or has been accumulated

ac·cu·mu·la·tive \ə-'kyü-myə-ˌlāt-iv, -lət-\ *adj* **1** : CUMULATIVE ⟨an age of rapid and ~ change⟩ **2** : tending or given to accumulation — **ac·cu·mu·la·tive·ly** *adv* — **ac·cu·mu·la·tive·ness** *n*

ac·cu·mu·la·tor \ə-'kyü-myə-ˌlāt-ər\ *n* : one that accumulates: as **a** : SHOCK ABSORBER **b** *Brit* : STORAGE CELL **c** : a part (as in a computer) where numbers are totaled or stored

ac·cu·ra·cy \'ak-yə-rə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : freedom from mistake or error : CORRECTNESS **2 a** : conformity to truth or to a standard or model : EXACTNESS **b** : degree of conformity of a measure to a standard or a true value

ac·cu·rate \'ak-yə-rət\ *adj* [L *accuratus*, fr. pp. of *accurare* to take care of, fr. *ad-* + *cura* care — more at CURE] **1** : free from error esp. as the result of care ⟨~ methods⟩ **2** : conforming exactly to truth or to a standard : EXACT ⟨~ instruments⟩ ***syn*** see CORRECT ***ant*** inaccurate — **ac·cu·rate·ly** \-yə-rət-lē, -yərt-\ *adv* — **ac·cu·rate·ness** \-yə-nət-nəs\ *n*

ac·cursed \ə-'kərst, -'kər-səd\ *or* **ac·curst** \ə-'kərst\ *adj* [ME *acursed*, fr. pp. of *acursen* to consign to destruction with a curse, fr. *a-* (fr. OE *ā*, perfective prefix) + *cursen* to curse — more at ABIDE] **1** : being under a curse **2** : DAMNABLE — **ac·curs·ed·ly** \-'kər-səd-lē\ *adv* — **ac·curs·ed·ness** \-'kər-səd-nəs\ *n*

accus *abbr* accusative

ac·cus·al \ə-'kyü-zəl\ *n* : ACCUSATION

ac·cu·sa·tion \ˌak-yə-'zā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of accusing : the state or fact of being accused **2** : a charge of wrongdoing

[1]ac·cu·sa·tive \ə-'kyü-zət-iv\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF *accusatif*, fr. L *accusativus*, fr. *accusatus*, pp. of *accusare*] **1** : of, relating to, or being the grammatical case that marks the direct object of a verb or the object of any of several prepositions **2** : ACCUSATORY

[2]accusative *n* : the accusative case of a language : a form in the accusative case

ac·cu·sa·to·ry \ə-'kyü-zə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : containing or expressing accusation : ACCUSING

ac·cuse \ə-'kyüz\ *vb* **ac·cused; ac·cus·ing** [ME *accusen*, fr. OF *acuser*, fr. L *accusare* to call to account, fr. *ad-* + *causa* lawsuit, cause] *vt* **1** : to charge with a fault or offense : BLAME **2** : to charge with an offense judicially or by a public process ~ *vi* : to bring an accusation — **ac·cus·er** \ə-'kyü-zər\ *n* — **ac·cus·ing·ly** \-'kyü-ziŋ-lē\ *adv*

ac·cused *n, pl* **accused** : one charged with an offense; *esp* : the defendant in a criminal case

ac·cus·tom \ə-'kəs-təm\ *vt* [ME *accustomen*, fr. MF *acostumer*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *costume* custom] : to make familiar through use or experience — **ac·cus·tom·ation** \-ˌkəs-tə-'mā-shən\ *n*

ac·cus·tomed \ə-'kəs-təmd\ *adj* **1** : familiar through use or experience : often used or practiced ⟨her ~ cheerfulness⟩ **2** : being in the habit or custom ⟨~ to making decisions⟩ ***syn*** see USUAL ***ant*** unaccustomed — **ac·cus·tomed·ness** \-təm(d)-nəs\ *n*

AC/DC \'ā-(ˌ)sē-'dē-(ˌ)sē\ *adj* [fr. the likening of a bisexual person to an electrical appliance which can operate on either alternating or direct current] : BISEXUAL 1b

[1]ace \'ās\ *n* [ME *as*, fr. OF, fr. L, unit, a copper coin] **1 a** : a die face marked with one spot **b** : a playing card marked in its center with one large pip **c** : a domino end marked with one spot **2** : a very small amount or degree : PARTICLE **3** : a score made by a single stroke; *specif* : a point scored on a shot (as a service in tennis or handball) that an opponent fails to touch **4** : a golf score of one stroke on a hole; *also* : a hole made in one stroke **5** : a combat pilot who has brought down at least five enemy airplanes **6** : one that excels at something — **ace in the hole 1** : an ace dealt face down to a player (as in stud poker) and not exposed until the showdown **2** : an effective and decisive argument or resource held in reserve — **within an ace of** : on the point of : very near to ⟨came *within an ace of* winning⟩

[2]ace *vt* **aced; ac·ing** **1** : to score an ace against (an opponent) **2** : to make (a hole in golf) in one stroke

[3]ace *adj* : of first or high rank or quality

ACE *abbr* American Council on Education

-a·ce·ae \'ā-sē-ˌē\ *n pl suffix* [NL, fr. L, fem. pl. of *-aceus* -aceous] : plants of the nature of ⟨Ros*aceae*⟩ — in names of families of plants; formerly in names of orders of plants

ace·dia \ə-'sēd-ē-ə\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *akēdeia*, fr. *a-* + *kēdos* care, grief — more at HATE] : APATHY, BOREDOM

acel·da·ma \ə-'sel-də-mə\ *n* [fr. *Aceldama*, field bought by Judas with the money received for betraying Christ (Acts 1:18–19), fr. Gk *Akeldama*, fr. Aram *ḥăqēl dĕmā*, lit., field of blood] **1** : a place of bloodshed **2** : a place associated with evil

acel·lu·lar \(')ā-'sel-yə-lər\ *adj* : containing no cells : not divided into cells

acen·tric \(')ā-'sen-trik\ *adj* : lacking a centromere ⟨~ chromosomes⟩

-a·ceous \'ā-shəs\ *adj suffix* [L *-aceus*] **1 a** : characterized by : full of ⟨set*aceous*⟩ **b** : consisting of ⟨carbon*aceous*⟩ : having the nature or form of ⟨tuff*aceous*⟩ **2 a** : of or relating to a group of animals typified by (such) a form ⟨cet*aceous*⟩ or characterized by (such) a feature ⟨crust*aceous*⟩ **b** : of or relating to a plant family typified by (such) a genus ⟨ros*aceous*⟩

aceph·a·lous \(')ā-'sef-ə-ləs, ə-'sef-\ *adj* [Gk *akephalos*, fr. *a-* + *kephalē* head — more at CEPHALIC] **1** : lacking a head or having the head reduced **2** : lacking a governing head or chief

ace·quia \ə-'sā-kē-ə, ä-\ *n* [Sp, fr. Ar *as-sāqiyah* the irrigation stream] *Southwest* : an irrigation ditch or canal

acerb \ə-'sərb, a-\ *adj* [F or L; F *acerbe*, fr. L *acerbus*, fr. *acer*] : acid in temper, mood, or tone

ac·er·bate \'as-ər-ˌbāt\ *vt* **-bat·ed; -bat·ing** : IRRITATE, EXASPERATE

acer·bic \ə-'sər-bik\ *adj* : ACERB — **acer·bi·cal·ly** \-bi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

acer·bi·ty \ə-'sər-bət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** : acidity of manner or mood ***syn*** see ACRIMONY ***ant*** mellowness

ac·er·o·la \ˌas-ə-'rō-lə\ *n* [Amer Sp, fr. Sp, fruit of a shrub (*Crataegus azarolus*), fr. Ar *az-zu'rūr*] : a West Indian shrub (genus *Malpighia*) with mildly acid cherrylike fruits very rich in vitamin C

ac·er·ose \'as-ə-ˌrōs\ *adj* [L *acer* sharp — more at EDGE] : shaped like a needle ⟨~ leaves⟩

acer·vate \ə-'sər-vət, 'as-ər-ˌvāt\ *adj* [L *acervatus*, pp. of *acervare* to heap up, fr. *acervus* heap] : growing in heaps or closely compacted clusters — **acer·vate·ly** *adv* — **ac·er·va·tion** \ˌas-ər-vā-shən\ *n*

acet- *or* **aceto-** *comb form* [F & L; F *acét-*, fr. L *acet-*, fr. *acetum*] : acetic acid : acetic ⟨*acetyl*⟩

ac·e·tab·u·lar·ia \ˌas-ə-ˌtab-yə-'lar-ē-ə, -'ler-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L *acetabulum* vinegar cup] : a large single-celled green alga (genus *Acetabularia*) of warm seas that resembles a small mushroom in form

ac·e·tab·u·lum \-'tab-yə-ləm\ *n, pl* **-lums** *or* **-la** \-lə\ [L, lit., vinegar cup, fr. *acetum* vinegar] **1 a** : the cup-shaped socket in the hipbone **b** : the cavity by which the leg of an insect articulates with the body **2** : a sucker of an invertebrate (as a trematode or leech) — **ac·e·tab·u·lar** \-lər\ *adj*

ac·e·tal \'as-ə-ˌtal\ *n* [G *azetal*, fr. *azet-* acet- + *al*kohol alcohol] : any of various compounds characterized by the grouping $C(OR)_2$ and obtained esp. by heating aldehydes or ketones with alcohols

ac·et·al·de·hyde \ˌas-ə-'tal-də-ˌhīd\ *n* [ISV] : a colorless volatile water-soluble liquid aldehyde C_2H_4O used chiefly in organic synthesis

acet·amide \ə-'set-ə-ˌmīd, ˌas-ət-'am-ˌīd\ *n* [G *azetamid*, fr. *azet-* + *amid* amide] : a white crystalline amide C_2H_5NO of acetic acid used esp. as a solvent and in organic synthesis

acet·amin·o·phen \ə-ˌsēt-ə-'min-ə-fən, ˌas-ət-\ *n* [*acet-* + *amin-* + *phen*ol] : a crystalline compound $C_8H_9NO_2$ that is a hydroxy derivative of acetanilide and is used in chemical synthesis and in medicine to relieve pain and fever

ac·et·an·i·lide *or* **ac·et·an·i·lid** \ˌas-ə-'tan-ᵊl-ˌīd, -ᵊl-əd\ *n* [ISV] : a white crystalline compound C_8H_9NO that is derived from aniline and acetic acid and is used esp. to check pain or fever

ac·e·tate \'as-ə-ˌtāt\ *n* **1** : a salt or ester of acetic acid **2** : cellulose acetate or one of its products **3** : a phonograph recording disk made of an acetate or coated with cellulose acetate

ace·tic \ə-'sēt-ik\ *adj* [prob. fr. F *acétique*, fr. L *acetum* vinegar, fr. *acēre* to be sour, fr. *acer* sharp — more at EDGE] : of, relating to, or producing acetic acid or vinegar

acetic acid *n* : a colorless pungent liquid acid $C_2H_4O_2$ that is the chief acid of vinegar and that is used esp. in synthesis (as of plastics)

ace·ti·fy \ə-'sēt-ə-ˌfī, -'set-\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** : to turn into acetic acid or vinegar — **ace·ti·fi·ca·tion** \-ˌsēt-ə-fə-'kā-shən, -ˌset-\ *n* — **ace·ti·fi·er** \'sēt-ə-ˌfī(-ə)r, -'set-\ *n*

ace·to·ace·tic acid \ˌas-ə-tō-ə-ˌsēt-ik-, ə-ˌsēt-ō-\ *n* [part trans. of G *azetessigsäure*, fr. *azet-* acet- + *essigsäure* acetic acid] : an unstable acid $C_4H_6O_3$ found in abnormal urine

ac·e·tone \'as-ə-ˌtōn\ *n* [G *azeton*, fr. L *acetum*] : a volatile fragrant flammable liquid ketone C_3H_6O used chiefly as a solvent and in organic synthesis and found abnormally in urine — **ac·e·ton·ic** \ˌas-ə-'tän-ik\ *adj*

ace·to·phe·net·i·din \ˌas-ə-ˌtō-fə-'net-əd-ən, ə-ˌsēt-ō-\ *n* [ISV] : a white crystalline compound $C_{10}H_{13}NO_2$ that is used to ease pain or fever

ace·tous \ə-'sēt-əs\ *adj* : relating to or producing vinegar; *also* : SOUR, VINEGARY

ace·tyl \ə-'sēt-ᵊl, 'as-ət-\ *n* : the radical CH_3CO of acetic acid

acet·y·late \ə-'set-ᵊl-ˌāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** : to introduce the acetyl radical into (a compound) — **acet·y·la·tion** \-ˌset-ᵊl-'ā-shən\ *n* — **acet·y·la·tive** \-'set-ᵊl-āt-iv\ *adj*

ace·tyl·cho·line \ə-ˌsēt-ᵊl-'kō-ˌlēn\ *n* [ISV] : a compound $C_7H_{17}NO_3$ released at autonomic nerve endings, active in the transmission of the nerve impulse, and formed enzymatically in the tissues from choline — **ace·tyl·cho·lin·ic** \-kō-'lin-ik\ *adj*

ace·tyl·cho·lin·es·ter·ase \-ˌkō-lə-'nes-tə-ˌrās, -ˌrāz\ *n* [*acetylcholine* + *esterase*] : an enzyme that promotes the hydrolysis of acetylcholine

ace·tyl-coA \ə-ˌsēt-ᵊl-ˌkō-'ā\ *n* : ACETYL COENZYME A

acetyl coenzyme A *n* : a compound $C_{25}H_{38}N_7O_{17}P_3S$ formed as an intermediate in metabolism and active as a coenzyme in biological acetylations

acet·y·lene \ə-'set-ᵊl-ən, -ᵊl-ˌēn\ *n* : a colorless gaseous hydrocarbon $HC{\equiv}CH$ made esp. by the action of water on calcium carbide and used chiefly in organic synthesis and as a fuel (as in welding and soldering) — **acet·y·le·nic** \ə-ˌset-ᵊl-'ē-nik, -'en-ik\ *adj*

ace·tyl·sa·lic·y·late \ə-ˌsēt-ᵊl-sə-'lis-ə-ˌlāt\ *n* : a salt or ester of acetylsalicylic acid

ace·tyl·sal·i·cyl·ic acid \ə-'sēt-ᵊl-ˌsal-ə-ˌsil-ik-\ *n* [ISV] : ASPIRIN 1

Acha·tes \ə-'kāt-əz\ *n* [L] **1** : a faithful companion of Aeneas in Vergil's *Aeneid* **2** : a faithful friend

[1]ache \'āk\ *vi* **ached; ach·ing** [ME *aken*, fr. OE *acan*; akin to LG *äken* to hurt] **1 a** : to suffer a usu. dull persistent pain **b** : to become distressed or disturbed (as with anxiety or regret) **c** : to feel compassion **2** : to become filled with painful yearning — **ach·ing·ly** \'ā-kiŋ-lē\ *adv*

[2]ache *n* **1** : a usu. dull persistent pain **2** : a condition marked by aching

achene \ə-'kēn\ *n* [NL *achaenium*, fr. *a-* + Gk *chainein* to yawn — more at YAWN] : a small dry indehiscent one-seeded fruit developing from a simple ovary and usu. having a thin pericarp attached to the seed at only one point — **ache·ni·al** \ə-'kē-nē-əl\ *adj*

Ach·er·on \'ak-ə-ˌrän, -rən\ *n* [Gk *Acherōn*] : a river in Hades

Acheu·le·an *or* **Acheu·li·an** \ə-'shü-lē-ən\ *adj* [F *Acheuléen*, fr. St. *Acheul*, near Amiens, France] : of or relating to a lower Paleolithic culture characterized by bifacial tools with round cutting edges

à che·val \ˌäsh-ə-'väl\ *adv* [F, lit., on horseback] **1** : with a leg on each side : ASTRIDE **2** : in such a way as to straddle a line on the layout of a game of chance (as roulette) or be split between two numbers, cards, or events

achieve \ə-'chēv\ *vb* **achieved; achiev·ing** [ME *acheven*, fr. MF *achever* to finish, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *chief* end, head — more at CHIEF] *vt* **1** : to carry out successfully : ACCOMPLISH ⟨~ a low unemployment rate⟩ **2** : to get as the result of exertion : WIN ⟨~ greatness⟩ ~ *vi* : to attain a desired end or aim ***syn*** see PERFORM, REACH — **achiev·able** \-'chē-və-bəl\ *adj* — **achiev·er** *n*

achieve·ment \ə-'chēv-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of achieving : successful completion : ACCOMPLISHMENT **2 a** : a result brought about by resolve, persistence, or endeavor **b** : a great or heroic deed **3** : the quality and quantity of a student's work ***syn*** see FEAT

Achil·les \ə-'kil-ēz\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Achilleus*] : the greatest warrior among the Greeks at Troy and slayer of Hector

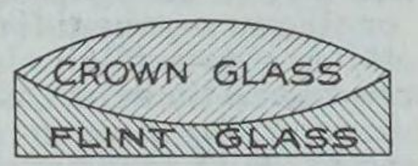
Achilles' heel *n* [fr. the story that Achilles was vulnerable only in the heel] : a vulnerable point

Achilles tendon *n* : the strong tendon joining the muscles in the calf of the leg to the bone of the heel

achla·myd·e·ous \ˌak-lə-'mid-ē-əs, ˌā-klə-\ *adj* [*a-* + Gk *chlamyd-*, *chlamys* mantle] : lacking both calyx and corolla

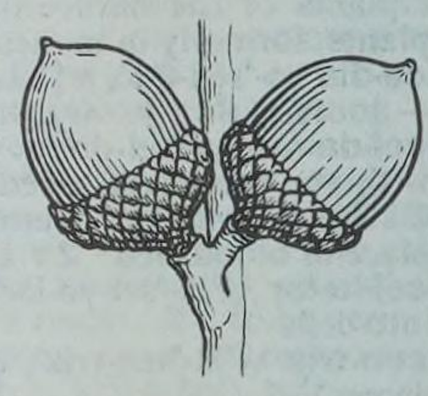
achlor·hyd·ria \ˌā-ˌklōr-'hid-rē-ə, -ˌklȯr-\ *n* [NL, fr. *a-* + *chlor*ine + *hydr*ogen] : absence of hydrochloric acid from the gastric juice — **achlor·hy·dric** \-'hid-rik, -'hī-drik\ *adj*

achon·drite \(')ā-'kän-,drīt\ *n* : a stony meteorite without rounded grains — **achon·drit·ic** \,ā-,kän-'drit-ik\ *adj*
achon·dro·pla·sia \,ā-,kän-drə-'plā-zh(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL] : failure of normal development of cartilage resulting in dwarfism — **achon·dro·plas·tic** \-'plas-tik\ *adj*
ach·ro·mat \'ak-rə-,mat\ *n* : ACHROMATIC LENS
achromat- *or* **achromato-** *comb form* [Gk *achrōmatos* colorless, fr. *a-* + *chrōmat-, chrōma* color — more at CHROMATIC] : achromatic ⟨*achromat*ism⟩
ach·ro·mat·ic \,ak-rə-'mat-ik\ *adj* **1** : refracting light without dispersing into its constituent colors : giving images practically free from extraneous colors ⟨an ~ telescope⟩ **2** : not readily colored by the usual staining agents **3** : possessing no hue : being black, gray, or white : NEUTRAL **4** : being without accidentals or modulation : DIATONIC — **ach·ro·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **ach·ro·ma·tic·i·ty** \,ak-rō-mə-'tis-ət-ē\ *n* — **achro·ma·tize** \(')ā-'krō-mə-,tīz, a-\ *vt*
achromatic lens *n* : a lens made by combining lenses of different glasses having different focal powers so that the light emerging from the lens forms an image practically free from unwanted colors



achromatic lens

achro·ma·tism \(')ā-'krō-mə-,tiz-əm, a-\ *n* : the quality or state of being achromatic
achy \'ā-kē\ *adj* **ach·i·er; ach·i·est** : afflicted with aches — **ach·i·ness** *n*
acic·u·la \ə-'sik-yə-lə\ *n, pl* **-lae** \-,lē\ *or* **-las** [NL, fr. LL, ornamental pin — more at AGLET] : a needlelike spine, bristle, or crystal — **acic·u·lar** \-lər\ *adj* — **acic·u·late** \-lət, -,lāt\ *adj*
[1]ac·id \'as-əd\ *adj* [F or L; F *acide*, fr. L *acidus*, fr. *acēre* to be sour — more at ACETIC] **1 a** : sour, sharp, or biting to the taste **b** : sharp, biting, or sour in manner, disposition, or nature ⟨an ~ individual⟩ **c** : sharply clear, discerning, or pointed ⟨an ~ wit⟩ **d** : piercingly intense and often jarring ⟨~ yellow⟩ **2 a** : of, relating to, or being an acid; *also* : having the reactions or characteristics of an acid ⟨~ soil⟩ ⟨an ~ solution⟩ **b** *of salts and esters* : derived by partial exchange of replaceable hydrogen ⟨~ sodium carbonate $NaHCO_3$⟩ **c** : marked by or resulting from an abnormally high concentration of acid ⟨~ indigestion⟩ **3** : relating to or made by a process (as in making steel) in which the furnace is lined with acidic material and an acidic slag is used **4** : rich in silica ⟨~ rocks⟩ ***syn*** see SOUR ***ant*** sweet, alkaline — **ac·id·ly** *adv* — **ac·id·ness** *n*
[2]acid *n* **1** : a sour substance; *specif* : any of various typically water-soluble and sour compounds that are capable of reacting with a base to form a salt, that redden litmus, that are hydrogen-containing molecules or ions able to give up a proton to a base, or that are substances able to accept an unshared pair of electrons from a base **2** : something incisive, biting, or sarcastic ⟨a social satire dripping with ~⟩ **3** : LSD
ac·id–fast \'as-əd-,fast\ *adj* : not easily decolorized by acids
ac·id·head \-,hed\ *n* : an individual who uses LSD
acid·ic \ə-'sid-ik, a-\ *adj* **1** : acid-forming **2** : ACID
acid·i·fi·er \ə-'sid-ə-,fī(ə)r\ *n* : one that acidifies; *esp* : a substance used to increase soil acidity
acid·i·fy \-,fī\ *vb* **-fied; -fy·ing** *vt* **1** : to make acid **2** : to convert into an acid ~ *vi* : to become acid — **acid·i·fi·cation** \-,sid-ə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n*
ac·i·dim·e·ter \,as-ə-'dim-ət-ər\ *n* : an apparatus for measuring the strength or the amount of acid present in a solution — **acid·i·met·ric** \ə-,sid-ə-'me-trik\ *adj* — **ac·i·dim·e·try** \,as-ə-'dim-ə-trē\ *n*
acid·i·ty \ə-'sid-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality, state, or degree of being acid : TARTNESS **2** : the quality or state of being excessively or abnormally acid
acid·o·phile \ə-'sid-ə-,fīl\ *or* **acid·o·phil** \-,fil\ *n* : an acidophilic substance, tissue, or organism
ac·i·do·phil·ic \,as-ə-dō-'fil-ik\ *adj* **1** : staining readily with acid stains **2** : preferring or thriving in a relatively acid environment
ac·i·doph·i·lus milk \,as-ə-,däf-(ə-)ləs-\ *n* [NL *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, lit., acidophilic Lactobacillus] : milk fermented by any of several bacteria and used therapeutically to change the intestinal flora
ac·i·do·sis \,as-ə-'dō-səs\ *n* : an abnormal state of reduced alkalinity of the blood and of the body tissues — **ac·i·dot·ic** \-'dät-ik\ *adj*
acid phosphatase *n* : a phosphatase (as the phosphomonoesterase from the prostate gland) active in acid medium
acid rock *n* : rock music with lyrics having cryptic reference to a drug (as LSD)
acid test *n* : a severe or crucial test
acid·u·late \ə-'sij-ə-,lāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *acidulus*] : to make acid or slightly acid — **acid·u·la·tion** \-,sij-ə-'lā-shən\ *n*
acid·u·lent \ə-'sij-ə-lənt\ *adj* [F *acidulant*, fr. prp. of *aciduler* to acidulate, fr L *acidulus*] : ACIDULOUS
acid·u·lous \ə-'sij-ə-ləs\ *adj* [L *acidulus* sourish, fr. *acidus*] : somewhat acid in taste or manner : HARSH ***syn*** see SOUR ***ant*** saccharine
ac·i·nar \'as-ə-nər, -,när\ *adj* : of, relating to, or comprising an acinus ⟨pancreatic ~ cells⟩
ac·i·nus \'as-ə-nəs\ *n, pl* **-ni** \-,nī\ [NL, fr. L, berry, berry seed] : one of the small sacs in a racemose gland lined with secreting cells — **ac·i·nous** \-nəs\ *adj*
ack *abbr* acknowledge; acknowledgment
ack–ack \'ak-,ak\ *n* [Brit. signalmen's telephone pron. of *AA*, abbr. of *antiaircraft*] : an antiaircraft gun; *also* : antiaircraft fire
ac·knowl·edge \ik-'näl-ij, ak-\ *vt* **-edged; -edg·ing** [*ac-* (as in *accord*) + *knowledge*] **1** : to own or admit knowledge of or agreement with **2** : to recognize the rights, authority, or status of **3 a** : to express gratitude or obligation for **b** : to take notice of **c** : to make known the receipt of **4** : to recognize as genuine or valid ⟨~ a debt⟩ — **ac·knowl·edge·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj*
syn ACKNOWLEDGE, ADMIT, OWN, AVOW, CONFESS *shared meaning element* : to disclose against one's will or inclination. ACKNOWLEDGE implies the disclosure of what has been or might have been withheld ⟨*acknowledge* a fault⟩ ADMIT often stresses reluctance in disclosing or conceding ⟨at last the government . . . *admitted* its mistake — which governments seldom do — Willa Cather⟩ OWN applies especially to acknowledgment of something in close relation to oneself ⟨finally *owned* that he was responsible⟩ AVOW implies open or bold declaration of what one might be expected to be silent about ⟨had an *avowed* hostility to his family⟩ CONFESS usually applies to something felt to be wrong; thus, one *admits* an error but *confesses* a crime. In less specific use it may imply no more than deference to the opinion of another ⟨I *confess* that I don't follow your reasoning⟩ ***ant*** deny
ac·knowl·edged \-ijd\ *adj* : generally recognized, accepted, or admitted — **ac·knowl·edged·ly** \-ij-(ə-)dlē\ *adv*
ac·knowl·edg·ment *also* **ac·knowl·edge·ment** \ik-'näl-ij-mənt, ak-\ *n* **1 a** : the act of acknowledging **b** : recognition or favorable notice of an act or achievement **2** : a thing done or given in recognition of something received **3** : a declaration or avowal of one's act or of a fact to give it legal validity
aclin·ic line \(,)ā-,klin-ik-\ *n* [*[2]a-* + *clinic*] : an imaginary line roughly parallel to the geographical equator and passing through those points where a magnetic needle has no dip
ACLS *abbr* American Council of Learned Societies
ACLU *abbr* American Civil Liberties Union
ACM *abbr* Association for Computing Machinery
ac·me \'ak-mē\ *n* [Gk *akmē* point, highest point — more at EDGE] : the highest point or stage; *esp* : one that represents perfection of the thing expressed ⟨he was the ~ of courtesy⟩ ***syn*** see SUMMIT
ac·ne \'ak-nē\ *n* [Gk *aknē* eruption of the face, MS var. of *akmē*, lit., point] : a disorder of the skin caused by inflammation of the skin glands and hair follicles; *specif* : one found chiefly in adolescents and marked by pimples esp. on the face — **ac·ned** \-nēd\ *adj*
acock \ə-'käk\ *adj or adv* : being in a cocked position ⟨a dog listening with ears ~⟩
acold \ə-'kōld\ *adj* [ME] *archaic* : COLD, CHILLED ⟨the owl, for all his feathers, was ~ — John Keats⟩
ac·o·lyte \'ak-ə-,līt\ *n* [ME *acolite*, fr. OF & ML; OF, fr. ML *acoluthus*, fr. MGk *akolouthos*, fr. Gk, adj., following, fr. *a-, ha-* (akin to Gk *homos* same) + *keleuthos* path — more at SAME] **1** : one who assists the clergyman in a liturgical service by performing minor duties **2** : one who attends or assists : FOLLOWER ⟨helped by his admiring ~*s*⟩
ac·o·nite \'ak-ə-,nīt\ *n* **1** : ACONITUM 1; *esp* : a common monkshood (*Aconitum napellus*) **2** : the dried tuberous root of a monkshood (*Aconitum napellus*) formerly used as a sedative
ac·o·ni·tum \,ak-ə-'nīt-əm\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L aconitum, fr. Gk *akoniton*] **1** : any of a genus (*Aconitum*) of usu. bluish flowered poisonous herbs of the buttercup family — compare MONKSHOOD, WOLFSBANE **2** : ACONITE 2
acorn \'ā-,kȯ(ə)rn, -kərn\ *n* [ME *akern*, fr. OE *æcern;* akin to MHG *ackeran* acorns collectively, Russ *yagoda* berry] : the nut of the oak usu. seated in or surrounded by a hard woody cupule of indurated bracts


acorns

acorn squash *n* : an acorn-shaped dark green winter squash with a ridged surface and sweet yellow to orange flesh
acorn tube *n* : a very small vacuum tube that resembles an acorn in shape and is used at extremely high frequencies
acorn worm *n* : any of a group (Enteropneusta) of burrowing wormlike marine animals having an acorn-shaped proboscis and usu. classed with the chordates
acous·tic \ə-'kü-stik\ *adj* [Gk *akoustikos* of hearing, fr. *akouein* to hear — more at HEAR] **1** : of or relating to the sense or organs of hearing, to sound, or to the science of sounds ⟨~ apparatus of the ear⟩ ⟨~ energy⟩; as **a** : deadening or absorbing sound ⟨~ tile⟩ **b** : operated by or utilizing sound waves **2** : of, relating to, or being a musical instrument whose sound is not electronically modified — **acous·ti·cal** \-sti-kəl\ *adj* — **acous·ti·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ac·ous·ti·cian \,ak-,ü-'stish-ən, ə-,kü-\ *n* : a specialist in acoustics
acous·tics \ə-'kü-stiks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1** : a science that deals with the production, control, transmission, reception, and effects of sound **2** *also* **acoustic** : the sum of the qualities that determine the value of an enclosure (as an auditorium) as to distinct hearing
ACP *abbr* American College of Physicians
acpt *abbr* acceptance
ac·quaint \ə-'kwānt\ *vt* [ME *aquainten*, fr. OF *acointier*, fr. ML *accognitare*, fr. LL *accognitus*, pp. of *accognoscere* to know perfectly, fr. L *ad-* + *cognoscere* to know — more at COGNITION] **1** : to cause to know personally ⟨was ~*ed* with the mayor⟩ **2** : to make familiar : cause to know firsthand ***syn*** see INFORM
ac·quain·tance \ə-'kwānt-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* **1 a** : personal knowledge : FAMILIARITY **b** : the state of being acquainted **2 a** : the persons with whom one is acquainted ⟨should auld ~ be forgot — Robert Burns⟩ **b** : a person whom one knows but who is not a particularly close friend — **ac·quain·tance·ship** \-,ship\ *n*
ac·qui·esce \,ak-wē-'es\ *vi* **-esced; -esc·ing** [F *acquiescer*, fr. L *acquiescere*, fr. *ad-* + *quiescere* to be quiet — more at QUIET] : to accept or comply tacitly or passively ***syn*** see ASSENT ***ant*** object
ac·qui·es·cence \,ak-wē-'es-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act of acquiescing : the state of being acquiescent **2** : an instance of acquiescing
ac·qui·es·cent \,ak-wē-'es-ᵊnt\ *adj* [L *acquiescent-, acquiescens*, prp. of *acquiescere*] : inclined to acquiesce : ACQUIESCING — **ac·qui·es·cent·ly** *adv*
ac·quir·able \ə-'kwī-rə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being acquired
ac·quire \ə-'kwī(ə)r\ *vt* **ac·quired; ac·quir·ing** [ME *aqueren*, fr. MF *aquerre*, fr. L *acquirere*, fr. *ad-* + *quaerere* to seek, obtain] **1** : to get as one's own: **a** : to come into possession or control of often by unspecified means **b** : to come to have as a new or additional characteristic, trait, or ability (as by sustained effort or through environmental forces) ⟨~ fluency in French⟩ ⟨bacteria that ~ tolerance to antibiotics⟩ **2** : to locate and hold (a desired

object) in a detector ⟨ ~ a target by radar⟩ ***syn*** see GET ***ant*** forfeit

ac·quire·ment \ə-'kwī(ə)r-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of acquiring **2** : an attainment of mind or body usu. resulting from continued endeavor

ac·qui·si·tion \ˌak-wə-'zish-ən\ *n* [ME *acquisicioun*, fr. MF or L; MF *acquisition*, fr. L *acquisition-*, *acquisitio*, fr. *acquisitus*, pp. of *acquirere*] **1** : the act of acquiring **2** : something acquired or gained **3** : the acquiring of library materials (as books and periodicals) by purchase, exchange, or gift — **ac·qui·si·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **ac·quis·i·tor** \ə-'kwiz-ət-ər\ *n*

ac·quis·i·tive \ə-'kwiz-ət-iv\ *adj* : strongly desirous of acquiring and possessing ***syn*** see COVETOUS ***ant*** sacrificing, abnegating — **ac·quis·i·tive·ly** *adv* — **ac·quis·i·tive·ness** *n*

ac·quit \ə-'kwit\ *vt* **ac·quit·ted; ac·quit·ting** [ME *aquiten*, fr. OF *aquiter*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *quite* free of — more at QUIT] **1 a** *archaic* : to pay off (as a claim or debt) **b** *obs* : REPAY, REQUITE **2** : to discharge completely (as from an obligation or accusation) ⟨the court *acquitted* the prisoner⟩ **3** : to conduct (oneself) satisfactorily esp. under stress ⟨the recruits *acquitted* themselves like veterans⟩ ***syn*** see BEHAVE — **ac·quit·ter** *n*

ac·quit·tal \ə-'kwit-ᵊl\ *n* : a setting free from the charge of an offense by verdict, sentence, or other legal process

ac·quit·tance \ə-'kwit-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* : a document evidencing a discharge from an obligation; *esp* : a receipt in full

acr- *or* **acro-** *comb form* [MF or Gk; MF *acro-*, fr. Gk *akr-*, *akro-*, fr. *akros* topmost, extreme; akin to Gk *akmē* point — more at EDGE] **1** : beginning : end : tip ⟨*acr*onym⟩ **2 a** : top : peak : summit ⟨*acro*dont⟩ **b** : height ⟨*acro*phobia⟩ **c** : extremity of the body ⟨*acro*cyanosis⟩

ac·ra·sin \'ak-rə-sən\ *n* [NL *Acrasia*, genus of fungi related to the slime molds + *-in*] : a substance and esp. cyclic AMP secreted by the individual cells of a slime mold and causing them to aggregate into a multicellular mass

acre \'ā-kər\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *æcer*; akin to OHG *ackar* field, L *ager*, Gk *agros*, L *agere* to drive — more at AGENT] **1 a** *archaic* : a field esp. of arable or pasture land **b** *pl* : LANDS, ESTATE **2** : any of various units of area; *esp* : a unit in the U.S. and England equal to 160 square rods ⟨a lake of 9 ~*s*⟩ — see WEIGHT table **3** : a broad expanse or great quantity ⟨~*s* of time devoted to trivia⟩

acre·age \'ā-k(ə-)rij\ *n* : area in acres : ACRES

acre–foot \'ā-kər-'fůt\ *n* : the volume (as of irrigation water) that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot

acre–inch \'ā-kə-'rinch\ *n* : one twelfth of an acre-foot

ac·rid \'ak-rəd\ *adj* [modif. of L *acr-*, *acer* sharp — more at EDGE] **1** : sharp and harsh or unpleasantly pungent in taste or odor : IRRITATING, CORROSIVE **2** : deeply or violently bitter : ACRIMONIOUS ⟨an ~ denunciation⟩ — **acrid·i·ty** \a-'krid-ət-ē, ə-\ *n* — **ac·rid·ly** \'ak-rəd-lē\ *adv* — **ac·rid·ness** *n*

ac·ri·dine \'ak-rə-ˌdēn\ *n* : a colorless crystalline compound $C_{13}H_9N$ occurring in coal tar and important as the parent compound of dyes and pharmaceuticals

ac·ri·fla·vine \ˌak-rə-'flā-ˌvēn, -vən\ *n* [*acri*dine + *flavine*] : a yellow dye $C_{14}H_{14}N_3Cl$ used as an antiseptic esp. for wounds

Ac·ri·lan \'ak-rə-ˌlan, -lən\ *trademark* — used for an acrylic fiber

ac·ri·mo·ni·ous \ˌak-rə-'mō-nē-əs\ *adj* : caustic, biting, or rancorous esp. in feeling, language, or manner ⟨an ~ dispute⟩ — **ac·ri·mo·ni·ous·ly** *adv* — **ac·ri·mo·ni·ous·ness** *n*

ac·ri·mo·ny \'ak-rə-ˌmō-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [MF or L; MF *acrimonie*, fr. L *acrimonia*, fr. *acr-*, *acer*] : harsh or biting sharpness esp. of words, manner, or disposition

syn ACRIMONY, ACERBITY, ASPERITY *shared meaning element* : temper or language marked by angry irritation ***ant*** suavity

ac·ro·bat \'ak-rə-ˌbat\ *n* [F & Gk; F *acrobate*, fr. Gk *akrobatēs*, fr. *akrobatos* walking up high, fr. *akros* + *bainein* to go — more at COME] **1** : one that performs gymnastic feats requiring skillful control of the body **2** : one adept at swiftly changing his position or viewpoint ⟨a political ~⟩ — **ac·ro·bat·ic** \ˌak-rə-'bat-ik\ *adj* — **ac·ro·bat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ac·ro·bat·ics \ˌak-rə-'bat-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1** : the art, performance, or activity of an acrobat **2** : a spectacular, showy, or startling performance involving great agility

ac·ro·car·pous \ˌak-rō-'kär-pəs\ *adj* [NL *acrocarpus*, fr. Gk *akrokarpos* bearing fruit at the top, fr. *akr-* acr- + *-karpos* -carpous] *of a moss* : having the archegonia and hence the capsules terminal on the stem

ac·ro·cen·tric \-'sen-trik\ *adj* [*acr-* + *-centric*] : having the centromere situated so that one chromosomal arm is much shorter than the other — **acrocentric** *n*

ac·ro·dont \'ak-rə-ˌdänt\ *adj* **1** *of teeth* : consolidated with the summit of the alveolar ridge without sockets **2** : having acrodont teeth

acro·le·in \ə-'krō-lē-ən\ *n* [ISV *acr-* (fr. L *acr-*, *acer*) + L *olēre* to smell — more at ODOR] : a colorless irritant pungent liquid aldehyde C_3H_4O obtained by dehydration of glycerol or destructive distillation of fats

ac·ro·meg·a·ly \ˌak-rō-'meg-ə-lē\ *n* [F *acromégalie*, fr. *acr-* + Gk *megal-*, *megas* large — more at MUCH] : chronic hyperpituitarism marked by progressive enlargement of hands, feet, and face — **ac·ro·me·gal·ic** \-mə-'gal-ik\ *adj or n*

ac·ro·nym \'ak-rə-ˌnim\ *n* [*acr-* + *-onym* (as in *homonym*)] : a word (as *radar or snafu*) formed from the initial letter or letters of each of the successive parts or major parts of a compound term — **ac·ro·nym·ic** \ˌak-rə-'nim-ik\ *adj* — **ac·ro·nym·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

acrop·e·tal \ə-'kräp-ət-ᵊl, a-\ *adj* [*acr-* + *-petal* (as in *centripetal*)] : proceeding from the base toward the apex or from below upward — **acrop·e·tal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

ac·ro·pho·bia \ˌak-rə-'fō-bē-ə\ *n* [NL] : abnormal dread of being at a great height

acrop·o·lis \ə-'kräp-ə-ləs\ *n* [Gk *akropolis*, fr. *akr-* acr- + *polis* city — more at POLICE] : the upper fortified part of an ancient Greek city (as Athens)

[1]across \ə-'krȯs\ *adv* [ME *acros*, fr. AF *an crois*, fr. *an* in (fr. L *in*) + *crois* cross, fr. L *crux* — more at IN, CROSS] **1** : in a position reaching from one side to the other : CROSSWISE **2** : to or on the opposite side **3** : so as to be understandable, acceptable, or successful : OVER ⟨get an argument ~⟩

[2]across *prep* **1 a** : from one side to the opposite side of : OVER, THROUGH ⟨swam ~ the river⟩ **b** : on the opposite side of ⟨lives ~ the street from us⟩ **2** : so as to intersect or pass through at an angle ⟨sawed ~ the grain of the wood⟩ **3** : into transitory contact with ⟨ran ~ an old friend in the store⟩

[3]across *adj* : being in a crossed position

across–the–board *adj* **1** : placed in combination to win, place, or show ⟨an ~ racing bet⟩ **2** : embracing or affecting all classes or categories : BLANKET ⟨an ~ pay raise⟩

acros·tic \ə-'krȯs-tik, -'kräs-\ *n* [MF & Gk; MF *acrostiche*, fr. Gk *akrostichis*, fr. *akr-* acr- + *stichos* line; akin to *steichein* to go — more at STAIR] **1** : a composition usu. in verse in which sets of letters (as the initial or final letters of the lines) taken in order form a word or phrase or a regular sequence of letters of the alphabet **2** : ACRONYM **3** : a series of words of equal length arranged to read the same horizontally or vertically — **acrostic** *also* **acros·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* — **acros·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē *adv*

ACRR *abbr* American Council on Race Relations

ac·ry·late \'ak-rə-ˌlāt\ *n* **1** : a salt or ester of acrylic acid **2** : ACRYLIC RESIN

[1]acryl·ic \ə-'kril-ik\ *adj* [ISV *acr*olein + *-yl* + *-ic*] : of or relating to acrylic acid or its derivatives ⟨~ polymers⟩

[2]acrylic *n* **1 a** : ACRYLIC RESIN **b** : a paint in which the vehicle is an acrylic resin **c** : a painting done in an acrylic resin **2** : ACRYLIC FIBER

acrylic acid *n* : an unsaturated liquid acid $C_3H_4O_2$ that is obtained by synthesis and that polymerizes readily to form useful products (as constituents for varnishes and lacquers)

acrylic fiber *n* : a quick-drying synthetic textile fiber made by polymerization of acrylonitrile usu. with other monomers

acrylic resin *n* : a glassy thermoplastic made by polymerizing acrylic or methacrylic acid or a derivative of either and used for cast and molded parts or as coatings and adhesives

ac·ry·lo·ni·trile \ˌak-rə-lō-'nī-trəl, -ˌtrēl\ *n* : a colorless volatile flammable liquid nitrile C_3H_3N used chiefly in organic synthesis and for polymerization

ACS *abbr* **1** American Chemical Society **2** American College of Surgeons

[1]act \'akt\ *n* [ME, partly fr. L *actus* doing, act, fr. *actus*, pp. of *agere* to drive, do; partly fr. L *actum* thing done, record, fr. neut. of *actus*, pp. — more at AGENT] **1 a** : a thing done : DEED **b** : something done voluntarily **2** : a state of real existence rather than possibility **3** : the formal product of a legislative body : STATUTE; *also* : a decision or determination of a sovereign, a legislative council, or a court of justice **4** : the process of doing **5** *often cap* : a formal record of something done or transacted **6 a** : one of the principal divisions of a theatrical work (as a play or opera) **b** : one of the successive parts or performances in a variety show or circus **7** : a display of affected behavior : PRETENSE ***syn*** see ACTION

[2]act *vt* **1** *obs* : ACTUATE, ANIMATE **2 a** : to represent or perform by action esp. on the stage **b** : FEIGN, SIMULATE **c** : IMPERSONATE **3** : to play the part of as if in a play ⟨~ the man of the world⟩ **4** : to behave in a manner suitable to ⟨~ your age⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to perform on the stage **b** : to behave as if performing on the stage : PRETEND **2** : to take action : MOVE ⟨think before ~*ing*⟩ ⟨~*ed* favorably on the recommendation⟩ **3** : to conduct oneself : BEHAVE ⟨~ like a fool⟩ **4** : to perform a specified function : SERVE ⟨trees ~*ing* as a windbreak⟩ **5** : to produce an effect : WORK ⟨wait for a medicine to ~ ⟩ **6** *of a play* : to be capable of being performed ⟨the play ~*s* well⟩ **7** : to give a decision or award — **act·abil·i·ty** \ˌak-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **act·able** \'ak-tə-bəl\ *adj*

[3]act *abbr* **1** active **2** actor **3** actual

ACT *abbr* **1** American College Test **2** Association of Classroom Teachers **3** Australian Capital Territory

Ac·tae·on \ak-'tē-ən\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Aktaiōn*] : a hunter turned into a stag and killed by his own hounds for having seen Artemis bathing

actg *abbr* acting

ACTH \ˌā-ˌsē-(ˌ)tē-'āch\ *n* [*a*drenocortico*t*rophic *h*ormone] : ADRENOCORTICOTROPHIC HORMONE

ac·tin \'ak-tən\ *n* [ISV, fr. L *actus*] : a protein of muscle that is active in muscular contraction

actin- *or* **actini-** *or* **actino-** *comb form* [NL, ray, fr. Gk *aktin-*, *aktino-*, fr. *aktin-*, *aktis*: akin to OE *ūhte* morning twilight, L *noct-*, *nox* night — more at NIGHT] **1 a** : having a radiate form ⟨*Actino*myces⟩ **b** : actinian ⟨*actini*form⟩ **2 a** : actinic ⟨*actini*um⟩ **b** : actinic radiation (as X rays) ⟨*actino*therapy⟩

[1]act·ing \'ak-tiŋ\ *adj* **1** : holding a temporary rank or position : performing services temporarily ⟨~ president⟩ **2 a** : suitable for stage performance ⟨an ~ play⟩ **b** : prepared with directions for actors ⟨an ~ text of a play⟩

[2]acting *n* : the art or practice of representing a character on a stage or before cameras

ac·tin·ia \ak-'tin-ē-ə\ *n, pl* **-i·ae** \-ē-ˌē\ *or* **-i·as** [NL, fr. Gk *aktin-*, *aktis*] : SEA ANEMONE; *also* : a related animal — **ac·tin·i·an** \-ē-ən\ *adj or n*

ac·tin·ic \ak-'tin-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or exhibiting actinism — **ac·tin·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

actinic ray *n* : a radiation having marked photochemical action

ac·ti·nide \'ak-tə-ˌnīd\ *n* [ISV] : any element in a series of elements of increasing atomic numbers beginning with actinium (89) or

thorium (90) and ending with element of atomic number 103 — see PERIODIC TABLE table

ac·ti·nism \'ak-tə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* : the property of radiant energy esp. in the visible and ultraviolet spectral regions by which chemical changes are produced

ac·tin·i·um \ak-'tin-ē-əm\ *n* [NL] : a radioactive trivalent metallic element that resembles lanthanum in chemical properties and that is found esp. in pitchblende — see ELEMENT table

ac·tin·o·lite \ak-'tin-ᵊl-ˌīt\ *n* : a bright or grayish green amphibole occurring in fibrous, radiated, or columnar forms

ac·ti·nom·e·ter \ˌak-tə-'näm-ət-ər\ *n* **1** : an instrument for measuring the direct heating power of the sun's rays **2** : an instrument for measuring the actinic power of radiant energy or for determining photographic exposure to be given — **ac·ti·no·me·tric** \-nō-'me-trik\ *adj* — **ac·ti·nom·e·try** \-'näm-ə-trē\ *n*

ac·ti·no·mor·phic \ˌak-tə-nō-'mȯr-fik\ *also* **ac·ti·no·mor·phous** \-fəs\ *adj* [ISV] : being radially symmetrical and capable of division into essentially symmetrical halves by any longitudinal plane passing through the axis — **ac·ti·no·mor·phy** \'ak-tə-nō-ˌmȯr-fē\ *n*

ac·ti·no·my·ces \ˌak-tə-nō-'mī-ˌsēz\ *n, pl* **actinomyces** [NL, genus name, fr. *actin-* + Gk *mykēt-, mykēs* fungus; akin to Gk *myxa* mucus — more at MUCUS] : any of a genus (*Actinomyces*) of filamentous bacteria including both soil-inhabiting saprophytes and disease-producing parasites — **ac·ti·no·my·ce·tal** \-mī-'sēt-ᵊl\ *adj*

ac·ti·no·my·cete \ˌak-tə-nō-'mī-ˌsēt, -mī-'sēt\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *aktin-, aktis* + *mykēt-, mykēs*] : any of an order (Actinomycetales) of filamentous or rod-shaped bacteria including the actinomyces and streptomyces — **ac·ti·no·my·ce·tous** \-mī-'sēt-əs\ *adj*

ac·ti·no·my·cin \ˌak-tə-nō-'mīs-ᵊn\ *n* : any of various red or yellow-red mostly toxic polypeptide antibiotics isolated from soil bacteria (esp. *Streptomyces antibioticus*)

ac·ti·no·my·co·sis \ˌak-tə-nō-mī-'kō-səs\ *n* : infection with or disease caused by actinomycetes; *esp.* : a chronic disease of cattle, swine, and man characterized by hard granulomatous masses usu. in mouth and jaw — **ac·ti·no·my·cot·ic** \-'kät-ik\ *adj*

ac·ti·non \'ak-tə-ˌnän\ *n* [NL, fr. *actinium*] : a gaseous radioactive isotope of radon that has a half-life of about 4 seconds

ac·ti·no·ura·ni·um \ˌak-tə-nō-yù-'rā-nē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. *actinium* + *uranium*] : the uranium isotope of mass 235

ac·ti·no·zo·an \ˌ-nō-'zō-ən\ *n* [*actin-* + Gk *zōion* animal; akin to Gk *zōē* life — more at QUICK] : ANTHOZOAN — **actinozoan** *adj*

ac·tion \'ak-shən\ *n* **1** : a proceeding in a court of justice by which one demands or enforces one's right **2** : the bringing about of an alteration by force or through a natural agency **3** : the manner or method of performing: **a** : the deportment of an actor or speaker or his expression by means of attitude, voice, and gesture **b** : the style of movement of the feet and legs (as of a horse) **c** : a function of the body or one of its parts **4** : an act of will **5 a** : a thing accomplished usu. over a period of time, in stages, or with the possibility of repetition ⟨an ~, the product and expression of exerted force —Thomas Carlyle⟩ **b** *pl* : BEHAVIOR, CONDUCT ⟨somber ~*s*⟩ **c** : INITIATIVE, ENTERPRISE ⟨a man of ~⟩ **6 a** (1) : an engagement between troops or ships (2) : combat in war ⟨gallantry in ~⟩ **b** (1) : an event or series of events forming a literary composition (2) : the unfolding of the events of a drama or work of fiction : PLOT (3) : the movement of incidents in a plot **c** : the combination of circumstances that constitute the subject matter of a painting or sculpture **7 a** : an operating mechanism **b** : the manner in which a mechanism operates **8 a** : the price movement and trading volume of a commodity, security, or market **b** : the process of betting including the offering and acceptance of a bet and determination of a winner **9** : the most vigorous, productive, or exciting activity in a particular field, area, or group ⟨they itch to go where the ~ is —D. J. Henahan⟩

syn **1** ACTION, ACT, DEED *shared meaning element* : something done or effected
2 see BATTLE

ac·tion·able \'ak-sh(ə-)nə-bəl\ *adj* : subject to or affording ground for an action or suit at law — **ac·tion·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

ac·tion·less \'ak-shən-ləs\ *adj* : marked by inaction : IMMOBILE

action painting *n* : abstract expressionism marked esp. by the use of spontaneous techniques (as dribbling, splattering, or smearing)

action potential *n* : a recorded change in potential (as between the inside of a nerve cell and the extracellular medium) during activity of a cell or tissue

ac·ti·vate \'ak-tə-ˌvāt\ *vb* **-vat·ed; -vat·ing** *vt* : to make active or more active: as **a** (1) : to make (as molecules) reactive or more reactive (2) : to convert (as a provitamin) into a biologically active derivative **b** : to make (a substance) radioactive, luminescent, photosensitive, or photoconductive **c** : to treat (as carbon or alumina) esp. so as to improve adsorptive properties **d** : to aerate (sewage) so as to favor the growth of organisms that decompose organic matter **e** (1) : to set up or formally institute (as a military unit) with the necessary personnel and equipment **e** (2) : to put (an individual or unit) on active duty ~ *vi* : to become active ***syn*** see VITALIZE ***ant*** arrest — **ac·ti·va·tion** \ˌak-tə-'vā-shən\ *n* — **ac·ti·va·tor** \'ak-tə-ˌvāt-ər\ *n*

activated carbon *n* : a highly adsorbent powdered or granular carbon made usu. by carbonization and chemical activation and used chiefly for purifying by adsorption — called also *activated charcoal*

activation analysis *n* : analysis to determine chemical elements in a material by bombarding it with neutrons to produce radioactive atoms whose radiations are characteristic of the elements present

ac·tive \'ak-tiv\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF *actif*, fr. L *activus*, fr. *actus*, pp. of *agere* to drive, do — more at AGENT] **1** : characterized by action rather than by contemplation or speculation **2** : productive of action or movement **3 a** *of a verb form or voice* : asserting that the person or thing represented by the grammatical subject performs the action represented by the verb ⟨*hits* in "he hits the ball" is ~⟩ **b** : expressing action as distinct from mere existence or state **4** : quick in physical movement : LIVELY **5** : marked by vigorous activity : BUSY ⟨the stock market was ~⟩ **6** : requiring vigorous action or exertion ⟨~ sports⟩ **7** : having practical operation or results : EFFECTIVE ⟨an ~ law⟩ **8 a** : disposed to action : ENERGETIC ⟨~ interest⟩ **b** : engaged in an action or activity : PARTICIPATING ⟨an ~ club member⟩ **9** : engaged in full-time service esp. in the armed forces ⟨~ duty⟩ **10** : marked by present operation, transaction, movement, or use ⟨~ account⟩ **11 a** : capable of acting or reacting : ACTIVATED ⟨~ nitrogen⟩ ⟨~ charcoal⟩ **b** : tending to progress or to cause degeneration ⟨~ tuberculosis⟩ **c** : exhibiting optical activity **12** : still eligible to win the pot in poker **13** : moving down the line : visiting in the set — used of couples in contredanses or square dances — **active** *n* — **ac·tive·ly** *adv* — **ac·tive·ness** *n*

active immunity *n* : usu. long-lasting immunity that is acquired through production of antibodies within the organism in response to the presence of antigens — compare PASSIVE IMMUNITY

active transport *n* : movement of a chemical substance by the expenditure of energy through a gradient (as across a cell membrane) in concentration or electrical potential and opposite to the direction of normal diffusion

ac·tiv·ism \'ak-ti-ˌviz-əm\ *n* : a doctrine or practice that emphasizes direct vigorous action (as a mass demonstration) in support of or opposition to one side of a controversial issue — **ac·tiv·ist** \-vəst\ *n or adj* — **ac·tiv·is·tic** \ˌak-ti-'vis-tik\ *adj*

ac·tiv·i·ty \ak-'tiv-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being active **2** : vigorous or energetic action : LIVELINESS **3** : natural or normal function: as **a** : a process (as digestion) that an organism carries on or participates in by virtue of being alive **b** : similar process actually or potentially involving mental function; *specif* : an educational procedure designed to stimulate learning by firsthand experience **4** : an active force **5 a** : a pursuit in which a person is active **b** : a form of organized, supervised, often extracurricular recreation **6** : an organizational unit for performing a specific function; *also* : its function or duties

act of God : an extraordinary interruption by a natural cause (as a flood or earthquake) of the usual course of events that experience, prescience, or care cannot reasonably foresee or prevent

ac·to·my·o·sin \ˌak-tə-'mī-ə-sən\ *n* [ISV *actin* + *-o-* + *myosin*] : a viscous contractile complex of actin and myosin concerned together with ATP in muscular contraction

ac·tor \'ak-tər\ *n* **1** : one that acts : DOER **2 a** : one who represents a character in a dramatic production **b** : a theatrical performer **c** : one that behaves as if acting a part **3** : one that takes part in any affair : PARTICIPANT — **ac·tor·ish** \-tə-rish\ *adj* — **ac·tress** \-trəs\ *n*

act out *vt* **1 a** : to represent in action ⟨children *act out* what they read⟩ **b** : to translate into action ⟨unwilling to *act out* their beliefs⟩ **2** : to express (repressed or unconscious impulses) in overt behavior without awareness or insight esp. during psychoanalytic investigation

Acts \'akts\ *n pl but sing in constr* : a book in the New Testament narrating the beginnings of the Church — called also *Acts of the Apostles*; see BIBLE table

ac·tu·al \'ak-ch(ə-w)əl, 'aksh-wəl\ *adj* [ME *actuel*, fr. MF, fr. LL *actualis*, fr. L *actus* act] **1** *obs* : ACTIVE **2 a** : existing in act and not merely potentially **b** : existing in fact or reality ⟨~ and imagined conditions⟩ **c** : not false or apparent ⟨~ costs⟩ **3** : existing or occurring at the time : CURRENT ⟨caught in the ~ commission of a crime⟩ ***syn*** see REAL ***ant*** ideal, imaginary

actual cash value *n* : the amount necessary to replace or restore lost, stolen, or damaged property (as an automobile)

ac·tu·al·i·ty \ˌak-chə-'wal-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being actual **2** : something that is actual : FACT, REALITY ⟨possible risks which have been seized upon as *actualities* —T. S. Eliot⟩

ac·tu·al·ize \'ak-ch(ə-w)ə-ˌlīz, 'aksh-wə-\ *vb* **-ized; -iz·ing** *vt* : to make actual ~ *vi* : to become actual — **ac·tu·al·iza·tion** \ˌak-ch(ə-w)ə-lə-'zā-shən, ˌaksh-wə-\ *n*

ac·tu·al·ly \'ak-ch(ə-w)ə-lē, 'aksh-(wə-)lē\ *adv* **1** : in act or in fact : REALLY ⟨nominally but not ~ independent —Karl Loewenstein⟩ **2** : at the present moment ⟨the party ~ in power⟩ **3** : in point of fact : in truth ⟨she ~ spoke Latin⟩

ac·tu·ar·i·al \ˌak-chə-'wer-ē-əl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to actuaries **2** : relating to statistical calculation esp. of life expectancy — **ac·tu·ar·i·al·ly** \-ē-ə-lē\ *adv*

ac·tu·ary \'ak-chə-ˌwer-ē\ *n, pl* **-ar·ies** [L *actuarius* shorthand writer, fr. *actum* record — more at ACT] **1** *obs* : CLERK, REGISTRAR **2** : one who calculates insurance and annuity premiums, reserves, and dividends

ac·tu·ate \'ak-chə-ˌwāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [ML *actuatus*, pp. of *actuare*, fr. L *actus* act] **1** : to put into mechanical action or motion **2** : to move to action ***syn*** see MOVE — **ac·tu·a·tion** \ˌak-chə-'wā-shən\ *n*

ac·tu·a·tor \'ak-chə-ˌwāt-ər\ *n* : one that actuates; *specif* : a mechanism for moving or controlling something indirectly instead of by hand

act up *vi* **1** : to act in a way different from that which is normal or expected: as **a** : to behave in an unruly, recalcitrant, or capricious manner **b** : to show off **c** : to function improperly ⟨this typewriter is *acting up* again⟩ **2** : to become active or acute after being quiescent ⟨her rheumatism started to *act up*⟩

acu·ity \ə-'kyü-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ities** [MF *acuité*, fr. OF *agüeté*, fr. *agu* sharp, fr. L *acutus*] : keenness of perception : SHARPNESS

acu·le·ate \ə-'kyü-lē-ət\ *adj* [L *aculeatus* having stings, fr. *aculeus*, dim. of *acus*] : having a sting ⟨~ insects⟩

acu·men \ə-'kyü-mən\ *n* [L *acumin-, acumen*, lit., point, fr. *acuere*] : keenness and depth of perception, discernment, or discrimination esp. in practical matters : SHREWDNESS ***syn*** see DISCERNMENT

¹acu·mi·nate \ə-'kyü-mə-nət\ *adj* : tapering to a slender point : POINTED

²acu·mi·nate \-ˌnāt\ *vb* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** *vt* : to make sharp or acute ~ *vi* : to taper or come to a point — **acu·mi·na·tion** \əˌkyü-mə-'nā-shən\ *n*

acu·punc·ture \'ak-yù-ˌpəŋ(k)-chər\ *n* [L *acus* + E *puncture*] : an orig. Chinese practice of puncturing the body (as with needles) to cure disease or relieve pain

acute \ə-'kyüt\ *adj* **acut·er; acut·est** [L *acutus*, pp. of *acuere* to sharpen, fr. *acus* needle; akin to L *acer* sharp — more at EDGE] **1** : ending in a sharp point: as **a** : being or forming an angle measuring less than 90 degrees ⟨~ angle⟩ **b** : composed of acute angles ⟨~ triangle⟩ **2 a** : marked by keen discernment or intellectual perception esp. of subtle distinctions : PENETRATING ⟨an ~ thinker⟩ **b** : responsive to slight impressions or stimuli ⟨~ observer⟩ **3** : of a kind to act keenly on the senses; *esp* : characterized by sharpness or severity ⟨~ pain⟩ **4 a** : having a sudden onset, sharp rise, and short course ⟨~ disease⟩ **b** : lasting a short time ⟨~ experiments⟩ **5** : seriously demanding urgent attention ⟨an ~ housing shortage⟩ **6 a** *of an accent mark* : having the form ´ **b** : marked with an acute accent **c** : of the variety indicated by an acute accent — **acute·ly** *adv* — **acute·ness** *n*
syn **1** see SHARP ***ant*** obtuse
2 ACUTE, CRITICAL, CRUCIAL *shared meaning element* : full of uncertainty as to outcome ***ant*** chronic

ACV *abbr* **1** actual cash value **2** air-cushion vehicle

acy·clic \(')ā-'sī-klik, -'sik-lik\ *adj* **1** : not cyclic; *esp* : not disposed in cycles or whorls **2** : having an open-chain structure; *esp* : ALIPHATIC ⟨an ~ compound⟩

ac·yl \'as-əl\ *n* [ISV, fr. *acid*] : a radical derived usu. from an organic acid by removal of the hydroxyl from all acid groups

[1]ad \'ad\ *n* : ADVERTISEMENT 2

[2]ad *n* : ADVANTAGE 4

AD *abbr* **1** active duty **2** after date **3** air-dried **4** anno Domini — often printed in small capitals **5** assembly district

ad- *or* **ac-** *or* **af-** *or* **ag-** *or* **al-** *or* **ap-** *or* **as-** *or* **at-** *prefix* [ME, fr. MF, OF & L; MF, fr. OF, fr. L, fr. *ad* — more at AT] **1** : to : toward — usu. *ac-* before *c*, *k*, or *q* ⟨*ac*culturation⟩ and *af-* before *f* and *ag-* before *g* ⟨*ag*grade⟩ and *al-* before *l* ⟨*al*literation⟩ and *ap-* before *p* ⟨*ap*proximal⟩ and *as-* before *s* ⟨*as*suasive⟩ and *at-* before *t* ⟨*at*tune⟩ and *ad-* before other sounds but sometimes *ad-* even before one of the listed consonants ⟨*ad*sorb⟩ **2** : near : adjacent to — in this sense always in the form *ad-* ⟨*ad*renal⟩

-ad \ˌad, əd\ *adv suffix* [L *ad*] : in the direction of : toward ⟨cephal*ad*⟩

ADA *abbr* **1** American Dental Association **2** Americans for Democratic Action **3** average daily attendance

ad·age \'ad-ij\ *n* [MF, fr. L *adagium*, fr. *ad-* + *-agium* (akin to *aio* I say); akin to Gk *ē* he spoke] : a saying often in metaphorical form that embodies a common observation

[1]ada·gio \ə-'däj-(ē-ˌ)ō, -'däzh-\ *adv or adj* [It, fr. *ad* to + *agio* ease] : in an easy graceful manner : SLOWLY — used chiefly as a direction in music

[2]adagio *n, pl* **-gios** **1** : a musical composition or movement in adagio tempo **2** : a ballet duet by a man and woman or a mixed trio displaying difficult feats of balance, lifting, or spinning

[1]Ad·am \'ad-əm\ *n* [ME, fr. LL, fr. Gk, fr. Heb *Ādhām*] **1** : the first man and father by Eve of Cain and Abel **2** : the unregenerate nature of man — used esp. in the phrase *the old Adam* — **Adam·ic** \ə-'dam-ik\ *or* **Adam·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj*

[2]Adam *adj* [Robert *Adam* †1792 & James *Adam* †1794 Sc designers] : of or relating to an 18th century style of furniture characterized by straight lines, surface decoration, and conventional designs (as festooned garlands and medallions)

ad·a·mance \'ad-ə-mən(t)s\ *n* : ADAMANCY

ad·a·man·cy \-mən-sē\ *n* [*[2]adamant* + *-cy*] : unyielding quality : OBSTINACY

adam–and–eve \ˌad-ə-mən-'(d)ēv\ *n* : PUTTYROOT

[1]ad·a·mant \'ad-ə-mənt *also* -ˌmant\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *adamant-*, *adamas* hardest metal, diamond, fr. Gk] **1** : a stone (as a diamond) formerly believed to be of impenetrable hardness **2** : an unbreakable or extremely hard substance

[2]adamant *adj* : unshakable or immovable esp. in opposition : UNYIELDING ***syn*** see INFLEXIBLE ***ant*** yielding — **ad·a·mant·ly** *adv*

ad·a·man·tine \ˌad-ə-'man-ˌtēn, -ˌtīn, -'mant-ᵊn\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *adamantinus*, fr. Gk *adamantinos*, fr. *adamant-*, *adamas*] **1** : made of or having the quality of adamant **2** : rigidly firm : UNYIELDING **3** : resembling the diamond in hardness or luster

Adam's apple *n* : the projection in the front of the neck formed by the largest cartilage of the larynx — see LARYNX illustration

Adam's needle *n* : any of several yuccas

adapt \ə-'dapt\ *vb* [F or L; F *adapter*, fr. L *adaptare*, fr. *ad-* + *aptare* to fit, fr. *aptus* apt, fit] *vt* : to make fit (as for a specific or new use or situation) often by modification ~ *vi* : to become adapted — **adapt·ed·ness** *n*
syn ADAPT, ADJUST, ACCOMMODATE, CONFORM, RECONCILE *shared meaning element* : to bring one into correspondence with another ***ant*** unfit

adapt·able \ə-'dap-tə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being adapted : SUITABLE ***syn*** see PLASTIC ***ant*** inadaptable, unadaptable — **adapt·abil·i·ty** \-ˌdap-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*

ad·ap·ta·tion \ˌad-ˌap-'tā-shən, -əp-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of adapting : the state of being adapted **2** : adjustment to environmental conditions: as **a** : adjustment of a sense organ to the intensity or quality of stimulation **b** : modification of an organism or its parts that makes it more fit for existence under the conditions of its environment **3** : something that is adapted; *specif* : a composition rewritten into a new form — **ad·ap·ta·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **ad·ap·ta·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

adapt·er *also* **adap·tor** \ə-'dap-tər\ *n* **1** : one that adapts **2 a** : a device for connecting two parts (as of different diameters) of an apparatus **b** : an attachment for adapting apparatus for uses not orig. intended

adap·tion \ə-'dap-shən\ *n* : ADAPTATION

adap·tive \ə-'dap-tiv\ *adj* : showing or having a capacity for or tendency toward adaptation — **adap·tive·ly** *adv* — **adap·tive·ness** *n* — **ad·ap·tiv·i·ty** \ˌad-ˌap-'tiv-ət-ē\ *n*

Adar \ä-'där\ *n* [ME, fr. Heb *Adhār*] : the 6th month of the civil year or the 12th month of the ecclesiastical year in the Jewish calendar — see MONTH table

Adar She·ni \ä-ˌdär-shā-'nē\ *n* [Heb *Ădhār Shēnī* second Adar] : VEADAR

ad·ax·i·al \(')a-'dak-sē-əl\ *adj* : situated on the same side as or facing the axis (as of an organ)

ADC *abbr* **1** aide-de-camp **2** Aid to Dependent Children **3** Air Defense Command **4** assistant division commander

add \'ad\ *vb* [ME *adden*, fr. L *addere*, fr. *ad-* + *-dere* to put — more at DO] *vt* **1** : to join or unite so as to bring about an increase or improvement ⟨~*s* 60 acres to his land⟩ ⟨wine ~*s* a creative touch to cooking⟩ **2** : to say further : APPEND **3** : to combine (numbers) into an equivalent simple quantity or number **4** : to include as a member of a group ⟨don't forget to ~ me in⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to perform addition **b** : to come together or unite by addition **2 a** : to serve as an addition ⟨the movie will ~ to his fame⟩ **b** : to make an addition : ENLARGE — **add·able** *or* **add·ible** \'ad-ə-bəl\ *adj*

ADD *abbr* American Dialect Dictionary

ad·dax \'ad-ˌaks\ *n, pl* **ad·dax·es** [L] : a large light-colored antelope (*Addax nasomaculata*) of No. Africa, Arabia, and Syria

ad·dend \'ad-ˌend, ə-'dend\ *n* [short for *addendum*] : a number to be added to another

ad·den·dum \ə-'den-dəm\ *n, pl* **-da** \-də\ [L, neut. of *addendus*, gerundive of *addere*] **1** : a thing added : ADDITION **2** : a supplement to a book — often used in pl. but sing. in constr.

[1]ad·der \'ad-ər\ *n* [ME, alter. (by incorrect division of *a naddre*) of *naddre*, fr. OE *nǣdre*; akin to OHG *nātara* adder, L *natrix* water snake] **1** : the common venomous viper (*Vipera berus*) of Europe; *broadly* : a terrestrial viper (family Viperidae) **2** : any of several No. American snakes (as the hognose snakes) that are harmless but are popularly believed to be venomous

[2]add·er \'ad-ər\ *n* : one that adds; *esp* : a device (as in a computer) that performs addition

ad·der's–tongue \'ad-ərz-ˌtəŋ\ *n* **1** : a fern (genus *Ophioglossum*, family Ophioglossaceae) whose fruiting spike resembles a serpent's tongue **2** : DOGTOOTH VIOLET

[1]ad·dict \ə-'dikt\ *vt* [L *addictus*, pp. of *addicere* to favor, fr. *ad-* + *dicere* to say — more at DICTION] **1** : to devote or surrender (oneself) to something habitually or obsessively ⟨~*ed* to gambling⟩ **2** : to cause (a person) to become physiologically dependent upon a drug

[2]ad·dict \'ad-(ˌ)ikt\ *n* **1** : one who is addicted to a drug **2** : DEVOTEE 2 ⟨a detective novel ~ ⟩

ad·dic·tion \ə-'dik-shən\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of being addicted ⟨~ to reading⟩ **2** : compulsive physiological need for a habit-forming drug (as heroin) — compare HABITUATION

ad·dic·tive \ə-'dik-tiv\ *adj* : causing or characterized by addiction

Ad·di·son's disease \'ad-ə-sənz-\ *n* [Thomas *Addison* †1860 E physician] : a destructive disease marked by deficient secretion of the adrenal cortical hormone and characterized by extreme weakness, loss of weight, low blood pressure, gastrointestinal disturbances, and brownish pigmentation of the skin and mucous membranes

ad·di·tion \ə-'dish-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *addition-*, *additio*, fr. *additus*, pp. of *addere*] **1** : the result of adding : INCREASE **2** : the act or process of adding; *esp* : the operation of combining numbers so as to obtain an equivalent simple quantity **3** : a part added (as to a building or residential section) **4** : direct chemical combination of substances into a single product — **in addition** : [1]BESIDES, ALSO — **in addition to** : over and above

ad·di·tion·al \ə-'dish-nəl, -'dish-ən-ᵊl\ *adj* : existing by way of addition : ADDED — **ad·di·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

[1]ad·di·tive \'ad-ət-iv\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characterized by addition **2** : produced by addition — **ad·di·tive·ly** *adv* — **ad·di·tiv·i·ty** \ˌad-ə-'tiv-ət-ē\ *n*

[2]additive *n* : a substance added to another in relatively small amounts to impart or improve desirable properties or suppress undesirable properties ⟨food ~*s*⟩

additive identity *n* : an identity element (as 0 in the group of whole numbers under the operation of addition) that in a given mathematical system leaves unchanged any element to which it is added

additive inverse *n* : a number of opposite sign with respect to a given number so that addition of the two numbers gives zero ⟨the *additive inverse* of 4 is −4⟩

[1]ad·dle \'ad-ᵊl\ *adj* [ME *adel* filth, fr. OE *adela*; akin to MLG *adele* liquid manure] **1** *of an egg* : ROTTEN **2** : CONFUSED, MUDDLED

[2]addle *vb* **ad·dled; ad·dling** \'ad-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ *vt* : to throw into confusion : CONFOUND ~ *vi* **1** : to become rotten : SPOIL **2** : to become confused

ad·dle·pat·ed \ˌad-ᵊl-'pāt-əd\ *adj* **1** : being mixed up : CONFUSED **2** : ECCENTRIC

addn *abbr* addition

addnl *abbr* additional

[1]ad·dress \ə-'dres\ *vb* [ME *adressen*, fr. MF *adresser*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *dresser* to arrange — more at DRESS] *vt* **1** *archaic* **a** : DIRECT, AIM **b** : to direct to go : SEND **2** *archaic* : to make ready; *esp* : DRESS **3 a** : to direct the efforts or attention of (oneself) ⟨will ~ himself to the problem⟩ **b** : to deal with : TREAT ⟨intrigued by the chance to ~ important issues — I. L. Horowitz⟩ **4 a** : to communicate directly ⟨~*es* his thanks to his host⟩ **b** : to speak or write directly to; *esp* : to deliver a formal speech to **5 a** : to mark directions for delivery on ⟨~ a letter⟩ **b** : to consign to the care of another (as an agent or factor) **6** : to greet by a prescribed form **7** : to adjust the club preparatory to hitting (a golf ball) ~ *vi, obs* : to direct one's speech or attentions — **ad·dress·er** *n*

[2]ad·dress \ə-'dres, *for 5 & 7 & less often 4 also* 'ad-ˌres\ *n* **1** : dutiful and courteous attention esp. in courtship — usu. used in pl. **2 a** : readiness and capability for dealing (as with a person or prob-

lem) skillfully and smoothly : ADROITNESS **b** *obs* : a making ready; *also* : a state of preparedness **3 a** : manner of bearing onself ⟨a man of rude ~⟩ **b** : manner of speaking or singing : DELIVERY **4** : a formal communication; *esp* : a prepared speech delivered to a special audience or on a special occasion **5 a** : a place where a person or organization may be communicated with **b** : directions for delivery on the outside of an object (as a letter or package) **c** : the designation of place of delivery placed between the heading and salutation on a business letter **6** : a preparatory position of the player and club in golf **7** : a location (as in the memory of a computer) where particular information is stored; *also* : the digits that identify such a location ***syn*** see TACT ***ant*** maladroitness

ad·dress·able \ə-'dres-ə-bəl\ *adj* : accessible through an address ⟨~ registers in a computer⟩

ad·dress·ee \ˌad-ˌres-'ē, ə-ˌdres-'ē\ *n* : one to whom something is addressed

ad·duce \ə-'d(y)üs\ *vt* **ad·duced; ad·duc·ing** [L *adducere*, lit., to lead to, fr. *ad-* + *ducere* to lead — more at TOW] : to offer as example, reason, or proof in discussion or analysis — **ad·duc·er** *n*
syn ADDUCE, CITE, ADVANCE, ALLEGE *shared meaning element* : to bring forward (as in explanation, proof, or demonstration)

¹ad·duct \ə-'dəkt, a-\ *vt* [L *adductus*, pp. of *adducere*] : to draw (as a limb) toward or past the median axis of the body; *also* : to bring together (similar parts) ⟨~ the fingers⟩ — **ad·duc·tive** \-'dək-tiv\ *adj*

²ad·duct \'ad-ˌəkt\ *n* [G *addukt*, fr. L *adductus*] : a chemical addition product

ad·duc·tion \ə-'dək-shən, a-\ *n* **1** : the action of adducting : the state of being adducted **2** : the act or action of adducing or bringing forward

ad·duc·tor \-'dək-tər\ *n* [NL, fr. L, one that draws to, fr. *adductus*] **1** : a muscle that draws a part toward the median line of the body or toward the axis of an extremity **2** : a muscle that closes the valves of a bivalve mollusk

add up *vi* **1** : AMOUNT — used with *to* ⟨the play *adds up* to a lot of laughs⟩ **2** : to come to the expected total ⟨the bill doesn't *add up*⟩ ~ *vt* : to form an opinion of ⟨*added* him *up* at a glance⟩

-ade \'ād\ *n suffix* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OProv *-ada*, fr. LL *-ata*, fr. L, fem. of *-atus* -ate] **1** : act : action ⟨block*ade*⟩ **2** : product; *esp* : sweet drink ⟨lime*ade*⟩

Adé·lie penguin \ə-ˌdā-lē-\ *n* [*Adélie* Coast, Antarctica] : a small antarctic penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) — called also *Adélie*

-adel·phous \ə-'del-fəs\ *adj comb form* [prob. fr. NL *-adelphus*, fr. Gk *adelphos* brother, fr. *ha-*, *a-* (akin to *homos* same) + *delphys* womb — more at SAME, DOLPHIN] : having (such or so many) stamen fascicles ⟨mon*adelphous*⟩

aden- *or* **adeno-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *aden-*, *adēn*; akin to L *inguen* groin, Gk *nephros* kidney — more at NEPHRITIS] : gland ⟨*aden*itis⟩

ad·e·nine \'ad-ᵊn-ˌēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. its presence in glandular tissue] : a purine base $C_5H_3N_4NH_2$ that codes hereditary information in the genetic code in DNA and RNA — compare CYTOSINE, GUANINE, THYMINE, URACIL

ad·e·ni·tis \ˌad-ᵊn-'īt-əs\ *n* [NL] : inflammation of one or more lymph nodes

ad·e·no·car·ci·no·ma \ˌad-ᵊn-(ˌō)-ˌkärs-ᵊn-'ō-mə\ *n* [NL] : a malignant tumor originating in glandular epithelium — **ad·e·no·car·ci·no·ma·tous** \-mət-əs\ *adj*

ad·e·no·hy·poph·y·sis \-hī-'päf-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-y·ses** \-ə-ˌsēz\ [NL] : the anterior glandular lobe of the pituitary gland — **ad·e·no·hy·poph·y·se·al** \-(ˌ)hī-ˌpäf-ə-'sē-əl\ *or* **ad·e·no·hy·po·phys·i·al** \-ˌhī-pə-'fiz-ē-əl\ *adj*

ad·e·noid \'ad-ᵊn-ˌȯid, 'ad-ˌnȯid\ *n* [Gk *adenoeidēs* glandular, fr. *adēn*] : an enlarged mass of lymphoid tissue at the back of the pharynx characteristically obstructing breathing — usu. used in pl. — **adenoid** *adj*

ad·e·noi·dal \ˌad-ᵊn-'ȯid-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the adenoids **2** : typical or suggestive of one affected with abnormally enlarged adenoids ⟨an ~ tenor⟩ ⟨~ breathing⟩

ad·e·no·ma \ˌad-ᵊn-'ō-mə\ *n, pl* **-nomas** *or* **-no·ma·ta** \-mət-ə\ [NL *adenomat-*, *adenoma*] : a benign tumor of a glandular structure or of glandular origin — **ad·e·no·ma·tous** \-mət-əs\ *adj*

aden·o·sine \ə-'den-ə-ˌsēn\ *n* [ISV, blend of *adenine* & *ribose*] : a nucleoside $C_{10}H_{13}N_5O_4$ that is a constituent of ribonucleic acid yielding adenine and ribose on hydrolysis

adenosine diphosphate *n* : ADP

adenosine mo·no·phos·phate \-ˌmän-ə-'fäs-ˌfāt, -ˌmō-nə-\ *n* **1** : AMP **2** : CYCLIC AMP

adenosine tri·phos·pha·tase \-trī-'fäs-fə-ˌtās, -ˌtāz\ *n* : ATPASE

adenosine tri·phos·phate \-trī-'fäs-ˌfāt\ *n* : ATP

ad·e·no·vi·rus \ˌad-ᵊn-ō-'vī-rəs\ *n* [*adeno*id + *-o-* + *virus*] : any of a group of DNA-containing viruses orig. identified in human adenoid tissue, causing respiratory diseases (as catarrh), and including some capable of inducing malignant tumors in experimental animals — **ad·e·no·vi·ral** \-rəl\ *adj*

ad·e·nyl \'ad-ᵊn-ˌil\ *n* : an univalent radical $C_5H_4N_5$ derived from adenine

adenyl cy·clase \-'sī-ˌklās, -ˌklāz\ *n* : an enzyme that catalyzes the formation of cyclic AMP from ATP

ad·e·nyl·ic acid \ˌad-ᵊn-ˌil-ik-\ *n* : a nucleotide $C_{10}H_{14}N_5O_7P$ formed by partial hydrolysis of RNA or ATP

¹ad·ept \'ad-ˌept\ *n* [NL, *adeptus*, alchemist who has attained the knowledge of how to change base metals into gold, fr. L, pp. of *adipisci* to attain, fr. *ad-* + *apisci* to reach — more at APT] : a highly skilled or well-trained individual : EXPERT ⟨an ~ at chess⟩

²adept \ə-'dept\ *adj* : thoroughly proficient : EXPERT ***syn*** see PROFICIENT ***ant*** inadept, inept, bungling — **adept·ly** \-'dep-(t)lē\ *adv* — **adept·ness** \-'dep(t)-nəs\ *n*

ad·e·qua·cy \'ad-i-kwə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** : the quality or state of being adequate

ad·e·quate \-kwət\ *adj* [L *adaequatus*, pp. of *adaequare* to make equal, fr. *ad-* + *aequare* to equal — more at EQUATE] **1 a** : sufficient for a specific requirement ⟨~ taxation of goods⟩; *esp* : barely sufficient or satisfactory ⟨her first performance was merely ~⟩ **2** : lawfully and reasonably sufficient ***syn*** see SUFFICIENT ***ant*** inadequate — **ad·e·quate·ly** *adv* — **ad·e·quate·ness** *n*

ad eun·dem \ˌad-ē-'ən-dəm\ *or* **ad eundem gra·dum** \-'grād-əm\ *adv or adj* [NL *ad eundem gradum*] : to, in, or of the same rank — used esp. of the honorary granting of academic standing or a degree by a university to one whose actual work was done elsewhere

¹à deux \ä-'də(r), à-dœ\ *adj* [F] : involving two people esp. in private ⟨a cozy evening *à deux*⟩

²à deux *adv* : privately or intimately with only two present ⟨dining *à deux*⟩

ADF *abbr* automatic direction finder

ADH *abbr* antidiuretic hormone

ad·here \ad-'hi(ə)r, əd-\ *vb* **ad·hered; ad·her·ing** [MF or L; MF *adhérer*, fr. L *adhaerērе*, fr. *ad-* + *haerērе* to stick — more at HESITATE] *vi* **1** : to give support or maintain loyalty **2** *obs* : to be consistent : ACCORD **3** : to hold fast or stick by or as if by gluing, suction, grasping, or fusing **4** : to bind oneself to observance ~ *vt* : to cause to stick fast ***syn*** see STICK

ad·her·ence \-'hir-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act, action, or quality of adhering **2** : steady or faithful attachment : FIDELITY
syn ADHERENCE, ADHESION *shared meaning element* : a sticking to or together ***ant*** nonadherence

ad·her·end \-'hi(ə)r-ˌend, ˌad-ˌhi(ə)r-'\ *n* [*adhere* + *-end* (as in *addend*)] **1** : the surface to which an adhesive adheres **2** : one of the bodies held to another by an adhesive

¹ad·her·ent \ad-'hir-ənt, əd-\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF *adhérent*, fr. L *adhaerent-*, *adhaerens*, prp. of *adhaerērе*] **1** : able or tending to adhere **2** : connected or associated with esp. by contract **3** : ADNATE — **ad·her·ent·ly** *adv*

²adherent *n* : one that adheres: as **a** : a follower of a leader, party, or profession **b** : a believer in or advocate esp. of a particular idea or church ***syn*** see FOLLOWER ***ant*** renegade

ad·he·sion \ad-'hē-zhən, əd-\ *n* [F or L; F *adhésion*, fr. L *adhaesion-*, *adhaesio*, fr. *adhaesus*, pp. of *adhaerērе*] **1** : steady or firm attachment : ADHERENCE **2** : the action or state of adhering; *specif* : a union of bodily parts by growth **3** : tissues abnormally united by fibrous tissue resulting from an inflammatory process **4** : agreement to join **5** : the molecular attraction exerted between the surfaces of bodies in contact ***syn*** see ADHERENCE ***ant*** nonadhesion — **ad·he·sion·al** \-'hēzh-nəl, -'hē-zhən-ᵊl\ *adj*

¹ad·he·sive \-'hē-siv, -ziv\ *adj* **1** : tending to remain in association or memory **2** : tending to adhere or cause adherence **3** : prepared for adhering : STICKY — **ad·he·sive·ly** *adv* — **ad·he·sive·ness** *n*

²adhesive *n* **1** : an adhesive substance (as glue or cement) **2** : a postage stamp with a gummed back

adhesive tape *n* : tape coated on one side with an adhesive mixture; *esp* : one used for covering wounds

¹ad hoc \(')ad-'häk, -'hōk\ *adv* [L, for this] : for the particular end or case at hand without consideration of wider application

²ad hoc *adj* : concerned with a particular end or purpose ⟨an *ad hoc* investigating committee⟩

¹ad ho·mi·nem \(')ad-'häm-ə-ˌnem\ *adj* [NL, lit., to the man] **1** : appealing to a person's feelings or prejudices rather than his intellect **2** : marked by an attack on an opponent's character rather than by an answer to his contentions

²ad hominem *adv* : in an ad hominem manner ⟨was arguing *ad hominem*⟩

adi·a·bat·ic \ˌad-ē-ə-'bat-ik, ˌā-ˌdī-ə-\ *adj* [Gk *adiabatos* impassable, fr. *a-* + *diabatos* passable, fr. *diabainein* to go across, fr. *dia-* + *bainein* to go — more at COME] : occurring without loss or gain of heat ⟨~ expansion of a body of air⟩ — **adi·a·bat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

adieu \ə-'d(y)ü\ *n, pl* **adieus** *or* **adieux** \ə-'d(y)üz\ [ME, fr. MF, fr. *a* (fr. L *ad*) + *Dieu* God, fr. L *Deus* — more at AT, DEITY] : FAREWELL — often used interjectionally

ad in·fi·ni·tum \ˌad-ˌin-fə-'nīt-əm\ *adv or adj* [L] : without end or limit

ad int *abbr* ad interim

¹ad in·ter·im \(')ad-'in-tə-rəm, -ˌrim\ *adv* [L] : for the intervening time : TEMPORARILY

²ad interim *adj* : made or serving ad interim

adi·os \ˌad-ē-'ōs, ˌäd-\ *interj* [Sp *adiós*, fr. *a* (fr. L *ad*) + *Dios* God, fr. L *Deus*] — used to express farewell

ad·i·pose \'ad-ə-ˌpōs\ *adj* [NL *adiposus*, fr. L *adip-*, *adeps* fat, fr. Gk *aleipha*; akin to Gk *lipos* fat — more at LEAVE] : of or relating to animal fat : FATTY — **ad·i·pos·i·ty** \ˌad-ə-'päs-ət-ē\ *n*

adipose tissue *n* : connective tissue in which fat is stored and which has the cells distended by droplets of fat

ad·it \'ad-ət\ *n* [L *aditus* approach, fr. *aditus*, pp. of *adire* to go to, fr. *ad-* + *ire* to go — more at ISSUE] : a nearly horizontal passage from the surface in a mine

ADIZ *abbr* air defense identification zone

adj *abbr* **1** adjective **2** adjunct **3** adjustment **4** adjutant

ad·ja·cen·cy \ə-'jās-ᵊn-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : something that is adjacent **2** : the quality or state of being adjacent : CONTIGUITY

ad·ja·cent \ə-'jās-ᵊnt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *adjacent-*, *adjacens*, prp. of *adjacērе* to lie near, fr. *ad-* + *jacērе* to lie; akin to L *jacere* to throw — more at JET] **1 a** : not distant : NEARBY ⟨the city and ~ suburbs⟩ **b** : having a common border ⟨~ lots⟩ **c** : immediately preceding or following **2** *of two angles* : having the vertex and one side in common — **ad·ja·cent·ly** *adv*
syn ADJACENT, ADJOINING, CONTIGUOUS, ABUTTING, CONTERMINOUS *shared meaning element* : being in proximity ***ant*** nonadjacent

ad·jec·ti·val \ˌaj-ik-'tī-vəl\ *adj* **1** : ADJECTIVE **2** : characterized by the use of adjectives — **ad·jec·ti·val·ly** \-və-lē\ *adv*

¹ad·jec·tive \'aj-ik-tiv\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or LL; MF *adjectif*, fr. LL *adjectivus*, fr. L *adjectus*, pp. of *adjicere* to throw to, fr. *ad-* + *jacere* to throw — more at JET] **1** : of, relating to, or functioning as an adjective ⟨an ~ clause⟩ **2** : not standing by itself : DEPENDENT **3** : requiring or employing a mordant ⟨~ dyes⟩ **4** : PROCEDURAL ⟨~ law⟩ — **ad·jec·tive·ly** *adv*

²adjective *n* : a word belonging to one of the major form classes in any of numerous languages and typically serving as a modifier of a

noun to denote a quality of the thing named, to indicate its quantity or extent, or to specify a thing as distinct from something else

ad·join \ə-'jȯin\ *vb* [ME *adjoinen*, fr. MF *adjoindre*, fr. L *adjungere*, fr. *ad-* + *jungere* to join — more at YOKE] *vt* **1** : to add or attach by joining **2** : to lie next to or in contact with ~ *vi* : to be close to or in contact with one another

ad·join·ing *adj* : touching or bounding at a point or line ***syn*** see ADJACENT ***ant*** detached, disjoined

ad·joint \'aj-ˌȯint\ *n* [F, fr. pp. of *adjoindre* to adjoin] : the transpose of a matrix in which each element is replaced by its cofactor

ad·journ \ə-'jərn\ *vb* [ME *ajournen*, fr. MF *ajourner*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *jour* day — more at JOURNEY] *vt* : to suspend indefinitely or until a later stated time ~ *vi* **1** : to suspend a session to another time or place or indefinitely **2** : to move to another place
syn ADJOURN, PROROGUE, DISSOLVE *shared meaning element* : to terminate the activities of (as a legislature)

ad·journ·ment \-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of adjourning **2** : the state or interval of being adjourned

ad·judge \ə-'jəj\ *vt* **ad·judged; ad·judg·ing** [ME *ajugen*, fr. MF *ajugier*, fr. L *adjudicare*, fr. *ad-* + *judicare* to judge — more at JUDGE] **1 a** : to decide or rule upon as a judge : ADJUDICATE **b** : to pronounce judicially : RULE **2** *archaic* : SENTENCE, CONDEMN **3** : to hold or pronounce to be : DEEM ⟨~ the book a success⟩ **4** : to award or grant judicially in a case of controversy

ad·ju·di·cate \ə-'jüd-i-ˌkāt\ *vb* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *adjudicatus*, pp. of *adjudicare*] *vt* : to settle judicially ~ *vi* : to act as judge — **ad·ju·di·ca·tive** \-ˌkāt-iv, -kət-\ *adj* — **ad·ju·di·ca·tor** \-ˌkāt-ər\ *n*

ad·ju·di·ca·tion \əˌjüd-i-'kā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of adjudicating **2 a** : a judicial decision or sentence **b** : a decree in bankruptcy — **ad·ju·di·ca·to·ry** \-'jüd-i-kə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

[1]ad·junct \'aj-ˌəŋ(k)t\ *n* [L *adjunctum*, fr. neut. of *adjunctus*, pp. of *adjungere*] **1** : something joined or added to another thing but not essentially a part of it **2** : a word or word group that qualifies or completes the meaning of another word or other words and is not itself one of the principal structural elements in its sentence **3** : a person associated with or assisting another — **ad·junc·tive** \a-'jəŋ(k)-tiv\ *adj*

[2]adjunct *adj* **1** : added or joined as an accompanying object or circumstance **2** : attached in a subordinate or temporary capacity to a staff ⟨an ~ psychiatrist⟩ — **ad·junct·ly** \'aj-ˌəŋ(k)-tlē, -ˌəŋ-klē\ *adv*

ad·junc·tion \a-'jəŋ(k)-shən\ *n* : the act or process of adjoining

ad·ju·ra·tion \ˌaj-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : a solemn oath **2** : an earnest or solemn urging or advising — **ad·jur·a·to·ry** \ə-'jůr-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

ad·jure \ə-'jů(ə)r\ *vt* **ad·jured; ad·jur·ing** [ME *adjuren*, fr. MF & L; MF *ajurer*, fr. L *adjurare*, fr. *ad-* + *jurare* to swear — more at JURY] **1** : to charge or command solemnly under or as if under oath or penalty of a curse **2** : to entreat or advise earnestly ***syn*** see BEG

ad·just \ə-'jəst\ *vb* [F *ajuster*, fr. *a-* + *juste* exact, just] *vt* **1 a** : to bring to a more satisfactory state: (1) : SETTLE, RESOLVE (2) : RECTIFY **b** : to make correspondent or conformable : ADAPT **c** : to bring the parts of to a true or more effective relative position ⟨~ a carburetor⟩ **2** : to reduce to a system : REGULATE **3** : to determine the amount to be paid under an insurance policy in settlement of (a loss) ~ *vi* **1** : to adapt or conform oneself (as to climate, food, or new working hours) **2** : to achieve mental and behavioral balance between one's own needs and the demands of others ***syn*** see ADAPT — **adjust·abil·i·ty** \-ˌjəs-tə'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **ad·just·able** \-'jəs-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **adjus·tive** \-'jəs-tiv\ *adj*

ad·just·ed *adj* **1** : accommodated to suit a particular set of circumstances or requirements **2** : having achieved a harmonious relationship with the environment or with other individuals ⟨a well-*adjusted* schoolchild⟩

ad·just·er *also* **ad·jus·tor** \ə-'jəs-tər\ *n* : one that adjusts; *esp* : an insurance agent who investigates personal or property damage and makes estimates for effecting settlements

ad·just·ment \ə-'jəs(t)-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act or process of adjusting **2** : a settlement of a claim or debt in a case in which the amount involved is uncertain or in which full payment is not made **3** : the state of being adjusted **4** : a means (as a mechanism) by which things are adjusted one to another **5** : a correction or modification to reflect actual conditions — **ad·just·men·tal** \ə-ˌjəs(t)-'ment-ᵊl, ˌaj-ˌəs(t)-\ *adj*

ad·ju·tan·cy \'aj-ət-ən-sē\ *n* : the office or rank of an adjutant

ad·ju·tant \'aj-ət-ənt\ *n* [L *adjutant-, adjutans*, prp. of *adjutare* to help — more at AID] **1** : a staff officer in the army, air force, or marine corps who assists the commanding officer and is responsible esp. for correspondence **2** : one who helps : ASSISTANT

adjutant general *n, pl* **adjutants general** **1** : the chief administrative officer of an army who is responsible esp. for the administration and preservation of personnel records **2** : the chief administrative officer of a major military unit (as a division or corps)

[1]ad·ju·vant \'aj-ə-vənt\ *adj* [F or L; F, fr. L *adjuvant-, adjuvans*, prp. of *adjuvare* to aid — more at AID] : serving to aid or contribute : AUXILIARY

[2]adjuvant *n* : one that helps or facilitates; *esp* : something that enhances the effectiveness of medical treatment

Ad·le·ri·an \äd-'lir-ē-ən, ad-\ *adj* [Alfred *Adler* †1937 Austrian psychiatrist] : of, relating to, or being a theory and technique of psychotherapy emphasizing the importance of feelings of inferiority, a will to power, and overcompensation in neurotic processes

[1]ad–lib \'ad-'lib\ *adj* [*ad lib*] : spoken, composed, or performed without preparation

[2]ad–lib *vb* **ad–libbed; ad–lib·bing** *vt* : to deliver spontaneously ~ *vi* : to improvise esp. lines or a speech — **ad–lib** *n*

ad lib *adv* [NL *ad libitum*] **1** : in accordance with one's wishes **2** : without restraint or limit

[1]ad li·bi·tum \(ˌ)ad-'lib-ət-əm\ *adv* [NL, in accordance with desire] : ad lib ⟨rats fed ~ ⟩

[2]ad libitum *adj* : omissible according to a performer's wishes — used as a direction in music; compare OBBLIGATO

ad loc *abbr* [L *ad locum*] to or at the place

adm *abbr* administration; administrative

ADM *abbr* admiral

ad·man \'ad-ˌman\ *n* : one who writes, solicits, or places advertisements

ad·mass \'ad-ˌmas\ *adj* [*ad*vertising + *mass*] *chiefly Brit* : of, relating to, or characteristic of a society that devotes itself chiefly to the production, promotion, and consumption of material goods

ad·mea·sure \ad-'mezh-ər, -'mā-zhər\ *vt* **-sured; -sur·ing** [ME *amesuren*, fr. MF *amesurer*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *mesurer* to measure] : to determine the proper share of : APPORTION

ad·mea·sure·ment \-'mezh-ər-mənt, -'mā-zhər-\ *n* **1** : determination and apportionment of shares **2** : determination or comparison of dimensions **3** : DIMENSIONS, SIZE

Ad·me·tus \ad-'mēt-əs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Admētos*] : a king of Pherae who was saved from his fated death by the substitution of his wife Alcestis

admin *abbr* administration

ad·min·is·ter \əd-'min-ə-stər\ *vb* **ad·min·is·tered; ad·min·is·ter·ing** \-st(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *administren*, fr. MF *administrer*, fr. L *administrare*, fr. *ad-* + *ministrare* to serve, fr. *minister* servant — more at MINISTER] *vt* **1** : to manage or supervise the execution, use, or conduct of ⟨~ a trust fund⟩ **2 a** : to mete out : DISPENSE ⟨~ punishment⟩ **b** : to give ritually ⟨~ the last rites⟩ **c** : to give remedially ⟨~ a dose of medicine⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to perform the office of administrator **2** : to furnish a benefit : MINISTER ⟨~ to his ailing friend⟩ **3** : to manage affairs ***syn*** see EXECUTE — **ad·min·is·tra·ble** \-strə-bəl\ *adj* — **ad·min·is·trant** \-strənt\ *n*

ad·min·is·trate \-ˌstrāt\ *vt* **-trat·ed; -trat·ing** [L *administratus*, pp. of *administrare*] : ADMINISTER

ad·min·is·tra·tion \əd-ˌmin-ə-'strā-shən, (ˌ)ad-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of administering **2** : performance of executive duties : MANAGEMENT **3** : the execution of public affairs as distinguished from policymaking **4 a** : a body of persons who administer **b** *cap* : a group constituting the political executive in a presidential government **c** : a governmental agency or board **5** : the term of office of an administrative officer or body — **ad·min·is·tra·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **ad·min·is·tra·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n*

ad·min·is·tra·tive \əd-ˌmin-ə-ˌstrāt-iv, -strət-\ *adj* : of or relating to administration or an administration : EXECUTIVE — **ad·min·is·tra·tive·ly** *adv*

administrative county *n* : a British local administrative unit often not coincident with an older county

administrative law *n* : law dealing with the establishment, duties, and powers of and available remedies against authorized agencies in the executive branch of the government

ad·min·is·tra·tor \əd-'min-ə-ˌstrāt-ər\ *n* **1** : a person legally vested with the right of administration of an estate **2 a** : one that administers esp. business, school, or governmental affairs **b** : a priest appointed to administer a diocese or parish temporarily

ad·min·is·tra·trix \-ˌmin-ə-'strā-triks\ *n, pl* **-tra·tri·ces** \-'strā-trə-ˌsēz\ [NL] : a female administrator esp. of an estate

ad·mi·ra·ble \'ad-m(ə-)rə-bəl\ *adj* **1** *obs* : exciting wonder : SURPRISING **2** : deserving the highest esteem : EXCELLENT — **ad·mi·ra·bil·i·ty** \ˌad-m(ə-)rə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **ad·mi·ra·ble·ness** \'ad-m(ə-)rə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **ad·mi·ra·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

ad·mi·ral \'ad-m(ə-)rəl\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *amiral* admiral & ML *admiralis* emir, *admirallus* admiral, fr. Ar *amīr -al-* commander of the (as in *amīr-al-baḥr* commander of the sea)] **1** *archaic* : the commander in chief of a navy **2 a** : FLAG OFFICER **b** : a commissioned officer in the navy or coast guard who ranks above a vice admiral and whose insignia is four stars — compare GENERAL **3** *archaic* : FLAGSHIP **4** : any of several brightly colored butterflies (family Nymphalidae)

admiral of the fleet : the highest-ranking officer of the British navy

ad·mi·ral·ty \'ad-m(ə-)rəl-tē\ *n* **1** *cap* : the executive department or officers formerly having general authority over British naval affairs **2** : the court having jurisdiction of maritime questions; *also* : the system of law administered by admiralty courts

Admiralty mile *n* : NAUTICAL MILE a

ad·mi·ra·tion \ˌad-mə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** *archaic* : WONDER **2** : an object of admiring esteem **3 a** : a feeling of delighted or astonished approbation **b** : the act or process of regarding with admiration

ad·mire \əd-'mī(ə)r\ *vt* **ad·mired; ad·mir·ing** [MF *admirer*, fr. L *admirari*, fr. *ad-* + *mirari* to wonder — more at SMILE] **1** *archaic* : to marvel at **2** : to regard with admiration **3** : to think highly of often in a somewhat impersonal manner ⟨~ a man's capacity for work⟩ ***syn*** see REGARD ***ant*** abhor — **ad·mir·er** *n* — **ad·mir·ing·ly** \-'mī-riŋ-lē\ *adv*

ad·mis·si·ble \əd-'mis-ə-bəl\ *adj* [F, fr. ML *admissibilis*, fr. L *admissus*, pp. of *admittere*] **1** : capable of being allowed or conceded : PERMISSIBLE ⟨behavior that was hardly ~⟩ **2** : capable or worthy of being admitted ⟨foreign products ~ to a domestic market⟩ — **ad·mis·si·bil·i·ty** \-ˌmis-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*

ad·mis·sion \əd-'mish-ən\ *n* **1 a** : the granting of an argument or position not fully proved **b** : acknowledgment that a fact or statement is true **2 a** : the act or process of admitting **b** : the state or privilege of being admitted **c** : a fee paid at or for admission ***syn*** see ADMITTANCE — **ad·mis·sive** \-'mis-iv\ *adj*

ad·mit \əd-'mit\ *vb* **ad·mit·ted; ad·mit·ting** [ME *admitten*, fr. L *admittere*, fr. *ad-* + *mittere* to send — more at SMITE] *vt* **1 a** : to allow scope for : PERMIT **b** : to concede as true or valid ⟨compelled to ~ his failure⟩ **2** : to allow entry (as to a place, fellowship, or privilege) ⟨each ticket ~s two persons⟩ ⟨*admitted* to the university⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to give entrance or access **2 a** : ALLOW,

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ə abut ᵊ kitten ər further a back ā bake ä cot, cart
au out ch chin e less ē easy g gift i trip ī life
j joke ŋ sing ō flow ȯ flaw ȯi coin th thin th this
ü loot u̇ foot y yet yü few yu̇ furious zh vision

PERMIT ⟨this order ~s of two interpretations⟩ **b** : to make acknowledgment — used with *to* ***syn*** **1** see RECEIVE ***ant*** eject, expel **2** see ACKNOWLEDGE ***ant*** gainsay, disdain — **ad·mit·ted·ly** \-ˈmit-əd-lē\ *adv*

ad·mit·tance \əd-ˈmit-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* **1** : permission to enter a place : ENTRANCE **2** : the reciprocal of the impedance of a circuit
syn ADMITTANCE, ADMISSION *shared meaning element* : permitted entry

ad·mix \ad-ˈmiks\ *vt* [back-formation fr. obs. *admixt* mingled (with), fr. ME, fr. L *admixtus*] : MINGLE, BLEND

ad·mix·ture \ad-ˈmiks-chər\ *n* [L *admixtus*, pp. of *admiscēre* to mix with, fr. *ad-* + *miscēre* to mix — more at MIX] **1 a** : the act of mixing **b** : the fact of being mixed **2 a** : something added by mixing **b** : a product of mixing : MIXTURE

ad·mon·ish \ad-ˈmän-ish\ *vt* [ME *admonesten*, fr. MF *admonester*, fr. (assumed) VL *admonestare*, alter. of L *admonēre* to warn, fr. *ad-* + *monēre* to warn — more at MIND] **1 a** : to indicate duties or obligations to **b** : to express warning or disapproval to esp. in a gentle, earnest, or solicitous manner **2** : to give friendly earnest advice or encouragement to ***syn*** see REPROVE — **ad·mon·ish·er** *n* — **ad·mon·ish·ing·ly** \-ish-iŋ-lē\ *adv* — **ad·mon·ish·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

ad·mo·ni·tion \ˌad-mə-ˈnish-ən\ *n* [ME *amonicioun*, fr. MF *amonition*, fr. L *admonition-*, *admonitio*, fr. *admonitus*, pp. of *admonēre*] **1** : gentle or friendly reproof **2** : counsel or warning against fault or oversight

ad·mon·i·to·ry \əd-ˈmän-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : expressing admonition : WARNING — **ad·mon·i·to·ri·ly** \-ˌmän-ə-ˈtōr-ə-lē, -ˈtȯr-\ *adv*

admrx *abbr* administratrix

ad·nate \ˈad-ˌnāt\ *adj* [L *adgnatus*, pp. of *adgnasci* to grow on, fr. *ad-* + *nasci* to be born — more at NATION] : grown to a usu. unlike part esp. along a margin ⟨a calyx ~ to the ovary⟩ — **ad·na·tion** \ad-ˈnā-shən\ *n*

ad nau·se·am \ad-ˈnȯ-zē-əm\ *adv* [L] : to a sickening degree

ad·nexa \ad-ˈnek-sə\ *n pl* [NL, fr. L *annexa*, neut. pl. of *annexus*, pp. of *annectere* to bind to — more at ANNEX] : conjoined, subordinate, or associated anatomic parts; *specif* : the embryonic membranes and other temporary structures of the embryo — **ad·nex·al** \-səl\ *adj*

ado \ə-ˈdü\ *n* [ME, fr. *at do*, fr. *at* + *don*, *do* to do] **1** : fussy bustling excitement : TO-DO **2** : time-wasting bother over trivial details ⟨wrote the paper without further ~⟩ **3** : TROUBLE, DIFFICULTY ***syn*** see STIR

ado·be \ə-ˈdō-bē\ *n* [Sp, fr. Ar *aṭ-ṭub* the brick, fr. Copt *tōbe* brick] **1** : a brick or building material of sun-dried earth and straw **2** : a heavy clay used in making adobe bricks; *broadly* : alluvial or playa clay in desert or arid regions **3** : a structure made of adobe bricks

ad·o·les·cence \ˌad-ᵊl-ˈes-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* **1** : the state or process of growing up **2** : the period of life from puberty to maturity terminating legally at the age of majority

¹ad·o·les·cent \-ᵊnt\ *n* [F, fr. L *adolescent-*, *adolescens*, prp. of *adolescere* to grow up — more at ADULT] : one that is in the state of adolescence

²adolescent *adj* : of, relating to, or being in adolescence — **ad·o·les·cent·ly** *adv*

Ado·nai \ˌäd-ə-ˈnȯi, -ˈnī\ *n* [Heb *ʾădhōnāy*] — used as a name of the God of the Hebrews

Ado·nis \ə-ˈdän-əs, -ˈdō-nəs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Adōnis*] : a youth loved by Aphrodite, killed at hunting by a wild boar, and restored to Aphrodite from Hades

adopt \ə-ˈdäpt\ *vt* [MF or L; MF *adopter*, fr. L *adoptare*, fr. *ad-* + *optare* to choose — more at OPTION] **1** : to take by choice into a relationship; *specif* : to take voluntarily (a child of other parents) as one's own child **2** : to take up and practice or use as one's own ⟨~ another's mannerisms⟩ **3** : to accept formally and put into effect ⟨~ a constitutional amendment⟩ **4** : to choose (a textbook) for required study in a course — **adopt·abil·i·ty** \-ˌdäp-tə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n* — **adopt·able** \-ˈdäp-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **adopt·er** *n*
syn ADOPT, EMBRACE, ESPOUSE *shared meaning element* : to take (as an opinion, policy, or practice) as one's own ***ant*** repudiate, discard

adopt·ee \ə-ˌdäp-ˈtē\ *n* : one that is adopted

adop·tion \ə-ˈdäp-shən\ *n* : the act of adopting : the state of being adopted

adop·tion·ism *or* **adop·tian·ism** \-shə-ˌniz-əm\ *n, often cap* : the doctrine that Jesus of Nazareth became the Son of God by adoption — **adop·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n, often cap*

adop·tive \ə-ˈdäp-tiv\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to adoption **2** : made or acquired by adoption ⟨the ~ father⟩ **3** : tending to adopt — **adop·tive·ly** *adv*

ador·able \ə-ˈdōr-ə-bəl, -ˈdȯr-\ *adj* **1** : worthy of being adored **2** : extremely charming ⟨an ~ child⟩ — **ador·abil·i·ty** \-ˌdōr-ə-ˈbil-ət-ē, -ˌdȯr-\ *n* — **ador·able·ness** \-ˈdōr-ə-bəl-nəs, -ˈdȯr-\ *n* — **ador·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

ad·o·ra·tion \ˌad-ə-ˈrā-shən\ *n* : the act of adoring : the state of being adored

adore \ə-ˈdō(ə)r, -ˈdȯ(ə)r\ *vt* **adored; ador·ing** [MF *adorer*, fr. L *adorare*, fr. *ad-* + *orare* to speak, pray — more at ORATION] **1** : to worship or honor as a deity or as divine **2** : to regard with reverent admiration and devotion ⟨at 40 he still *adored* his father⟩ **3** : to be extremely fond of ⟨always ~s a good time⟩ ***syn*** see REVERE ***ant*** blaspheme — **ador·er** *n*

adorn \ə-ˈdȯ(ə)rn\ *vt* [ME *adornen*, fr. MF *adorner*, fr. L *adornare*, fr. *ad-* + *ornare* to furnish — more at ORNATE] : to decorate esp. with ornaments
syn ADORN, DECORATE, ORNAMENT, EMBELLISH, BEAUTIFY, DECK, GARNISH *shared meaning element* : to add something to for the purpose of making more attractive ***ant*** disfigure

adorn·ment \-mənt\ *n* **1** : the action of adorning : the state of being adorned **2** : something that adorns

adoze \ə-ˈdōz\ *adv or adj* : in a state of dozing

¹ADP \ˌā-ˌdē-ˈpē, ā-ˈdē-ˌpē\ *n* [*a*denosine *di*phosphate] : an ester of adenosine that is reversibly converted to ATP for the storing of energy by the addition of a high-energy phosphate group — called also *adenosine diphosphate*

²ADP *abbr* automatic data processing

¹ad rem \(ˌ)ad-ˈrem\ *adv* [L, to the thing] : to the point : RELEVANTLY

²ad rem *adj* : relevant to the point or purpose

adren- *or* **adreno-** *comb form* [*adrenal*] **1** : adrenal glands ⟨*adreno*cortical⟩ **2** : adrenaline ⟨*adren*ergic⟩

¹ad·re·nal \ə-ˈdrēn-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : adjacent to the kidneys **2** : of, relating to, or derived from adrenal glands or secretion — **ad·re·nal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

²adrenal *n* : ADRENAL GLAND

ad·re·nal·ec·to·my \ə-ˌdrēn-ᵊl-ˈek-tə-mē\ *n* : surgical removal of one or both adrenal glands — **ad·re·nal·ec·to·mized** \-ˌmīzd\ *adj*

adrenal gland *n* : either of a pair of complex endocrine organs near the anterior medial border of the kidney consisting of a mesodermal cortex that produces steroids like sex hormones and hormones concerned esp. with metabolic functions and an ectodermal medulla that produces adrenaline — called also *adrenal*

Adren·a·lin \ə-ˈdren-ᵊl-ən\ *trademark* — used for a preparation of levorotatory epinephrine

adren·a·line \ə-ˈdren-ᵊl-ən\ *n* : EPINEPHRINE

ad·ren·er·gic \ˌad-rə-ˈnər-jik\ *adj* [*adren-* + Gk *ergon* work — more at WORK] **1** : liberating or activated by adrenaline or a substance like adrenaline ⟨an ~ nerve⟩ **2** : resembling adrenaline

ad·re·no·cor·ti·cal \ə-ˌdrē-nō-ˈkȯrt-i-kəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or derived from the cortex of the adrenal glands

ad·re·no·cor·ti·co·ste·roid \ə-ˈdrē-nō-ˌkȯrt-i-kō-ˈsti(ə)r-ˌȯid *also* -ˈste(ə)r-\ *n* : a steroid obtained from or resembling or having physiological effects like those of the adrenal cortex

ad·re·no·cor·ti·co·tro·phic \ə-ˈdrē-nō-ˌkȯrt-i-kō-ˈtrō-fik\ *or* **adre·no·cor·ti·co·trop·ic** \-ˈträp-ik\ *adj* : acting on or stimulating the adrenal cortex

adrenocorticotrophic hormone *n* : a protein hormone of the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland that stimulates the adrenal cortex — called also *ACTH*

ad·re·no·cor·ti·co·tro·phin \-ˈtrō-fən\ *n* : ADRENOCORTICOTROPHIC HORMONE

adrift \ə-ˈdrift\ *adv or adj* **1** : without motive power and without anchor or mooring **2** : without guidance or purpose

adroit \ə-ˈdrȯit\ *adj* [F, fr. *à droit* properly] **1** : dexterous in the use of the hands **2** : marked by shrewdness, craft, or resourcefulness in coping with difficulty or danger ***syn*** **1** see DEXTEROUS ***ant*** maladroit **2** see CLEVER ***ant*** stolid — **adroit·ly** *adv* — **adroit·ness** *n*

ad·sci·ti·tious \ˌad-sə-ˈtish-əs\ *adj* [L *adscitus*, fr. pp. of *adsciscere* to receive, fr. *ad-* + *sciscere* to accept, fr. *scire* to know — more at SCIENCE] : derived or acquired from something extrinsic

ad·sorb \ad-ˈsȯ(ə)rb, -ˈzȯ(ə)rb\ *vb* [*ad-* + *-sorb* (as in *absorb*)] *vt* : to take up and hold by adsorption ~ *vi* : to become adsorbed — **ad·sorb·able** \-ˈsȯr-bə-bəl, -ˈzȯr-\ *adj*

ad·sor·bate \ad-ˈsȯr-bət, -ˈzȯr-, -ˌbāt\ *n* : an adsorbed substance

ad·sor·bent \-bənt\ *adj* : having the capacity or tendency to adsorb — **adsorbent** *n*

ad·sorp·tion \ad-ˈsȯrp-shən, -ˈzȯrp-\ *n* [irreg. fr. *adsorb*] : the adhesion in an extremely thin layer of molecules (as of gases, solutes, or liquids) to the surfaces of solid bodies or liquids with which they are in contact — compare ABSORPTION — **ad·sorp·tive** \-ˈsȯrp-tiv, -ˈzȯrp-\ *adj*

ad·u·lar·ia \ˌaj-ə-ˈlar-ē-ə, -ˈler-\ *n* [It *adularia*, fr. F *adulaire*, fr. *Adula*, Swiss mountain group] : a transparent or translucent orthoclase

ad·u·late \ˈaj-ə-ˌlāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [back-formation fr. *adulation*, fr. ME, fr. MF, fr. L *adulation-*, *adulatio*, fr. *adulatus*, pp. of *adulari* to flatter] : to flatter or admire excessively or slavishly — **ad·u·la·tion** \ˌaj-ə-ˈlā-shən\ *n* — **ad·u·la·tor** \ˈaj-ə-ˌlāt-ər\ *n* — **ad·u·la·to·ry** \-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

¹adult \ə-ˈdəlt, ˈad-ˌəlt\ *adj* [L *adultus*, pp. of *adolescere* to grow up, fr. *ad-* + *-olescere* (fr. *alescere* to grow) — more at OLD] **1** : fully developed and mature : GROWN-UP **2 a** : of, relating to, or befitting adults ⟨an ~ approach to a problem⟩ **b** : restricted to adults ⟨~ movies⟩ ***syn*** see MATURE ***ant*** juvenile, puerile — **adult·hood** \ə-ˈdəlt-ˌhu̇d\ *n* — **adult·like** \ə-ˈdəlt-ˌlīk\ *adj* — **adult·ly** \ə-ˈdəlt-lē, ˈad-ˌəlt-\ *adv* — **adult·ness** \ə-ˈdəlt-nəs, ˈad-ˌəlt-\ *n*

²adult *n* : one that is adult; *esp* : a human being after an age (as 21) specified by law

adult education *n* : lecture or correspondence courses for adults usu. not otherwise engaged in formal study

adul·ter·ant \ə-ˈdəl-t(ə-)rənt\ *n* : an adulterating substance or agent — **adulterant** *adj*

¹adul·ter·ate \ə-ˈdəl-tə-ˌrāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *adulteratus*, pp. of *adulterare*, fr. *ad-* + *alter* other — more at ELSE] : to corrupt, debase, or make impure by the addition of a foreign or inferior substance; *esp* : to prepare for sale by replacing more valuable with less valuable or inert ingredients — **adul·ter·a·tor** \-ˌrāt-ər\ *n*

²adul·ter·ate \ə-ˈdəl-t(ə-)rət\ *adj* **1** : tainted with adultery : ADULTEROUS **2** : being adulterated : SPURIOUS

adul·ter·a·tion \ə-ˌdəl-tə-ˈrā-shən\ *n* **1** : the process of adulterating : the condition of being adulterated **2** : an adulterated product

adul·ter·er \ə-ˈdəl-tər-ər\ *n* : one that commits adultery; *esp* : a man who commits adultery

adul·ter·ess \ə-ˈdəl-t(ə-)rəs\ *n* : a woman who commits adultery

adul·ter·ine \ə-ˈdəl-tə-ˌrīn, -ˌrēn\ *adj* **1 a** : marked by adulteration : SPURIOUS **b** : ILLEGAL **2** : born of adultery

adul·ter·ous \ə-ˈdəl-t(ə-)rəs\ *adj* : relating to, characterized by, or given to adultery — **adul·ter·ous·ly** *adv*

adul·tery \ə-ˈdəl-t(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ter·ies** [ME, alter. of *avoutrie*, fr. MF, fr. L *adulterium*, fr. *adulter* adulterer, back-formation fr. *adulterare*] : voluntary sexual intercourse between a married man and someone other than his wife or between a married woman and someone other than her husband; *also* : an act of adultery

ad·um·brate \ˈad-əm-ˌbrāt, a-ˈdəm-\ *vt* **-brat·ed; -brat·ing** [L *adumbratus*, pp. of *adumbrare*, fr. *ad-* + *umbra* shadow — more at

UMBRAGE] **1** : to foreshadow vaguely : INTIMATE **2 a** : to give a sketchy representation or outline of **b** : to suggest or disclose partially **3** : OVERSHADOW, OBSCURE — **ad·um·bra·tion** \ˌad-(ˌ)əm-'brā-shən\ *n* — **ad·um·bra·tive** \a-'dəm-brət-iv\ *adj* — **ad·um·bra·tive·ly** *adv*

adust \ə-'dəst\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *adustus*, pp. of *adurere* to set fire to, fr. *ad-* + *urere* to burn — more at EMBER] **1** : SCORCHED, BURNED **2** *archaic* : of a sunburned appearance **3** *archaic* : of a gloomy appearance or disposition

adv *abbr* **1** adverb **2** [L *adversus*] against **3** advertisement; advertising **4** advisory

ad val *abbr* ad valorem

ad va·lo·rem \ˌad-və-'lōr-əm, -'lȯr-\ *adj* [L, according to the value] : imposed at a rate percent of the value as stated in an invoice ⟨*ad valorem* tax on goods⟩

¹ad·vance \əd-'van(t)s\ *vb* **ad·vanced; ad·vanc·ing** [ME *advauncen*, fr. OF *avancier*, fr. (assumed) VL *abantiare*, fr. L *abante* before, fr. *ab-* + *ante* before — more at ANTE-] *vt* **1** : to bring or move forward **2** : to accelerate the growth or progress of **3** : to raise to a higher rank **4** : to supply or furnish in expectation of repayment **5** *archaic* : to lift up : RAISE **6 a** : to bring forward in time; *esp* : to make earlier ⟨~ the date of the meeting⟩ **b** : to place later in time **7** : to bring forward for notice, consideration, or acceptance : PROPOSE **8** : to raise in rate : INCREASE ⟨~ the rent⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to move forward : PROCEED **2** : to make progress : INCREASE ⟨~ in age⟩ **3** : to rise in rank, position, or importance **4** : to rise in rate or price — **ad·vanc·er** *n*

syn **1** ADVANCE, PROMOTE, FORWARD, FURTHER *shared meaning element* : to help to move ahead ***ant*** retard, check **2** see ADDUCE

²advance *n* **1** : a moving forward **2 a** : progress in development : IMPROVEMENT ⟨an ~ in medical technique⟩ **b** : a progressive step ⟨the job meant a personal ~ forward⟩ **3** : a rise in price, value, or amount **4** : a first step or approach made : OFFER ⟨her attitude discouraged all ~*s*⟩ **5** : a provision of something (as money or goods) before a return is received; *also* : the money or goods supplied — **in advance** : before a deadline or an anticipated event — **in advance of** : ahead of

³advance *adj* **1** : made, sent, or furnished ahead of time ⟨an ~ payment⟩ **2** : going or situated before ⟨an ~ party of soldiers⟩

ad·vanced *adj* **1** : far on in time or course ⟨a man ~ in years⟩ **2 a** : beyond the elementary or introductory ⟨~ chemistry⟩ **b** : being beyond others in progress or development ⟨an ~ country⟩

advanced degree *n* : a university degree (as a master's or doctor's degree) higher than a bachelor's

advance man *n* **1** : a business representative (as of a theatrical company) who makes necessary arrangements for the public appearance of the company — called also *advance agent* **2** : an aide (as of a political candidate) who makes a security check or handles publicity in advance of his employer's personal appearances

ad·vance·ment \əd-'van(t)-smənt\ *n* **1** : the action of advancing : the state of being advanced: **a** : promotion or elevation to a higher rank or position **b** : progression to a higher stage of development **2** : an advance of money or value

¹ad·van·tage \əd-'vant-ij\ *n* [ME *avantage*, fr. MF, fr. *avant* before, fr. L *abante*] **1** : superiority of position or condition ⟨higher ground gave the enemy the ~⟩ **2 a** : BENEFIT, GAIN; *esp* : benefit resulting from some course of action ⟨a mistake which turned out to his ~⟩ **b** *obs* : INTEREST 3a **3** : a factor or circumstance of benefit to its possessor ⟨lacked the ~*s* of an education⟩ **4** : the first point won in tennis after deuce; *also* : the score for it — **to advantage** : so as to produce a favorable impression or effect

²advantage *vt* **-taged; -tag·ing** : to give an advantage to : BENEFIT

ad·van·ta·geous \ˌad-ˌvan-'tā-jəs, -vən-\ *adj* : giving an advantage : FAVORABLE ***syn*** see BENEFICIAL ***ant*** disadvantageous — **ad·van·ta·geous·ly** *adv* — **ad·van·ta·geous·ness** *n*

ad·vec·tion \ad-'vek-shən\ *n* [L *advection-*, *advectio* act of bringing, fr. *advectus*, pp. of *advehere* to carry to, fr. *ad-* + *vehere* to carry — more at WAY] : the horizontal movement of a mass of air that causes changes in temperature or in other physical properties of the air — **ad·vec·tive** \-'vek-tiv\ *adj*

Ad·vent \'ad-ˌvent\ *n* [ME, fr. ML *adventus*, fr. L, arrival, fr. *advenire*, pp.] **1** : the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas and observed by some Christians as a season of prayer and fasting **2 a** : the coming of Christ at the Incarnation **b** : SECOND COMING **3** *not cap* : ARRIVAL, COMING ⟨the ~ of spring⟩

Ad·vent·ism \'ad-ˌvent-ˌiz-əm\ *n* **1** : the doctrine that the second coming of Christ and the end of the world are near at hand **2** : the principles and practices of Seventh-Day Adventists — **Ad·vent·ist** \əd-'vent-əst, ad-', 'ad-ˌ\ *adj or n*

ad·ven·ti·tia \ˌad-vən-'tish-ə, -(ˌ)ven-\ *n* [NL, alter. of L *adventicia*, neut. pl. of *adventicius* coming from outside, fr. *adventus*, pp.] : an external chiefly connective tissue covering of an organ; *esp* : the external coat of a blood vessel — **ad·ven·ti·tial** \-əl\ *adj*

ad·ven·ti·tious \ˌad-vən-'tish-əs, -(ˌ)ven-\ *adj* [L *adventicius*] **1** : added from another source and not inherent or innate **2** : arising or occurring sporadically or in other than the usual location ⟨~ buds⟩ ***syn*** see ACCIDENTAL ***ant*** inherent — **ad·ven·ti·tious·ly** *adv* — **ad·ven·ti·tious·ness** *n*

ad·ven·tive \ad-'vent-iv\ *adj* **1** : introduced but not fully naturalized **2** : ADVENTITIOUS 2 — **adventive** *n* — **ad·ven·tive·ly** *adv*

Advent Sunday *n* : the first Sunday in Advent

¹ad·ven·ture \əd-'ven-chər\ *n* [ME *aventure*, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *adventura*, fr. L *adventus*, pp. of *advenire* to arrive, fr. *ad-* + *venire* to come — more at COME] **1 a** : an undertaking involving danger and unknown risks **b** : the encountering of risks ⟨the spirit of ~⟩ **2** : an exciting or remarkable experience ⟨an ~ in exotic dining⟩ **3** : an enterprise involving financial risk

²adventure *vb* **ad·ven·tured; ad·ven·tur·ing** \-'vench-(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* **1** : to expose to danger or loss : VENTURE **2** : to venture upon : TRY ~ *vi* **1** : to proceed despite danger or risk **2** : to take the risk

ad·ven·tur·er \əd-'vench-(ə-)rər\ *n* **1** : one that adventures: as **a** : SOLDIER OF FORTUNE **b** : one that engages in risky commercial enterprises for profit **2** : one who seeks unmerited wealth or position esp. by playing on the credulity or prejudice of others

ad·ven·ture·some \əd-'ven-chər-səm\ *adj* : inclined to take risks : VENTURESOME — **ad·ven·ture·some·ness** *n*

ad·ven·tur·ess \əd-'vench-(ə-)rəs\ *n* : a female adventurer; *esp* : a woman who seeks position or livelihood by questionable means

ad·ven·tur·ism \əd-'ven-chə-ˌriz-əm\ *n* : ill-considered or rash improvisation or experimentation esp. in politics or foreign affairs in the absence or in defiance of consistent plans or principles — **ad·ven·tur·ist** \-'vench-(ə-)rəst\ *n* — **ad·ven·tur·is·tic** \-ˌven-chə-'ris-tik\ *adj*

ad·ven·tur·ous \əd-'vench-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* **1** : disposed to seek adventure or to cope with the new and unknown ⟨an ~ explorer⟩ **2** : characterized by unknown dangers and risks ⟨an ~ journey⟩ — **ad·ven·tur·ous·ly** *adv* — **ad·ven·tur·ous·ness** *n*

syn ADVENTUROUS, VENTURESOME, DARING, DAREDEVIL, RASH, RECKLESS, FOOLHARDY *shared meaning element* : exposing oneself to danger beyond what is called for by duty or courage ***ant*** cautious

¹ad·verb \'ad-ˌvərb\ *n* [MF *adverbe*, fr. L *adverbium*, fr. *ad-* + *verbum* word — more at WORD] : a word belonging to one of the major form classes in any of numerous languages, typically serving as a modifier of a verb, an adjective, another adverb, a preposition, a phrase, a clause, or a sentence, and expressing some relation of manner or quality, place, time, degree, number, cause, opposition, affirmation, or denial

²adverb *adj* : ADVERBIAL

ad·ver·bi·al \ad-'vər-bē-əl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or having the function of an adverb — **adverbial** *n* — **ad·ver·bi·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*

ad ver·bum \(')ad-'vər-bəm\ *adv* [L] : to a word : VERBATIM

¹ad·ver·sary \'ad-və(r)-ˌser-ē\ *n, pl* **-sar·ies** : one that contends with, opposes, or resists : ENEMY ***syn*** see OPPONENT — **ad·ver·sari·ness** *n*

²adversary *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or involving an adversary **2** : having or involving antagonistic parties or interests ⟨divorce can be an ~ proceeding⟩

ad·ver·sa·tive \əd-'vər-sət-iv, ad-\ *adj* : expressing antithesis, opposition, or adverse circumstance ⟨the ~ conjunction *but*⟩ — **adversative** *n* — **ad·ver·sa·tive·ly** *adv*

ad·verse \ad-'vərs, 'ad-ˌ\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *advers*, fr. L *adversus*, pp. of *advertere*] **1** : acting against or in a contrary direction : HOSTILE ⟨hindered by ~ winds⟩ **2** : opposed to one's interests : UNFAVORABLE ⟨an ~ verdict⟩ **3** *archaic* : opposite in position — **ad·verse·ly** *adv* — **ad·verse·ness** *n*

syn ADVERSE, INIMICAL, ANTAGONISTIC, COUNTER, COUNTERACTIVE *shared meaning element* : so opposed as to cause often harmful interference ***ant*** propitious

ad·ver·si·ty \ad-'vər-sət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : a condition of suffering, destitution, or affliction **2** : a calamitous or disastrous experience ***syn*** see MISFORTUNE ***ant*** prosperity

¹ad·vert \ad-'vərt\ *vi* [ME *adverten*, fr. MF & L; MF *advertir*, fr. L *advertere*, fr. *ad-* + *vertere* to turn — more at WORTH] **1** : to pay heed or attention **2** : to make a usu. slight or glancing reference : refer casually (as by interpolation) ***syn*** see REFER

²ad·vert \'ad-ˌvərt\ *n, chiefly Brit* : ADVERTISEMENT

ad·ver·tence \ad-'vərt-ᵊns\ *n* **1** : the action or process of adverting : ATTENTION **2** : ADVERTENCY 1

ad·ver·ten·cy \-ᵊn-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the quality or state of being advertent : HEEDFULNESS **2** : ADVERTENCE 1

ad·ver·tent \-ᵊnt\ *adj* [L *advertent-*, *advertens*, prp. of *advertere*] : giving attention : HEEDFUL — **ad·ver·tent·ly** *adv*

ad·ver·tise \'ad-vər-ˌtīz\ *vb* **-tised; -tis·ing** [ME *advertisen*, fr. MF *advertiss-*, stem of *advertir*] *vt* **1** : to make something known to : NOTIFY **2 a** : to make publicly and generally known ⟨*advertising* their readiness to make concessions⟩ **b** : to announce publicly esp. by a printed notice or a broadcast **c** : to call public attention to esp. by emphasizing desirable qualities so as to arouse a desire to buy or patronize ~ *vi* : to issue or sponsor advertising ⟨~ for a secretary⟩ ***syn*** see DECLARE — **ad·ver·tis·er** *n*

ad·ver·tise·ment \ˌad-vər-'tīz-mənt; əd-'vərt-əz-mənt, -ə-smənt\ *n* **1** : the act or process of advertising **2** : a public notice; *esp* : one published in the press or broadcast over the air

ad·ver·tis·ing *n* **1** : the action of calling something to the attention of the public esp. by paid announcements **2** : ADVERTISEMENTS ⟨the magazine contains much ~⟩ **3** : the business of preparing advertisements for publication or broadcast

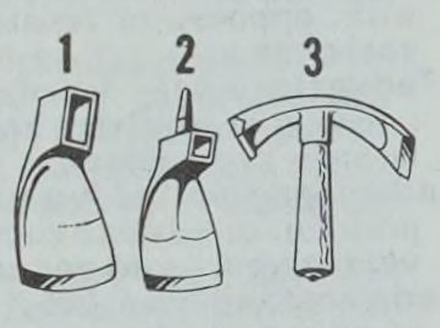
ad·vice \əd-'vīs\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *avis* opinion, prob. fr. the phrase *ce m'est a vis* that appears to me, part trans. of L *mihi visum est* it seemed so to me, I decided] **1** : recommendation regarding a decision or course of conduct : COUNSEL ⟨he shall have power, by and with the ~ and consent of the Senate, to make treaties — *U.S. Constitution*⟩ **2** : information or notice given : INTELLIGENCE — usu. used in pl. **3** : an official notice concerning a business transaction ⟨a remittance ~⟩

ad·vis·able \əd-'vī-zə-bəl\ *adj* : fit to be advised or done : PRUDENT ***syn*** see EXPEDIENT ***ant*** inadvisable — **ad·vis·abil·i·ty** \-ˌvī-zə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **ad·vis·able·ness** \-'vī-zə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **ad·vis·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

ad·vise \əd-'vīz\ *vb* **ad·vised; ad·vis·ing** [MF *advisen*, fr. OF *aviser*, fr. *avis*] *vt* **1 a** : to give advice to : COUNSEL ⟨~ her to try a drier climate⟩ **b** : CAUTION, WARN ⟨~ him of the danger⟩ **c** : RECOMMEND ⟨~ prudence⟩ **2** : to give information or notice to : INFORM ⟨~ his friends of his marriage⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to give advice ⟨~ on legal matters⟩ **2** : to take counsel : CONSULT ⟨~ with one's parents⟩ — **ad·vis·er** *or* **ad·vi·sor** \-'vī-zər\ *n*

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ad·vised \əd-'vīzd\ *adj* : thought out : CONSIDERED — usu. used in combination ⟨ill-*advised* plans⟩ — **ad·vis·ed·ly** \-'vī-zəd-lē\ *adv*
ad·vis·ee \əd-ˌvī-'zē\ *n* : one that is advised
ad·vise·ment \əd-'vīz-mənt\ *n* : careful consideration : DELIBERATION
[1]ad·vi·so·ry \əd-'vīz-(ə-)rē\ *adj* **1** : having or exercising power to advise **2** : containing or giving advice
[2]advisory *n, pl* **-ries** : a report giving information (as on the weather)
ad·vo·ca·cy \'ad-və-kə-sē\ *n* : the act or process of advocating : SUPPORT
[1]ad·vo·cate \'ad-və-kət, -ˌkāt\ *n* [ME *advocat*, fr. MF, fr. L *advocatus*, fr. pp. of *advocare* to summon, fr. *ad-* + *vocare* to call — more at VOICE] **1** : one that pleads the cause of another; *specif* : one that pleads the cause of another before a tribunal or judicial court ⟨the ~ for the defense⟩ **2** : one that defends or maintains a cause or proposal
[2]ad·vo·cate \-ˌkāt\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** : to plead in favor of ***syn*** see SUPPORT — **ad·vo·ca·tion** \ˌad-və-'kā-shən\ *n* — **ad·vo·ca·tive** \'ad-və-ˌkāt-iv\ *adj* — **ad·vo·ca·tor** \-ˌkāt-ər\ *n*
ad·vow·son \əd-'vaůz-ᵊn\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *avoueson*, fr. ML *advocation-, advocatio*, fr. L, act of calling, fr. *advocatus*, pp.] : the right in English law of presenting a nominee to a vacant ecclesiastical benefice
advt *abbr* advertisement
ady·nam·ic \ˌā(ˌ)dī-'nam-ik, ˌad-ə-'nam-\ *adj* [Gk *adynamia* lack of strength, fr. *a-* + *dynamis* power, fr. *dynasthai* to be able] : characterized by or causing a loss of strength or function
ad·y·tum \'ad-ə-təm\ *n, pl* **-ta** \-tə\ [L, fr. Gk *adyton*, neut. of *adytos* not to be entered, fr. *a-* + *dyein* to enter; akin to Skt *upā-du* to put on] : the innermost sanctuary in an ancient temple open only to priests : SANCTUM
adz *or* **adze** \'adz\ *n* [ME *adse*, fr. OE *adesa*] : a cutting tool that has a thin arched blade set at right angles to the handle and is used chiefly for shaping wood



adzes: *1* carpenter's with flat head, *2* shipwright's with spur, *3* cooper's

ae \'ā\ *adj* [ME (northern dial.) *a*, alter. of *an*] *chiefly Scot* : ONE
Ae·a·cus \'ē-ə-kəs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Aiakos*] : a son of Zeus who was given the Myrmidons as followers and became on his death a judge of the underworld
AEC *abbr* Atomic Energy Commission
ae·cio·spore \'ē-s(h)ē-ə-ˌspō(ə)r, -ˌspȯ(ə)r\ *n* : one of the spores arranged within an aecium in a series like a chain
ae·ci·um \'ē-s(h)ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-cia** \-s(h)ē-ə\ [NL, fr. Gk *aikia* assault, fr. *aeikēs* unseemly, fr. *a-* + *eikōs* seemly, fr. participle of *eikenai* to seem] : the fruiting body of a rust fungus in which the first binucleate spores are usu. produced — **ae·cial** \-sh(ē-)əl\ *adj*
aë·des \ā-'ēd-(ˌ)ēz\ *n, pl* **aëdes** [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *aēdēs* unpleasant, fr. *a-* + *ēdos* pleasure; akin to Gk *hēdys* sweet — more at SWEET] : any of a genus (*Aëdes*) of mosquitoes including the vector of yellow fever, dengue, and other diseases — see MOSQUITO illustration — **ae·dine** \-'ē-ˌdīn\ *adj*
ae·dile \'ē-ˌdīl\ *n* [L *aedilis*, fr. *aedes* temple — more at EDIFY] : an official in ancient Rome in charge of public works and games, police, and the grain supply
AEF *abbr* American Expeditionary Force
Ae·ge·an \i-'jē-ən\ *adj* [L *Aegaeus*, fr. Gk *Aigaios*] **1** : of or relating to the arm of the Mediterranean sea east of Greece **2** : of or relating to the chiefly Bronze Age civilization of the islands of the Aegean sea and the countries adjacent to it
ae·gis \'ē-jəs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *aigis* goatskin, perh. fr. *aig-, aix* goat; akin to Arm *aic* goat] **1** : a shield or breastplate emblematic of majesty that was orig. associated chiefly with Zeus but later mainly with Athena **2** : PROTECTION ⟨under the ~ of the law⟩ **3** : AUSPICES, SPONSORSHIP ⟨under the ~ of the education department⟩
Ae·gis·thus \i-'jis-thəs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Aigisthos*] : a lover of the married Clytemnestra slain with her by her son Orestes
-aemia — see -EMIA
Ae·ne·as \i-'nē-əs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Aineias*] : a son of Anchises and Aphrodite, defender of Troy, and hero of Vergil's *Aeneid*
Aeneo·lith·ic \ā-ˌē-nē-ō-'lith-ik\ *adj* [L *aeneus* of copper or bronze, fr. *aes* copper, bronze — more at ORE] : of or relating to a transitional period between the Neolithic and Bronze ages in which some copper was used
[1]ae·o·lian \ē-'ō-lē-ən, -'ōl-yən\ *adj* **1** *often cap* : of or relating to Aeolus **2** : giving forth or marked by a moaning or sighing sound or musical tone produced by or as if by the wind
[2]aeolian *var of* EOLIAN
[1]Ae·o·lian \ē-'ō-lē-ən, -'ōl-yən\ *adj* : of or relating to Aeolis or its inhabitants
[2]Aeolian *n* **1** : a member of a group of Greek peoples of Thessaly and Boeotia that colonized Lesbos and the adjacent coast of Asia Minor **2** : AEOLIC
aeolian harp *n* : a box-shaped musical instrument having stretched strings usu. tuned in unison on which the wind produces varying harmonics over the same fundamental tone
[1]Ae·ol·ic \ē-'äl-ik\ *adj* : AEOLIAN
[2]Aeolic *n* : a group of ancient Greek dialects used by the Aeolians
ae·o·lo·trop·ic \ˌē-ə-lō-'träp-ik\ *adj* [Gk *aiolos* variegated] : ANISOTROPIC 1 — **ae·o·lot·ro·py** \-'lä-trə-pē\ *n*
Ae·o·lus \'ē-ə-ləs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Aiolos*] : the Greek god of the winds
ae·on \'ē-ən, 'ē-ˌän\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *aiōn* — more at AYE] **1** : an immeasurably or indefinitely long period of time : AGE **2** : a unit of time equal to one billion years — used in geology
ae·o·ni·an \ē-'ō-nē-ən\ *or* **ae·on·ic** \-'än-ik\ *adj* : lasting for an immeasurably or indefinitely long period of time
ae·py·or·nis \ˌē-pē-'ȯr-nəs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *aipys* high + *ornis* bird — more at ERNE] : any of a group (genus *Aepyornis* or order Aepyornithiformes) of gigantic ratite birds known only from remains found in Madagascar
aeq *abbr* [L *aequalis*] equal
aer- *or* **aero-** *comb form* [ME *aero-*, fr. MF, fr. L, fr. Gk *aer-, aero-*, fr. *aēr*] **1 a** : air : atmosphere ⟨*aer*ate⟩ ⟨*aero*biology⟩ **b** : aerial and ⟨*aero*marine⟩ **2** : gas ⟨*aero*sol⟩ **3** : aviation ⟨*aero*drome⟩
aer·ate \'a(-ə)r-ˌāt, 'e(-ə)r-\ *vt* **aer·at·ed; aer·at·ing** **1** : to supply (the blood) with oxygen by respiration **2** : to supply or impregnate (as the soil or a liquid) with air **3 a** : to combine or charge with a gas (as carbon dioxide) **b** : to make effervescent — **aer·a·tion** \ˌa(-ə)r-'ā-shən, ˌe(-ə)r-\ *n*
aer·a·tor \'a(-ə)r-ˌāt-ər, 'e(-ə)r-\ *n* : one that aerates; *esp* : an apparatus for aerating something (as sewage)
aer·en·chy·ma \ˌa(ə)r-'eŋ-kə-mə, ˌe(ə)r-\ *n* [NL] : the spongy modified cork tissue of many aquatic plants that facilitates gaseous exchange and maintains buoyancy
[1]ae·ri·al \'ar-ē-əl, 'er-, ā-'ir-ē-əl\ *adj* [L *aerius*, fr. Gk *aerios*, fr. *aēr*] **1 a** : of, relating to, or occurring in the air or atmosphere **b** : consisting of air ⟨~ particles⟩ **c** : existing or growing in the air rather than in the ground or in water **d** : LOFTY ⟨~ spires⟩ **e** : operating or operated overhead on elevated cables or rails ⟨an ~ railroad⟩ **2** : suggestive of air: as **a** : lacking substance : THIN ⟨fine and ~ distinctions⟩ **b** : IMAGINARY, ETHEREAL ⟨visions of ~ joy — P. B. Shelley⟩ **3 a** : of or relating to aircraft ⟨~ navigation⟩ **b** : designed for use in, taken from, or operating from or against aircraft ⟨~ photo⟩ **c** : effected by means of aircraft ⟨~ transportation⟩ **4** : of, relating to, or gained by the forward pass in football — **ae·ri·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*
[2]aer·i·al \'ar-ē-əl, 'er-\ *n* **1** : ANTENNA 2 **2** : FORWARD PASS
ae·ri·al·ist \'ar-ē-ə-ləst, 'er-, ā-'ir-\ *n* : one that performs feats in the air or above the ground esp. on the flying trapeze
aerial ladder *n* : a mechanically operated extensible ladder usu. mounted on a fire truck
aerial perspective *n* : the expression of space in painting by gradation of color and distinctness
ae·rie \'a(ə)r-ē, 'e(ə)r-, 'i(ə)r-, 'ā-(ə-)rē\ *n* [ML *aerea*, fr. OF *aire*, fr. L *area* area, feeding place for animals] **1** : the nest of a bird on a cliff or a mountaintop **2** *obs* : a brood of birds of prey **3** : a dwelling on a height
[1]aero \'a(-ə)r-(ˌ)ō, 'e(-ə)r-\ *adj* [*aero-*] **1** : of or relating to aircraft or aeronautics ⟨an ~ engine⟩ **2** : designed for aerial use ⟨an ~ lens⟩
[2]aero *abbr* aeronautical; aeronautics
aero- — see AER-
aero·bal·lis·tics \ˌar-ō-bə-'lis-tiks, ˌer-\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : the ballistics of the flight of missiles and projectiles in the atmosphere — **aero·bal·lis·tic** \-tik\ *adj*
aer·o·bat·ics \ˌar-ə-'bat-iks, ˌer-\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [blend of *aer-* and *acrobatics*] : spectacular flying feats and maneuvers (as rolls and dives) — **aer·o·bat·ic** \-ik\ *adj*
aer·obe \'a(-ə)r-ˌōb, 'e(-ə)r-\ *n* [F *aérobie*, fr. *aér-* aer- + *-bie* (fr. Gk *bios* life) — more at QUICK] : an organism (as a bacterium) that lives only in the presence of oxygen
aer·o·bic \ˌa(-ə)r-'rō-bik, ˌe(-ə)r-\ *adj* **1** : living, active, or occurring only in the presence of oxygen ⟨~ respiration⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or induced by aerobes — **aer·o·bi·cal·ly** \-bi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
aero·bi·ol·o·gy \ˌar-ō-bī-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* [*aer-* + *biology*] : the science dealing with the occurrence, transportation, and effects of airborne microorganisms or biological objects (as viruses, pollen, or plant spores) — **aero·bi·o·log·i·cal** \-ˌbī-ə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **aero·bi·o·log·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
aero·bi·o·sis \ˌar-ō-bī-'ō-səs, ˌer-, -bē-\ *n, pl* **-o·ses** \-ˌsēz\ : life in the presence of air or oxygen — **aero·bi·ot·ic** \-'ät-ik\ *adj* — **aero·bi·ot·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
aero·drome \'ar-ə-ˌdrōm, 'er-\ *n, chiefly Brit* : AIRFIELD, AIRPORT
aero·dy·nam·i·cist \-'nam-ə-səst\ *n* : one who specializes in aerodynamics
aero·dy·nam·ics \ˌar-ō-dī-'nam-iks, ˌer-\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : a branch of dynamics that deals with the motion of air and other gaseous fluids and with the forces acting on bodies in motion relative to such fluids — **aero·dy·nam·ic** \-ik\ *or* **aero·dy·nam·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **aero·dy·nam·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
aero·dyne \'ar-ə-ˌdīn, 'er-\ *n* [*aerodynamic*] : a heavier-than-air aircraft that derives its lift in flight from forces resulting from its motion through the air
aero·em·bo·lism \ˌar-ō-'em-bə-ˌliz-əm, ˌer-\ *n* **1** : a gaseous embolism **2** : a condition equivalent to caisson disease caused by rapid ascent to high altitudes and resulting exposure to rapidly lowered air pressure — called also *air bends*
aero·gram *or* **aero·gramme** \'ar-ə-ˌgram, 'er-\ *n* : AIR LETTER 2
aer·og·ra·pher \ˌa(-ə)r-'räg-rə-fər, ˌe(-ə)r-\ *n* : a navy warrant officer who observes and forecasts weather and surf conditions
aer·og·ra·phy \-fē\ *n* : METEOROLOGY
aer·o·lite \'ar-ə-ˌlīt, 'er-\ *also* **aero·lith** \-ˌlith\ *n* : a stony meteorite — **aer·o·lit·ic** \ˌar-ə-'lit-ik, ˌer-\ *adj*
aer·ol·o·gy \ˌa(-ə)r-'äl-ə-jē, ˌe(-ə)r-\ *n* **1** : METEOROLOGY **2** : a branch of meteorology that deals esp. with the air — **aer·o·log·i·cal** \ˌar-ə-'läj-i-kəl, ˌer-\ *adj* — **aer·ol·o·gist** \ˌa(-ə)r-'äl-ə-jəst, ˌe(-ə)r-\ *n*
aero·mag·net·ic \ˌar-ō-mag-'net-ik, ˌer-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or derived from a study of the earth's magnetic field esp. from the air ⟨an ~ survey⟩
aero·me·chan·ics \-mə-'kan-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : mechanics that deals with the equilibrium and motion of gases and of solid bodies immersed in them
aero·med·i·cine \-'med-ə-sən\ *n* : a branch of medicine that deals with the diseases and disturbances arising from flying and the associated physiological and psychological problems — **aero·med·i·cal** \-'med-i-kəl\ *adj*
aero·me·te·or·o·graph \ˌar-ō-ˌmēt-ē-'ȯr-ə-ˌgraf, ˌer-\ *n* : METEOROGRAPH; *esp* : one adapted for use on an airplane
aer·om·e·ter \ˌa(-ə)r-'äm-ət-ər, ˌe(-ə)r-\ *n* [prob. fr. F *aéromètre*, fr. *aér-* + *mètre* -meter] : an instrument for ascertaining the weight or density of air or other gases

aero·naut \'ar-ə-ˌnȯt, 'er-, -ˌnät\ *n* [F *aéronaute*, fr. *aér-* aer- + Gk *nautēs* sailor — more at NAUTICAL] : one that operates or travels in an airship or balloon
aero·nau·tics \ˌar-ə-'nȯt-iks\ *n pl but sing in constr* **1** : a science dealing with the operation of aircraft **2** : the art or science of flight — **aero·nau·ti·cal** \-i-kəl\ *or* **aero·nau·tic** \-ik\ *adj* — **aero·nau·ti·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
aero·neu·ro·sis \ˌar-ō-n(y)u̇-'rō-səs, ˌer-\ *n* : a functional nervous disorder of airmen caused by emotional stress and characterized by physical symptoms (as restlessness, abdominal pains, and diarrhea)
aer·on·o·my \ˌa(-ə)r-'än-ə-mē, ˌe(-ə)r-\ *n* : a science that deals with the physics and chemistry of the upper atmosphere — **aer·on·o·mer** \-mər\ *n* — **aer·o·nom·ic** \ˌar-ə-'näm-ik\ *or* **aer·o·nom·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **aer·o·nom·ics** \-iks\ *n pl but sing in constr* — **aer·on·o·mist** \ˌa(-ə)r-'än-ə-məst, ˌe(-ə)r-\ *n*
aero·pause \'ar-ō-ˌpȯz, 'er-\ *n* : the level above the earth's surface where the atmosphere becomes ineffective for human and aircraft functions
aero·plane \'ar-ə-ˌplān, 'er-\ *chiefly Brit var of* AIRPLANE
aero·sol \'ar-ə-ˌsäl, 'er-, -ˌsȯl\ *n* **1** : a suspension of fine solid or liquid particles in gas ⟨smoke, fog, and mist are ~*s*⟩ **2** : a substance (as an insecticide or cosmetic) dispensed from a pressurized container as an aerosol; *also* : the container for this
aero·sol·ize \-ˌīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to disperse as an aerosol — **aero·sol·iza·tion** \ˌar-ə-ˌsäl-ə-'zā-shən, -ˌsȯl-\ *n*
[1]aero·space \'ar-ō-ˌspās, 'er-\ *n* **1** : space comprising the earth's atmosphere and the space beyond **2** : a physical science that deals with aerospace **3** : the aerospace industry
[2]aerospace *adj* : of or relating to aerospace, to vehicles used in aerospace or the manufacture of such vehicles, or to travel in aerospace ⟨~ research⟩ ⟨~ profits⟩ ⟨~ medicine⟩
aero·sphere \'ar-ō-ˌsfi(ə)r, 'er-\ *n* [F *aérosphère*, fr. *aér-* aer- + *sphère* sphere, fr. L *sphaera*] : the body of air around the earth
aero·stat \-ˌstat\ *n* [F *aérostat*, fr. *aér-* + *-stat*] : an aircraft that embodies one or more containers filled with a gas lighter than air and that is supported chiefly by buoyancy derived from the surrounding air
aero·stat·ics \ˌar-ō-'stat-iks, ˌer-\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [modif. of NL *aerostatica*, fr. *aer-* + *statica* statics] : a branch of statics that deals with the equilibrium of gaseous fluids and of solid bodies immersed in them
aero·ther·mo·dy·nam·ics \-ˌthər-mə-(ˌ)dī-'nam-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : the thermodynamics of gases and esp. of air
[1]aery \'a(ə)r-ē, 'e(ə)r-ē, 'ā-ə-rē\ *adj* **aer·i·er; -est** [L *aerius* — more at AERIAL] : having an aerial quality : ETHEREAL ⟨~ visions⟩ — **aer·i·ly** \'ar-ə-lē, 'er-\ *adv*
[2]aery *like* AERIE\ *var of* AERIE
Aes·cu·la·pi·an \ˌes-kyə-'lā-pē-ən\ *adj* [*Aesculapius*, Greco-Roman god of medicine, fr. L, fr. Gk *Asklēpios*] : of or relating to Aesculapius or the healing art : MEDICAL
Ae·sir \'ā-ˌsi(ə)r\ *n pl* [ON *Æsir*, pl. of *āss* god] : the principal race of Norse gods
Ae·so·pi·an \ē-'sō-pē-ən\ *also* **Ae·sop·ic** \-'säp-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of Aesop or his fables **2** : conveying an innocent meaning to an outsider but a concealed meaning to an informed member of a conspiracy or underground movement ⟨~ language⟩
aesthesio- — see ESTHESIO-
aes·thete \'es-ˌthēt\ *n* [back-formation fr. *aesthetic*] : one having or affecting sensitivity to the beautiful esp. in art
aes·thet·ic \es-'thet-ik, is-\ *adj* [G *ästhetisch*, fr. NL *aestheticus*, fr. Gk *aisthētikos* of sense perception, fr. *aisthanesthai* to perceive — more at AUDIBLE] **1 a** : of, relating to, or dealing with aesthetics or the beautiful ⟨~ theories⟩ **b** : ARTISTIC ⟨a work of ~ value⟩ **2** : appreciative of, responsive to, or zealous about the beautiful — **aes·thet·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **aes·thet·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
aesthetic distance *n* : the frame of reference that an artist creates by the use of technical devices in and around the work of art to differentiate it psychologically from reality
aes·the·ti·cian \ˌes-thə-'tish-ən\ *n* : a specialist in aesthetics
aes·thet·i·cism \es-'thet-ə-ˌsiz-əm, is-\ *n* **1 a** : a doctrine that the principles of beauty are basic to other and esp. moral principles **b** : the advocacy of artistic and aesthetic autonomy **2** : devotion to or emphasis on beauty or the cultivation of the arts
aes·thet·ics \-'thet-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr, also* **aes·thet·ic** \-ik\ **1** : a branch of philosophy dealing with the nature of the beautiful and with judgments concerning beauty **2** : the description and explanation of artistic phenomena and aesthetic experience by means of other sciences (as psychology, sociology, ethnology, or history) **3** : a particular philosophical theory or conception of art or beauty
aes·ti·val \'es-tə-vəl\ *adj* [ME *estival*, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *aestivalis*, fr. *aestivus* of summer, fr. *aestas* summer — more at EDIFY] : of or relating to the summer
aes·ti·vate \-ˌvāt\ *vi* **-vat·ed; -vat·ing** **1** : to spend the summer usu. at one place **2** : to pass the summer in a state of torpor — compare HIBERNATE
aes·ti·va·tion \ˌes-tə-'vā-shən\ *n* **1** : the state of one that aestivates **2** : the disposition or method of arrangement of floral parts in a bud
aet *or* **aetat** *abbr* [L *aetatis*] of age; aged
ae·ti·ol·o·gy *var of* ETIOLOGY
af *abbr* affix
AF *abbr* **1** air force **2** audio frequency
af- — see AD-
AFAM *abbr* Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
[1]afar \ə-'fär\ *adv* [ME *afer*, fr. *on fer* at a distance and *of fer* from a distance] : from, to, or at a great distance ⟨roamed ~⟩
[2]afar *n* : a great distance ⟨saw him from ~ ⟩
AFB *abbr* air force base
AFC *abbr* **1** American Football Conference **2** automatic frequency control
A1C *abbr* airman first class
AFDC *abbr* Aid to Families with Dependent Children
afeard *or* **afeared** \ə-'fi(ə)rd\ *adj* [ME *afered*, fr. OE *āfǣred*, pp. of *āfǣran* to frighten, fr. *ā-*, perfective prefix + *fǣran* to frighten — more at ABIDE, FEAR] *dial* : AFRAID
aff *abbr* affirmative
af·fa·ble \'af-ə-bəl\ *adj* [MF, fr. L *affabilis*, fr. *affari* to speak to, fr. *ad-* + *fari* to speak — more at BAN] **1** : being pleasant and at ease in talking to others **2** : characterized by ease and friendliness ***syn*** see GRACIOUS ***ant*** reserved — **af·fa·bil·i·ty** \ˌaf-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **af·fa·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
af·fair \ə-'fa(ə)r, -'fe(ə)r\ *n* [ME & MF; ME *affaire*, fr. MF, fr. *a faire* to do] **1 a** *pl* : commercial, professional, or public business **b** : MATTER, CONCERN **2** : a procedure, action, or occasion only vaguely specified; *also* : an object or collection of objects only vaguely specified ⟨his house was a 2-story ~⟩ **3** *also* **af·faire** **a** : a romantic or passionate attachment typically of limited duration : LIAISON 1b **b** : a matter occasioning public anxiety, controversy, or scandal : CASE
[1]af·fect \'af-ˌekt\ *n* [L *affectus*, fr. *affectus*, pp.] **1** *obs* : FEELING, AFFECTION **2** : the conscious subjective aspect of an emotion considered apart from bodily changes
[2]af·fect \ə-'fekt, a-\ *vb* [MF & L; MF *affecter*, fr. L *affectare*, fr. *affectus*, pp. of *afficere* to influence, fr. *ad-* + *facere* to do — more at DO] *vt* **1** *archaic* : to aim at **2 a** *archaic* : to have affection for **b** : to be given to : FANCY ⟨~ flashy clothes⟩ **3** : to make a display of liking or using : CULTIVATE ⟨~ a worldly manner⟩ **4** : to put on a pretense of : FEIGN ⟨~ indifference, though deeply hurt⟩ **5** : to tend toward ⟨drops of water ~ roundness⟩ **6** : FREQUENT ~ *vi, obs* : INCLINE 2 ***syn*** see ASSUME
[3]affect *vt* : to produce an effect upon: as **a** : to produce a material influence upon or alteration in ⟨paralysis ~*ed* his limbs⟩ **b** : to act upon (as a person or his mind or his feelings) so as to effect a response : INFLUENCE — **af·fect·abil·i·ty** \-ˌfek-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **af·fect·able** \-'fek-tə-bəl\ *adj*
syn AFFECT, INFLUENCE, TOUCH, IMPRESS, STRIKE, SWAY *shared meaning element* : to produce or have an effect upon. AFFECT implies the action of a stimulus that can produce a response or reaction ⟨the sight *affected* her to tears⟩ INFLUENCE implies a force that brings about a change (as in nature or behavior) ⟨our beliefs are *influenced* by our upbringing⟩ ⟨a drug that *influences* growth rates⟩ TOUCH may carry a vivid suggestion of close contact and may connote stirring, arousing, or harming ⟨plants *touched* by frost⟩ ⟨his emotions were *touched* by her distress⟩ IMPRESS stresses the depth and persistence of the effect ⟨only one of the plans *impressed* him⟩ STRIKE, similar to but weaker than *impress*, may convey the notion of sudden sharp perception or appreciation ⟨*struck* by the solemnity of the occasion⟩ SWAY implies the acting of influences that are not resisted or are irresistible, with resulting change in character or course of action ⟨he is *swayed* by fashion, by suggestion, by transient moods —H. L. Mencken⟩
af·fec·ta·tion \ˌaf-ˌek-'tā-shən\ *n* **1** *obs* : a striving after **2 a** : the act of taking on or displaying an attitude or mode of behavior not natural to oneself or not genuinely felt **b** : speech or conduct not natural to oneself : ARTIFICIALITY ***syn*** see POSE
af·fect·ed \ə-'fek-təd, a-\ *adj* **1** : INCLINED, DISPOSED ⟨was well ~ toward her⟩ **2 a** : given to affection **b** : assumed artificially or falsely : PRETENDED ⟨an ~ interest in art⟩ — **af·fect·ed·ly** *adv* — **af·fect·ed·ness** *n*
af·fect·ing \ə-'fek-tiŋ, a-\ *adj* : evoking a strong emotional response ***syn*** see MOVING — **af·fect·ing·ly** \-tiŋ-lē\ *adv*
[1]af·fec·tion \ə-'fek-shən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *affection*, fr. L *affection-*, *affectio*, fr. *affectus*, pp.] **1** : a moderate feeling or emotion **2** : tender attachment : FONDNESS ⟨she had a deep ~ for her parents⟩ **3** *obs* : PARTIALITY, PREJUDICE **4** : the feeling aspect (as in pleasure or displeasure) of consciousness **5 a** : PROPENSITY, DISPOSITION **b** *archaic* : AFFECTATION 2 ***syn*** see FEELING — **af·fec·tion·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
[2]affection *n* **1** : the action of affecting : the state of being affected **2 a** (1) : a bodily condition (2) : DISEASE, MALADY **b** : ATTRIBUTE ⟨shape and weight are ~*s* of bodies⟩
af·fec·tion·al \ə-'fek-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* : of or relating to the affections — **af·fec·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
af·fec·tion·ate \ə-'fek-sh(ə-)nət\ *adj* **1** *obs* : mentally or emotionally affected or inclined **2** : having affection or warm regard : LOVING **3** : proceeding from affection : TENDER ⟨~ care⟩ — **af·fec·tion·ate·ly** *adv*
af·fec·tioned \-shənd\ *adj, archaic* : having a tendency, disposition, or inclination : DISPOSED
af·fec·tive \a-'fek-tiv\ *adj* **1** : relating to, arising from, or influencing feelings or emotions : EMOTIONAL ⟨~ disorders⟩ **2** : expressing emotion ⟨~ language⟩ — **af·fec·tive·ly** *adv* — **af·fec·tiv·i·ty** \ˌaf-ˌek-'tiv-ət-ē\ *n*
af·fect·less \'af-ˌek-tləs, a-'fek-\ *adj* : UNFEELING ⟨a ruthless ~ society⟩ — **af·fect·less·ness** *n*
af·fen·pin·scher \'af-ən-ˌpin-chər\ *n* [G, fr. *affe* monkey + *pinscher*, a breed of hunting dog] : any of a breed of small dogs with a stiff red, gray, or black coat, pointed ears, and bushy eyebrows, chin tuft, and mustache
af·fer·ent \'af-ə-rənt, -ˌer-ənt\ *adj* [L *afferent-*, *afferens*, prp. of *afferre* to bring to, fr. *ad-* + *ferre* to bear — more at BEAR] : bearing or conducting inward; *specif* : conveying impulses toward a nerve center — compare EFFERENT — **af·fer·ent·ly** *adv*
[1]af·fi·ance \ə-'fī-ən(t)s\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. *affier* to pledge, trust, fr. ML *affidare* to pledge, fr. L *ad-* + (assumed) VL *fidare* to trust — more at FIANCÉ] *archaic* : TRUST, CONFIDENCE
[2]affiance *vt* **-anced; -anc·ing** : to solemnly promise (oneself or another) in marriage : BETROTH

af·fi·ant \ə-'fī-ənt\ *n* [MF, fr. prp. of *affier*] : one that swears to an affidavit; *broadly* : DEPONENT
af·fi·cio·na·do *var of* AFICIONADO
af·fi·da·vit \ˌaf-ə-'dā-vət\ *n* [ML, he has made an oath, fr. *affidare*] : a sworn statement in writing made esp. under oath or on affirmation before an authorized magistrate or officer
¹af·fil·i·ate \ə-'fil-ē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [ML *affiliatus*, pp. of *affiliare* to adopt as a son, fr. L *ad-* + *filius* son — more at FEMININE] *vt* **1 a** : to bring or receive into close connection as a member or branch **b** : to associate as a member ⟨~*s* himself with the local club⟩ **2** : to trace the origin of ~ *vi* : to connect or associate oneself : COMBINE — **af·fil·i·a·tion** \-ˌfil-ē-'ā-shən\ *n*
²af·fil·i·ate \ə-'fil-ē-ət\ *n* : an affiliated person or organization; *specif* : a company effectively controlled by another or associated with others under common ownership or control
af·fil·i·at·ed \-ē-ˌāt-əd\ *adj* : closely associated with another typically in a dependent or subordinate position ⟨the university and its ~ medical school⟩ ***syn*** see RELATED
¹af·fine \a-'fīn, ə-\ *n* [MF *affin*, fr. L *affinis*, fr. *affinis* related] : a relative by marriage
²affine *adj* [L *affinis*, adj.] : of, relating to, or being a transformation (as a translation, a rotation, or a uniform stretching) that carries straight lines into straight lines and parallel lines into parallel lines but may alter distance between points and angles between lines ⟨~ geometry⟩ — **af·fine·ly** *adv*
af·fined \a-'fīnd, ə-\ *adj* **1** : joined in a close relationship : CONNECTED **2** : bound by obligation
af·fin·i·ty \ə-'fin-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *affinite*, fr. MF or L; MF *afinité*, fr. L *affinitas*, fr. *affinis* bordering on, related by marriage, fr. *ad-* + *finis* end, border] **1** : relationship by marriage **2 a** : sympathy marked by community of interest : KINSHIP **b** : ATTRACTION; *esp* : an attractive force between substances or particles that causes them to enter into and remain in chemical combination **c** : a person esp. of the opposite sex having a particular attraction for one **3 a** : likeness based on relationship or causal connection **b** : a relation between biological groups involving resemblance in structural plan and indicating community of origin ***syn*** see ATTRACTION, LIKENESS
af·firm \ə-'fərm\ *vb* [ME *affermen*, fr. MF *afermer*, fr. L *affirmare*, fr. *ad-* + *firmare* to make firm, fr. *firmus* firm — more at FIRM] *vt* **1 a** : VALIDATE, CONFIRM **b** : to state positively **2** : to assert (as a judgment or decree) as valid or confirmed **3** : to express dedication to ⟨~ life by refusing to kill⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to testify or declare by affirmation **2** : to uphold a judgment or decree of a lower court ***syn*** see ASSERT ***ant*** deny — **af·firm·able** \ə-'fər-mə-bəl\ *adj* — **af·fir·mance** \ə-'fər-mən(t)s\ *n*
af·fir·ma·tion \ˌaf-ər-'mā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the act of affirming **b** : something affirmed : a positive assertion **2** : a solemn declaration made under the penalties of perjury by a person who conscientiously declines taking an oath
¹af·fir·ma·tive \ə-'fər-mət-iv\ *adj* **1** : asserting a predicate of a subject **2** : asserting that the fact is so **3** : POSITIVE ⟨~ approach⟩ **4** : favoring or supporting a proposition or motion — **af·fir·ma·tive·ly** *adv*
²affirmative *n* **1** : an expression (as the word *yes*) of affirmation or assent **2** : an affirmative proposition **3** : the side that upholds the proposition stated in a debate
¹af·fix \ə-'fiks, a-\ *vt* [ML *affixare*, fr. L *affixus*, pp. of *affigere* to fasten to, fr. *ad-* + *figere* to fasten — more at DIKE] **1** : to attach physically ⟨~ a stamp to a letter⟩ **2** : to attach in any way : ADD, APPEND ⟨~ a signature to a document⟩ **3** : IMPRESS ⟨~*ed* his seal⟩ ***syn*** see FASTEN ***ant*** detach — **af·fix·able** \-'fik-sə-bəl\ *adj* — **af·fix·a·tion** \ˌaf-ˌik-'sā-shən\ *n* — **af·fix·ment** \ə-'fik-smənt, a-\ *n*
²af·fix \'af-ˌiks\ *n* **1** : a sound or sequence of sounds or a letter or sequence of letters occurring as a bound form attached to the beginning or end of a word, base, or phrase or inserted within a word or base and serving to produce a derivative word or an inflectional form **2** : APPENDAGE — **af·fix·al** \-ˌik-səl\ *or* **af·fix·i·al** \a-'fik-sē-əl\ *adj*
af·fla·tus \ə-'flāt-əs, a-\ *n* [L, act of blowing or breathing on, fr. *afflatus*, pp. of *afflare* to blow on, fr. *ad-* + *flare* to blow — more at BLOW] : a divine imparting of knowledge or power : INSPIRATION
af·flict \ə-'flikt\ *vt* [ME *afflicten*, fr. L *afflictus*, pp. of *affligere* to cast down, fr. *ad-* + *fligere* to strike — more at PROFLIGATE] **1** *obs* **a** : HUMBLE **b** : OVERTHROW **2 a** : to distress so severely as to cause persistent suffering or anguish **b** : TROUBLE, INJURE
syn AFFLICT, TRY, TORMENT, TORTURE, RACK *shared meaning element* : to inflict on one something (as suffering, disease, or embarrassment) that he finds hard to bear ***ant*** comfort
af·flic·tion \ə-'flik-shən\ *n* **1** : the state of being afflicted **2 a** : the cause of persistent pain or distress **b** : great suffering
af·flic·tive \ə-'flik-tiv\ adj : causing affliction : DISTRESSING, TROUBLESOME — **af·flic·tive·ly** *adv*
af·flu·ence \'af-ˌlü-ən(t)s *also* a-'flü- *or* ə-\ *n* **1 a** : an abundant flow or supply : PROFUSION **b** : abundance of property : WEALTH **2** : a flowing to or toward a point : INFLUX
af·flu·en·cy \-ən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** : AFFLUENCE
¹af·flu·ent \-ənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *affluent-, affluens*, prp. of *affluere* to flow to, flow abundantly, fr. *ad-* + *fluere* to flow — more at FLUID] **1 a** : flowing in abundance : COPIOUS **b** : having a generously sufficient and typically increasing supply of material possessions ⟨our ~ society⟩ **2** : flowing toward ***syn*** see RICH ***ant*** impecunious, straitened — **af·flu·ent·ly** *adv*
²affluent *n* **1** : a tributary stream **2** : an affluent person
af·flux \'af-ˌləks\ *n* [F or L; F, fr. L *affluxus*, pp. of *affluere*] : AFFLUENCE 2
af·ford \ə-'fō(ə)rd, -'fȯ(ə)rd\ *vt* [ME *aforthen*, fr. OE *geforthian* to carry out, fr. *ge-*, perfective prefix + *forthian* to carry out, fr. *forth* — more at CO-, FORTH] **1 a** : to manage to bear without serious detriment ⟨you can't ~ to neglect your health⟩ **b** : to be able to bear the cost of ⟨he can't ~ to be out of work long⟩ ⟨~ a new coat⟩ **2 a** : to have the capacity for providing esp. to one who seeks ⟨her letters ~ no clue to her intentions⟩ **b** : to make available or give forth as a consequence of nature : provide naturally or inevitably ⟨the sun ~*s* warmth to the earth⟩ ⟨the roof ~*ed* a fine view⟩ ***syn*** see GIVE — **af·ford·able** \-'fōrd-ə-bəl, -'fȯrd-\ *adj*
af·for·est \a-'fȯr-əst, -'fär-\ *vt* [ML *afforestare*, fr. L *ad-* + ML *forestis* forest — more at FOREST] : to establish forest cover on — **af·for·es·ta·tion** \(ˌ)a-ˌfȯr-ə-'stā-shən, -ˌfär-\ *n*
¹af·fray \ə-'frā\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. *affreer* to startle] : FRAY, BRAWL
²affray *vt* [ME *affraien*, fr. MF *affreer*] *archaic* : STARTLE, FRIGHTEN
af·fri·cate \'af-ri-kət\ *n* [prob. fr. G *affrikata*, fr. L *affricata*, fem. of *affricatus*, pp. of *affricare* to rub against, fr. *ad-* + *fricare* to rub — more at FRICTION] : a stop and its immediately following release through the articulatory position for a continuant nonsyllabic consonant (as the \t\ and \sh\ that are the constituents of the \ch\ in *why choose*) — **af·fric·a·tive** \a-'frik-ət-iv, ə-\ *n or adj*
af·fri·ca·tion \ˌaf-rə-'kā-shən\ *n* : conversion (as of a simple stop sound) into an affricate
¹af·fright \ə-'frīt\ *vt* [fr. ME *afyrht, afright* frightened, fr. OE *āfyrht, pp. of āfyrhtan* to frighten, fr. *ā-*, perfective prefix + *fyrhtan* to fear; akin to OE *fyrhto* fright — more at ABIDE, FRIGHT] : FRIGHTEN, ALARM
²affright *n* : sudden and great fear : TERROR
¹af·front \ə-'frənt\ *vt* [ME *afronten*, fr. MF *afronter* to defy, fr. (assumed) VL *affrontare*, fr. L *ad-* + *front-, frons* forehead — more at FRONT] **1** : to insult esp. to the face by behavior or language **2 a** : to face in defiance : CONFRONT ⟨~ death⟩ **b** *obs* : to encounter face to face **3** : to appear directly before ***syn*** see OFFEND
²affront *n* **1** : a deliberate offense : INSULT ⟨an ~ to his dignity⟩ **2** *obs* : a hostile encounter
afft *abbr* affidavit
af·fu·sion \a-'fyü-zhən\ *n* [LL *affusion-, affusio*, fr. L *affusus*, pp. of *affundere* to pour on, fr. *ad-* + *fundere* to pour — more at FOUND] : an act of pouring a liquid on (as in baptism)
Af·ghan \'af-ˌgan *also* -gən\ *n* [Pashto *afghānī*] **1** : a native or inhabitant of Afghanistan **2** : PASHTO **3** *not cap* : a blanket or shawl of colored wool knitted or crocheted in strips or squares **4** *not cap* : a Turkoman carpet of large size and long pile woven in geometric designs **5** : AFGHAN HOUND — **Afghan** *adj*
Afghan hound *n* : a tall slim swift hunting dog native to the Near East with a coat of silky thick hair and a long silky topknot
af·ghani \af-'gan-ē, -'gän-\ *n* [Pashto *afghāni*, lit., Afghan] — see MONEY table
afi·cio·na·da \ə-ˌfish(-ē)-ə-'näd-ə, -ˌfis-ē-, -ˌfē-sē-, -'näd-(ˌ)ä\ *n* [Sp, fem. of *aficionado*] : a female aficionado ⟨card-playing ~*s*⟩
afi·cio·na·do \-'näd-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-dos** [Sp, fr. pp. of *aficionar* to inspire affection, fr. *afición* affection, fr. L *affection-, affectio* — more at AFFECTION] : DEVOTEE, FAN ⟨~*s* of the bullfight⟩ ⟨movie ~*s*⟩
afield \ə-'fē(ə)ld\ *adv or adj* **1** : to, in, or on the field ⟨was weak at bat but strong ~ ⟩ **2** : away from home : ABROAD **3** : out of the way : ASTRAY ⟨irrelevant remarks that carried us far ~⟩
AFIPS *abbr* American Federation of Information Processing Societies
afire \ə-'fī(ə)r\ *adj or adv* : being on fire : BLAZING ⟨set the house ~⟩
AFL *abbr* American Football League
aflame \ə-'flām\ *adj or adv* : AFIRE
af·la·tox·in \ˌaf-lə-'täk-sən\ *n* [NL *Aspergillus flavus*, species of mold + E *toxin*] : any of several mycotoxins that are produced esp. in corn or oilseed meals by molds (as *Aspergillus flavus*) and are suspected of being carcinogenic
AFL–CIO *abbr* American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
afloat \ə-'flōt\ *adj or adv* [ME *aflot*, fr. OE *on flot*, fr. *on* + *flot*, fr. *flot* deep water, sea; akin to OE *flēotan* to float — more at FLEET] **1 a** : borne on or as if on the water : FLOATING **b** : at sea **2** : free of difficulties : SELF-SUFFICIENT ⟨the inheritance kept them ~ for years⟩ **3 a** : circulating about : RUMORED ⟨nasty stories were ~⟩ **b** : ADRIFT
aflut·ter \ə-'flət-ər\ *adj* **1** : being in a flutter : FLUTTERING **2** : nervously excited **3** : filled with or marked by the presence of fluttering things ⟨roofs ~ with flags⟩
afoot \ə-'fůt\ *adv or adj* **1** : on foot **2** : in the process of development : under way ⟨something out of the ordinary was ~ — Hamilton Basso⟩
afore \ə-'fō(ə)r, -'fȯ(ə)r\ *adv or conj or prep* [ME, fr. OE *onforan*, fr. *on* + *foran* before — more at BEFORE] *chiefly dial* : BEFORE
afore·men·tioned \-'men-chənd\ *adj* : mentioned previously
afore·said \-ˌsed\ *adj* : said or named before or above
afore·thought \-ˌthȯt\ *adj* : previously in mind : PREMEDITATED, DELIBERATE ⟨with malice ~⟩
a for·ti·o·ri \ˌä-ˌfȯrt-ē-'ō(ə)r-ē; ˌā-ˌfȯrt-ē-'ō(ə)r-ˌī, -'ō(ə)r-ē; -ē-'ȯ(ə)r-\ *adv* [NL, lit., from the stronger (argument)] : with greater reason or more convincing force — used in drawing a conclusion that is inferred to be even more certain than another ⟨the man of prejudice is, *a fortiori*, a man of limited mental vision⟩
afoul of \ə-'faůl-əv\ *prep* **1** : in or into collision or entanglement with **2** : in or into conflict with
Afr *abbr* Africa; African
Afr- *or* **Afro-** *comb form* [L, *Afr-, Afer*] : African ⟨*Afr*american⟩ : African and ⟨*Afro*-Asiatic⟩
afraid \ə-'frād, *South also* ə-'fre(ə)d\ *adj* [ME *affraied*, fr. pp. of *affraien* to frighten — more at AFFRAY] **1** : filled with fear or apprehension ⟨~ of machines⟩ ⟨~ for his job⟩ **2** : filled with concern or regret over an unwanted situation ⟨I'm ~ I won't be able to go⟩ **3** : having a dislike for something : DISINCLINED, RELUCTANT ⟨~ of hard work⟩ ***syn*** see FEARFUL ***ant*** unafraid, sanguine
A–frame \'ā-ˌfrām\ *n* : a building typically having triangular front and rear walls and a roof reaching to the ground
afreet *or* **afrit** \'af-ˌrēt, ə-'frēt\ *n* [Ar *'ifrīt*] : a powerful evil jinn, demon, or monstrous giant in Arabic mythology
afresh \ə-'fresh\ *adv* : from a fresh beginning : ANEW, AGAIN
Af·ri·can \'af-ri-kən\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Africa **2** : an individual of immediate or remote African ancestry; *esp* : NEGRO — **African** *adj* — **Af·ri·can·ness** \-kən-nəs\ *n*

Af·ri·can·der *or* **Af·ri·kan·der** \ˌaf-ri-'kan-dər\ *n* [Afrik *Afrikaner, Afrikaander,* lit., Afrikaner] : any of a breed of tall red large-horned humped southern African cattle used chiefly for meat or draft

Af·ri·can·ism \'af-ri-kə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* **1** : a characteristic feature (as a custom or belief) of African culture **2** : a characteristic feature of an African language occurring in a non-African language **3** : allegiance to the traditions, interests, or ideals of Africa

Af·ri·can·ist \-nəst\ *n* : a specialist in African languages or cultures

Af·ri·can·ize \-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to cause to acquire a distinctively African trait **2** : to bring under the control or the cultural or civil supremacy of Africans and esp. Negroes **3** : to replace (a non-African) with an African — **Af·ri·can·iza·tion** \ˌaf-ri-kə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n*

African mahogany *n* : MAHOGANY 1b

African violet *n* : any of several tropical African plants (esp. *Saintpaulia ionantha*) of the gloxinia family widely grown as houseplants for their velvety fleshy leaves and showy purple, pink, or white flowers

[1]Af·ri·kaans \ˌaf-ri-'kän(t)s, -'känz, 'af-ri-ˌ\ *n* [Afrik, fr. *afrikaans,* adj., African, fr. obs. Afrik *afrikanisch,* fr. L *africanus*] : a language developed from 17th century Dutch that is one of the official languages of the Republic of So. Africa

[2]Afrikaans *adj* : of or relating to Afrikaners or Afrikaans

Af·ri·ka·ner \ˌaf-ri-'kän-ər\ *n* [Afrik, lit., African, fr. L *africanus*] : a So. African native of European descent; *esp* : an Afrikaans-speaking descendant of the 17th century Dutch settlers

[1]Af·ro \'af-(ˌ)rō\ *adj* [prob. fr. *Afro-American*] : having the hair shaped into a round bushy mass

[2]Afro *n, pl* **Afros** : an Afro hairstyle



Afro

Af·ro–Amer·i·can \ˌaf-rō-ə-'mer-ə-kən\ *n* : an American of African and esp. of Negroid descent — **Afro–American** *adj*

Af·ro–Asi·at·ic languages \ˌaf-rō-ˌā-z(h)ē-ˌat-ik- *also* -shē-\ *n pl* : a family of languages widely distributed over southwestern Asia and northern Africa comprising the Semitic, Egyptian, Berber, Cushitic, and Chad subfamilies

[1]aft \'aft\ *adv* [ME *afte* back, fr. OE *æftan* from behind, behind; akin to OE *æfter*] : near, toward, or in the stern of a ship or the tail of an aircraft : ABAFT ⟨called all hands ~⟩

[2]aft *adj* : REARWARD, [4]AFTER 2 ⟨the ~ decks⟩

[3]aft *Scot var of* OFT

[4]aft *abbr* afternoon

AFT *abbr* American Federation of Teachers

[1]af·ter \'af-tər\ *adv* [ME, fr. OE *æfter;* akin to OHG *aftar* after] : following in time or place : AFTERWARD, BEHIND, LATER ⟨we arrived shortly ~ ⟩ ⟨returned 20 years ~ ⟩

[2]after *prep* **1 a** : behind in place **b** (1) : subsequent to in time or order (2) : subsequent to and in view of ⟨~ all our advice⟩ **2** — used as a function word to indicate the object of a stated or implied action ⟨go ~ gold⟩ **3** : so as to resemble: as **a** : in accordance with **b** : with the name of or a name derived from that of **c** : in the characteristic manner of **d** : in imitation of

[3]after *conj* : subsequently to the time when

[4]after *adj* **1** : later in time : SUBSEQUENT ⟨in ~ years⟩ **2** : located toward the rear and esp. toward the stern of a ship or tail of an aircraft

[5]after *n* : AFTERNOON

after all *adv* : in spite of considerations to the contrary : NEVERTHELESS ⟨decided to take the train *after all*⟩

af·ter·birth \'af-tər-ˌbərth\ *n* : the placenta and fetal membranes that are expelled after delivery

af·ter·burn·er \-ˌbər-nər\ *n* **1** : an auxiliary burner attached to the tail pipe of a turbojet engine for injecting fuel into the hot exhaust gases and burning it to provide extra thrust **2** : a device for burning or catalytically destroying unburned or partially burned carbon compounds in exhaust (as from an automobile)

af·ter·care \-ˌke(ə)r, -ˌka(ə)r\ *n* : the care, treatment, help, or supervision given to persons discharged from an institution (as a hospital or prison)

af·ter·clap \-ˌklap\ *n* : an unexpected damaging or unsettling event following a supposedly closed affair

af·ter·damp \-ˌdamp\ *n* : a toxic gas mixture remaining after an explosion of firedamp in mines

af·ter·deck \-ˌdek\ *n* : the part of a deck abaft midships

af·ter·ef·fect \'af-tə-rə-ˌfekt\ *n* : an effect that follows its cause after an interval

af·ter·glow \'af-tər-ˌglō\ *n* **1** : a glow remaining where a light has disappeared **2** : a reflection of past splendor, success, or emotion

af·ter–hours \ˌaf-tə-'raù(-ə)rz\ *adj* **1** : engaged in after closing time ⟨~ drinking⟩ **2** : operating after a legal or conventional closing time ⟨an ~ nightclub⟩

af·ter·im·age \'af-tə-ˌrim-ij\ *n* : a usu. visual sensation occurring after stimulation by its external cause has ceased

af·ter·life \'af-tər-ˌlīf\ *n* **1** : an existence after death **2** : a later period in one's life

af·ter·math \-ˌmath\ *n* [[4]*after* + *math* (mowing, crop)] **1** : a second-growth crop — called also *rowen* **2** : CONSEQUENCE, RESULT ⟨stricken with guilt as an ~ of the accident⟩ **3** : the period immediately following a usu. ruinous event ⟨in the ~ of the war⟩

af·ter·most \-ˌmōst\ *adj* : nearest the stern of a ship : farthest aft

af·ter·noon \ˌaf-tər-'nün\ *n* **1** : the part of day between noon and sunset **2** : a relatively late period (as of time or life) ⟨in the ~ of the 19th century⟩ — **afternoon** *adj*

af·ter·noons \-'nünz\ *adv* : in the afternoon repeatedly : on any afternoon

af·ter·piece \'af-tər-ˌpēs\ *n* : a short usu. comic entertainment performed after a play

af·ters \'af-tərz\ *n pl, Brit* : DESSERT

af·ter–shave \'af-tər-ˌshāv\ *n* : a usu. scented lotion for use on the face after shaving

af·ter·taste \-ˌtāst\ *n* : persistence of a sensation (as of flavor or an emotion) after the stimulating agent or experience has gone

af·ter–tax \'af-tər-ˌtaks\ *adj* : remaining after payment of taxes and esp. of income tax ⟨an ~ profit⟩

af·ter·thought \-ˌthȯt\ *n* **1** : an idea occurring later **2** : a part, feature, or device not thought of originally

af·ter·time \-ˌtīm\ *n* : FUTURE

af·ter·ward \'af-tə(r)-wərd\ *or* **af·ter·wards** \-wərdz\ *adv* : at a later or succeeding time : SUBSEQUENTLY, THEREAFTER

af·ter·word \-ˌwərd\ *n* : EPILOGUE 1

af·ter·world \-ˌwərld\ *n* : a future world : a world after death

Ag *symbol* [L *argentum*] silver

AG *abbr* **1** adjutant general **2** attorney general

ag- — see AD-

Aga·da \ə-'gäd-ə, -'gȯd-\ *var of* HAGGADAH

again \ə-'gen, -'gin, -'gān\ *adv* [ME, opposite, again, fr. OE *ongēan* opposite, back, fr. *on* + *gēn, gēan* still, again; akin to OE *gēan-* against, OHG *gegin* against, toward] **1** : in return : BACK ⟨swore he would pay him ~ when he was able —Shak.⟩ **2** : another time : once more : ANEW ⟨I shall not look upon his like ~ —Shak.⟩ **3** : on the other hand ⟨he might go, and ~ he might not⟩ **4** : in addition : BESIDES ⟨~, there is another matter to consider⟩

again and again *adv* : OFTEN, REPEATEDLY

[1]against \ə-'gen(t)st, -'gin(t)st, -gān(t)st\ *prep* [ME, alter. of *againes,* fr. *again*] **1 a** : directly opposite : FACING **b** *obs* : exposed to **2 a** : in opposition or hostility to **b** : unfavorable to **c** : as a defense or protection from **3** : compared or contrasted with **4** : in preparation or provision for **5 a** : in the direction of and into contact with **b** : in contact with **6** : in a direction opposite to the motion or course of : counter to **7 a** : as a counterbalance to **b** : in exchange for **c** : as a charge on **8** : before the background of

[2]against *conj, archaic* : in preparation for the time when ⟨throw on another log of wood ~ father comes home —Charles Dickens⟩

Ag·a·mem·non \ˌag-ə-'mem-ˌnän, -nən\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Agamemnōn*] : a king of Mycenae who was the leader of the Greeks in the Trojan War

aga·mete \ˌā-gə-'mēt, (ˌ)ā-'gam-ˌēt\ *n* [ISV, fr. Gk *agametos* unmarried, fr. *a-* + *gamein* to marry — more at GAMETE] : an asexual reproductive cell

agam·ic \(ˌ)ā-'gam-ik\ *adj* [Gk *agamos* unmarried, fr. *a-* + *gamos* marriage — more at BIGAMY] : ASEXUAL, PARTHENOGENETIC — **agam·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

agam·ma·glob·u·lin·emia \ˌā-ˌgam-ə-ˌgläb-yə-lə-'nē-mē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. *a-* + ISV *gamma globulin* + NL *-emia*] : a condition in which the body forms few or no gamma globulins or antibodies — **agam·ma·glob·u·lin·emic** \-'nē-mik\ *adj*

aga·mo·sper·my \(ˌ)ā-'gam-ə-ˌspər-mē, 'ag-ə-mō-ˌspər-\ *n* [Gk *agamos* + E *-spermy*] : APOGAMY; *specif* : apogamy in which sexual union is not completed and the embryo is produced from the innermost layer of the integument of the female gametophyte

ag·a·pan·thus \ˌag-ə-'pan(t)-thəs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *agapē* + *anthos* flower — more at ANTHOLOGY] : any of several African plants (genus *Agapanthus*) of the lily family cultivated for their umbels of showy blue or purple flowers

[1]agape \ə-'gāp *also* -'gap\ *adj or adv* **1** : wide open : GAPING **2** : being in a state of wonder

[2]aga·pe \ä-'gä-(ˌ)pā, 'äg-ə-ˌpā\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *agapē,* lit., love] **1** : LOVE 4a **2** : LOVE FEAST — **aga·pe·ic** \ˌäg-ə-'pā-ik\ *adj* — **aga·pe·i·cal·ly** \-'pā-ə-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

agar \'äg-ˌär\ *n* [Malay *agar-agar*] **1** : a gelatinous colloidal extractive of a red alga (as of the genera *Gelidium, Gracilaria,* and *Eucheuma*) used esp. in culture media or as a gelling and stabilizing agent in foods **2** : a culture medium containing agar

agar–agar \ˌäg-ˌär-'äg-ˌär\ *n* [Malay] : AGAR

aga·ric \'ag-ə-rik, ə-'gar-ik\ *n* [L *agaricum,* a fungus, fr. Gk *agarikon*] **1 a** : any of several pore fungi (genus *Fomes*) used esp. in the preparation of punk **b** : the dried fruiting body of a fungus (*F. officinalis*) formerly used in medicine **2** : any of a family (Agaricaceae) of fungi with the sporophore usu. resembling an umbrella and with numerous lamellae on the underside of the cap

ag·ate \'ag-ət\ *n, often attrib* [MF, fr. L *achates,* fr. Gk *achatēs*] **1** : a fine-grained variegated chalcedony having its colors arranged in stripes, blended in clouds, or showing mosslike forms **2** : something made of or fitted with agate: as **a** : a drawplate used by gold-wire drawers **b** : a bookbinder's burnisher **c** : a playing marble of agate **3** : a size of type approximately 5½ point

agate line *n* : a space one column wide and 1/14 inch deep used as a unit of measurement in classified advertising

ag·ate·ware \'ag-ət-ˌwa(ə)r, -ˌwe(ə)r\ *n* **1** : pottery veined and mottled to resemble agate **2** : an enameled iron or steel ware for household utensils

aga·ve \ə-'gäv-ē\ *n* [NL *Agave,* genus name, fr. L, a daughter of Cadmus, fr. Gk *Agauē*] : any of a genus (*Agave*) of plants of the amaryllis family having spiny-margined leaves and flowers in tall spreading panicles and including some cultivated for their fiber or for ornament

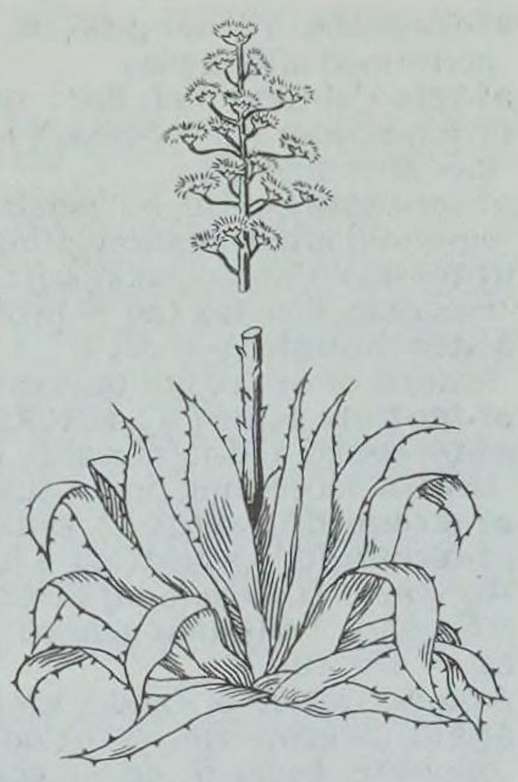
agaze \ə-'gāz\ *adj* : engaged in the act of gazing

AGC *abbr* advanced graduate certificate

agcy *abbr* agency

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[1]age \'āj\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *aage*, fr. (assumed) VL *aetaticum*, fr. L *aetat-*, *aetas*, fr. *aevum* lifetime — more at AYE] **1 a** : the part of an existence extending from the beginning to any given time ⟨a boy 10 years of ~⟩ **b** : LIFETIME **c** : the time of life at which some particular qualification, power, or capacity arises or rests ⟨the voting ~ is 18⟩; *specif* : MAJORITY **d** : one of the stages of life **e** : an advanced stage of life **2 a** : the period contemporary with a person's lifetime or with his active life **b** : GENERATION **c** : a long time — usu. used in pl. ⟨haven't seen him in ~s⟩ **3** : a period of time dominated by a central figure or prominent feature ⟨the ~ of Pericles⟩: as **a** : a period in history or human progress ⟨the ~ of reptiles⟩ ⟨the ~ of exploration⟩ **b** : a cultural period marked by the prominence of a particular item ⟨entering the atomic ~⟩ **c** : a division of geologic time that is usu. shorter than an epoch **4** : an individual's development measured in terms of the years requisite for like development of an average individual ***syn*** see PERIOD



agave

[2]age *vb* **aged; ag·ing** *or* **age·ing** *vi* **1** : to become old : show the effects or the characteristics of increasing age **2 a** : to acquire a desirable quality by standing undisturbed for some time ⟨after flour is milled it ~s —S. C. Prescott & B. E. Proctor⟩ **b** : to become mellow or mature : RIPEN ⟨this cheese has *aged* for nearly two years⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to become old **2** : to bring to a state fit for use or to maturity

-age \ij\ *n suffix* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *-aticum*] **1** : aggregate : collection ⟨track*age*⟩ **2 a** : action : process ⟨haul*age*⟩ **b** : cumulative result of ⟨break*age*⟩ **c** : rate of ⟨dos*age*⟩ **3** : house or place of ⟨orphan*age*⟩ **4** : state : rank ⟨peon*age*⟩ **5** : fee : charge ⟨post*age*⟩

aged \'ā-jəd, 'ājd; 'ājd *for 1b*\ *adj* **1** : grown old: as **a** : of an advanced age **b** : having attained a specified age ⟨a man ~ 40 years⟩ **c** : well advanced toward reduction to base level — used of topographic features **2** : typical of old age — **aged·ness** \'ā-jəd-nəs\ *n*

age–group \'āj-ˌgrüp\ *n* : a segment of a population that is of approximately the same age or is within a specified range of ages

age·ism \'ā-(ˌ)jiz-əm\ *n* : prejudice or discrimination against a particular age-group and esp. against the elderly — **age·ist** \-jist\ *adj*

age·less \'āj-ləs\ *adj* **1** : not growing old or showing the effects of age **2** : TIMELESS, ETERNAL ⟨~ truths⟩ — **age·less·ly** *adv* — **age·less·ness** *n*

age·long \'āj-ˌlȯŋ\ *adj* : lasting for an age : EVERLASTING

age–mate \-ˌmāt\ *n* : one who is of approximately the same age as another

agen·cy \'ā-jən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the capacity, condition, or state of acting or of exerting power : OPERATION **2** : a person or thing through which power is exerted or an end is achieved : INSTRUMENTALITY ⟨communicated through the ~ of his ambassador⟩ **3 a** : the office or function of an agent **b** : the relationship between a principal and his agent **4** : an establishment engaged in doing business for another ⟨an advertising ~⟩ **5** : an administrative division (as of a government) ⟨the ~ for consumer protection⟩

agency shop *n* : a shop in which the union serves as the agent for and receives dues and assessments from all employees in the bargaining unit regardless of union membership

agen·da \ə-'jen-də\ *n* [L, neut. pl. of *agendum*, gerundive of *agere*] : a list, outline, or plan of things to be considered or done ⟨~s of faculty meetings⟩ — **agen·da·less** \-də-ləs\ *adj*

agen·dum \-dəm\ *n, pl* **-da** \-də\ *or* **-dums** [L] **1** : AGENDA **2** : an item on an agenda

agene \'ā-ˌjēn\ *n* [fr. *Agene*, a trademark] : the trichloride of nitrogen

agen·e·sis \(')ā-'jen-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] : lack or failure of development (as of a body part)

age·nize \'ā-jə-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-nized; -niz·ing** : to treat (flour) with nitrogen trichloride

agent \'ā-jənt\ *n* [ME, fr. ML *agent-*, *agens*, fr. L, prp. of *agere* to drive, lead, act, do; akin to ON *aka* to travel in a vehicle, Gk *agein* to drive, lead] **1 a** : something that produces or is capable of producing an effect : an active or efficient cause **b** : a chemically, physically, or biologically active principle **2** : one that acts or exerts power **3** : a person responsible for his acts **4** : a means or instrument by which a guiding intelligence achieves a result **5** : one who acts for or in the place of another by authority from him: as **a** : a representative, emissary, or official of a government ⟨crown ~⟩ ⟨secret-service ~⟩ **b** : one engaged in undercover activities (as espionage) : SPY ⟨secret ~⟩ ***syn*** see MEAN

agent–general *n, pl* **agents–general** : a chief agent; *specif* : the representative in England of a British dominion

agent pro·vo·ca·teur \'äzh-ˌäⁿ-prō-ˌväk-ə-'tər, 'ā-jənt-\ *n, pl* **agents provocateurs** \'äzh-ˌäⁿ-prō-ˌväk-ə-'tər, 'ā-jən(t)s-prō-\ [F, lit., provoking agent] : one employed to associate himself with members of a group or with suspected persons and by pretended sympathy with their aims or attitudes to incite them to some action that will make them liable to apprehension and punishment

agent·ry \'ā-jən-trē\ *n, pl* **-ries** : the office, duties, or activities of an agent

age of consent : the age at which one is legally competent to give consent (as to marriage)

age of reason **1** : a period characterized by a prevailing belief in the use of reason; *esp* : the 18th century in England and France **2** : the time of life when one begins to be able to distinguish right from wrong

age–old \'ā-'jōld\ *adj* : having existed for ages : ANCIENT

ag·er·a·tum \ˌaj-ə-'rāt-əm\ *n, pl* **-tums** [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *agēratos* ageless, fr. *a-* + *gēras* old age — more at CORN] : any of a large genus (*Ageratum*) of tropical American composite herbs often cultivated for their small showy heads of blue or white flowers; *also* : any of several related blue-flowered plants (genus *Eupatorium*)

Ag·ge·us \a-'gē-əs\ *n* [LL *Aggaeus*, fr. Gk *Aggaios*, fr. Heb *Ḥaggai*] : HAGGAI

[1]ag·gie \'ag-ē\ *n* [*ag*ate + *-ie*] : a playing marble; *specif* : AGATE 2c

[2]aggie *n, often cap* [*ag*ricultural + *-ie*] : an agricultural school or college; *also* : a student at such an institution

ag·gior·na·men·to \ə-ˌjȯr-nə-'men-(ˌ)tō\ *n, pl* **-tos** [It, fr. *aggiornare* to bring up to date, fr. *a* to (fr. L *ad-*) + *giorno* day, fr. LL *diurnum* day — more at JOURNEY] : a bringing up to date : MODERNIZATION ⟨dedicated to the ~ of the church⟩

[1]ag·glom·er·ate \ə-'gläm-ə-ˌrāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *agglomeratus*, pp. of *agglomerare* to heap up, join, fr. *ad-* + *glomer-*, *glomus* ball — more at CLAM] : to gather into a ball, mass, or cluster

[2]ag·glom·er·ate \-rət\ *adj* : gathered into a ball, mass, or cluster; *specif* : clustered or growing together but not coherent ⟨an ~ flower head⟩

[3]ag·glom·er·ate \-rət\ *n* **1** : a jumbled mass or collection **2** : a rock composed of volcanic fragments of various sizes and degrees of angularity

ag·glom·er·a·tion \ə-ˌgläm-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : the action or process of collecting in a mass **2** : a heap or cluster of disparate elements ⟨urban ~s knit together by the new railways —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ — **ag·glom·er·a·tive** \-'gläm-ə-ˌrāt-iv\ *adj*

ag·glu·ti·na·bil·i·ty \ə-ˌglüt-ᵊn-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* : capacity (as of red blood cells) to be agglutinated

[1]ag·glu·ti·nate \ə-'glüt-ᵊn-ət\ *adj* : AGGLUTINATIVE 2

[2]ag·glu·ti·nate \-ᵊn-ˌāt\ *vb* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [L *agglutinatus*, pp. of *agglutinare* to glue to, fr. *ad-* + *glutinare* to glue, fr. *glutin-*, *gluten* glue — more at GLUTEN] *vt* **1** : to cause to adhere : FASTEN **2** : to combine into a compound : attach to a base as an affix **3** : to cause to undergo agglutination ~ *vi* **1** : to unite or combine into a group or mass **2** : to form words by agglutination

ag·glu·ti·na·tion \ə-ˌglüt-ᵊn-'ā-shən\ *n* **1** : the action or process of agglutinating **2** : a mass or group formed by the union of separate elements **3** : the formation of derivational or inflectional words by putting together constituents of which each expresses a single definite meaning **4** : a reaction in which particles (as red blood cells or bacteria) suspended in a liquid collect into clumps and which occurs esp. as a serologic response to a specific antibody

ag·glu·ti·na·tive \ə-'glüt-ᵊn-ˌāt-iv, -ət-\ *adj* **1** : ADHESIVE **2** : characterized by agglutination

ag·glu·ti·nin \ə-'glüt-ᵊn-ən\ *n* [ISV *agglutin*ation + *-in*] : a substance (as an antibody) producing agglutination

ag·glu·ti·no·gen \ə-'glüt-ᵊn-ə-jən\ *n* [*agglutin*in + *-o-* + *-gen*] : an antigen whose presence results in the formation of an agglutinin — **ag·glu·ti·no·gen·ic** \-ˌglüt-ᵊn-ə-'jen-ik\ *adj*

ag·gra·da·tion \ˌag-rə-'dā-shən\ *n* : a modification of the earth's surface in the direction of uniformity of grade by deposition

ag·grade \ə-'grād\ *vt* [*ad-* + *grade*] : to fill with detrital material

ag·gran·dize \ə-'gran-ˌdīz, 'ag-rən-\ *vt* **-dized; -diz·ing** [F *agrandiss-*, stem of *agrandir*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *grandir* to increase, fr. L *grandire*, fr. *grandis* great] **1** : to make great or greater : INCREASE, ENLARGE **2** : to make appear great or greater : praise highly ⟨*aggrandized* the one and disparaged the other⟩ **3** : to enhance the power, wealth, position, or reputation of ⟨exploited the situation to ~ himself⟩ — **ag·gran·dize·ment** \ə-'gran-dəz-mənt, -ˌdīz-; ˌag-rən-'dīz-\ *n* — **ag·gran·diz·er** \ə-'gran-ˌdī-zər, 'ag-rən-\ *n*

ag·gra·vate \'ag-rə-ˌvāt\ *vt* **-vat·ed; -vat·ing** [L *aggravatus*, pp. of *aggravare* to make heavier, fr. *ad-* + *gravare* to burden, fr. *gravis* heavy — more at GRIEVE] **1** *obs* **a** : to make heavy : BURDEN **b** : INCREASE **2** : to make worse, more serious, or more severe : intensify unpleasantly ⟨problems have been *aggravated* by neglect⟩ **3 a** : to rouse to displeasure or anger by usu. persistent and often petty goading **b** : to produce inflammation in ***syn*** **1** see INTENSIFY ***ant*** alleviate **2** see IRRITATE

aggravated assault *n* : an assault that is more serious than a common assault: as **a** : an assault combined with an intent to commit a crime **b** : any of various assaults so defined by statute

ag·gra·va·tion \ˌag-rə-'vā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act, action, or result of aggravating; *esp* : an increasing in seriousness or severity **2** : an act or circumstance that intensifies or makes worse **3** : IRRITATION, PROVOCATION

[1]ag·gre·gate \'ag-ri-gət\ *adj* [ME *aggregat*, fr. L *aggregatus*, pp. of *aggregare* to add to, fr. *ad-* + *greg-*, *grex* flock — more at GREGARIOUS] : formed by the collection of units or particles into a body, mass, or amount : COLLECTIVE: as **a** (1) : clustered in a dense mass or head ⟨an ~ flower⟩ **a** (2) : formed from the several ovaries of a single flower **b** : composed of mineral crystals of one or more kinds or of mineral rock fragments **c** : taking all units as a whole : TOTAL ⟨~ earnings⟩ ⟨~ sales⟩ — **ag·gre·gate·ly** *adv* — **ag·gre·gate·ness** *n*

[2]ag·gre·gate \-ˌgāt\ *vt* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** **1** : to collect or gather into a mass or whole **2** : to amount in the aggregate to : TOTAL

[3]ag·gre·gate \-gət\ *n* **1** : a mass or body of units or parts somewhat loosely associated with one another **2** : the whole sum or amount : SUM TOTAL **3 a** : an aggregate rock **b** : any of several hard inert materials (as sand, gravel, or slag) used for mixing with a cementing material to form concrete, mortar, or plaster **c** : a clustered mass of individual soil particles varied in shape, ranging in size from a microscopic granule to a small crumb, and considered the basic structural unit of soil **4** : SET 19 — **in the aggregate** : considered as a whole : COLLECTIVELY ⟨knowledge of . . . man *in the aggregate* rather as an individual person —G. B. Dearing⟩

ag·gre·ga·tion \ˌag-ri-'gā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the collecting of units or parts into a mass or whole **b** : the condition of being so collected

2 : a group, body, or mass composed of many distinct parts — **ag·gre·ga·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

ag·gre·ga·tive \'ag-ri-ˌgāt-iv\ *adj* **1** : tending to aggregate **2** : of or relating to an aggregate — **ag·gre·ga·tive·ly** *adv*

ag·gress \ə-'gres\ *vi* : to commit aggression : act aggressively ⟨westerners even ~*ed* against one another —A. E. Stevenson †1965⟩

ag·gres·sion \ə-'gresh-ən\ *n* [L *aggressus*, pp. of *aggredi* to attack, fr. *ad-* + *gradi* to step, go — more at GRADE] **1** : a forceful action or procedure (as an unprovoked attack) esp. when intended to dominate or master **2** : the practice of making attacks or encroachments; *esp* : unprovoked violation by one country of the territorial integrity of another **3** : hostile, injurious, or destructive behavior or outlook esp. when caused by frustration

ag·gres·sive \ə-'gres-iv\ *adj* **1 a** : tending toward or practicing aggression ⟨~ behavior⟩ **b** : marked by combative readiness ⟨an ~ fighter⟩ **2 a** : marked by driving forceful energy or initiative : ENTERPRISING ⟨an ~ salesman⟩ **b** : marked by obtrusive energy — **ag·gres·sive·ly** *adv* — **ag·gres·sive·ness** *n* — **ag·gres·siv·i·ty** \ˌag-ˌre-'siv-ət-ē\ *n*

syn AGGRESSIVE, MILITANT, ASSERTIVE, SELF-ASSERTIVE, PUSHING *shared meaning element* : conspicuously or obtrusively active or energetic

ag·gres·sor \ə-'gres-ər\ *n* : one that commits or practices aggression

ag·grieve \ə-'grēv\ *vt* **ag·grieved; ag·griev·ing** [ME *agreven*, fr. MF *agrever*, fr. L *aggravare* to make heavier] **1** : to give pain or trouble to : DISTRESS **2** : to inflict injury on

ag·grieved \ə-'grēvd\ *adj* **1** : troubled or distressed in spirit **2 a** : showing or expressing grief, injury, or offense ⟨an ~ plea⟩ **b** : suffering from an infringement or denial of legal rights ⟨~ minority groups⟩ — **ag·griev·ed·ly** \-'grē-vəd-lē\ *adv*

Aghan \ə-'gän\ *n* [Hindi, fr. Skt *Agrahāyaṇa*] : a month of the Hindu year — see MONTH table

aghast \ə-'gast\ *adj* [ME *agast*, fr. pp. of *agasten* to frighten, fr. *a-* (perfective prefix) + *gasten* to frighten — more at ABIDE, GAST] : struck with terror, amazement, or horror : SHOCKED ⟨were ~ when they heard of his defection⟩

ag·ile \'aj-əl\ *adj* [MF, fr. L *agilis*, fr. *agere* to drive, act — more at AGENT] **1** : marked by ready ability to move with quick easy grace **2** : mentally quick and resourceful — **ag·ile·ly** \-ə(l)-lē\ *adv*

syn AGILE, NIMBLE, BRISK, SPRY *shared meaning element* : acting or moving with easy alacrity ***ant*** torpid

agil·i·ty \ə-'jil-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** : the quality or state of being agile : NIMBLENESS, DEXTERITY ⟨played with increasing ~⟩

agin \ə-'gin\ *dial var of* AGAINST

aging *pres part of* AGE

agin·ner \ə-'gin-ər\ *n* [*agin* + *-er*] *slang* : one who opposes change

agio \'aj-(ē-ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **agios** [It, alter. of It dial. *lajjë*, fr. MGk *allagion* exchange, fr. Gk *allagē* exchange, fr. *allos* other — more at ELSE] : a premium or percentage paid for the exchange of one currency for another; *also* : the premium or discount on foreign bills of exchange

ag·i·tate \'aj-ə-ˌtāt\ *vb* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [L *agitatus*, pp. of *agitare*, freq. of *agere* to drive — more at AGENT] *vt* **1 a** *obs* : to give motion to **b** : to move with an irregular, rapid, or violent action ⟨the storm *agitated* the sea⟩ **2** : to excite and often trouble the mind or feelings of : DISTURB **3 a** : to discuss excitedly and earnestly **b** : to stir up public discussion of ~ *vi* : to attempt to arouse public feeling ⟨*agitated* for better schools⟩ ***syn*** **1** see SHAKE **2** see DISCOMPOSE ***ant*** calm, tranquilize — **ag·i·tat·ed·ly** *adv* — **ag·i·ta·tion** \ˌaj-ə-'tā-shən\ *n* — **ag·i·ta·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

ag·i·ta·tive \'aj-ə-ˌtāt-iv\ *adj* : causing or tending to cause agitation

ag·i·ta·to \ˌaj-ə-'tät-(ˌ)ō\ *adv or adj* [It, lit., agitated, fr. L *agitatus*] : in a restless and agitated manner — used as a direction in music

ag·i·ta·tor \'aj-ə-ˌtāt-ər\ *n* : one that agitates: as **a** : one who stirs up public feeling on controversial issues ⟨political ~*s*⟩ **b** : a device or an apparatus for stirring or shaking

ag·it·prop \'aj-ət-ˌpräp\ *n* [Russ, office of agitation and propaganda, fr. *agitatsiya* agitation + *prop*aganda] : political and esp. pro-communist propaganda promulgated esp. in literature, drama, music, or art — **agitprop** *adj*

Aglaia \ə-'glī-ə, -'glā-(y)ə\ *n* [L, fr. Gk] : one of the three Graces

aglare \ə-'gla(ə)r, -'gle(ə)r\ *adj* : GLARING ⟨his eyes ~ with fury⟩ ⟨buildings ~ in the sunlight⟩

agleam \ə-'glēm\ *adj* : reflecting light by gleaming

ag·let \'ag-lət\ *n* [ME *aglet*, fr. MF *aguillette, aiguillette*, dim. of *aguille, aiguille* needle, fr. LL *acicula, acucula* ornamental pin, dim. of L *acus* needle, pin — more at ACUTE] **1** : the plain or ornamental tag covering the ends of a lace or point **2** : any of various ornamental studs, cords, or pins worn on clothing

agley \ə-'glā, -'glē, -'glī\ *adv* [Sc, lit., squintingly, fr. ¹*a-* + *gley* to squint] *chiefly Scot* : AWRY, WRONG ⟨the best-laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft ~ —Robert Burns⟩

aglit·ter \ə-'glit-ər\ *adj* : reflecting light by glittering

aglow \ə-'glō\ *adj* : radiant with warmth or excitement

agly·con \ag-'lī-ˌkän\ *or* **agly·cone** \-ˌkōn\ *n* [ISV *a-* (fr. Gk *ha-*, *a-* together) + *glyc-* + *-on*, *-one*] : an organic compound (as a phenol or alcohol) combined with the sugar portion of a glycoside

ag·nail \'ag-ˌnāl\ *n* [ME, corn on the foot or toe, fr. OE *angnægl*, fr. *ang-* (akin to *enge* tight, painful) + *nægl* metal nail — more at ANGER, NAIL] : a sore or inflammation about a fingernail or toenail; *also* : HANGNAIL

¹ag·nate \'ag-ˌnāt\ *n* [L *agnatus*, fr. pp. of *agnasci* to be born in addition to, fr. *ad-* + *nasci* to be born — more at NATION] **1** : a relative whose kinship is traceable exclusively through males **2** : a paternal kinsman

²agnate *adj* **1** : related through male descent or on the father's side **2** : ALLIED, AKIN — **ag·nat·ic** \ag-'nat-ik\ *adj* — **ag·nat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **ag·na·tion** \-'nā-shən\ *n*

Ag·ne·an \'äg-nē-ən\ *n* [*Agni*, ancient kingdom in Turkestan] : TOCHARIAN A

ag·nize \ag-'nīz\ *vt* **ag·nized; ag·niz·ing** [L *agn*oscere to acknowledge (fr. *ad-* + *noscere* to know) + E *-ize* (as in *recognize*) — more at KNOW] *archaic* : RECOGNIZE, ACKNOWLEDGE

ag·no·men \ag-'nō-mən\ *n, pl* **-nom·i·na** \-'näm-ə-nə\ *or* **-no·mens** [L, irreg. fr. *ad-* + *nomen* name — more at NAME] : an additional cognomen given to a person by the ancient Romans (as in honor of some achievement)

¹ag·nos·tic \ag-'näs-tik, əg-\ *n* [Gk *agnōstos* unknown, unknowable, fr. *a-* + *gnōstos* known, fr. *gignōskein* to know — more at KNOW] : one who holds the view that any ultimate reality (as God) is unknown and prob. unknowable ***syn*** see ATHEIST — **ag·nos·ti·cism** \-tə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n*

²agnostic *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or being an agnostic or the beliefs of agnostics **2** : NONCOMMITTAL, UNDOGMATIC

Ag·nus Dei \ˌäg-ˌnüs-'dā(-ˌē), ˌän-ˌyüs-; ˌag-nəs-'dē-ˌī\ *n* [ME, fr. LL, lamb of God, fr. its opening words] **1** : a liturgical prayer addressed to Christ as Savior **2** : an image of a lamb often with a halo and a banner and cross as a symbol of Christ



Agnus Dei 2

ago \ə-'gō\ *adj or adv* [ME *agon*, *ago*, fr. pp. of *agon* to pass away, fr. OE *āgān*, fr. *ā-* (perfective prefix) + *gān* to go — more at ABIDE, GO] : earlier than the present time ⟨10 years ~⟩

agog \ə-'gäg\ *adj* [MF *en gogues* in mirth] : full of intense interest or excitement : EAGER ⟨the . . . court was ~ with gossip, scandal and intrigue —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩

¹a–go–go \ä-'gō-(ˌ)gō\ *n* [*Whisky à Gogo*, cafe and discotheque in Paris, France, from F *à gogo* galore, fr. MF] **1** : DISCOTHEQUE **2** : a usu. small intimate nightclub for dancing to live music and esp. rock'n'roll

²a–go–go *adj* : GO-GO

-a·gogue \ə-ˌgäg\ *n comb form* [F & NL; F, fr. LL *-agogus* promoting the expulsion of, fr. Gk *-agōgos*, fr. *agein* to lead; NL *-agogon*, fr. Gk, neut. of *-agōgos* — more at AGENT] : substance that promotes the secretion or expulsion of ⟨emmen*agogue*⟩

agon \'äg-ˌän, ä-'gōn\ *n* [Gk *agōn*] : CONTEST, CONFLICT; *specif* : the dramatic conflict between the chief characters in a literary work

ag·o·nal \'ag-ən-ᵊl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or associated with agony and esp. the death agony

agone \ə-'gȯn *also* -'gän\ *adj or adv, archaic* : AGO

agon·ic \(ˌ)ā-'gän-ik, ə-\ *adj* [Gk *agōnos* without angle, fr. *a-* + *gōnia* angle — more at -GON] **1** : not forming an angle **2** : being an imaginary line passing through points where there is no magnetic declination and where a freely suspended magnetic needle indicates true north

ag·o·nist \'ag-ə-nəst\ *n* [LL *agonista* competitor, fr. Gk *agōnistēs*, fr. *agōnizesthai* to contend, fr. *agōn*] **1** : one that is engaged in a struggle **2** [back-formation fr. *antagonist*] : a muscle that is checked and controlled by the opposing simultaneous contraction of another muscle

ag·o·nis·tic \ˌag-ə-'nis-tik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the athletic contests of ancient Greece **2** : ARGUMENTATIVE **3** : striving for effect : STRAINED **4** : of, relating to, or being aggressive or defensive social interaction (as fighting, fleeing, or submitting) between individuals usu. of the same species — **ag·o·nis·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* — **ag·o·nis·ti·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ag·o·nize \'ag-ə-ˌnīz\ *vb* **-nized; -niz·ing** *vt* : to cause to suffer agony : TORTURE ~ *vi* **1** : to suffer agony, torture, or anguish ⟨~*s* over every decision⟩ **2** : STRUGGLE

ag·o·nized *adj* : characterized by, suffering, or expressing agony

ag·o·niz·ing *adj* : causing agony : PAINFUL ⟨an ~ reappraisal of his policies⟩ — **ag·o·niz·ing·ly** \-ˌnī-ziŋ-lē\ *adv*

ag·o·ny \'ag-ə-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [ME *agonie*, fr. LL *agonia*, fr. Gk *agōnia* struggle, anguish, fr. *agōn* gathering, contest for a prize, fr. *agein* to lead, celebrate — more at AGENT] **1 a** : intense pain of mind or body : ANGUISH, TORTURE **b** : the struggle that precedes death **2** : a violent struggle or contest **3** : a strong sudden display (as of joy or delight) : OUTBURST ***syn*** see DISTRESS

agony column *n* : a newspaper column of personal advertisements relating esp. to missing relatives or friends

¹ag·o·ra \'ag-ə-rə\ *n, pl* **-ras** *or* **-rae** \-ˌrē, -ˌrī\ [Gk — more at GREGARIOUS] : a gathering place; *esp* : the marketplace in ancient Greece

²ago·ra \ˌäg-ə-'rä\ *n, pl* **ago·rot** \-'rōt\ [N Heb *ăgōrāh*, fr. Heb, a small coin] — see *pound* at MONEY table

ag·o·ra·pho·bia \ˌag-ə-rə-'fō-bē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *agora* + NL *phobia*] : abnormal fear of crossing or of being in open spaces — **ag·o·ra·pho·bi·ac** \-'fō-bē-ˌak\ *n* — **ag·o·ra·pho·bic** \-'fō-bik, -'fäb-ik\ *adj*

agou·ti \ə-'güt-ē\ *n* [F, fr. Sp. *agutí*, fr. Guarani] **1** : a tropical American rodent (genus *Dasyprocta* or *Myoprocta*) about the size of a rabbit **2** : a grizzled color of fur resulting from the barring of each hair in several alternate dark and light bands

agr *or* **agric** *abbr* agricultural; agriculture

agrafe *or* **agraffe** \ə-'graf\ *n* [F *agrafe*] : a hook-and-loop fastening; *esp* : an ornamental clasp used on armor or costumes

agran·u·lo·cyte \(ˌ)ā-'gran-yə-lō-ˌsīt\ *n* : a leukocyte without cytoplasmic granules

agran·u·lo·cy·to·sis \ˌā-ˌgran-yə-lō-ˌsī-'tō-səs\ *n* : a destructive condition marked by severe decrease in blood granulocytes and often associated with the use of certain drugs

ag·ra·pha \'ag-rə-fə\ *n pl* [Gk, neut. pl. of *agraphos* unwritten, fr. *a-* + *graphein* to write — more at CARVE] : sayings of Jesus not in the

canonical gospels but found in other New Testament or early Christian writings

agraph·ia \(')ā-'graf-ē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. ²*a-* + Gk *graphein* to write] : the pathologic loss of the ability to write

¹agrar·i·an \ə-'grer-ē-ən, -'grar-\ *adj* [L *agrarius*, fr. *agr-*, *ager* field — more at ACRE] **1** : of or relating to fields or lands or their tenure **2 a** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the farmer or his way of life **b** : organized or designed to promote agricultural interests ⟨an ~ political party⟩ ⟨~ reforms⟩

²agrarian *n* : a member of an agrarian party or movement

agrar·i·an·ism \-ē-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* : a social or political movement designed to bring about land reforms or to improve the economic status of the farmer

agree \ə-'grē\ *vb* **agreed; agree·ing** [ME *agreen*, fr. MF *agreer*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *gre* will, pleasure, fr. L *gratum*, neut. of *gratus* pleasing, agreeable — more at GRACE] *vt* **1** : ADMIT, CONCEDE **2** : to settle on by common consent : ARRANGE ~ *vi* **1** : to accept or concede something (as the views or wishes of another) typically after resolving points of disagreement **2 a** : to achieve or be in harmony (as of opinion, feeling, or purpose) **b** : to get along together **c** : to come to terms **3 a** : to be similar : CORRESPOND ⟨both copies ~⟩ **b** : to be consistent ⟨the story ~*s* with the facts⟩ **4** : to be fitting, pleasing, or healthful : SUIT ⟨this climate ~*s* with him⟩ **5** : to have an inflectional form denoting identity or a regular correspondence other than identity in a grammatical category (as gender, number, case, or person)

syn **1** see ASSENT ***ant*** protest (*against*), differ (*with*)
2 AGREE, CONCUR, COINCIDE *shared meaning element* : to come into or be in harmony regarding a matter of opinion. AGREE implies complete accord usually attained by discussion and adjustment of differences ⟨on some points we all can *agree*⟩ CONCUR tends to suggest cooperative thinking or acting toward an end ⟨for the creation of a masterwork of literature two powers must *concur*, the power of the man and the power of the moment —Matthew Arnold⟩ but sometimes implies no more than approval (as of a decision reached by others). COINCIDE, used more often of opinions, judgments, wishes, or interests than of people, implies an agreement amounting to identity ⟨their wishes *coincide* exactly with my desire⟩ ***ant*** differ, disagree
3 AGREE, SQUARE, CONFORM, ACCORD, COMPORT, HARMONIZE, CORRESPOND *shared meaning element* : to go or exist together without conflict or incongruity ***ant*** differ (*from*)

agree·able \ə-'grē-ə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : pleasing to the mind or senses esp. as according well with one's tastes or needs ⟨an ~ companion⟩ ⟨an ~ change⟩ **2** : ready or willing to agree or consent **3** : being in harmony : CONSONANT ***syn*** see PLEASANT ***ant*** disagreeable — **agree·abil·i·ty** \-ˌgrē-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **agree·able·ness** \-'grē-ə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **agree·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

agree·ment \ə-'grē-mənt\ *n* **1 a** : the act or fact of agreeing **b** : harmony of opinion, action, or character : CONCORD **2 a** : an arrangement as to a course of action **b** : COMPACT, TREATY **3 a** : a contract duly executed and legally binding **b** : the language or instrument embodying such a contract

ag·ri·busi·ness \'ag-rə-ˌbiz-nəs, -nəz\ *n* [*agri*culture + *business*] : a combination of the producing operations of a farm, the manufacture and distribution of farm equipment and supplies, and the processing, storage, and distribution of farm commodities

ag·ri·cul·tur·al \ˌag-ri-'kəlch-(ə-)rəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, used in, or concerned with agriculture — **ag·ri·cul·tur·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

ag·ri·cul·ture \'ag-ri-ˌkəl-chər\ *n* [F, fr. L *agricultura*, fr. *ager* field + *cultura* cultivation — more at ACRE, CULTURE] : the science or art of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock and in varying degrees the preparation of these products for man's use and their disposal (as by marketing) : FARMING — **ag·ri·cultur·ist** \ˌag-ri-'kəlch-(ə-)rəst\ *or* **ag·ri·cul·tur·al·ist** \-(ə-)rə-ləst\ *n*

ag·ri·mo·ny \'ag-rə-ˌmō-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [ME, fr. MF & L; MF *aigremoine*, fr. L *agrimonia*, MS var. of *argemonia*, fr. Gk *argemōnē*] : a common yellow-flowered herb (genus *Agrimonia*) of the rose family having toothed leaves and fruits like burs; *also* : any of several similar or related plants

ag·ri·ol·o·gy \ˌag-rē-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* [Gk *agrios* wild, fr. *agros* field, country] : the comparative study of the customs of nonliterate peoples

agro- *comb form* [F, fr. Gk, fr. *agros* field — more at ACRE] **1** : of or belonging to fields or soil : agricultural ⟨*agro*logy⟩ **2** : agricultural and ⟨*agro*-industrial⟩

ag·ro·bi·ol·o·gy \ˌag-rō-bī-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* : the study of plant nutrition and growth and crop production in relation to soil management — **ag·ro·bi·o·log·ic** \-ˌbī-ə-'läj-ik\ *or* **ag·ro·bi·o·log·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **ag·ro·bi·o·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ag·ro–in·dus·tri·al \ˌag-rō-in-'dəs-trē-əl\ *adj* : of or relating to production (as of power for industry and water for irrigation) for both industrial and agricultural purposes

agrol·o·gy \ə-'gräl-ə-jē\ *n* [ISV] : a branch of agriculture dealing with soils esp. in relation to crops — **ag·ro·log·ic** \ˌag-rə-'läj-ik\ *or* **ag·ro·log·i·cal** \-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **ag·ro·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **agrol·o·gist** \ə-'gräl-ə-jəst\ *n*

agron·o·my \ə-'grän-ə-mē\ *n* [prob. fr. F *agronomie*, fr. *agro-* + *-nomie* -nomy] : a branch of agriculture dealing with field-crop production and soil management — **ag·ro·nom·ic** \ˌag-rə-'näm-ik\ *or* **ag·ro·nom·i·cal** \ˌag-rə-'näm-i-kəl\ *adj* — **ag·ro·nom·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **agron·o·mist** \ə-'grän-ə-məst\ *n*

aground \ə-'graůnd\ *adv or adj* **1** : on or onto the shore or the bottom of a body of water ⟨a ship run ~⟩ **2** : on the ground ⟨planes aloft and ~⟩

agt *abbr* agent

ague \'ā-(ˌ)gyü\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *aguë*, fr. ML (*febris*) *acuta*, lit., sharp fever, fr. L, fem. of *acutus* sharp — more at ACUTE] **1** : a fever (as malaria) marked by paroxysms of chills, fever, and sweating that recur at regular intervals **2** : a fit of shivering : CHILL — **agu·ish** \'ā-ˌgyü-ish\ *adj* — **agu·ish·ly** *adv*

ah \'ä\ *interj* [ME] — used to express delight, relief, regret, or contempt

AH *abbr* **1** ampere-hour **2** anno hegirae **3** arts and humanities

aha \ä-'hä\ *interj* [ME] — used to express surprise, triumph, or derision

AHA *abbr* American Historical Association

ahead \ə-'hed\ *adv or adj* **1 a** : in a forward direction or position : FORWARD **b** : in front **2** : in, into, or for the future ⟨plan ~⟩ ⟨the years ~⟩ **3** : in or toward a more advantageous position ⟨helped others to get ~⟩ **4** : at or to an earlier time : in advance ⟨make payments ~⟩

ahead of *prep* **1** : in front or advance of **2** : in excess of : ABOVE

ahim·sa \ə-'him-ˌsä\ *n* [Skt *ahiṁsā* noninjury] : the Hindu and Buddhist doctrine of refraining from harming any living being

ahis·tor·i·cal \ˌā-his-'tȯr-i-kəl, -'tär-\ *or* **ahis·tor·ic** \-ik\ *adj* : not concerned with or related to history, historical development, or tradition ⟨the ~ attitudes of the radicals⟩

AHL *abbr* American Hockey League

ahold \ə-'hōld\ *n* [prob. fr. the phrase *a hold*] : HOLD ⟨if you could get ~ of a representative who . . . would come along —Norman Mailer⟩

A–horizon *n* : the outer dark-colored layer of a soil profile consisting largely of partly disintegrated organic debris

ahoy \ə-'hȯi\ *interj* [*a-* (as in *aha*) + *hoy*] — used in hailing ⟨ship ~⟩

Ah·ri·man \'är-i-mən, -ˌmän\ *n* [Per, modif. of Av *aŋrō mainyuš* hostile spirit] : Ahura Mazda's antagonist who is a spirit of darkness and evil in Zoroastrianism

Ahu·ra Maz·da \ə-ˌhůr-ə-'maz-də, ä-ˌhůr-\ *n* [Av *Ahuramazda*, lit., wise god] : the Supreme Being represented as a deity of goodness and light in Zoroastrianism

ai \'ī, ä-'ē\ *n* [Pg *ai* or Sp *aí*, fr. Tupi *aí*] : a sloth (genus *Bradypus*) with three claws on each front foot

AI *abbr* **1** ad interim **2** airborne intercept **3** air interception

AIA *abbr* American Institute of Architects

Ai·as \'ī-əs\ *n* [Gk] : AJAX

ai·blins \'ā-blənz\ *adv* [*able* + *-lings*, *-lins* -lings] *chiefly Scot* : PERHAPS

AIChE *abbr* American Institute of Chemical Engineers

¹aid \'ād\ *vb* [ME *eyden*, fr. MF *aider*, fr. L *adjutare*, fr. *adjutus*, pp. of *adjuvare*, fr. *ad-* + *juvare* to help] *vt* : to provide with what is useful or necessary in achieving an end ~ *vi* : to give assistance ***syn*** see HELP ***ant*** injure — **aid·er** *n*

²aid *n* **1** : a subsidy granted to the king by the English parliament until the 18th century for an extraordinary purpose **2 a** : the act of helping **b** : help given : ASSISTANCE; *specif* : tangible means of assistance (as money or supplies) **3 a** : an assisting person or group — compare AIDE **b** : something by which assistance is given : an assisting device ⟨an ~ to understanding⟩ ⟨a visual ~⟩; *specif* : HEARING AID **4** : a tribute paid by a vassal to his lord

AID *abbr* Agency for International Development

aide \'ād\ *n* [short for *aide-de-camp*] : a person who acts as an assistant; *specif* : a military officer acting as assistant to a superior

aide–de–camp \ˌād-di-'kamp, -'kän\ *n, pl* **aides–de–camp** \ˌād(z)-di-\ [F *aide de camp*, lit., camp assistant] : a military aide

aide–mé·moire \ˌād-mām-'wär\ *n, pl* **aide–mémoire** [F, fr. *aider* to aid + *mémoire* memory] **1** : an aid to the memory; *esp* : a mnemonic device **2** : a written summary or outline of important items of a proposed agreement or diplomatic communication : MEMORANDUM

aid·man \'ād-ˌman\ *n* : an army medical corpsman attached to a field unit

ai·grette \ā-'gret, 'ā-ˌ\ *n* [F] **1** : a spray of feathers (as of the egret) for the head **2** : a spray of gems worn on a hat or in the hair

ai·guille \ā-'gwē(ə)l, -'gwēt\ *n* [F, lit., needle — more at AGLET] **1** : a sharp-pointed pinnacle of rock **2** : an instrument for boring holes in stone or other masonry materials

ai·guil·lette \ˌā-gwi-'let\ *n* [F — more at AGLET] : AGLET; *specif* : a shoulder cord worn by designated military aides — compare FOURRAGÈRE

ai·ki·do \ˌī-ki-'dō\ *n* [Jap *aikidō*, fr. *ai-* together, mutual + *ki* spirit + *dō* art] : a Japanese art of self-defense employing locks and holds and utilizing the principle of nonresistance to cause an opponent's own momentum to work against him

ail \'ā(ə)l\ *vb* [ME *eilen*, fr. OE *eglan*; akin to MLG *egelen* to annoy] *vt* : to give physical or emotional pain, discomfort, or trouble to ~ *vi* : to have something the matter; *esp* : to suffer ill health ***syn*** see TROUBLE

ai·lan·thus \ā-'lan(t)-thəs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Amboinese *ai lanto*, lit., tree (of) heaven] : any of a small Asiatic genus (*Ailanthus* of the family Simaroubaceae, the ailanthus family) of chiefly tropical trees and shrubs with bitter bark, pinnate leaves, and terminal panicles of ill-scented greenish flowers

ai·le·ron \'ā-lə-ˌrän\ *n* [F, fr. dim. of *aile* wing] : a movable part of an airplane wing or a movable airfoil external to the wing at the trailing edge for imparting a rolling motion and thus providing lateral control —see AIRPLANE illustration

ail·ment \'ā(ə)l-mənt\ *n* **1** : a bodily disorder or chronic disease **2** : UNREST, UNEASINESS

ai·lu·ro·phile \ī-'lůr-ə-ˌfīl, ā-\ *n* [Gk *ailouros* cat] : a cat fancier : a lover of cats

ai·lu·ro·phobe \-ˌfōb\ *n* [Gk *ailouros* cat] : one who hates or fears cats

¹aim \'ām\ *vb* [ME *aimen*, fr. MF *aesmer & esmer*; MF *aesmer*, fr. OF, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *esmer* to estimate, fr. L *aestimare* — more at ESTEEM] *vi* **1** : to direct a course; *specif* : to point a weapon at an object **2** : ASPIRE, INTEND ⟨~*s* to reform the government⟩ ~ *vt* **1** *obs* : GUESS, CONJECTURE **2 a** : POINT **b** : to direct to or toward a specified object or goal

²aim *n* **1** *obs* : MARK, TARGET **2 a** : the pointing of a weapon at a mark **b** : the ability to hit a target ⟨his ~ was deadly⟩ **c** : a weapon's accuracy or effectiveness **3** *obs* **a** : CONJECTURE, GUESS **b** : the directing of effort toward a goal **4** : a clearly directed intent or purpose ***syn*** see INTENTION — **aim·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **aim·less·ly** *adv* — **aim·less·ness** *n*

ain \'ān\ *adj* [prob. fr. ON *eiginn*] *Scot* : OWN

ain't \'ānt\ [prob. contr. of *are not*] **1 a** : are not **b** : is not **c** : am not — though disapproved by many and more common in less educated speech, used orally in most parts of the U.S. by many educated speakers esp. in the phrase *ain't I* **2** *substand* **a** : have not **b** : has not

Ai·nu \'ī-(ˌ)nü\ *n, pl* **Ainu** *or* **Ainus** [Ainu, lit., man] **1** : a member of an indigenous Caucasoid people of Japan **2** : the language of the Ainu people

¹air \'a(ə)r, 'e(ə)r\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *aer*, fr. Gk *aēr*] **1 a** : the mixture of invisible odorless tasteless gases (as nitrogen and oxygen) that surrounds the earth **b** : a light breeze **c** *archaic* : BREATH **2 a** : empty space **b** : NOTHINGNESS ⟨vanished into thin ~⟩ **c** : a sudden severance of relations ⟨she gave him the ~⟩ **3** : COMPRESSED AIR **4 a** (1) : AIRCRAFT ⟨go by ~⟩ (2) : AVIATION ⟨~ safety⟩ ⟨~ rights⟩ (3) : AIR FORCE ⟨~ headquarters⟩ **b** : the medium of transmission of radio waves; *also* : RADIO, TELEVISION ⟨went on the ~⟩ **5** : public utterance ⟨he gave ~ to his opinion⟩ **6 a** : the look, appearance, or bearing of a person esp. as expressive of some personal quality or emotion : DEMEANOR ⟨an ~ of dignity⟩ **b** : an artificial or affected manner : HAUGHTINESS ⟨to put on ~s⟩ **c** : outward appearance of a thing ⟨an ~ of luxury⟩ **d** : a surrounding or pervading influence : ATMOSPHERE ⟨an ~ of mystery⟩ **7** [prob. trans. of It *aria*] **a** *Elizabethan & Jacobean music* : an accompanied song or melody in usu. strophic form **b** : the chief voice part or melody in choral music **c** : TUNE, MELODY **8** : a football offense utilizing primarily the forward pass ⟨behind by three touchdowns and forced to take to the ~⟩ ***syn*** see POSE — **air·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **air·less·ness** *n* — **up in the air** : not yet settled

²air *vt* **1** : to expose to the air for drying, purifying, or refreshing : VENTILATE — often used with *out* **2** : to expose to public view or bring to public notice **3** : to transmit by radio or television ⟨~ a program⟩ ~ *vi* : to become exposed to the open air ***syn*** see EXPRESS

air bag *n* : an automatically inflating bag in front of riders in an automobile to protect them from pitching forward into solid parts in case of an accident

air base *n* : a base of operations for military aircraft

air bends *n pl* : AEROEMBOLISM 2

air bladder *n* : a sac containing gas and esp. air; *esp* : a hydrostatic organ present in most fishes that serves as an accessory respiratory organ

air·borne \'a(ə)r-ˌbō(ə)rn, 'e(ə)r-, -ˌbȯ(ə)rn\ *adj* **1** : supported wholly by aerodynamic and aerostatic forces **2** : transported by air

air brake *n* **1** : a brake operated by a piston driven by compressed air **2** : a surface (as an aileron) that may be projected into the airstream for lowering the speed of an airplane

air·brush \-ˌbrəsh\ *n* : an atomizer for applying by compressed air a fine spray (as of paint or liquid color) — **airbrush** *vt*

air·burst \-ˌbərst\ *n* : the burst of a shell or bomb in the air

air·bus \-ˌbəs\ *n* : a short-range or medium-range subsonic jet passenger airplane

air cavalry *n* **1** : an army component that is transported in air vehicles and carries out the traditional cavalry missions of reconnaissance and security **2** : an army component organized for sustained ground combat and esp. equipped and adapted for transportation in air vehicles

air chief marshal *n* : a commissioned officer in the British air force who ranks with a general in the army

air coach *n* : a passenger airliner offering service at less than first-class rates usu. with curtailed accommodations

air commodore *n* : a commissioned officer in the British air force who ranks with a brigadier in the army

air–con·di·tion \ˌa(ə)r-kən-'dish-ən, ˌe(ə)r-\ *vt* [back-formation fr. *air conditioning*] : to equip (as a building) with an apparatus for washing air and controlling its humidity and temperature; *also* : to subject (air) to these processes — **air con·di·tion·er** \-'dish-(ə-)nər\ *n*

air–cool \'a(ə)r-'kül, 'e(ə)r-\ *vt* [back-formation fr. *air-cooled & air cooling*] : to cool the cylinders of (an internal-combustion engine) by air without the use of an intermediate medium

air·craft \'a(ə)r-ˌkraft, 'e(ə)r-\ *n, pl* **aircraft** *often attrib* : a weight-carrying structure for navigation of the air that is supported either by its own buoyancy or by the dynamic action of the air against its surfaces

aircraft carrier *n* : a warship with a flight deck on which airplanes can be launched and landed

air·crew \'a(ə)r-ˌkrü, 'e(ə)r-\ *n* : the crew manning an airplane

air–cushion vehicle *n* : GROUND-EFFECT MACHINE

air·drome \'a(ə)r-ˌdrōm, 'e(ə)r-\ *n* [alter. of *aerodrome*] : AIRPORT

air·drop \-ˌdräp\ *n* : delivery of cargo or personnel by parachute from an airplane in flight — **air–drop** *vt* — **air–drop·pa·ble** \-ˌdräp-ə-bəl\ *adj*

air–dry \-'drī\ *adj* : dry to such a degree that no further moisture is given up on exposure to air

Aire·dale terrier \ˌa(ə)r-ˌdāl-, ˌe(ə)r-\ *n* [*Airedale*, valley of the Aire river, England] : any of a breed of large terriers with a hard wiry coat that is dark on the back and sides and tan elsewhere — called also *Airedale*

Air Express *service mark* — used for package transport by air

air·field \'a(ə)r-ˌfēld, 'e(ə)r-\ *n* **1** : the landing field of an airport **2** : AIRPORT

air·flow \-ˌflō\ *n* : the motion of air (as around parts of an airplane in flight) relative to the surface of a body immersed in it

air·foil \-ˌfȯil\ *n* : a body (as an airplane wing or propeller blade) designed to provide a desired reaction force when in motion relative to the surrounding air

air force *n* **1** : the military organization of a nation for air warfare **2** : a unit of the U.S. Air Force higher than a division and lower than a command

air·frame \-ˌfrām\ *n* [*air*craft + *frame*] : the structure of an airplane or rocket without the power plant

air·freight \-'frāt\ *n* : freight transport by air in volume; *also* : the charge for this service — **airfreight** *vt*

air·glow \-ˌglō\ *n* : light that is observed esp. during the night, that originates in the high atmosphere, and that is associated with photochemical reactions of gases caused by solar radiation

air gun *n* **1** : a rifle from which a projectile is propelled by compressed air **2** : any of various hand tools that work by compressed air; *esp* : AIRBRUSH

air·head \-ˌhed\ *n* [¹*air* + *-head* (as in *beachhead*)] : an area in hostile territory secured usu. by airborne troops for further use in bringing in troops and materiel by air

air hole *n* **1 a** : a hole to admit or discharge air **b** : a spot not frozen over in ice **2** : AIR POCKET

air·ing \'a(ə)r-iŋ, 'e(ə)r-\ *n* **1** : exposure to air or heat for drying or freshening **2** : exposure to or exercise in the open air esp. to promote health or fitness **3** : exposure to public view or notice **4** : a radio or television broadcast

air lane *n* : a path customarily followed by airplanes

air letter *n* **1** : an airmail letter **2** : a sheet of airmail stationery that can be folded and sealed with the message inside and the address outside

air·lift \'a(ə)r-ˌlift, 'e(ə)r-\ *n* : a system of transporting cargo or passengers by aircraft usu. to an otherwise inaccessible area — **airlift** *vt*

air·line \-ˌlīn\ *n* : an air transportation system including its equipment, routes, operating personnel, and management

air line *n* : a straight line through the air between two points : BEELINE

air·lin·er \-ˌlī-nər\ *n* : an airplane operated by an airline

air lock *n* **1** : an intermediate chamber between the outer air and the working chamber of a pneumatic caisson; *also* : a similar intermediate chamber **2** : a stoppage of flow caused by air being in a part where liquid ought to circulate

air·mail \'a(ə)r-'māə)l, 'e(ə)r-, -ˌmāl\ *n* : the system of transporting mail by aircraft; *also* : the mail thus transported — **airmail** *vt*

air·man \-mən\ *n* **1** : an enlisted man in the air force: as **a** : an enlisted man of one of the three ranks below sergeant **b** : an enlisted man ranking above an airman basic and below an airman first class **2** : a civilian or military pilot, aviator, or aviation technician

airman basic *n* : an enlisted man of the lowest rank in the air force

airman first class *n* : an enlisted man in the air force ranking above an airman and below a sergeant

air·man·ship \'a(ə)r-mən-ˌship, 'e(ə)r-\ *n* : skill in piloting or navigating airplanes

air marshal *n* : a commissioned officer in the British air force who ranks with a lieutenant general in the army

air mass *n* : a body of air extending hundreds or thousands of miles horizontally and sometimes as high as the stratosphere and maintaining as it travels nearly uniform conditions of temperature and humidity at any given level

air mattress *n* : MATTRESS 1b

Air Medal *n* : a U.S. military decoration awarded for meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight

air mile *n* : a mile in air navigation; *specif* : a unit equal to 6076.1154 feet

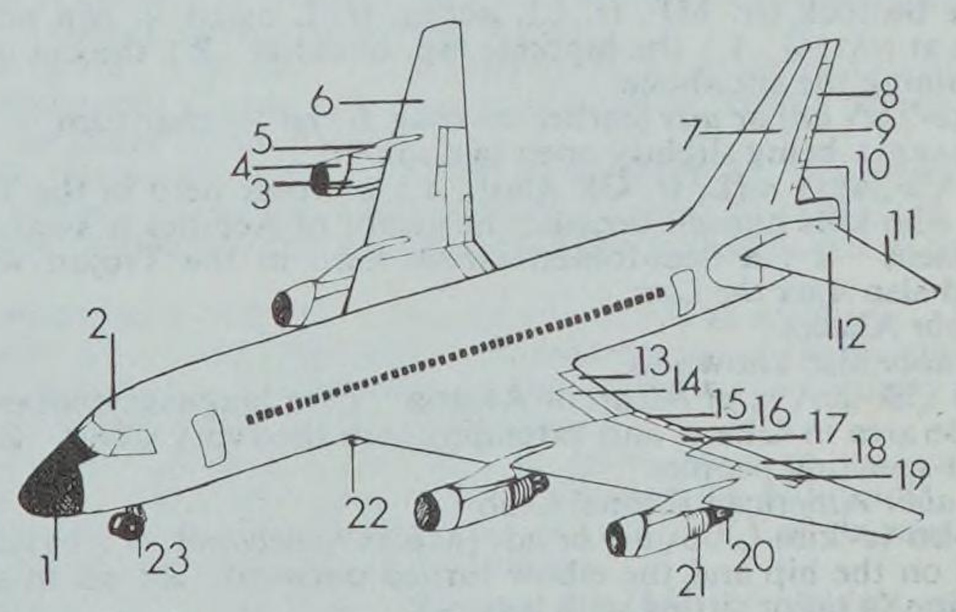
air–mind·ed \'a(ə)r-'mīn-dəd, 'e(ə)r-\ *adj* : interested in aviation or in air travel — **air–mind·ed·ness** *n*

air·mo·bile \-ˌmō-bəl, -ˌbēl, -ˌbīl\ *adj* [*air* + ¹*mobile*] : of, relating to, or being a military unit whose members are transported to combat areas usu. by helicopter

air·park \-ˌpärk\ *n* : a small airport usu. near an industrial area

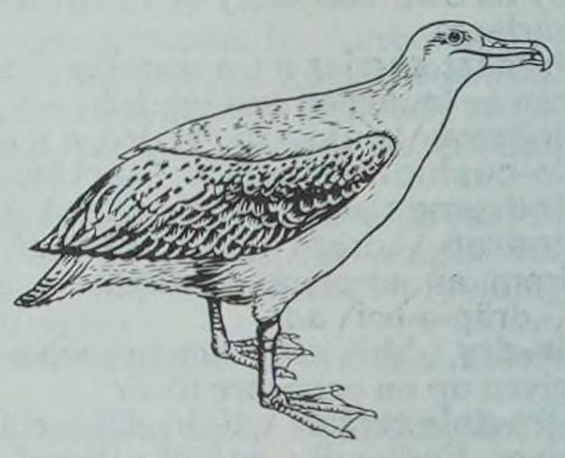
air piracy *n* : the hijacking of a flying airplane : SKYJACKING

air·plane \'a(ə)r-ˌplān, 'e(ə)r-\ *n* [alter. of *aeroplane*, prob. fr. LGk *aeroplanos* wandering in air, fr. Gk *aer-* + *planos* wandering, fr. *planasthai* to wander — more at PLANET] : a fixed-wing aircraft heavier than air that is driven by a screw propeller or by a high-velocity jet and supported by the dynamic reaction of the air against its wings



airplane: *1* weather radar, *2* cockpit, *3* jet engine, *4* engine pod, *5* pylon, *6* swept-back wing, *7* vertical stabilizer, *8* rudder, *9, 10* tabs, *11* elevator, *12* horizontal stabilizer, *13* inboard flap, *14* inboard spoiler, *15, 16* tabs, *17* aileron, *18* outboard flap, *19* outboard spoiler, *20* sound suppressor, *21* thrust reverser, *22* cabin air intake, *23* nose landing gear

air plant *n* **1** : EPIPHYTE **2** : a plant (genus *Kalanchoe*) that propagates new plants from the leaves
air pocket *n* : a condition of the atmosphere (as a local down current) that causes an airplane to drop suddenly
air police *n* : the military police of an air force
air·port \'a(ə)r-ˌpō(ə)rt, 'e(ə)r-, -ˌpȯ(ə)rt\ *n* : a tract of land or water that is maintained for the landing and takeoff of aircraft and for receiving and discharging passengers and cargo and that usu. has facilities for the shelter, supply, and repair of planes
air·post \-'pōst\ *n* : AIRMAIL
air power *n* : the military strength of a nation's air force
air pump *n* : a pump for exhausting air from a closed space or for compressing air or forcing it through other apparatus
air raid *n* : an attack by armed airplanes on a surface target
air right *n* : a property right to the space above a surface area or object
air sac *n* **1** : one of the air-filled spaces in the body of a bird connected with the air passages of the lungs **2** : ALVEOLUS 1b **3** : a thin-walled dilation of a trachea occurring in many insects
air·screw \'a(ə)r-ˌskrü, 'e(ə)r-\ *n* **1** : a screw propeller designed to operate in air **2** *Brit* : an airplane propeller
air·ship \-ˌship\ *n* : a lighter-than-air aircraft having propulsion and steering systems
air·sick \-ˌsik\ *adj* : affected with motion sickness associated with flying — **air·sick·ness** *n*
air·space \-ˌspās\ *n* : the space lying above the earth or above a certain area of land or water; *esp* : the space lying above a nation and coming under its jurisdiction
air·speed \-ˌspēd\ *n* : the speed (as of an airplane) with relation to the air — compare GROUND SPEED
air·stream \-ˌstrēm\ *n* : a current of air; *specif* : AIRFLOW
air strike *n* : an air attack
air·strip \-ˌstrip\ *n* : a runway without normal air base or airport facilities
¹airt \'ārt, 'ert\ *n* [ME *art*, fr. ScGael *āird*] *chiefly Scot* : compass point : DIRECTION
²airt *vt, chiefly Scot* : DIRECT, GUIDE
air·tight \'a(ə)r-'tīt, 'e(ə)r-\ *adj* **1** : impermeable to air or nearly so **2 a** : having no noticeable weakness, flaw, or loophole ⟨an ~ argument⟩ **b** : permitting no opportunity for an opponent to score ⟨an ~ defense⟩ — **air·tight·ness** *n*
air–to–air \ˌa(ə)rt-ə-'(w)a(ə)r, ˌe(ə)rt-ə-'(w)e(ə)r\ *adj* : launched from one airplane in flight at another : involving aircraft in flight ⟨~ rockets⟩ ⟨~ combat⟩
air vice–marshal *n* : a commissioned officer in the British air force who ranks with a major general in the army
air·wave \'a(ə)r-ˌwāv, 'e(ə)r-\ *n* **1** : the medium of radio and television transmission — usu. used in pl. **2** : AIRWAY 4
air·way \-ˌwā\ *n* **1** : a passage for a current of air (as in a mine or to the lungs) **2** : a designated route along which airplanes fly from airport to airport; *esp* : such a route equipped with navigational aids **3** : AIRLINE **4** : a channel of a designated radio frequency for broadcasting or other radio communication
air·wor·thy \-ˌwər-thē\ *adj* : fit for operation in the air ⟨an ~ airplane⟩ — **air·wor·thi·ness** *n*
airy \'a(ə)r-ē, 'e(ə)r-\ *adj* **air·i·er; -est** **1 a** : of or relating to air : ATMOSPHERIC **b** : high in the air : LOFTY ⟨~ perches⟩ **c** : performed in air : AERIAL ⟨~ leaps⟩ **2** : UNREAL, ILLUSORY ⟨~ romances⟩ **3 a** : being light and graceful in movement or manner : SPRIGHTLY, VIVACIOUS **b** : ETHEREAL **4** : open to the free circulation of air : BREEZY **5** : AFFECTED, PROUD ⟨~ condescension⟩
aisle \'ī(ə)l\ *n* [ME *ile*, fr. MF *aile* wing, fr. L *ala*; akin to OE *eaxl* shoulder, L *axilla* armpit — more at AXIS] **1** : the side of a church nave separated by piers from the nave proper — see BASILICA illustration **2 a** : a passage (as in a theater) separating sections of seats **b** : a passage (as in a store or warehouse) for inside traffic
ait \'āt\ *n* [ME, alter. of OE *īgeoth*, fr. *īg* island — more at ISLAND] *Brit* : a little island
aitch \'āch\ *n* [F *hache*, fr. (assumed) VL *hacca*] : the letter *h*
aitch·bone \'āch-ˌbōn\ *n* [ME *hachbon*, alter. (resulting from incorrect division of *a nachebon*) of (assumed) ME *nachebon*, fr. ME *nache* buttock (fr. MF, fr. LL *natica*, fr. L *natis*) + *bon* bone — more at NATES] **1** : the hipbone esp. of cattle **2** : the cut of beef containing the aitchbone
ajar \ə-'jär\ *adj or adv* [earlier *on char*, fr. *on* + *char* turn — more at CHARE] : being slightly open ⟨a door ~⟩
Ajax \'ā-ˌjaks\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Aias*] **1** : a Greek hero in the Trojan War who kills himself because the armor of Achilles is awarded to Odysseus **2** : a fleet-footed Greek hero in the Trojan war — called also *Ajax the Less*
AK *abbr* Alaska
AKA *abbr* also known as
Akan \'äk-ˌän\ *n, pl* **Akan** *or* **Akans** **1** : a language spoken over a wide area in Ghana and extending into the Ivory Coast **2** : the Akan-speaking peoples
AKC *abbr* American Kennel Club
akim·bo \ə-'kim-(ˌ)bō\ *adj or adv* [ME *in kenebowe*] **1** : having the hand on the hip and the elbow turned outward **2** : set in a bent position ⟨a tailor sitting with legs ~⟩
akin \ə-'kin\ *adj* **1** : related by blood : descended from a common ancestor or prototype **2** : essentially similar, related, or compatible ***syn*** see SIMILAR ***ant*** alien
Ak·ka·di·an \ə-'kād-ē-ən\ *n* **1** : a Semitic inhabitant of central Mesopotamia before 2000 B.C. **2** : an ancient Semitic language of Mesopotamia used from about the 28th to the 1st century B.C. — **Akkadian** *adj*
ak·va·vit \'äk-wə-ˌvēt, 'äk-vä-\ *var of* AQUAVIT
Al *symbol* aluminum
AL *abbr* **1** Alabama **2** American League **3** American Legion
al- — see AD-
¹-al \əl, ᵊl\ *adj suffix* [ME, fr. OF & L; OF, fr. L *-alis*] : of, relating to, or characterized by ⟨direction*al*⟩ ⟨fiction*al*⟩
²-al *n suffix* [ME *-aille*, fr. OF, fr. L *-alia*, neut. pl. of *-alis*] : action : process ⟨rehears*al*⟩
³-al \ˌal, ˌȯl, əl, ᵊl\ *n suffix* [F, fr. *alcool* alcohol, fr. ML *alcohol*] **1** : aldehyde ⟨butan*al*⟩ **2** : acetal ⟨butyr*al*⟩
ala \'ā-lə\ *n, pl* **alae** \-ˌlē\ [L — more at AISLE] : a wing or a winglike anatomic process or part — **alar** \'ā-lər\ *adj* — **ala·ry** \-lə-rē\ *adj*
a la *or* **à la** \ˌal-ə, ˌäl-ə, ˌäl-(ˌ)ä\ *prep* [F *à la*] : in the manner of
Ala *abbr* Alabama
ALA *abbr* **1** American Library Association **2** Automobile Legal Association
al·a·bas·ter \'al-ə-ˌbas-tər\ *n* [ME *alabastre*, fr. MF, fr. L *alabaster* vase of alabaster, fr. Gk *alabastros*] **1** : a compact fine-textured usu. white and translucent gypsum often carved into vases and ornaments **2** : a hard compact calcite or aragonite that is translucent and sometimes banded — **alabaster** *or* **al·a·bas·trine** \ˌal-ə-'bas-trən\ *adj*
a la carte \ˌal-ə-'kärt, ˌäl-\ *adv or adj* [F *à la carte* by the bill of fare] : according to a menu that prices each item separately
alack \ə-'lak\ *interj* [ME] *archaic* — used to express sorrow or regret
alac·ri·ty \ə-'lak-rət-ē\ *n* [L *alacritas*, fr. *alacr-*, *alacer* lively, eager; akin to OE & OHG *ellen* zeal] : promptness in response : cheerful readiness ⟨accepted the invitation with ~⟩ ***syn*** see CELERITY ***ant*** languor — **alac·ri·tous** \-rət-əs\ *adj*
Alad·din \ə-'lad-ᵊn\ *n* : a youth in the *Arabian Nights' Entertainments* who comes into possession of a magic lamp
al·a·me·da \ˌal-ə-'mēd-ə, -'mād-\ *n* [Sp, fr. *álamo* poplar] : a public promenade bordered with trees
a la mode \ˌal-ə-'mōd, ˌäl-\ *adj* [F *à la mode* according to the fashion] **1** : FASHIONABLE, STYLISH **2** : topped with ice cream
al·a·nine \'al-ə-ˌnēn\ *n* [G *alanin*, irreg. fr. *aldehyd* aldehyde] : a white crystalline amino acid $C_3H_7NO_2$ formed esp. by the hydrolysis of proteins
al·a·nyl \'al-ə-ˌnil\ *n* [ISV *alan*ine + *-yl*] : an acyl radical of alanine
¹alarm \ə-'lärm\ *also* **ala·rum** \ə-'lär-əm, -'lar-\ *n* [ME *alarme*, *alarom*, fr. MF *alarme*, fr. OIt *all'arme*, lit., to the weapon] **1** *usu* *alarum, obs* : a call to arms ⟨the angry trumpet sounds ~ —Shak.⟩ **2** : a signal (as a loud noise or flashing light) that warns or alerts; *also* : a device that signals ⟨set the ~ to wake me at seven⟩ **3** : sudden sharp apprehension and fear resulting from the perception of imminent danger **4** : a warning notice ***syn*** see FEAR ***ant*** assurance, composure
²alarm *also* **alarum** *vt* **1** : to give warning to **2** : to strike with fear **3** : DISTURB, EXCITE — **alarm·ing·ly** \-'lär-miŋ-lē\ *adv*
alarm clock *n* : a clock that can be set to sound an alarm at a desired time
alarm·ism \ə-'lär-ˌmiz-əm\ *n* : the often unwarranted exciting of fears or warning of danger — **alarm·ist** \-məst\ *n or adj*
alarm reaction *n* : the complex of reactions of an organism to stress (as by increased hormonal activity)
alarums and excursions *n pl* **1** : martial sounds and the movement of soldiers across the stage — used as a stage direction in Elizabethan drama **2** : clamor, excitement, and feverish or disordered activity
alas \ə-'las\ *interj* [ME, fr. OF, fr. *a* ah + *las* weary, fr. L *lassus* — more at LET] — used to express unhappiness, pity, or concern
Alas·kan malamute \ə-ˌlas-kən-\ *n* : any of a breed of powerful heavy-coated deep-chested dogs of Alaskan origin with erect ears, heavily cushioned feet, and plumy tail
Alas·ka time \ə-'las-kə-\ *n* : the time of the 10th time zone west of Greenwich that includes central Alaska
alate \'ā-ˌlāt\ *also* **alat·ed** \-ˌlāt-əd\ *adj* [L *alatus*, fr. *ala*] : having wings or a winglike part — **ala·tion** \ā-'lā-shən\ *n*
alb \'alb\ *n* [ME *albe*, fr. OE, fr. ML *alba*, fr. L, fem. of *albus* white] : a full-length white linen ecclesiastical vestment with long sleeves that is gathered at the waist with a cincture — see VESTMENT illustration
Alb *abbr* Albania; Albanian
al·ba·core \'al-bə-ˌkō(ə)r, -ˌkȯ(ə)r\ *n, pl* **-core** *or* **-cores** [Pg *albacor*, fr. Ar *al-bakūrah* the albacore] **1** : a large pelagic tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) with long pectoral fins that is a source of canned tuna; *broadly* : any of various tunas (as a bonito) **2** : any of several carangid fishes
Al·ba·nian \al-'bā-nē-ən, -nyən *also* ȯl-\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Albania **2** : the Indo-European language of the Albanian people — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table — **Albanian** *adj*
al·ba·tross \'al-bə-ˌtrȯs, -ˌträs\ *n, pl* **-tross** *or* **-tross·es** [prob. alter. of *alcatras* (water bird), fr. Pg or Sp *alcatraz* pelican] **1** : any of various large web-footed seabirds (family Diomedeidae) that are related to the petrels and include the largest seabirds **2 a** : something that causes persistent deep concern or anxiety **b** : something that makes accomplishment particularly difficult


albatross

al·be·do \al-'bēd-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-dos** [LL, whiteness, fr. L *albus*] : reflective power; *specif* : the fraction of incident light or electromagnetic radiation that is reflected by a surface or body (as the moon or a cloud)
al·be·it \ȯl-'bē-ət, al-\ *conj* [ME, lit., all though it be] : conceding the fact that : even though ***syn*** see THOUGH
Al·bi·gen·ses \ˌal-bə-'jen-ˌsēz\ *n pl* [ML, pl. of *Albigensis*, lit., inhabitant of Albi, fr. *Albiga* (Albi), France] : members of a Catharistic sect of southern France between the 11th and 13th centuries — **Al·bi·gen·sian** \-'jen-chən, -'jen(t)-sē-ən \ *adj or n* — **Al·bi·gen·sian·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n*
al·bi·nism \'al-bə-ˌniz-əm, al-'bī-\ *n* : the condition of an albino
al·bi·no \al-'bī-(ˌ)nō\ *n, pl* **-nos** [Pg, fr. Sp, fr. *albo* white, fr. L *albus*] : an organism exhibiting deficient pigmentation; *esp* : a human being or lower animal that is congenitally deficient in pigment and

usu. has a milky or translucent skin, white or colorless hair, and eyes with pink or blue iris and deep-red pupil — **al·bin·ic** \-'bin-ik\ *adj*

al·bi·not·ic \ˌal-bə-'nät-ik\ *adj* [*albino* + *-tic* (as in *melanotic*)] **1** : of, relating to, or affected with albinism **2** : tending toward albinism

Al·bi·on \'al-bē-ən\ *n* [L] **1** : Great Britain **2** : England

al·bite \'al-ˌbīt\ *n* [Sw *albit*, fr. L *albus*] : a triclinic usu. white feldspar consisting of a sodium aluminum silicate $NaAlSi_3O_8$ — **al·bit·ic** \al-'bit-ik\ *adj*

al·bum \'al-bəm\ *n* [L, a white tablet, fr. neut. of *albus*] **1 a** : a book with blank pages used for making a collection (as of autographs, stamps, or photographs) **b** : a paperboard container for a phonograph record : JACKET **c** : one or more long-playing phonograph records or tape recordings produced as a single unit ⟨a 2= record ~⟩ **2** : a collection usu. in book form of literary selections, musical compositions, or pictures : ANTHOLOGY

al·bu·men \al-'byü-mən\ *n* [L, fr. *albus*] **1** : the white of an egg — see EGG illustration **2** : ALBUMIN

al·bu·min \al-'byü-mən\ *n* [ISV *albumen* + *-in*] : any of numerous simple heat-coagulable water-soluble proteins that occur in blood plasma or serum, muscle, the whites of eggs, milk, and other animal substances and in many plant tissues and fluids

[1]al·bu·min·oid \-mə-ˌnȯid\ *adj* : resembling albumin : PROTEIN

[2]albuminoid *n* **1** : PROTEIN **2** : SCLEROPROTEIN

al·bu·min·ous \al-'byü-mə-nəs\ *adj* : relating to, containing, or having the properties of albumen or albumin

al·bu·min·uria \(ˌ)al-ˌbyü-mə-'n(y)u̇r-ē-ə\ *n* [NL] : the presence of albumin in the urine often symptomatic of kidney disease — **al·bu·min·uric** \-'n(y)u̇(ə)r-ik\ *adj*

al·bu·mose \'al-byə-ˌmōs, -ˌmōz\ *n* [F, fr. *albumine* albumen + *-ose*] : any of various products of enzymatic protein hydrolysis

al·bur·num \al-'bər-nəm\ *n* [L, fr. *albus* white] : SAPWOOD

alc *abbr* alcohol

al·ca·ic \al-'kā-ik\ *adj, often cap* [LL *Alcaicus* of Alcaeus, fr. Gk *Alkaïkos*, fr. *Alkaios* Alcaeus, *fl ab* 600 B.C. Gk poet] : relating to or written in a verse or strophe marked by complicated variation of a dominant iambic pattern — **alcaic** *n*

al·cai·de *or* **al·cay·de** \al-'kīd-ē\ *n* [Sp *alcaide*, fr. Ar *al-qā'id* the captain] : a commander of a castle or fortress (as among Spaniards, Portuguese, or Moors)

al·cal·de \al-'käl-dē\ *n* [Sp, fr. Ar *al-qāḍī* the judge] : the chief administrative and judicial officer of a Spanish town

al·ca·zar \al-'käz-ər, -'kaz-\ *n* [Sp *alcázar*, fr. Ar *al-qaṣr* the castle] : a Spanish fortress or palace

Al·ces·tis \al-'ses-təs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Alkēstis*] : the wife of Admetus who dies for her husband and is restored to him by Hercules

al·che·mist \'al-kə-məst\ *n* : one who studies or practices alchemy — **al·che·mis·tic** \ˌal-kə-'mis-tik\ *or* **al·che·mis·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj*

al·che·mize \'al-kə-ˌmīz\ *vt* **-mized; -miz·ing** : to change by alchemy : TRANSMUTE

al·che·my \'al-kə-mē\ *n* [ME *alkamie, alquemie*, fr. MF or ML; MF *alquemie*, fr. ML *alchymia*, fr. Ar *al-kīmiyā'*, fr. *al* the + *kīmiyā'* alchemy, fr. LGk *chēmeia*] **1** : a medieval chemical science and speculative philosophy aiming to achieve the transmutation of the base metals into gold, the discovery of a universal cure for disease, and the discovery of a means of indefinitely prolonging life **2** : a power or process of transforming something common into something precious — **al·chem·ic** \al-'kem-ik\ *or* **al·chem·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **al·chem·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

Alc·me·ne \alk-'mē-nē\ *n* [Gk *Alkmēnē*] : the mother of Hercules by Zeus in the form of her husband Amphitryon

al·co·hol \'al-kə-ˌhȯl\ *n* [NL, fr. ML, powdered antimony, fr. OSp, fr. Ar *al-kuḥul* the powdered antimony] **1** : a colorless volatile flammable liquid C_2H_6O that is the intoxicating agent in fermented and distilled liquors and is used also as a solvent — called also *ethyl alcohol* **2** : any of various compounds that are analogous to ethyl alcohol in constitution and that are hydroxyl derivatives of hydrocarbons **3** : liquor (as whiskey) containing alcohol

[1]al·co·hol·ic \ˌal-kə-'hȯl-ik, -'häl-\ *adj* **1 a** : of, relating to, or caused by alcohol **b** : containing alcohol **2** : affected with alcoholism — **al·co·hol·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

[2]alcoholic *n* : one affected with alcoholism

al·co·hol·ism \'al-kə-ˌhȯ-ˌliz-əm\ *n* **1** : continued excessive or compulsive use of alcoholic drinks **2** : poisoning by alcohol; *esp* : a complex chronic psychological and nutritional disorder associated with excessive and usu. compulsive drinking

al·co·hol·ize \-ˌlīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to treat or saturate with alcohol

al·co·hol·om·e·ter \ˌal-kə-ˌhȯ-'läm-ət-ər\ *n* [F *alcoolomètre*, fr. *alcool* alcohol + *-o-* + *-mètre* -meter] : a device for determining the alcoholic strength of liquids — **al·co·hol·om·e·try** \-'läm-ə-trē\ *n*

Al·co·ran \ˌal-kə-'ran\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or ML; MF & ML, fr. Ar *al-qur'ān*, lit., the reading] *archaic* : KORAN

al·cove \'al-ˌkōv\ *n* [F *alcôve*, fr. Sp *alcoba*, fr. Ar *al-qubbah* the arch] **1 a** : a small recessed section of a room : NOOK **b** : an arched opening (as in a wall) : NICHE **2** : SUMMERHOUSE — **al·coved** \-ˌkōvd\ *adj*

Al·cy·o·ne \al-'sī-ə-(ˌ)nē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Alkyonē*] : the brightest star in the Pleiades

ald *abbr* alderman

Al·deb·a·ran \al-'deb-ə-rən\ *n* [Ar *al-dabarān*, lit., the follower] : a red star of the first magnitude that is seen in the eye of Taurus and is the brightest star in the Hyades

al·de·hyde \'al-də-ˌhīd\ *n* [G *aldehyd*, fr. NL *al. dehyd.*, abbr. of *alcohol dehydrogenatum* dehydrogenated alcohol] : ACETALDEHYDE; *broadly* : any of various highly reactive compounds typified by acetaldehyde and characterized by the group CHO — **al·de·hy·dic** \ˌal-də-'hīd-ik\ *adj*

al·der \'ȯl-dər\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *alor*; akin to OHG *elira* alder, L *alnus*] : any of a genus (*Alnus*) of toothed-leaved trees or shrubs of the birch family growing in moist ground and having wood used by turners and bark used in dyeing and tanning

al·der·man \'ȯl-dər-mən\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *ealdorman*, fr. *ealdor* parent (fr. *eald* old) + *man* — more at OLD] **1** : a person governing a kingdom, district, or shire as viceroy for an Anglo-Saxon king **2** : a magistrate ranking next below the mayor in an English or Irish city or borough **3** : a member of a city legislative body — **al·der·man·ic** \ˌȯl-dər-'man-ik\ *adj*

al·dol \'al-ˌdȯl, -ˌdōl\ *n* [ISV *ald*ehyde + *-ol*] : a colorless beta-hydroxy aldehyde $C_4H_8O_2$ used esp. in organic synthesis; *broadly* : any of various similar aldehydes — **al·dol·iza·tion** \ˌal-ˌdȯ-lə-'zā-shən, -ˌdō-\ *n*

al·dol·ase \'al-də-ˌlās, -ˌlāz\ *n* [*aldol* + *-ase*] : a crystalline enzyme that occurs widely in living systems and catalyzes reversibly the cleavage of a fructose ester into triose sugars

al·dose \'al-ˌdōs, -ˌdōz\ *n* [ISV *ald*ehyde + *-ose*] : a sugar containing one aldehyde group per molecule

al·do·ste·rone \al-'däs-tə-ˌrōn, ˌal-dō-stə-'rōn\ *n* [*ald*ehyde + *-o-* + *ster*ol + *-one*] : a steroid hormone $C_{13}H_{16}N_2O$ of the adrenal cortex that functions in the regulation of the salt and water balance of the body

al·do·ste·ron·ism \-ˌrō-ˌniz-əm, -'rō-\ *n* : a condition that is characterized by excessive production and excretion of aldosterone and typically by loss of body potassium, muscular weakness, and elevated blood pressure

al·drin \'ȯl-drən, 'al-\ *n* [Kurt *Alder* †1958 G chemist + E *-in*] : an exceedingly poisonous cyclodiene insecticide $C_{12}H_6Cl_6$

ale \'ā(ə)l\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *ealu*; akin to ON *öl* ale, L *alumen* alum] **1** : a fermented liquor brewed esp. by rapid fermentation from an infusion of malt with the addition of hops **2** : an English country festival at which ale is the principal beverage

ale·a·tor·ic \ˌā-lē-ə-'tȯr-ik, -'tär-\ *adj* [L *aleatorius* of a gambler] : improvisatory or random in character ⟨~ music⟩

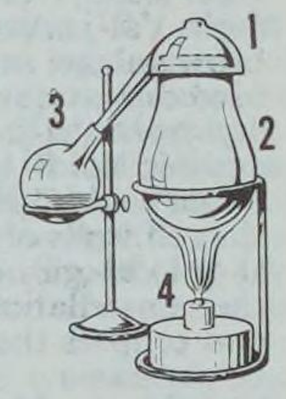
ale·a·to·ry \'ā-lē-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* [L *aleatorius* of a gambler, fr. *aleator* gambler, fr. *alea* a dice game] **1** : depending on an uncertain event or contingency as to both profit and loss ⟨an ~ contract⟩ **2** : relating to luck and esp. to bad luck **3** : ALEATORIC

alee \ə-'lē\ *adv* : on or toward the lee — compare AWEATHER

ale·house \'ā(ə)l-ˌhau̇s\ *n* : a place where ale is sold to be drunk on the premises

Al·e·man·nic \ˌal-ə-'man-ik\ *n* [LL *alemanni*, of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *alamans* totality of people] : the group of dialects of German spoken in Alsace, Switzerland, and southwestern Germany

alem·bic \ə-'lem-bik\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & ML; MF *alambic* & ML *alembicum*, fr. Ar *al-anbīq*, fr. *al* the + *anbīq* still, fr. LGk *ambik-*, *ambix* alembic, fr. Gk, cap of a still] **1** : an apparatus formerly used in distillation **2** : something that refines or transmutes as if by distillation ⟨philosophy . . . filtered through the ~ of Plato's mind — B. T. Shropshire⟩



alembic 1: *1* head, *2* cucurbit, *3* receiver, *4* lamp

aleph \'ä-ˌlef, -əf\ *n* [Heb *āleph*, prob. fr. *eleph* ox] : the 1st letter of the Hebrew alphabet — see ALPHABET table

aleph–null \-'nəl\ *n* : the cardinal number of the set of all integers which is the smallest transfinite cardinal number

[1]alert \ə-'lərt\ *adj* [It *all' erta*, lit., on the ascent] **1 a** : watchful and prompt to meet danger or emergency **b** : quick to perceive and act **2** : ACTIVE, BRISK ***syn*** **1** see WATCHFUL ***ant*** supine **2** see INTELLIGENT — **alert·ly** *adv* — **alert·ness** *n*

[2]alert *n* **1** : an alarm or other signal of danger **2** : the state of readiness of those warned by an alert **3** : the period during which an alert is in effect — **on the alert** : on the lookout esp. for danger or opportunity

[3]alert *vt* : to call to a state of readiness : WARN

-a·les \'ā-(ˌ)lēz\ *n pl suffix* [NL, fr. L, pl. of *-alis* -al] : plants consisting of or related to — in the names of taxonomic orders

al·eu·rone \'al-yə-ˌrōn\ *n* [G *aleuron*, fr. Gk, flour; akin to Arm *ałam* I grind] : protein matter in the form of minute granules or grains occurring in seeds in endosperm or in a special peripheral layer — **al·eu·ron·ic** \ˌal-yə-'rän-ik\ *adj*

Aleut \ə-'lüt\ *n* [Russ] **1** : a member of a people of the Aleutian and Shumagin islands and the western part of Alaska peninsula **2** : the language of the Aleuts

al·e·vin \'al-ə-vən\ *n* [F, fr. OF, fr. *alever* to lift up, rear (offspring), fr. L *allevare*, fr. *ad-* + *levare* to raise — more at LEVER] : a young fish; *esp* : the newly hatched salmon when still attached to the yolk sac

[1]ale·wife \'ā(ə)l-ˌwīf\ *n* : a woman who keeps an alehouse

[2]alewife *n* : a food fish (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) of the herring family (Clupeidae) very abundant on the Atlantic coast; *also* : any of several related fishes (as the menhaden)

al·ex·an·der \ˌal-ig-'zan-dər, ˌel-\ *n, often cap* : an iced cocktail made from crème de cacao, sweet cream, and gin or brandy

Al·ex·an·dri·an \ˌal-ig-'zan-drē-ən, ˌel-\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to Alexander the Great **2** : HELLENISTIC

al·ex·an·drine \-'zan-drən\ *n, often cap* [MF *alexandrin*, adj., fr. *Alexandre* Alexander the Great †323 B.C. king of Macedonia; fr. its use in a poem on Alexander] : a line of verse of 12 syllables consisting regularly of 6 iambics with a caesura after the 3d iambic — **alexandrine** *adj*

al·ex·an·drite \-'zan-ˌdrīt\ *n* [G *alexandrit*, fr. *Alexander I* †1825 Russ emperor] : a grass-green chrysoberyl that shows a red color by transmitted or artificial light

alex·ia \ə-'lek-sē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. *a-* + Gk *lexis* speech, fr. *legein* to speak — more at LEGEND] : aphasia characterized by loss of ability to read
Al·fa \'al-fə\ — a communications code word for the letter *a*
al·fal·fa \al-'fal-fə\ *n* [Sp, modif. of Ar dial. *al-fasfaṣah* the alfalfa] : a deep-rooted European leguminous plant (*Medicago sativa*) widely grown for hay and forage
al·fil·a·ria \(ˌ)al-ˌfil-ə-'rē-ə\ *n* [AmerSp *alfilerillo*, fr. Sp, dim. of *alfiler* pin, modif. of Ar *al-khilāl* the thorn] : a European weed (*Erodium cicutarium*) of the geranium family grown for forage in western America
al·for·ja \al-'fȯr-(ˌ)hä\ *n* [Sp, fr. Ar *al-khurj*] *West* : SADDLEBAG
al·fres·co \al-'fres-(ˌ)kō\ *adj or adv* [It] : taking place in the open air ⟨an ~ lunch⟩
alg *abbr* algebra
alg- *or* **algo-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *alg-*, fr. *algos*] : pain ⟨*algo*phobia⟩
al·ga \'al-gə\ *n, pl* **al·gae** \'al-(ˌ)jē\ *also* **algas** [L, seaweed] : any of a group (Algae) of chiefly aquatic nonvascular plants (as seaweeds, pond scums, and stoneworts) with chlorophyll often masked by a brown or red pigment — **al·gal** \-gəl\ *adj* — **al·goid** \-ˌgȯid\ *adj*
al·gar·ro·ba \ˌal-gə-'rō-bə\ *n* [Sp, fr. Ar *al-kharrūbah* the carob] **1** : CAROB **2** [MexSp, fr. Sp] : MESQUITE; *also* : its pods
al·ge·bra \'al-jə-brə\ *n* [ML, fr. Ar *al-jabr*, lit., the reduction] **1 a** : a generalization of arithmetic in which letters representing numbers are combined according to the rules of arithmetic **b** : a treatise on algebra **2** : LINEAR ALGEBRA 2 **3** : a logical or set calculus — **al·ge·bra·ist** \-ˌbrā-əst\ *n*
al·ge·bra·ic \ˌal-jə-'brā-ik\ *adj* **1** : relating to, involving, or according to the laws of algebra **2** : involving only a finite number of repetitions of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, extraction of roots, and raising to powers ⟨~ equation⟩ — compare TRANSCENDENTAL — **al·ge·bra·ical·ly** \-'brā-ə-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
algebraic number *n* : a root of an algebraic equation with rational coefficients
Al·ger·ish \'al-jə-rish\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of the works of Horatio Alger in which success is achieved through self-reliance and hard work
-al·gia \'al-j(ē-)ə\ *n comb form* [Gk, fr. *algos*] : pain ⟨neur*algia*⟩
al·gi·cide \'al-jə-ˌsīd\ *n* [*alga* + *-i-* + *-cide*] : an agent used to kill algae — **al·gi·cid·al** \ˌal-jə-'sīd-ᵊl\ *adj*
al·gid \'al-jəd\ *adj* [L *algidus*, fr. *algēre* to feel cold; akin to Icel *elgur* slush] : CHILL, COLD — **al·gid·i·ty** \al-'jid-ət-ē\ *n*
al·gin \'al-jən\ *n* : any of various colloidal substances from marine brown algae: as **a** : ALGINIC ACID **b** : a soluble salt of alginic acid used esp. as a stabilizer or emulsifier
al·gi·nate \'al-jə-ˌnāt\ *n* : a salt of alginic acid
al·gin·ic acid \(ˌ)al-ˌjin-ik-\ *n* [ISV *algin* + *-ic*] : an insoluble colloidal acid $(C_6H_8O_6)_n$ that in the form of its salts is a constituent of the cell walls of brown algae
Al·gol \'al-ˌgäl, -ˌgȯl\ *n* [Ar *al-ghūl*, lit., the ghoul] : a binary star in the constellation Perseus whose larger component revolves about and eclipses the smaller brighter star causing periodic variation in brightness
AL·GOL *or* **Al·gol** \'al-ˌgäl, -ˌgȯl\ *n* [*algo*rithmic *l*anguage] : an algebraic and logical language for programming a computer
al·go·lag·nia \ˌal-gō-'lag-nē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. *alg-* + Gk *lagneia* lust] : pleasure in inflicting or suffering pain — **al·go·lag·nic** \-nik\ *adj* — **al·go·lag·nist** \-nəst\ *n*
al·gol·o·gy \al-'gäl-ə-jē\ *n* : the study or science of algae — **al·go·log·i·cal** \ˌal-gə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **al·go·log·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **al·gol·o·gist** \al-'gäl-ə-jəst\ *n*
al·gom·e·ter \al-'gäm-ət-ər\ *n* : an instrument for measuring the smallest pressure that induces pain — **al·go·met·ric** \ˌal-gə-'me-trik\ *or* **al·go·met·ri·cal** \-tri-kəl\ *adj* — **al·gom·e·try** \al-'gäm-ə-trē\ *n*
Al·gon·ki·an \al-'gäŋ-kē-ən\ *adj* : PROTEROZOIC
Al·gon·qui·an \al-'gän-kwē-ən, -'gäŋ-\ *or* **Al·gon·quin** \-kwən\ *or* **Al·gon·ki·an** \-'gäŋ-kē-ən\ *or* **Al·gon·kin** \-'gäŋ-kən\ *n* [CanF *Algonquin*] **1** : an Amerindian people of the Ottawa river valley **2** *usu Algonquin* : a dialect of Ojibwa **3** *usu Algonquian* : a stock of Indian languages spoken from Labrador to Carolina and westward to the Great Plains **4** *usu Algonquian* : a member of the Amerindian peoples speaking Algonquian languages **5** *Algonkian* : the Algonkian era or system or group of systems
al·go·pho·bia \ˌal-gə-'fō-bē-ə\ *n* [NL] : morbid fear of pain
al·go·rithm \'al-gə-ˌrith-əm\ *n* [alter. of ME *algorisme*, fr. OF & ML; OF, fr. ML *algorismus*, fr. Ar *al-khuwārizmi, fr. al-Khuwārizmi fl* 825 A.D. Arab mathematician] : a procedure for solving a mathematical problem (as of finding the greatest common divisor) in a finite number of steps that frequently involves repetition of an operation; *broadly* : a step-by-step procedure for solving a problem or accomplishing some end — **al·go·rith·mic** \ˌal-gə-'rith-mik\ *adj*
Al·ham·bra \al-'ham-brə\ *n* [Sp, fr. Ar *al-ḥamrā'* the red house] : the palace of the Moorish kings at Granada, Spain
Al·ham·bra·ic \ˌal-ˌham-'brā-ik\ *adj* : ALHAMBRESQUE
Al·ham·bresque \ˌal-ˌham-'bresk\ *adj* : made or decorated after the fanciful style of the ornamentation in the Alhambra
ali- *comb form* [L, fr. *ala* — more at AISLE] : wing ⟨*ali*form⟩
[1]alias \'ā-lē-əs, 'āl-yəs\ *adv* [L, otherwise, fr. *alius* other — more at ELSE] : otherwise called : otherwise known as
[2]alias *n* : an assumed name
Ali Ba·ba \ˌal-ē-'bäb-ə\ *n* : a woodcutter in the *Arabian Nights' Entertainments* who enters the cave of the Forty Thieves by using the password *Sesame*
[1]al·i·bi \'al-ə-ˌbī\ *n* [L, elsewhere, fr. *alius*] **1** : the plea of having been at the time of the commission of an act elsewhere than at the place of commission; *also* : the fact or state of having been elsewhere at the time **2** : a plausible excuse usu. intended to avert blame or punishment (as for failure or negligence) ***syn*** see APOLOGY
[2]alibi *vb* **-bied; -bi·ing** *vi* : to offer an excuse ~ *vt* : to exonerate by an alibi
ali·cy·clic \ˌal-ə-'sī-klik, -'sik-lik\ *adj* [ISV *ali*phatic + *cyclic*] : combining the properties of aliphatic and cyclic compounds
al·i·dade \'al-ə-ˌdād\ *n* [ME *allidatha*, fr. ML *alhidada*, fr. Ar *al-'idadah* the revolving radius of a circle] : a rule equipped with simple or telescopic sights and used for determination of direction: as **a** : a part of an astrolabe **b** : a part of a surveying instrument consisting of the telescope and its attachments
[1]alien \'ā-lē-ən, 'āl-yən\ *adj* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *alienus*, fr. *alius*] **1 a** : belonging or relating to another person, place, or thing : STRANGE **b** : relating, belonging, or owing allegiance to another country or government : FOREIGN **2** : differing in nature or character typically to the point of incompatibility ***syn*** see EXTRINSIC ***ant*** akin, assimilable — **alienly** *adv* — **alien·ness** \-lē-ən-nəs, -yən-nəs\ *n*
[2]alien *n* **1** : a person of another family, race, or nation **2** : a foreign-born resident who has not been naturalized and is still a subject or citizen of a foreign country; *broadly* : a foreign-born citizen
[3]alien *vt* **1** : ALIENATE, ESTRANGE **2** : to make over (as property)
alien·able \'āl-yə-nə-bəl, 'ā-lē-ə-nə-\ *adj* : transferable to the ownership of another — **alien·abil·i·ty** \ˌāl-yə-nə-'bil-ət-ē, ˌā-lē-ə-nə-\ *n*
alien·age \'āl-yə-nij, 'ā-lē-ə-nij\ *n* : the status of an alien
alien·ate \'ā-lē-ə-ˌnāt, 'āl-yə-\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** **1** : to convey or transfer (as property or a right) usu. by a specific act rather than the due course of law **2** : to make unfriendly, hostile, or indifferent where attachment formerly existed **3** : to cause to be withdrawn or diverted ***syn*** **1** see TRANSFER **2** see ESTRANGE ***ant*** unite, reunite — **alien·ator** \-ˌnāt-ər\ *n*
alien·ation \ˌā-lē-ə-'nā-shən, ˌāl-yə-\ *n* **1** : a conveyance of property to another **2** : a withdrawing or separation of a person or his affections from an object or position of former attachment : ISOLATION, EXILE ⟨~ . . . from the values of one's society and family — S. L. Halleck⟩
alien·ee \-'nē\ *n* : one to whom property is transferred
alien·ism \'ā-lē-ə-ˌniz-əm, 'āl-yə-\ *n* : ALIENAGE
alien·ist \-nəst\ *n* [F *aliéniste*, fr. *aliéné* insane, fr. L *alienatus*, pp. of *alienare* to estrange, fr. *alienus*] : one that treats diseases of the mind; *esp* : a specialist in legal aspects of psychiatry
alien·or \ˌā-lē-ə-'nȯ(ə)r, ˌāl-yə-\ *n* : one who transfers property to another
ali·form \'ā-lə-ˌfȯrm, 'al-ə-\ *adj* : having winglike extensions : wing-shaped ⟨~ parenchyma of wood⟩
[1]alight \ə-'līt\ *vi* **alight·ed** *also* **alit** \ə-'lit\; **alight·ing** [ME *alighten*, fr. OE *ālīhtan*, fr. *ā-* (perfective prefix) + *līhtan* to alight — more at ABIDE, LIGHT] **1** : to come down from something: as **a** : DISMOUNT **b** : DEPLANE **2** : to descend from the air and settle : LAND **3** *archaic* : to come by chance — **alight·ment** *n*
[2]alight *adj* **1** *chiefly Brit* : being on fire **2** : lighted up : ILLUMINATED
align *also* **aline** \ə-'līn\ *vb* [F *aligner*, fr. OF, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *ligne* line, fr. L *linea*] *vt* **1** : to bring into line or alignment **2** : to array on the side of or against a party or cause ~ *vi* **1** : to get or fall into line **2** : to be in or come into precise adjustment or correct relative position ***syn*** see LINE — **align·er** *n*
align·ment *also* **aline·ment** \ə-'līn-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of aligning or state of being aligned; *esp* : the proper positioning or state of adjustment of parts (as of a mechanical or electronic device) in relation to each other **2 a** : a forming in line **b** : the line thus formed **3** : the ground plan (as of a railroad or fieldwork) in distinction from the profile **4** : an arrangement of groups or forces in relation to one another ⟨sectional ~*s* within the political party⟩
[1]alike \ə-'līk\ *adj* [ME *ilik* (alter. of *ilich*) & *alik*, alter. of OE *onlīc*, fr. *on* + *līc* body — more at LIKE] : exhibiting close resemblance without being identical ⟨~ in their beliefs⟩ ***syn*** see SIMILAR ***ant*** different — **alike·ness** *n*
[2]alike *adv* : in the same manner, form, or degree : EQUALLY ⟨was denounced by teachers and students ~⟩
[1]al·i·ment \'al-ə-mənt\ *n* [ME, fr. L *alimentum*, fr. *alere* to nourish — more at OLD] : FOOD, NUTRIMENT; *also* : SUSTENANCE
[2]al·i·ment \-ˌment\ *vt* : to give aliment to : NOURISH, SUSTAIN
al·i·men·ta·ry \ˌal-ə-'ment-ə-rē, -'men-trē\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to nourishment or nutrition **2** : furnishing sustenance or maintenance
alimentary canal *n* : the tubular passage that extends from mouth to anus and functions in digestion and absorption of food and elimination of residual waste
al·i·men·ta·tion \ˌal-ə-mən-'tā-shən, -ˌmen-\ *n* : the act or process of affording nutriment; *also* : the state or mode of being nourished — **al·i·men·ta·tive** \ˌal-ə-'ment-ət-iv\ *adj*
al·i·mo·ny \'al-ə-ˌmō-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [L *alimonia* sustenance, fr. *alere*] **1** : the means of living : MAINTENANCE **2** : an allowance made to one spouse by the other for support pending or after legal separation or divorce
A–line \'ā-ˌlīn\ *adj* : having a flared bottom and a close-fitting top — used of a garment ⟨an ~ skirt⟩
Al·i·oth \'al-ē-ˌäth, -ˌōth\ *n* [Ar *alyat* fat tail of a sheep] : a star of the second magnitude in the handle of the Big Dipper
al·i·phat·ic \ˌal-ə-'fat-ik\ *adj* [ISV, fr. Gk *aleiphat-*, *aleiphar* oil, fr. *aleiphein* to smear; akin to Gk *lipos* fat — more at LEAVE] : of, relating to, or derived from fat; *specif* : belonging to a group of organic compounds having an open-chain structure and consisting of the paraffin, olefin, and acetylene hydrocarbons and their derivatives
al·i·quot \'al-ə-ˌkwät, -kwət\ *adj* [ML *aliquotus*, fr. L *aliquot* some, several, fr. *alius* other + *quot* how many — more at ELSE, QUOTA] **1** : contained an exact number of times in something else — used of a divisor or part ⟨5 is an ~ part of 15⟩ ⟨an ~ portion of a solution⟩ **2** : FRACTIONAL ⟨an ~ part of invested capital⟩ — **aliquot** *n*
alive \ə-'līv\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *on life*, fr. *on* + *līf* life] **1** : having life : not dead or inanimate **2** : still in existence, force, or operation : ACTIVE ⟨kept hope ~⟩ **3** : knowing or realizing the existence of : SENSITIVE ⟨~ to the danger⟩ **4** : marked by alertness, activity,

or briskness **5** : marked by much life, animation, or activity : SWARMING **6** — used as an intensive following the noun ⟨the proudest boy ~⟩ ***syn*** **1** see LIVING ***ant*** dead, defunct **2** see AWARE ***ant*** blind (*to*) — **alive·ness** *n*

ali·yah \ä-'lē-(ˌ)yä\ *n* [NHeb *'alīyāh*, fr. Heb, ascent] **1** : the action of going up or of being called to the reading desk of the synagogue to read from the Scriptures **2** : the immigration of Jews to Israel

aliz·a·rin \ə-'liz-ə-rən\ *n* [prob. fr. F *alizarine*] **1** : an orange or red crystalline compound $C_{14}H_8O_4$ formerly prepared from madder and now made synthetically and used esp. to dye Turkey reds and in making red pigments **2** : any of various acid, mordant, and solvent dyes derived like alizarin proper from anthraquinone

alk *abbr* alkaline

al·ka·hest \'al-kə-ˌhest\ *n* [NL *alchahest*] : the universal solvent believed by the alchemists to exist — **al·ka·hes·tic** \ˌal-kə-'hes-tik\ *adj*

al·ka·les·cence \ˌal-kə-'les-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* : the property or degree of being alkaline — **al·ka·les·cent** \-ᵊnt\ *adj*

al·ka·li \'al-kə-ˌlī\ *n, pl* **-lies** *or* **-lis** [ME, fr. ML, fr. Ar *al-qili* the ashes of the plant saltwort] **1** : a soluble salt obtained from the ashes of plants and consisting largely of potassium or sodium carbonate; *broadly* : a substance (as a hydroxide or carbonate of an alkali metal) having marked basic properties — compare BASE 7 **2** : ALKALI METAL **3** : a soluble salt or a mixture of soluble salts present in some soils of arid regions in quantity detrimental to agriculture

al·ka·li·fy \al-'kal-ə-ˌfī, 'al-kə-lə-\ *vb* **-fied; -fy·ing** *vt* : to convert or change into an alkali : make alkaline ~ *vi* : to become alkaline

alkali metal *n* : any of the univalent mostly basic metals of group I of the periodic table comprising lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, cesium, and francium

al·ka·lim·e·ter \ˌal-kə-'lim-ət-ər\ *n* [F *alcalimètre*, fr. *alcali* alkali + *-mètre* -meter] : an apparatus for measuring the strength or the amount of alkali in a mixture or solution — **al·ka·lim·e·try** \-'lim-ə-trē\ *n*

al·ka·line \'al-kə-lən, -ˌlīn\ *adj* : of, relating to, or having the properties of an alkali; *esp* : having a pH of more than 7 — **al·ka·lin·i·ty** \ˌal-kə-'lin-ət-ē\ *n*

alkaline earth *n* **1** : an oxide of any of several bivalent strongly basic metals comprising calcium, strontium, and barium and sometimes also magnesium, radium, or less often beryllium **2** : ALKALINE-EARTH METAL

alkaline–earth metal *n* : any of the metals whose oxides are the alkaline earths

alkaline phosphatase *n* : a phosphatase (as the phosphomonoesterase from blood plasma or milk) active in alkaline medium

al·ka·lin·ize \'al-kə-lə-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to make alkaline — **al·ka·lin·iza·tion** \ˌal-kə-ˌlin-ə-'zā-shən, -lə-nə-\ *n*

al·ka·loid \'al-kə-ˌlȯid\ *n* : any of numerous usu. colorless, complex, and bitter organic bases (as morphine or codeine) containing nitrogen and usu. oxygen that occur esp. in seed plants — **al·ka·loi·dal** \ˌal-kə-'lȯid-ᵊl\ *adj*

al·ka·lo·sis \ˌal-kə-'lō-səs\ *n* : a condition of increased alkalinity of the blood and tissues

al·ka·net \'al-kə-ˌnet\ *n* [ME, fr. OSp *alcaneta*, dim. of *alcana* henna shrub, fr. ML *alchanna*, fr. Ar *al-ḥinnā'* the henna] **1 a** : a European plant (*Alkanna tinctoria*) of the borage family; *also* : its root **b** : a red dyestuff prepared from the root **2** : BUGLOSS

alk·oxy \'al-ˌkäk-sē\ *adj* [ISV *alk*yl + *oxy*gen] : of, relating to, or containing a univalent radical composed of an alkyl group united with oxygen

alky *abbr* alkalinity

al·kyd \'al-kəd\ *n* [blend of *alkyl* and *acid*] : any of numerous thermoplastic or thermosetting synthetic resins made by heating polyhydroxy alcohols with polybasic acids or their anhydrides and used esp. for protective coatings

al·kyl \'al-kəl\ *n* [prob. fr. G, fr. *alkohol* alcohol, fr. ML *alcohol*] **1 a** : a univalent aliphatic radical C_nH_{2n+1} (as methyl) **b** : any univalent aliphatic, aromatic-aliphatic, or alicyclic hydrocarbon radical **2** : a compound of alkyl radicals with a metal — **al·kyl·ic** \al-'kil-ik\ *adj*

al·kyl·ate \'al-kə-ˌlāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** : to introduce one or more alkyl groups into (a compound)

al·kyl·ation \ˌal-kə-'lā-shən\ *n* : the act or process of alkylating esp. for producing high-octane fuel

¹all \'ȯl\ *adj* [ME *all, al*, fr. OE *eall;* akin to OHG *al* all] **1 a** : the whole amount or quantity of ⟨sat up ~ night⟩ **b** : as much as possible ⟨spoke in ~ seriousness⟩ **2 a** : every member or individual component of ⟨~ men will go⟩ ⟨~ five children were present⟩ **b** — used in logic as a verbalized equivalent of the universal quantifier **3** : the whole number or sum of ⟨~ the angles of a triangle are equal to two right angles⟩ **4** : EVERY ⟨~ manner of hardship⟩ **5** : any whatever ⟨beyond ~ doubt⟩ **6** : nothing but : ONLY: **a** : completely taken up with, given to, or absorbed by ⟨became ~ attention⟩ **b** : having or seeming to have (some physical feature) in conspicuous excess or prominence ⟨~ thumbs⟩ **c** : paying full attention with ⟨~ ears⟩ **7** *dial* : used up : entirely consumed — used esp. of food and drink **8** : being more than one person or thing — **all the** : as much of . . . as : as much of a . . . as ⟨*all the* home I ever had⟩

²all *adv* **1** : WHOLLY, ALTOGETHER ⟨sat ~ alone⟩ — often used as an intensive ⟨~ out of proportion⟩ **2** *obs* : EXCLUSIVELY, ONLY **3** *archaic* : JUST **4** : so much ⟨~ the better for it⟩ **5** : for each side : APIECE ⟨the score is two ~ ⟩

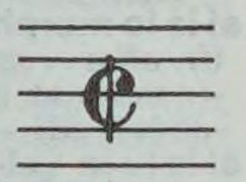
³all *pron* **1** : the whole number, quantity, or amount : TOTALITY ⟨~ that I have⟩ ⟨~ of us⟩ ⟨~ of the books⟩ **2** : EVERYBODY, EVERYTHING ⟨sacrificed ~ for love⟩ — **all in all** : on the whole : generally ⟨*all in all*, things might have been worse⟩ — **at all** : in any way — usu. used with a negative ⟨no good *at all*⟩

⁴all *n* : the whole of one's possessions or of what one prizes ⟨gave his ~ for the cause⟩

all- *or* **allo-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *allos* other — more at ELSE] **1** : other : different : atypical ⟨*allo*gamous⟩ ⟨*allo*merism⟩ **2** *allo-* : isomeric form or variety of (a specified chemical compound) **3** *allo-* : being one of a group whose members together constitute a structural unit esp. of a language ⟨*allo*phone⟩

¹al·la breve \ˌal-ə-'brev, ˌäl-ə-'brev-(ˌ)ā\ *adv or adj* [It, lit., according to the breve] : in duple or quadruple time with the beat represented by the half note

²alla breve *n* : the sign marking a piece or passage to be played alla breve; *also* : a passage so marked



alla breve

Al·lah \'al-ə, ä-'lä\ *n* [Ar *allāh*] : the Supreme Being of the Muslims

¹all–Amer·i·can \ˌȯ-lə-'mer-ə-kən\ *adj* **1** : composed wholly of American elements **2** : representative of the ideals of the U.S. ⟨an ~ boy⟩ **3 a** : selected (as by a poll of journalists) as one of the best in the U.S. in a particular category at a particular time ⟨an ~ quarterback⟩ **b** : made up of all-American participants ⟨an ~ basketball team⟩ **4** : of or relating to the American nations as a group

²all–American *n* : one (as an athlete) that is voted all-American

al·lan·to·is \ə-'lant-ə-wəs\ *n, pl* **al·lan·to·ides** \ˌal-ən-'tō-ə-ˌdēz, ˌal-ˌan-\ [NL, deriv. of Gk *allant-, allas* sausage] : a vascular fetal membrane of reptiles, birds, or mammals that is formed as a pouch from the hindgut and that in placental mammals is intimately associated with the chorion in formation of the placenta — **al·lan·to·ic** \ˌal-ən-'tō-ik, ˌal-ˌan-\ *adj*

al·lar·gan·do \ˌäl-är-'gän-(ˌ)dō\ *adj or adv* [It, widening, verbal of *allargare* to widen, fr. *al-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *largare* to widen] : becoming gradually broader with the same or greater volume — used as a direction in music

all–around \ˌȯ-lə-'raůnd\ *adj* **1** : competent in many fields ⟨an ~ man of letters⟩ **2** : having general utility **3** : considered in or encompassing all aspects : INCLUSIVE ⟨the best ~ recording of the work to date⟩ ⟨good nature and ~ competence —G. H. Soule⟩ ***syn*** see VERSATILE

al·lay \ə-'lā\ *vb* [ME *alayen*, fr. OE *ālecgan*, fr. *ā-* (perfective prefix) + *lecgan* to lay — more at ABIDE, LAY] *vt* **1** : to subdue or reduce in intensity or severity : ALLEVIATE ⟨wishing for a breeze to ~ the summer heat⟩ **2** : to make quiet : CALM ~ *vi, obs* : to diminish in strength : SUBSIDE ***syn*** see RELIEVE ***ant*** intensify

all but *adv* : very nearly : ALMOST ⟨he *all but* disappeared from public notice⟩

all clear *n* : a signal that a danger has passed

all–day \ˌȯl-ˌdā\ *adj* : lasting for, occupying, or appearing throughout an entire day ⟨an ~ trip⟩

al·le·ga·tion \ˌal-i-'gā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of alleging **2** : a positive assertion; *specif* : a statement by a party to a legal action of what he undertakes to prove **3** : an assertion unsupported and by implication regarded as unsupportable ⟨vague ~*s* of misconduct⟩

al·lege \ə-'lej\ *vt* **al·leged; al·leg·ing** [ME *alleggen*, fr. OF *alleguer*, fr. L *allegare* to dispatch, cite, fr. *ad-* + *legare* to depute — more at LEGATE] **1** : to assert without proof or before proving ⟨the newspaper ~*s* the mayor's guilt⟩ **2** *archaic* : to adduce or bring forward as a source or authority **3** : to bring forward as a reason or excuse ***syn*** see ADDUCE ***ant*** contravene, traverse

al·leged \ə-'lejd, -'lej-əd\ *adj* **1** : asserted to be true or to exist : AVOWED ⟨an ~ miracle⟩ **2** : questionably true or of a specified kind : SO-CALLED ⟨bought an ~ antique vase⟩ — **al·leg·ed·ly** \-'lej-əd-lē\ *adv*

Al·le·ghe·ny spurge \ˌal-ə-ˌgā-nē- *also* ˌgen-ē\ *n* [*Allegheny* mts., U.S.A.] : a low herb or subshrub (*Pachysandra procumbens*) of the box family widely grown as a ground cover

al·le·giance \ə-'lē-jən(t)s\ *n* [ME *allegeaunce*, modif. of MF *ligeance*, fr. OF, fr. *lige* liege] **1 a** : the obligation of a feudal vassal to his liege lord **b** (1) : the fidelity owed by a subject or citizen to his sovereign or government (2) : the obligation of an alien to the government under which he resides **2** : devotion or loyalty to a person, group, or cause ***syn*** see FIDELITY ***ant*** treachery, treason

al·le·giant \-jənt\ *adj* : giving allegiance : LOYAL

al·le·gor·i·cal \ˌal-ə-'gȯr-i-kəl, -'gär-\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of allegory **2** : having hidden spiritual meaning that transcends the literal sense of a sacred text — **al·le·gor·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **al·le·gor·i·cal·ness** \-kəl-nəs\ *n*

al·le·go·rist \'al-ə-ˌgōr-əst, -ˌgȯr-\ *n* : a writer of allegory

al·le·go·ri·za·tion \ˌal-ə-ˌgōr-ə-'zā-shən, -ˌgȯr-, -gər-\ *n* : allegorical representation or interpretation

al·le·go·rize \'al-ə-ˌgōr-ˌīz, -ˌgȯr-, -gər-\ *vb* **-rized; -riz·ing** *vt* **1** : to make into allegory **2** : to treat or explain as allegory ~ *vi* **1** : to give allegorical explanations **2** : to compose or use allegory — **al·le·go·riz·er** *n*

al·le·go·ry \'al-ə-ˌgōr-ē, -ˌgȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ries** [ME *allegorie*, fr. L *allegoria*, fr. Gk *allēgoria*, fr. *allēgorein* to speak figuratively, fr. *allos* other + *-agorein* to speak publicly, fr. *agora* assembly — more at ELSE, GREGARIOUS] **1 a** : the expression by means of symbolic fictional figures and actions of truths or generalizations about human existence **b** : an instance (as in a story or painting) of such expression **2** : a symbolic representation : EMBLEM

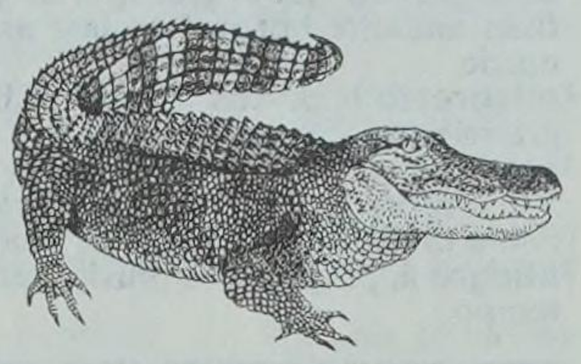
¹al·le·gret·to \ˌal-ə-'gret-(ˌ)ō, äl-\ *adv or adj* [It, fr. *allegro*] : faster than andante but not so fast as allegro — used as a direction in music

²allegretto *n, pl* **-tos** : a musical composition or movement in allegretto tempo

¹al·le·gro \ə-'leg-(ˌ)rō, -'lā-(ˌ)grō\ *adv or adj* [It, merry, fr. (assumed) VL *alecrus* lively, alter. of L *alacr-, alacer* — more at ALACRITY] : in a brisk lively manner — used as a direction in music

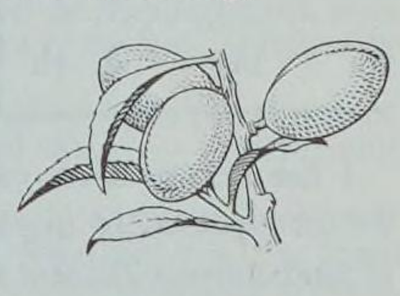
²allegro *n, pl* **-gros** : a musical composition or movement in allegro tempo

al·lele \ə-'lē(ə)l\ *n* [G *allel*, short for *allelomorph*] **1** : either of a pair of alternative Mendelian characters (as smooth and wrinkled seed in the pea) **2** : one of a group of genes that occur alternatively at a given locus — **al·le·lic** \-'lē-lik, -'lel-ik\ *adj* — **al·lel·ism** \-'lē(ə)l-ˌiz-əm, -'lel-ˌiz-\ *n*
al·le·lo·morph \ə-'lel-ə-ˌmȯrf, -'lē-lə-\ *n* [Gk *allēlōn* of each other (fr. *allos* . . . *allos* one . . . the other, fr. *allos* other) + *morphē* form — more at ELSE] : ALLELE — **al·le·lo·mor·phic** \ə-ˌlel-ə-'mȯr-fik, -ˌlē-lə-\ *adj* — **al·le·lo·mor·phism** \ə-'lel-ə-ˌmȯr-ˌfiz-əm, -'lē-lə-\ *n*
al·le·lu·ia \ˌal-ə-'lü-yə\ *interj* [ME, fr. LL, fr. Gk *allēlouia*, fr. Heb *halălūyāh* praise ye Jehovah] : HALLELUJAH
al·le·mande \'al-ə-ˌman(d), -mən, -ˌmänd\ *n, often cap* [F, fr. fem. of *allemand* German] **1 a** : a 17th and 18th century court dance developed in France from a German folk dance **b** : a dance step with arms interlaced **2** : a musical composition or movement in moderate tempo and duple or quadruple time
all–em·brac·ing \ˌȯ-lim-'brā-siŋ\ *adj* : COMPLETE, SWEEPING ⟨an ~ charity toward his fellowmen⟩
al·ler·gen \'al-ər-jən\ *n* : a substance that induces allergy — **al·ler·gen·ic** \ˌal-ər-'jen-ik\ *adj*
al·ler·gic \ə-'lər-jik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, inducing, or affected by allergy **2** : disagreeably sensitive : ANTIPATHETIC ⟨~ to marriage⟩
al·ler·gist \'al-ər-jəst\ *n* : a specialist in allergy
al·ler·gy \'al-ər-jē\ *n, pl* **-gies** [G *allergie*, fr. *all-* + Gk *ergon* work — more at WORK] **1** : altered bodily reactivity (as anaphylaxis) to an antigen in response to a first exposure ⟨his bee-venom ~ may render a second sting fatal⟩ **2** : exaggerated or pathological reaction (as by sneezing, respiratory embarrassment, itching, or skin rashes) to substances, situations, or physical states that are without comparable effect on the average individual **3** : medical practice concerned with allergies **4** : a feeling of antipathy or repugnance
al·le·thrin \'al-ə-thrən\ *n* [*all*yl + pyr*ethrin*] : a light yellow viscous oily synthetic insecticide $C_{19}H_{26}O_3$ used esp. in household aerosols
al·le·vi·ate \ə-'lē-vē-ˌāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [LL *alleviatus*, pp. of *alleviare*, fr. L *ad-* + *levis* light — more at LIGHT] : RELIEVE, LESSEN: as **a** : to make (as suffering) more bearable ⟨her sympathy *alleviated* his distress⟩ **b** : to partially remove or correct ***syn*** see RELIEVE ***ant*** aggravate — **al·le·vi·a·tion** \-ˌlē-vē-'ā-shən\ *n* — **al·le·vi·a·tor** \-'lē-vē-ˌāt-ər\ *n*
al·le·vi·a·tive \ə-'lē-vē-ˌāt-iv\ *or* **al·le·vi·a·to·ry** \-vē-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : tending to alleviate : PALLIATIVE
[1]al·ley \'al-ē\ *n, pl* **alleys** [ME, fr. MF *alee*, fr. OF, fr. *aler* to go, modif. of L *ambulare* to walk] **1** : a garden or park walk bordered by trees or bushes **2 a** (1) : a grassed enclosure for bowling or skittles (2) : a hardwood lane for bowling; *also* : a room or building housing a group of such lanes **b** : the space on each side of a tennis doubles court between the sideline and the service sideline **3** : a narrow street; *esp* : a thoroughfare through the middle of a block giving access to the rear of lots or buildings — **up one's alley** *also* **down one's alley** : suited to one's own tastes or abilities
[2]alley *n, pl* **alleys** [by shortening and alter. fr. *alabaster*] : a playing marble; *esp* : one of superior quality
al·ley·way \'al-ē-ˌwā\ *n* **1** : a narrow passageway **2** : ALLEY 3
All Fools' Day *n* : APRIL FOOLS' DAY
all fours *n pl* **1 a** : all four legs of a quadruped **b** : the two legs and two arms of a person when used to support the body **2** *sing in constr* : any of various card games in which points are scored for the high trump, low trump, jack of trumps, and game
all get–out \ˌȯl-get-'au̇t, -git-\ *n* : the utmost conceivable degree — used in comparisons to suggest something superlative ⟨is handsome as *all get-out* and has a deft way with the ladies — John McCarten⟩
all hail *interj* — used to express greeting, welcome, or acclamation
All·hal·lows \ȯl-'hal-(ˌ)ōz, -əz\ *n, pl* **Allhallows** [short for *All Hallows' Day*] : ALL SAINTS' DAY
all·heal \'ȯl-ˌhēl\ *n* : any of several plants (as valerian or self-heal) used esp. in folk medicine
al·li·a·ceous \ˌal-ē-'ā-shəs\ *adj* [L *allium*] : resembling garlic or onion esp. in smell or taste
al·li·ance \ə-'lī-ən(t)s\ *n* **1 a** : the state of being allied : the action of allying **b** : a bond or connection between families, states, parties, or individuals ⟨a closer ~ between government and industry⟩ **2** : an association to further the common interests of the members; *specif* : a confederation of nations by formal treaty **3** : union by relationship in qualities : AFFINITY **4** : a treaty of alliance
al·lied \ə-'līd, 'al-ˌīd\ *adj* **1** : having or being in close association : CONNECTED ⟨a strong personal pride ~ with the utmost probity⟩ ⟨two families ~ by marriage⟩ **2** : joined in alliance by compact or treaty; *specif, cap* : of or relating to the nations united against the Central European powers in World War I or those united against the Axis powers in World War II **3 a** : related esp. by common properties or qualities ⟨heraldry and ~ subjects⟩ **b** : related genetically ***syn*** see RELATED
al·li·ga·tor \'al-ə-ˌgāt-ər\ *n* [Sp *el lagarto* the lizard, fr. *el* the (fr. L *ille* that) + *lagarto* lizard, fr. (assumed) VL *lacartus*, fr. L *lacertus, lacerta* — more at LARIAT, LIZARD] **1 a** : either of two crocodilians (genus *Alligator*) having broad heads not tapering to the snout and a special pocket in the upper jaw for reception of the enlarged lower fourth tooth **b** : CROCODILIAN **2** : leather made from alligator hide


alligator 1a

alligator pear *n* : AVOCADO
alligator snapper *n* : a snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) of the rivers of the Gulf states that may reach nearly 150 pounds in weight and 5 feet in length
all–im·por·tant \ˌȯ-lim-'pȯrt-ᵊnt, -ənt\ *adj* : of very great or greatest importance ⟨an ~ question⟩
all–in·clu·sive \ˌȯ-lin-'klü-siv, -ziv\ *adj* : including everything ⟨a broader and more nearly ~ view⟩ — **all-in·clu·sive·ness** *n*
al·lit·er·ate \ə-'lit-ə-ˌrāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [back-formation fr. *alliteration*] *vi* **1** : to form an alliteration **2** : to write or speak alliteratively ~ *vt* : to arrange or place so as to make alliteration ⟨~ syllables in a sentence⟩
al·lit·er·a·tion \ə-ˌlit-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* [*ad-* + L *littera* letter] : the repetition of usu. initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words or syllables (as *w*ild and *w*oolly, *thr*eatening *thr*ongs) — called also *head rhyme, initial rhyme*
al·lit·er·a·tive \ə-'lit-ə-ˌrāt-iv, -rət-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or marked by alliteration — **al·lit·er·a·tive·ly** *adv*
al·li·um \'al-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, garlic] : any of a large genus (*Allium*) of bulbous herbs of the lily family including the onion, garlic, chive, leek, and shallot
all–night \ˌȯl-ˌnīt\ *adj* **1** : lasting throughout the night ⟨an ~ poker game⟩ **2** : open throughout the night ⟨an ~ diner⟩
allo *abbr* allegro
allo- — see ALL-
al·lo·ca·ble \'al-ə-kə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : capable of being allocated **2** : assignable in accounting to a particular account or to a particular period of time
al·lo·cate \'al-ə-ˌkāt\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [ML *allocatus*, pp. of *allocare*, fr. L *ad-* + *locare* to place, fr. *locus* place — more at STALL] **1** : to apportion for a specific purpose or to particular persons or things : DISTRIBUTE ⟨~ tasks among human and automated components⟩ **2** : to set apart or earmark : DESIGNATE ⟨~ a section of the building for special research purposes⟩ ***syn*** see ALLOT — **al·lo·cat·able** \-ˌkāt-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **al·lo·ca·tion** \ˌal-ə-'kā-shən\ *n* — **al·lo·ca·tor** \'al-ə-ˌkāt-ər\ *n*
al·lo·cu·tion \ˌal-ə-'kyü-shən\ *n* [L *allocution-, allocutio*, fr. *allocutus*, pp. of *alloqui* to speak to, fr. *ad-* + *loqui* to speak] : a formal speech; *esp* : an authoritative or hortatory address
al·log·a·mous \ə-'läg-ə-məs\ *adj* : reproducing by cross-fertilization — **al·log·a·my** \-mē\ *n*
al·lo·ge·ne·ic \ˌal-ō-jə-'nē-ik\ *adj* [*all-* + *-geneic* (as in *syngeneic*)] : sufficiently unlike genetically to interact antigenically
al·lo·graft \'al-ə-ˌgraft\ *n* : a homograft between allogeneic individuals
al·lo·graph \'al-ə-ˌgraf\ *n* **1** : a letter of an alphabet in a particular shape (as A or a) **2** : a letter or combination of letters that is one of several ways of representing one phoneme (as *pp* in *hopping* representing the phoneme *p*) — **al·lo·graph·ic** \ˌal-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj*
al·lom·er·ism \ə-'läm-ə-ˌriz-əm\ *n* : variability in chemical constitution without variation in crystalline form — **al·lom·er·ous** \-rəs\ *adj*
al·lom·e·try \ə-'läm-ə-trē\ *n* : relative growth of a part in relation to an entire organism; *also* : the measure and study of such growth — **al·lo·me·tric** \ˌal-ə-'me-trik\ *adj*
[1]al·lo·morph \'al-ə-ˌmȯrf\ *n* [ISV] **1** : any of two or more distinct crystalline forms of the same substance **2** : a pseudomorph that has undergone change or substitution of material — **al·lo·mor·phic** \ˌal-ə-'mȯr-fik\ *adj* — **al·lo·mor·phism** \'al-ə-ˌmȯr-ˌfiz-əm\ *n*
[2]allomorph *n* [*allo-* + *morph*eme] : one of two or more forms that a morpheme has at different points in the language ⟨the *-es* \əz\ of *dishes*, the *-s* \z\ of *dreams*, the *-s* \s\ of *traps*, the *-en* \ən\ of *oxen*, the vowel modification distinguishing *teeth* from *tooth*, and the zero suffix of *sheep* in *those sheep* are ~*s* of the same morpheme⟩ — **al·lo·mor·phic** \ˌal-ə-'mȯr-fik\ *adj* — **al·lo·mor·phism** \'al-ə-ˌmȯr-ˌfiz-əm\ *n*
al·longe \a-'lōⁿzh\ *n* [F, lit., lengthening] : RIDER 2a
al·lo·path \'al-ə-ˌpath\ *n* : one who practices allopathy
al·lop·a·thy \ə-'läp-ə-thē\ *n* [G *allopathie*, fr. *all-* + *-pathie* -pathy] **1** : a system of medical practice that combats disease (as gonorrhea) by treatments (as by exciting nonspecific inflammation through the injection of silver nitrate) that produce effects different from those produced by the disease treated **2** : a system of medical practice making use of all measures proved of value in treatment of disease : conventional medicine exclusive of homeopathy — **al·lo·path·ic** \ˌal-ə-'path-ik\ *adj* — **al·lo·path·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
al·lo·pat·ric \ˌal-ə-'pa-trik\ *adj* [*all-* + Gk *patra* fatherland, fr. *patēr* father — more at FATHER] : occurring in different areas or in isolation ⟨~ speciation⟩ — **al·lo·pat·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **al·lop·a·try** \ə-'läp-ə-trē\ *n*
al·lo·phane \'al-ə-ˌfān\ *n* [Gk *allophanēs* appearing otherwise, fr. *all-* + *phainesthai* to appear, pass. of *phainein* to show — more at FANCY] : an amorphous translucent mineral of various colors often occurring in incrustations or stalactite forms and consisting of a hydrous aluminum silicate
al·lo·phone \'al-ə-ˌfōn\ *n* [*allo-* + *phone*] : one of two or more variants of the same phoneme ⟨the aspirated *p* of *pin* and the nonaspirated *p* of *spin* are ~*s* of the phoneme *p*⟩ — **al·lo·phon·ic** \ˌal-ə-'fän-ik\ *adj*
al·lo·pu·ri·nol \ˌal-ō-'pyu̇r-ə-ˌnōl, -ˌnōl\ *n* [*all-* + *purine* + *-ol*] : a drug $C_5H_4N_4O$ used to promote excretion of uric acid
all–or–none \ˌȯ-lər-'nən\ *adj* : marked either by entire or complete operation or effect or by none at all ⟨~ response of a nerve cell⟩
all–or–noth·ing \-'nəth-iŋ\ *adj* **1** : ALL-OR-NONE **2 a** : accepting no less than everything ⟨he's an ~ perfectionist⟩ **b** : risking everything ⟨playing an ~ game⟩
al·lo·ste·ric \ˌal-ə-'ster-ik, -'sti(ə)r-\ *adj* [*all-* + *steric*] : of, relating to, or being change (as inhibition) in enzyme activity caused by alteration of an enzyme at a point other than its enzymatically active site — **al·lo·ste·ri·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
al·lot \ə-'lät\ *vt* **al·lot·ted; al·lot·ting** [ME *alotten*, fr. MF *aloter*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *lot*, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *hlot* lot] **1** : to assign as a share or portion ⟨~ 10 minutes for the speech⟩ **2** : to distribute by or as if by lot ⟨~ hotel rooms to members of the delegation⟩ — **al·lot·ter** *n*
syn ALLOT, ASSIGN, APPORTION, ALLOCATE *shared meaning element* : to give as a share, portion, role, or lot

al·lot·ment \ə-'lät-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of allotting : APPORTIONMENT **2** : something that is allotted
al·lo·trans·plant \ˌal-ō-tran(t)s-'plant\ *vt* : to transplant as a homograft — **al·lo·trans·plant** \-'tran(t)s-ˌ\ *n* — **al·lo·trans·plan·ta·tion** \-ˌtran(t)s-ˌplan-'tā-shən\ *n*
al·lo·trope \'al-ə-ˌtrōp\ *n* [ISV, back-formation fr. *allotropy*] : a form showing allotropy — **al·lo·trop·ic** \ˌal-ə-'träp-ik\ *adj* — **al·lo·trop·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
al·lot·ro·py \ə-'lä-trə-pē\ *n, pl* **-pies** : the existence of a substance and esp. an element in two or more different forms (as of crystals) usu. in the same phase
all' ot·ta·va \ˌal-ə-'täv-ə, ˌäl-ō-\ *adv or adj* [It, at the octave] : OTTAVA
al·lot·tee \ə-ˌlät-'ē\ *n* : one to whom an allotment is made
al·lo·type \'al-ə-ˌtīp\ *n* : an isoantigenic immunoglobulin — **al·lo·typ·ic** \ˌal-ə-'tip-ik\ *adj* — **al·lo·typ·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **al·lo·typy** \'al-ə-ˌtī-pē\ *n*
all–out \'ȯ-'laůt\ *adj* : made with maximum effort : THOROUGHGOING ⟨an ~ effort to win the contest⟩
all out *adv* : with full determination or enthusiasm : with maximum effort — used chiefly in the phrase *go all out*
1all-over \'ȯ-ˌlō-vər\ *adj* : covering the whole extent or surface ⟨a sweater with an ~ pattern⟩
2allover *n* **1** : an embroidered, printed, or lace fabric with a design covering most of the surface **2** : a pattern or design in which a single unit is repeated so as to cover an entire surface
all over *adv* **1** : over the whole extent ⟨decorated *all over* with a flower pattern⟩ **2** : EVERYWHERE ⟨looked *all over* for the missing book⟩ **3** : in every respect : THOROUGHLY ⟨she is her mother *all over*⟩
all–overs \'ȯ-ˌlō-vərz\ *n pl, chiefly South & Midland* : a feeling of nervousness : FIDGETS ⟨I don't like such stories . . . they give me the ~ — J. C. Harris⟩
al·low \ə-'laů\ *vb* [ME *allowen*, fr. MF *alouer* to place, (fr. ML *allocare*) & *allouer* to approve, fr. L *adlaudare* to extol, fr. *ad-* + *laudare* to praise — more at ALLOCATE, LAUD] *vt* **1 a** : to assign as a share or suitable amount (as of time or money) ⟨~ an hour for lunch⟩ **b** : to reckon as a deduction or an addition ⟨~ a gallon for leakage⟩ **2** : ADMIT, CONCEDE ⟨must ~ that money causes problems in marriage⟩ **3 a** : PERMIT ⟨doesn't ~ people to smoke in his home⟩ **b** : to forbear or neglect to restrain or prevent ⟨~ the dog to roam⟩ **4** *dial* **a** : to be of the opinion : THINK **b** : INTEND, PLAN ~ *vi* **1** : to make a possibility : ADMIT — used with *of* ⟨evidence that ~*s* of only one conclusion⟩ **2** : to make allowance — used with *for* ⟨~ for expansion⟩ **3** *dial* : SUPPOSE, CONSIDER ***syn*** see LET ***ant*** inhibit
al·low·able \ə-'laů-ə-bəl\ *adj* : PERMISSIBLE — **al·low·able·ness** *n* — **al·low·ably** \-blē\ *adv*
1al·low·ance \ə-'laů-ən(t)s\ *n* **1 a** : a share or portion allotted or granted **b** : a sum granted as a reimbursement or bounty or for expenses ⟨salary includes cost-of-living ~⟩; *esp* : a sum regularly provided for personal or household expenses ⟨each child has an ~⟩ **c** : a fixed or available amount ⟨provide an ~ of time for recreation⟩ **d** : a reduction from a list price or stated price ⟨a trade-in ~⟩ **2** : an imposed handicap (as in a race) **3** : an allowed dimensional difference between mating parts of a machine **4** : the act of allowing : PERMISSION **5** : the taking into account of mitigating circumstances or contingencies ***syn*** see RATION
2allowance *vt* **-anced; -anc·ing** **1** : to put on a fixed allowance (as of food and drink) **2** : to supply in a fixed or regular quantity
al·low·ed·ly \ə-'laů-əd-lē\ *adv* : by allowance : ADMITTEDLY
al·lox·an \ə-'läk-sən\ *n* [G, fr. *all*antoin, a chemical found in the allantoic membrane of cows + *ox*alsäure oxalic acid + *-an*] : a crystalline compound $C_4H_2N_2O_4$ causing diabetes mellitus when injected into experimental animals; *also* : one of its similarly acting derivatives
1al·loy \'al-ˌȯi, ə-'lȯi\ *n* [MF *aloi*, fr. *aloier* to combine, fr. L *alligare* to bind — more at ALLY] **1** : the degree of mixture with base metals : FINENESS **2** : a substance composed of two or more metals or of a metal and a nonmetal intimately united usu. by being fused together and dissolving in each other when molten; *also* : the state of union of the components **3** *archaic* : a metal mixed with a more valuable metal to give durability or some other desired quality **4 a** : an admixture that lessens value **b** : an impairing alien element **5** : a compound, mixture, or union of different things : AMALGAM ⟨an ethnic ~ of many peoples⟩
2al·loy \ə-'lȯi, 'al-ˌȯi\ *vt* **1** : to reduce the purity of by mixing with a less valuable metal **2** : to mix so as to form an alloy **3 a** : to impair or debase by admixture **b** : TEMPER, MODERATE ~ *vi* : to lend itself to being alloyed ⟨iron ~*s* well⟩
all–pow·er·ful \'ȯl-'paů(-ə)r-fəl\ *adj* : having complete or sole power
all–pur·pose \-'pər-pəs\ *adj* : suited for many purposes or uses
1all right \(')ȯl-'rīt, *esp for 2* 'ȯl-ˌ\ *adv* **1** : well enough ⟨does *all right* in school⟩ **2** : very well : YES ⟨*all right*, let's go⟩ **3** : beyond doubt : CERTAINLY ⟨he has pneumonia *all right*⟩
2all right \(')ȯl-'\ *adj* **1** : SATISFACTORY ⟨the film is *all right* for children⟩ **2** : SAFE, WELL ⟨he was ill but he's *all right* now⟩ **3** : AGREEABLE, PLEASING — usu. used as a generalized term of approval
all–round \'ȯl-'raůnd\ *var of* ALL-AROUND
All Saints' Day *n* : November 1 observed in Western liturgical churches as a Christian feast in honor of all the saints
all·seed \'ȯl-ˌsēd\ *n* : any of several many-seeded plants (as knotgrass)
All Souls' Day *n* : November 2 observed as a day of prayer for the souls of the faithful departed
all·spice \'ȯl-ˌspīs\ *n* **1** : the berry of a West Indian tree (*Pimenta dioica*) of the myrtle family; *also* : the allspice tree **2** : a mildly pungent and aromatic spice prepared from allspice berries
1all–star \ˌȯl-ˌstär\ *adj* : composed wholly or chiefly of stars or of outstanding performers or participants ⟨an ~ cast⟩
2all–star \'ȯl-ˌstär\ *n* : a member of an all-star team ⟨major league ~*s*⟩
all that \(')ȯl-'that\ *adv* : to an indicated or suggested extent or degree : SO ⟨didn't take his threats *all that* seriously⟩
all the same *adv* : NEVERTHELESS ⟨she was very tired but enjoyed the play *all the same*⟩
all–time \ˌȯl-ˌtīm\ *adj* **1** : FULL-TIME **2** : exceeding all others of all time ⟨an ~ best seller⟩
all told *adv* : with everything taken into account : in all
al·lude \ə-'lüd\ *vi* **al·lud·ed; al·lud·ing** [L *alludere*, lit., to play with, fr. *ad-* + *ludere* to play — more at LUDICROUS] : to make indirect reference ***syn*** see REFER
1al·lure \ə-'lů(ə)r\ *vt* **al·lured; al·lur·ing** [ME *aluren*, fr. MF *alurer*, fr. OF, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *loire* lure — more at LURE] : to entice by charm or attraction ***syn*** see ATTRACT ***ant*** repel — **al·lure·ment** \-'lů(ə)r-mənt\ *n*
2allure *n* : power of attraction or fascination : CHARM
al·lu·sion \ə-'lü-zhən\ *n* [LL *allusion-, allusio*, fr. L *allusus*, pp. of *alludere*] **1** : the act of alluding or hinting at **2** : an implied or indirect reference esp. when used in literature; *also* : the use of such references — **al·lu·sive** \-'lü-siv, -ziv\ *adj* — **al·lu·sive·ly** *adv* — **al·lu·sive·ness** *n*
1al·lu·vi·al \ə-'lü-vē-əl\ *adj* : relating to, composed of, or found in alluvium ⟨~ soil⟩ ⟨~ diamonds⟩
2alluvial *n* : an alluvial deposit
alluvial fan *n* : the alluvial deposit of a stream where it issues from a gorge upon a plain or of a tributary stream at its junction with the main stream
al·lu·vi·on \ə-'lü-vē-ən\ *n* [L *alluvion-, alluvio*, fr. *alluere* to wash against, fr. *ad-* + *lavere* to wash — more at LYE] **1** : the wash or flow of water against a shore **2** : FLOOD, INUNDATION **3** : ALLUVIUM **4** : an accession to land by the gradual addition of matter (as by deposit of alluvium) that then belongs to the owner of the land to which it is added; *also* : the land so added
al·lu·vi·um \-vē-əm\ *n, pl* **-vi·ums** *or* **-via** \-vē-ə\ [LL, neut. of *alluvius* alluvial, fr. L *alluere*] : clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar detrital material deposited by running water
1al·ly \ə-'lī, 'al-ˌī\ *vb* **al·lied; al·ly·ing** [ME *allien*, fr OF *alier*, fr. L *alligare* to bind to, fr. *ad-* + *ligare* to bind — more at LIGATURE] *vt* **1** : to unite or form a connection between : ASSOCIATE ⟨*allied* himself with a wealthy family by marriage⟩ **2** : to connect or form a relation between (as by likeness or compatibility) : RELATE ~ *vi* : to form or enter into an alliance
2al·ly \'al-ˌī, ə-'lī\ n, *pl* **allies** **1** : a plant or animal linked to another by genetic or evolutionary relationship **2** : a sovereign or state associated with another by treaty or league **3** : one that is associated with another as a helper : AUXILIARY
-al·ly \(ə-)lē\ *adv suffix* [*1-al* + *-ly*] : 2-LY ⟨terrific*ally*⟩ — in adverbs formed from adjectives in *-ic* with no alternative form in *-ical*
al·lyl \'al-əl\ *n* [ISV, fr. L *allium* garlic] : an unsaturated univalent radical C_3H_5 compounds of which are found in the oils of garlic and mustard — **al·lyl·ic** \ə-'lil-ik, a-\ *adj*
al·ma·gest \'al-mə-ˌjest\ *n* [ME *almageste*, fr. MF & ML, fr. Ar *al-majusti* the almagest, fr. *al* the + Gk *megistē*, fem. of *megistos*, superl. of *megas* great — more at MUCH] : any of several early medieval treatises on a branch of knowledge
al·ma ma·ter \ˌal-mə-'mät-ər\ *n* [L, fostering mother] **1** : a school, college, or university which one has attended or from which one has graduated **2** : the song or hymn of a school, college, or university
al·ma·nac \'ȯl-mə-ˌnak, 'al-\ *n* [ME *almenak*, fr. ML *almanach*, prob. fr. Ar *al-manākh* the almanac] **1** : a publication containing astronomical and meteorological data arranged according to the days, weeks, and months of a given year and often including a miscellany of other information **2** : a usu. annual publication containing statistical, tabular, and general information
al·man·dine \'al-mən-ˌdēn\ *n* [ME *alabandine*, fr. ML *alabandina*, fr. *Alabanda* ancient city in Asia Minor] **1** : ALMANDITE **2** : a violet variety of the ruby spinel or sapphire **3** : the purple Indian garnet
al·man·dite \'al-mən-ˌdīt\ *n* [alter. of *almandine*] : a deep red garnet consisting of an iron aluminum silicate $Fe_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$
1al·mighty \ˌȯl-'mīt-ē\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *ealmihtig*, fr. *eall* all + *mihtig* mighty] **1** *often cap* : having absolute power over all ⟨*Almighty* God⟩ **2** : relatively unlimited in power **3** : great in magnitude or seriousness — **al·mighti·ness** *n, often cap*
2almighty *adv* : to a great degree : EXTREMELY ⟨although he did not precisely starve, he was ~ hungry — W. A. Swanberg⟩
Almighty *n* : GOD 1 — used with *the*
al·mond \'äm-ənd, 'am-; 'al-mənd\ *n* [ME *almande*, fr. OF, fr. LL *amandula*, alter. of L *amygdala*, fr. Gk *amygdalē*] **1 a** : a small tree (*Prunus amygdalus*) of the rose family with flowers and young fruit resembling those of the peach **b** : the drupaceous fruit of the almond; *esp* : its ellipsoidal edible kernel used as a nut **2** : any of several fruits similar to the almond; *also* : the trees producing them


almonds 1b

al·mond-eyed \ˌäm-ən-'dīd, ˌam-; ˌal-mən-\ *adj* : having narrow slant almond-shaped eyes
almond green *n* : a variable color averaging a moderate yellowish green
al·mo·ner \'al-mə-nər, 'äm-ə-\ *n* [ME *almoiner*, fr. OF *almosnier*, fr. *almosne* alms, fr. LL *eleemosyna*] **1** : one who distributes alms **2** *Brit* : a social-service worker in a hospital
al·most \'ȯl-ˌmōst, ȯl-'\ *adv* [ME, fr. OE *ealmæst*, fr. *eall* + *mæst* most] : very nearly but not exactly or entirely

ALPHABET TABLE

Showing the letters of five non-Roman alphabets and the transliterations used in the etymologies

HEBREW[1,4]			ARABIC[3,4]					GREEK[7]			RUSSIAN[8]			SANSKRIT[11]			
א	aleph	' [2]	ا	ـا			alif [5]	A α	alpha	a	A a		a	अ	a	ञ	ñ
ב	beth	b, bh	ب	ـب	بـ	بـ	bā	B β	beta	b	Б б		b	आ	ā	ट	ṭ
ג	gimel	g, gh	ت	ـت	تـ	تـ	tā	Γ γ	gamma	g, n	В в		v	इ	i	ठ	ṭh
ד	daleth	d, dh	ث	ـث	ثـ	ثـ	thā	Δ δ	delta	d	Г г		g	ई	ī	ड	ḍ
ה	he	h	ج	ـج	جـ	جـ	jīm	E ε	epsilon	e	Д д		d	उ	u	ढ	ḍh
ו	waw	w	ح	ـح	حـ	حـ	ḥā	Z ζ	zeta	z	E e		e	ऊ	ū	ण	ṇ
ז	zayin	z	خ	ـخ	خـ	خـ	khā	H η	eta	ē	Ж ж		zh	ऋ	ṛ	त	t
ח	heth	ḥ	د	ـد			dāl	Θ θ	theta	th	З з		z	ॠ	ṝ	थ	th
ט	teth	ṭ	ذ	ـذ			dhāl	I ι	iota	i	И и	Й й	i, ĭ	ऌ	ḷ	द	d
י	yod	y	ر	ـر			rā	K κ	kappa	k	К к		k	ॡ	ḹ	ध	dh
כ ך	kaph	k, kh	ز	ـز			zāy	Λ λ	lambda	l	Л л		l	ए	e	न	n
ל	lamed	l	س	ـس	ـسـ	سـ	sīn	M μ	mu	m	М м		m	ऐ	ai	प	p
מ ם	mem	m	ش	ـش	ـشـ	شـ	shīn	N ν	nu	n	Н н		n	ओ	o	फ	ph
נ ן	nun	n	ص	ـص	ـصـ	صـ	ṣād	Ξ ξ	xi	x	О о		o	औ	au	ब	b
ס	samekh	s	ض	ـض	ـضـ	ضـ	ḍād	O o	omicron	o	П п		p	ं	ṁ	भ	bh
ע	ayin	'	ط	ـط	ـطـ	طـ	ṭā	Π π	pi	p	Р р		r	ः	ḥ	म	m
פ ף	pe	p, ph	ظ	ـظ	ـظـ	ظـ	ẓā	P ρ	rho	r, rh	С с		s	क	k	य	y
צ ץ	sadhe	ṣ	ع	ـع	ـعـ	عـ	'ayn	Σ σ ς	sigma	s	Т т		t	ख	kh	र	r
ק	qoph	q	غ	ـغ	ـغـ	غـ	ghayn	T τ	tau	t	У у		u	ग	g	ल	l
ר	resh	r	ف	ـف	ـفـ	فـ	fā	Υ υ	upsilon	y, u	Ф ф		f	घ	gh	व	v
שׁ	sin	ś	ق	ـق	ـقـ	قـ	qāf	Φ φ	phi	ph	Х х		kh	ङ	ṅ	श	ś
שׂ	shin	sh	ك	ـك	ـكـ	كـ	kāf	X χ	chi	ch	Ц ц		ts	च	c	ष	ṣ
ת	taw	t, th	ل	ـل	ـلـ	لـ	lām	Ψ ψ	psi	ps	Ч ч		ch	छ	ch	स	s
			م	ـم	ـمـ	مـ	mīm	Ω ω	omega	ō	Ш ш		sh	ज	j	ह	h
			ن	ـن	ـنـ	نـ	nūn				Щ щ		shch	झ	jh		
			ه	ـه	ـهـ	هـ	hā [6]				Ъ ъ [9]		"				
			و	ـو			wāw				Ы ы		y				
			ى	ـى	ـيـ	يـ	yā				Ь ь [10]		'				
											Э э		e				
											Ю ю		yu				
											Я я		ya				

1 See ALEPH, BETH, etc., in the vocabulary. Where two forms of a letter are given, the one at the right is the form used at the end of a word. 2 Not represented in transliteration when initial. 3 The left column shows the form of each Arabic letter that is used when it stands alone, the second column its form when it is joined to the preceding letter, the third column its form when it is joined to both the preceding and the following letter, and the right column its form when it is joined to the following letter only. In the names of the Arabic letters, *ā*, *ī*, and *ū* respectively are pronounced like *a* in *father*, *i* in *machine*, *u* in *rude*. 4 Hebrew and Arabic are written from right to left. The Hebrew and Arabic letters are all primarily consonants; a few of them are also used secondarily to represent certain vowels, but full indication of vowels, when provided at all, is by means of a system of dots or strokes adjacent to the consonantal characters. 5 Alif represents no sound in itself, but is used principally as an indicator of the presence of a glottal stop (transliterated ' medially and finally; not represented in transliteration when initial) and as the sign of a long *a*. 6 When ه has two dots above it (ۀ), it is called *tā marbūta* and, if it immediately precedes a vowel, is transliterated *t* instead of *h*. 7 See ALPHA, BETA, GAMMA, etc., in the vocabulary. The letter gamma is transliterated *n* only before velars; the letter upsilon is transliterated *u* only as the final element in diphthongs. 8 See CYRILLIC in the vocabulary. 9 This sign indicates that the immediately preceding consonant is not palatalized even though immediately followed by a palatal vowel. 10 This sign indicates that the immediately preceding consonant is palatalized even though not immediately followed by a palatal vowel. 11 The alphabet shown here is the Devanagari. When vowels are combined with preceding consonants they are indicated by various strokes or hooks instead of by the signs here given, or, in the case of short *a*, not written at all. Thus the character क represents *ka;* the character का, *kā;* the character कि, *ki;* the character की, *kī;* the character कु, *ku;* the character कू, *kū;* the character कृ, *kṛ;* the character कॄ, *kṝ;* the character के, *ke;* the character कै, *kai;* the character को, *ko;* the character कौ, *kau;* and the character क्, *k* without any following vowel. There are also many compound characters representing combinations of two or more consonants.

alms \'ämz, 'älmz\ *n, pl* **alms** [ME *almesse, almes,* fr. OE *ælmesse, ælmes;* akin to OHG *alamuosan* alms; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. LL *eleemosyna* alms, fr. Gk *eleēmosynē* pity, alms, fr. *eleēmōn* merciful, fr. *eleos* pity] **1** *archaic* : CHARITY **2** : something (as money or food) given freely to relieve the poor — **alms·giv·er** \-ˌgiv-ər\ *n* — **alms·giv·ing** \-ˌgiv-iŋ\ *n*

alms·house \-ˌhaůs\ *n* **1** *Brit* : a privately financed home for the poor **2** *archaic* : POORHOUSE

alms·man \-mən\ *n* : a recipient of alms

al·ni·co \'al-ni-ˌkō\ *n* [*al*uminum + *ni*ckel + *co*balt] : a powerful permanent-magnet alloy containing iron, nickel, aluminum, and one or more of the elements cobalt, copper, and titanium

al·oe \'al-(ˌ)ō\ *n* [ME, fr. LL, fr. L, dried juice of aloe leaves, fr. Gk *aloē* dried juice of aloe leaves] **1** *pl* : the fragrant wood of an East Indian tree (*Aquilaria agallocha*) of the mezereon family **2 a** : any of a large genus (*Aloe*) of succulent chiefly southern African plants of the lily family with basal leaves and spicate flowers **b** : the dried juice of the leaves of various aloes used as a purgative and tonic — usu. used in pl. but sing. in constr. **3** : any of a genus (*Furcraea*) of American plants of the amaryllis family somewhat like the African aloes

[1]aloft \ə-'lȯft\ *adv* [ME, fr. ON *ā lopt,* fr. *ā* on, in + *lopt* air — more at ON, LOFT] **1** : at or to a great height **2** : in the air; *esp* : in flight (as in an airplane) ⟨meals served ~⟩ **3** : at, on, or to the masthead or the higher rigging

[2]aloft *prep* : on top of : ABOVE ⟨bright signs ~ hotels⟩

alog·i·cal \(')ā-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* : being outside the bounds of that to which logic can apply — **alog·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

alo·ha \ə-'lō-(h)ə, ä-, -ˌ(h)ä\ *interj* [Hawaiian, fr. *aloha* love] — used as a greeting or farewell

aloha shirt *n* : a loose brightly colored Hawaiian sport shirt

al·o·in \'al-ə-wən\ *n* : a bitter yellow crystalline cathartic obtained from the aloe

[1]alone \ə-'lōn\ *adj* [ME, fr. *al* all + *one* one] **1** : separated from others : ISOLATED **2** : exclusive of anyone or anything else : ONLY **3 a** : considered without reference to any other ⟨the children ~ would eat that much⟩ **b** : INCOMPARABLE, UNIQUE ⟨~ in his ability to solve fiscal problems⟩ — **alone·ness** \-'lōn-nəs\ *n*

syn ALONE, SOLITARY, LONELY, LONESOME, LONE, LORN, FORLORN, DESOLATE *shared meaning element* : isolated from others. ALONE stresses the objective fact of being by oneself with slighter notion of emotional involvement than most of the remaining terms ⟨everyone needs to be *alone* sometimes⟩ SOLITARY may indicate isolation as a chosen course ⟨glorying in the calm of her *solitary* life⟩ but more often it suggests sadness and a sense of loss ⟨left *solitary* by the death of his wife⟩ LONELY adds to *solitary* a suggestion of longing for companionship ⟨felt *lonely* and forsaken⟩ LONESOME heightens the implication of dreariness and longing ⟨an only child often leads a *lonesome* life⟩ LONE may replace *lonely* or *lonesome* but typically is as objective as *alone* ⟨a *lone* robin pecking at the lawn⟩ LORN suggests recent separation or bereavement ⟨when *lorn* lovers sit and droop — W. M. Praed⟩ FORLORN stresses dejection, woe, and listlessness at separation from one held dear ⟨a *forlorn* lost child⟩ DESOLATE implies a sharp and poignant sense of loneliness ***ant*** accompanied

[2]alone *adv* **1** : SOLELY, EXCLUSIVELY **2** : without aid or support

[1]along \ə-'lȯŋ\ *prep* [ME, fr. OE *andlang,* fr. *and-* against + *lang* long — more at ANTE-] **1** : in a line parallel with the length or direction of **2** : in the course of **3** : in accordance with : IN

[2]along *adv* **1** : FORWARD, ON ⟨move ~⟩ **2** : from one to another ⟨word was passed ~⟩ **3 a** : as a companion ⟨brought his wife ~⟩ **b** : in association — used with *with* ⟨work ~ with colleagues⟩ **4** : at or to an advanced point ⟨plans are far ~⟩ **5** : in addition : ALSO — often used with *with* ⟨a bill came ~ with the package⟩ **6** : at hand : as a necessary or useful item ⟨had his gun ~⟩ **7** : on hand : THERE ⟨tell him I'll be ~ to see him⟩ — **all along** : all the time ⟨knew the truth *all along*⟩

along of *prep* [ME *ilong on,* fr. OE *gelang on,* fr. *ge-,* associative prefix + *lang* — more at CO-] *dial* : because of

along·shore \ə-'lȯŋ-'shō(ə)r, -'shȯ(ə)r\ *adv or adj* : along the shore or coast ⟨walked ~⟩ ⟨~ currents⟩

[1]along·side \-ˌsīd\ *adv* **1** : along the side : in parallel position **2** : at the side : close by ⟨a guard with a prisoner ~⟩

[2]alongside *prep* : side by side with; *specif* : parallel to

alongside of *prep* : ALONGSIDE

[1]aloof \ə-'lüf\ *adv* [obs. *aloof* (to windward)] : at a distance : out of involvement

[2]aloof *adj* : removed or distant in interest or feeling : RESERVED

syn see INDIFFERENT ***ant*** familiar, close — **aloof·ly** *adv* — **aloof·ness** *n*

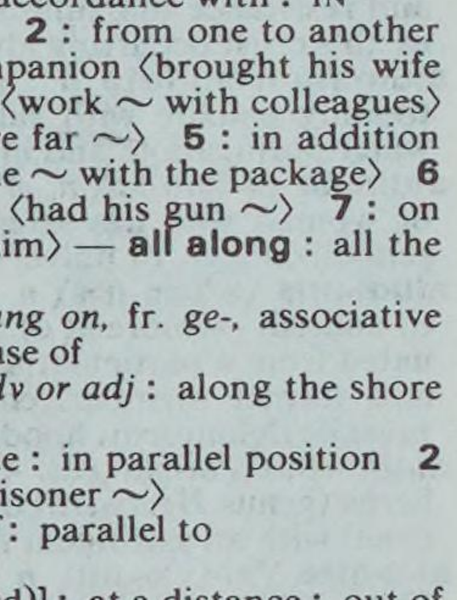
al·o·pe·cia \ˌal-ə-'pē-sh(ē-)ə\ *n* [ME *allopicia,* fr. L *alopecia,* fr. Gk *alōpekia,* fr. *alōpek-, alōpēx* fox — more at VULPINE] : loss of hair, wool, or feathers : BALDNESS — **al·o·pe·cic** \-'pē-sik\ *adj*

aloud \ə-'laůd\ *adv* [ME, fr. [1]*a-* + *loud*] **1** *archaic* : in a loud manner : LOUDLY **2** : with the speaking voice

alow \ə-'lō\ *adv* [ME, fr. [1]*a-* + *low*] : BELOW ⟨~ in the ship's hold⟩

alp \'alp\ *n* [back-formation fr. *Alps,* mountain system of Europe] **1** : a high rugged mountain **2** : something suggesting an alp in height, size, or ruggedness

al·paca \al-'pak-ə\ *n* [Sp, fr. Aymara *allpaca*] **1** : a mammal with fine long woolly hair that is domesticated in Peru and is prob. a variety of the guanaco **2 a** : wool of the alpaca **b** (1) : a thin cloth made of or containing this wool (2) : a rayon or cotton imitation of this cloth



alpaca 1

al·pen·glow \'al-pən-ˌglō\ *n* [prob. part trans. of G *Alpenglühen,* fr. *Alpen* Alps + *glühen* glow] : a reddish glow seen near sunset or sunrise on the summits of mountains

al·pen·stock \'al-pən-ˌstäk\ *n* [G, fr. *Alpen* + *stock* staff] : a long iron-pointed staff used in mountain climbing

al·pes·trine \al-'pes-trən\ *adj* [ML *alpestris* mountainous, fr. L *Alpes* Alps] : growing at high elevations but not above the timberline : SUBALPINE

[1]al·pha \'al-fə\ *n* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *āleph* aleph] **1** : the 1st letter of the Greek alphabet — see ALPHABET table **2** : something that is first : BEGINNING **3** : the chief or brightest star of a constellation

[2]alpha *or* α- *adj* : closest in the structure of an organic molecule to a particular group or atom ⟨ α-substitution⟩ ⟨α-naphthol⟩

[3]alpha *adj* : ALPHABETIC

al·pha–ad·ren·er·gic \'al-fə-ˌad-rə-'nər-jik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being an alpha-receptor ⟨~ blocking action⟩

alpha and omega *n* [fr. the fact that alpha and omega are respectively the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet] **1** : the beginning and ending **2** : the principal element

al·pha·bet \'al-fə-ˌbet, -bət\ *n* [ME *alphabete,* fr. LL *alphabetum,* fr. Gk *alphabētos,* fr. *alpha* + *bēta* beta] **1 a** : a set of letters or other characters with which one or more languages are written esp. if arranged in a customary order **b** : a system of signs or signals that serve as equivalents for letters **2** : RUDIMENTS, ELEMENTS

al·pha·bet·ic \ˌal-fə-'bet-ik\ *or* **al·pha·bet·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or employing an alphabet **2** : arranged in the order of the letters of the alphabet — **al·pha·bet·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

al·pha·bet·iza·tion \ˌal-fə-ˌbet-ə-'zā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of alphabetizing **2** : an alphabetically arranged series, list, or file

al·pha·bet·ize \'al-fə-bə-ˌtīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to furnish with an alphabet **2** : to arrange alphabetically — **al·pha·bet·iz·er** *n*

alpha globulin *n* [ISV] : any of several globulins of plasma or serum that have at alkaline pH the greatest electrophoretic mobility next to albumin — compare BETA GLOBULIN, GAMMA GLOBULIN

al·pha–he·lix \ˌal-fə-'hē-liks\ *n* : the coiled structural arrangement of many proteins consisting of a single spiral amino-acid chain that is stabilized by hydrogen bonds

alpha iron *n* : the form of iron stable below 910°C

al·pha·mer·ic \ˌal-fə-'mer-ik\ *or* **al·pha·mer·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* [*alpha*bet + nu*meric,* nu*merical*] : ALPHANUMERIC

al·pha·nu·mer·ic \-n(y)ù-'mer-ik\ *also* **al·pha·nu·mer·i·cal** *adj* [*alpha*bet + *numeric, numerical*] **1** : consisting of both letters and numbers and often other symbols (as punctuation marks and mathematical symbols) as well ⟨an ~ code⟩; *also* : being a character in an alphanumeric system **2** : capable of using alphanumeric characters ⟨an ~ computer⟩ — **al·pha·nu·mer·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

alpha particle *n* : a positively charged nuclear particle identical with the nucleus of a helium atom that consists of two protons and two neutrons and is ejected at high speed in certain radioactive transformations

alpha privative *n* : the prefix *a-* or *an-* expressing negation in Greek and in English

alpha ray *n* **1** : an alpha particle moving at high speed (as in radioactive emission) **2** : a stream of alpha particles — called also *alpha radiation*

al·pha–re·cep·tor \'al-fə-ri-ˌsep-tər\ *n* : a receptor that is associated with vasoconstriction, relaxation of intestinal muscle, and contraction of the nictitating membrane, iris dilator muscle, splenic smooth muscle, and muscular layer of the wall of the uterus — called also *alpha-adrenergic receptor*

Al·phe·us \al-'fē-əs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Alpheios*] : a Greek river-god who pursues the nymph Arethusa and is finally united with her

al·pine \'al-ˌpīn\ *n* **1** : a plant native to alpine or boreal regions that is often grown for ornament **2** *cap* : a person possessing Alpine physical characteristics

Alpine *adj* **1** *often not cap* : of, relating to, or resembling the Alps or any mountains **2** *often not cap* : of, relating to, or growing in the biogeographic zone including the elevated slopes above timberline **3** : of or relating to a type of stocky broad-headed white men of medium height with brown hair or eyes often regarded as constituting a branch of the Caucasian race **4** : of or relating to competitive ski events consisting of slalom and downhill racing — compare NORDIC

al·pin·ism \'al-pə-ˌniz-əm\ *n, often cap* : mountain climbing in the Alps or other high mountains — **al·pin·ist** \-nəst\ *n*

al·ready \ȯl-'red-ē\ *adv* [ME *al redy,* fr. *al redy,* adj., wholly ready, fr. *al* all + *redy* ready] : prior to a specified or implied past, present, or future time : by this time : PREVIOUSLY ⟨he had ~ left when I called⟩

al·right \(')ȯl-'rīt, 'ȯl-ˌ\ *adv or adj* [ME, fr. *al* + *right*] : ALL RIGHT ⟨the first two years of the medical school were ~ — Gertrude Stein⟩

Al·sa·tian \al-'sā-shən\ *n* [ML *Alsatia* Alsace] : GERMAN SHEPHERD

al·sike clover \ˌal-ˌsak-, -ˌsīk-\ *n* [*Alsike,* Sweden] : a European perennial clover (*Trifolium hybridum*) much used as a forage plant

al·so \'ȯl-(ˌ)sō\ *adv* [ME, fr. OE *eallswā,* fr. *eall* all + *swā* so — more at SO] **1** : LIKEWISE 1 **2** : in addition : TOO

al·so–ran \-ˌran\ *n* **1** : a horse or dog that finishes out of the money in a race **2** : a contestant that does not win **3** : one that is competitively of little importance ⟨was just an ~ in the scramble for . . . privileges — C. A. Buss⟩

alt *abbr* **1** alternate **2** altitude **3** alto

Alta *abbr* Alberta

Al·ta·ic \al-'tā-ik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the Altai mountains **2** : of, relating to, or constituting a language family comprising the Turkic, Tungusic, and Mongolic subfamilies

Al·tair \al-'tī(ə)r, -'ta(ə)r, -'te(ə)r, 'al-ˌ\ *n* [Ar *al-ṭā'ir*, lit., the flier] : the first magnitude star Alpha (α) Aquilae
al·tar \'ȯl-tər\ *n, often attrib* [ME *alter*, fr. OE *altar*, fr. L *altare*; akin to L *adolēre* to burn up] **1** : a usu. raised structure or place on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned in worship **2** : a table on which the eucharistic elements are consecrated or which serves as a center of worship or ritual — see BASILICA illustration
altar boy *n* : a boy who assists the celebrant in a liturgical service
altar call *n* : an appeal by an evangelist to worshipers to come forward to signify their decision to commit their lives to Christ
altar of repose *often cap A&R* : REPOSITORY 2
al·tar·piece \'ȯl-tər-ˌpēs\ *n* : a work of art that decorates the space above and behind an altar
altar rail *n* : a railing in front of an altar separating the chancel from the body of the church
altar stone *n* : a stone slab with a compartment containing the relics of martyrs that forms an essential part of a Roman Catholic altar
alt·az·i·muth \(')al-'taz-(ə-)məth\ *n* [ISV *alt*itude + *azimuth*] : a telescope mounted so that it can swing horizontally and vertically; *also* : any of several other similarly mounted instruments
al·ter \'ȯl-tər\ *vb* **al·tered; al·ter·ing** \-t(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *alteren*, fr. MF *alterer*, fr. ML *alterare*, fr. L *alter* other (of two); akin to L *alius* other — more at ELSE] *vt* **1** : to make different without changing into something else **2** : CASTRATE, SPAY ~ *vi* : to become different ***syn*** see CHANGE ***ant*** fix — **al·ter·abil·i·ty** \ˌȯl-t(ə-)rə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **al·ter·able** \'ȯl-t(ə-)rə-bəl\ *adj* — **al·ter·ably** \-blē\ *adv* — **al·ter·er** \-tər-ər\ *n*
al·ter·ation \ˌȯl-tə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of altering : the state of being altered **2** : the result of altering : MODIFICATION
al·ter·ative \'ȯl-tə-ˌrāt-iv, -rət-\ *n* : a drug used empirically to alter favorably the course of an ailment
al·ter·cate \'ȯl-tər-ˌkāt\ *vi* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *altercatus*, pp. of *altercari*, fr. *alter*] : to dispute angrily or noisily : WRANGLE
al·ter·ca·tion \ˌȯl-tər-'kā-shən\ *n* : a noisy heated angry dispute; *also* : noisy controversy ***syn*** see QUARREL
al·ter ego \ˌȯl-tə-'rē-(ˌ)gō *also* -'reg-(ˌ)ō\ *n* [L, lit., second I] : a second self; *esp* : a trusted friend
¹al·ter·nate \'ȯl-tər-nət *also* 'al-\ *adj* [L *alternatus*, pp. of *alternare*, fr. *alternus* alternate, fr. *alter*] **1** : occurring or succeeding by turns ⟨a day of ~ sunshine and rain⟩ **2 a** : arranged first on one side and then on the other at different levels or points along an axial line ⟨~ leaves⟩ — compare OPPOSITE **b** : arranged one above or alongside the other **3** : every other : every second ⟨he works on ~ days⟩ **4** : constituting an alternative ⟨took the ~ route home⟩ ***syn*** see INTERMITTENT ***ant*** consecutive — **al·ter·nate·ly** *adv*
²al·ter·nate \-ˌnāt\ *vb* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** *vt* **1** : to perform by turns or in succession **2** : to cause to alternate ~ *vi* : to change from one to another repeatedly ⟨storms *alternated* with sunshine⟩
³al·ter·nate \-nət\ *n* **1** : ALTERNATIVE **2** : one that substitutes for or alternates with another
alternate angle *n* : one of a pair of angles on opposite sides of a transversal at its intersection with two other lines: **a** : one of a pair of angles inside the two intersected lines — called also *alternate interior angle* **b** : one of a pair of angles outside the two intersected lines — called also *alternate exterior angle*
alternating current *n* : an electric current that reverses its direction at regularly recurring intervals — abbr. *AC*
alternating group *n* : a permutation group whose elements comprise those permutations of *n* objects which can be formed from the original order by making consecutively an even number of interchanges of pairs of objects
al·ter·na·tion \ˌȯl-tər-'nā-shən *also* ˌal-\ *n* **1 a** : the act or process of alternating or causing to alternate **b** : alternating occurrence : SUCCESSION **2** : DISJUNCTION 2a **3** : the occurrence of different allomorphs or allophones
alternation of generations : the occurrence of two or more forms differently produced in the life cycle of a plant or animal usu. involving the regular alternation of a sexual with an asexual generation but not infrequently consisting of alternation of a dioecious generation with one or more parthenogenetic generations
¹al·ter·na·tive \ȯl-'tər-nət-iv, al-\ *adj* **1** : offering or expressing a choice ⟨several ~ plans⟩ **2** : ALTERNATE — **al·ter·na·tive·ly** *adv* — **al·ter·na·tive·ness** *n*
²alternative *n* **1 a** : a proposition or situation offering a choice between two or more things only one of which may be chosen **b** : an opportunity for deciding between two or more courses or propositions **2** : one of two or more things, courses, or propositions to be chosen ***syn*** see CHOICE
al·ter·na·tor \'ȯl-tər-ˌnāt-ər *also* 'al-\ *n* : an electric generator for producing alternating current
al·thaea *or* **al·thea** \al-'thē-ə\ *n* [L *althaea* marsh mallow, fr. Gk *althaia*] **1** : ROSE OF SHARON 2 **2** : a hollyhock or related plant (genus *Althaea*)
alt·horn \'alt-ˌhȯ(ə)rn\ *n* [G, fr. *alt* alto + *horn* horn] : an alto saxhorn
al·though *also* **al·tho** \ȯl-'thō\ *conj* [ME *although*, fr. *al* all + *though*] : in spite of the fact that : even though ***syn*** see THOUGH
al·tim·e·ter \al-'tim-ət-ər, 'al-tə-ˌmēt-ər\ *n* [L *altus* + E *-meter*] : an instrument for measuring altitude; *specif* : an aneroid barometer designed to register changes in atmospheric pressure accompanying changes in altitude — **al·tim·e·try** \al-'tim-ə-trē\ *n*
al·ti·pla·no \ˌal-ti-'plän-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-nos** [AmerSp, fr. L *altus* + *planum* plain] : a high plateau or plain : TABLELAND
al·ti·tude \'al-tə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* [ME, fr. L *altitudo* height, depth, fr. *altus* high, deep — more at OLD] **1 a** : the angular elevation of a celestial object above the horizon **b** : the vertical elevation of an object above sea level **c** : the perpendicular distance from a vertex of a geometric figure to the opposite side or from a side or face to a parallel side or face; *esp* : the altitude on a base **2** : the highest level of a quality or feeling ⟨the ~ of passion⟩ **3 a** : vertical distance or extent **b** : position at a height **c** : an elevated region : EMINENCE — usu. used in pl. ***syn*** see HEIGHT — **al·ti·tu·di·nal** \ˌal-tə-'t(y)üd-nəl, -ᵊn-əl\ *adj* — **al·ti·tu·di·nous** \-'t(y)üd-nəs, -ᵊn-əs\ *adj*
altitude sickness *n* : the effects (as nosebleed or nausea) of oxygen deficiency in the blood and tissues developed in rarefied air at high altitudes
¹al·to \'al-(ˌ)tō\ *n, pl* **altos** [It, lit., high, fr. L *altus*] **1 a** : COUNTERTENOR **b** : CONTRALTO **2** : the second highest part in 4-part harmony **3** : a member of a family of instruments having a range lower than that of the treble or soprano
²alto *adj* : relating to or having the range or part of an alto
al·to·cu·mu·lus \ˌal-tō-'kyü-myə-ləs\ *n, pl* **-li** \-ˌlī, -ˌlē\ [NL, fr. L *altus* + NL *-o-* + *cumulus*] : a fleecy cloud formation consisting of large whitish globular cloudlets with shaded portions — see CLOUD illustration
¹al·to·geth·er \ˌȯl-tə-'geth-ər\ *adv* [ME *altogedere*, fr. *al* all + *togedere* together] **1** : WHOLLY, THOROUGHLY ⟨an ~ different problem⟩ **2** : in all : all told **3** : on the whole : in the main
²altogether *n* : NUDE — used with *the* ⟨posed in the ~⟩
al·to–re·lie·vo *or* **al·to–ri·lie·vo** \ˌal-(ˌ)tō-ri-'lē-(ˌ)vō, ˌäl-(ˌ)tō-rēl-'yā-(ˌ)vō\ *n, pl* **alto–relievos** *or* **al·to–ri·lie·vi** \ˌäl-(ˌ)tō-rēl-'yā-(ˌ)vē\ [It *altorilievo*] **1** : HIGH RELIEF **2** : a sculpture in high relief
al·to·stra·tus \ˌal-tō-'strāt-əs, -'strat-\ *n, pl* **-ti** \-ˌī\ [NL, fr. L *altus* + NL *-o-* + *stratus*] : a cloud formation similar to cirrostratus but darker and at a lower level — see CLOUD illustration
al·tri·cial \al-'trish-əl\ *adj* [L *altric-, altrix* fem. of *altor* one who nourishes, fr. *altus* pp. of *alere* to nourish — more at OLD] : having the young hatched in a very immature and helpless condition so as to require care for some time — compare PRECOCIAL
al·tru·ism \'al-trü-ˌiz-əm\ *n* [F *altruisme*, fr. *autrui* other people, fr. OF, oblique case form of *autre* other, fr. L *alter*] : unselfish regard for or devotion to the welfare of others — **al·tru·ist** \-trü-əst\ *n* — **al·tru·is·tic** \ˌal-trü-'is-tik\ *adj* — **al·tru·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
al·u·la \'al-yə-lə\ *n, pl* **-lae** \-ˌlē, -ˌlī\ [NL, fr. L, dim. of *ala* wing — more at AISLE] : BASTARD WING — **al·u·lar** \-lər\ *adj*
al·um \'al-əm\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *alum, alun*, fr. L *alumen* — more at ALE] **1** : a potassium aluminum sulfate $KAl(SO_4)_2.12H_2O$ or an ammonium aluminum sulfate $NH_4Al(SO_4)_2.12H_2O$ used esp. as an emetic and as an astringent and styptic **2** : any of various double salts isomorphous with potash alum **3** : ALUMINUM SULFATE
alu·mi·na \ə-'lü-mə-nə\ *n* [NL, fr. L *alumin-, alumen* alum] : aluminum oxide Al_2O_3 occurring native as corundum and in hydrated forms (as in bauxite)
alu·mi·nate \-nət\ *n* : a compound of alumina with a metallic oxide
alu·mi·nif·er·ous \ə-ˌlü-mə-'nif-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* : containing alum or aluminum
al·u·min·i·um \ˌal-yə-'min-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. *alumina*] *chiefly Brit* : ALUMINUM
alu·mi·nize \ə-'lü-mə-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-nized; -niz·ing** : to treat or coat with aluminum
alu·mi·no·sil·i·cate \ə-ˌlü-mə-nō-'sil-ə-ˌkāt, -'sil-i-kət\ *n* [L *alumin-, alumen* + *-o-* + ISV *silicate*] : a combined silicate and aluminate
alu·mi·nous \ə-'lü-mə-nəs\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing alum or aluminum
alu·mi·num \ə-'lü-mə-nəm\ *n, often attrib* [NL, fr. *alumina*] : a bluish silver-white malleable ductile light trivalent metallic element with good electrical and thermal conductivity, high reflectivity, and resistance to oxidation that is the most abundant metal in the earth's crust occurring always in combination — see ELEMENT table
aluminum sulfate *n* : a colorless salt $Al_2(SO_4)_3$ usu. made by treating bauxite with sulfuric acid and used in making paper, in water purification, and in tanning
alum·na \ə-'ləm-nə\ *n, pl* **-nae** \-(ˌ)nē\ [L, fem. of *alumnus*] : a girl or woman who has attended or has graduated from a particular school, college, or university
alum·nus \ə-'ləm-nəs\ *n, pl* **-ni** \-ˌnī\ [L, foster son, pupil, fr. *alere* to nourish — more at OLD] **1** : one who has attended or has graduated from a particular school, college, or university **2** : one who is a former member, employee, contributor, or inmate ⟨former juvenile delinquent, hoodlum, ~ of reform schools — *Newsweek*⟩
al·um·root \'al-əm-ˌrüt, -ˌru̇t\ *n* **1** : any of several No. American herbs (genus *Heuchera*) of the saxifrage family; *esp* : one (*H. americana*) with an astringent root **2** : WILD GERANIUM 1
al·u·nite \'al-(y)ə-ˌnīt\ *n* [F, fr. *alun* alum] : a mineral $K(AlO)_3.(SO_4)_2.3H_2O$ consisting of a hydrous potassium aluminum sulfate and occurring in massive form or in rhombohedral crystals
al·ve·o·lar \al-'vē-ə-lər\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, resembling, or having alveoli **2** : of, relating to, or constituting the part of the jaws where the teeth arise, the air cells of the lungs, or glands with secretory cells about a central space **3** : articulated with the tip of the tongue touching or near the teethridge — **al·ve·o·lar·ly** *adv*
al·ve·o·late \-lət\ *adj* : pitted like a honeycomb — **al·ve·o·la·tion** \(ˌ)al-ˌvē-ə-'lā-shən\ *n*
al·ve·o·lus \al-'vē-ə-ləs\ *n, pl* **-li** \-ˌlī, -(ˌ)lē\ [NL, dim. of *alveus* cavity, hollow, fr. *alvus* belly; akin to ON hvann*jōli* stalk of angelica, Gk *aulos*, a reed instrument] **1** : a small cavity or pit: as **a** : a socket for a tooth **b** : an air cell of the lungs **c** : an acinus of a compound gland **d** : a cell or compartment of a honeycomb **2** : TEETHRIDGE
alw *abbr* allowance
al·way \'ȯl-(ˌ)wā\ *adv* [ME] *archaic* : ALWAYS
al·ways \'ȯl-wēz, -wəz, -(ˌ)wāz\ *adv* [ME *alway, alwayes*, fr. OE *ealne weg*, lit., all the way, fr. *ealne* (acc. of *eall* all) + *weg* (acc.) way — more at WAY] **1** : at all times : INVARIABLY **2** : FOREVER, PERPETUALLY **3** : at any rate : in any event ⟨as a last resort one can ~ work⟩
Al·yce clover \ˌal-əs-\ *n* [prob. by folk etymology fr. NL *Alysicarpus*, genus name, fr. Gk *halysis* chain + *karpos* fruit] : a low spreading annual Old World legume (*Alysicarpus vaginalis*) used in the southern U.S. as a cover crop and for hay and pasturage

alys·sum \ə-'lis-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *alysson*, plant believed to cure rabies, fr. neut. of *alyssos* curing rabies, fr. *a-* + *lyssa* rabies] **1** : any of a genus (*Alyssum*) of Old World herbs of the mustard family with small yellow racemose flowers **2** : SWEET ALYSSUM
am [ME, fr. OE *eom;* akin to ON *em* am, L *sum*, Gk *eimi*, OE *is* is] *pres 1st sing of* BE
¹Am *abbr* America; American
²Am *symbol* americium
AM *abbr* **1** airmail **2** Air Medal **3** amplitude modulation **4** [L *anno mundi*] in the year of the world — often printed in small capitals **5** ante meridiem **6** [NL *artium magister*] master of arts
ama \'äm-(ˌ)ä\ *n, pl* **amas** *or* **ama** [Jap] : a Japanese diver esp. for pearls
AMA *abbr* American Medical Association
amah \'äm-(ˌ)ä\ *n* [Pg *ama* wet nurse, fr. ML *amma*] : an Oriental female servant; *esp* : a Chinese nurse
amain \ə-'mān\ *adv* **1** : with all one's might ⟨down came the storm, and smote ~ the vessel — H. W. Longfellow⟩ **2 a** : at full speed **b** : in great haste **3** : to a high degree : EXCEEDINGLY ⟨they whom I favour thrive in wealth ~ — John Milton⟩
Ama·le·kite \'am-ə-ˌlek-ˌīt, ə-'mal-ə-ˌkīt\ *n* [Heb *'Āmālēqī*, pl. fr. *'Āmālēq* Amalek, grandson of Esau] : a member of an ancient nomadic people living south of Canaan
amal·gam \ə-'mal-gəm\ *n* [ME *amalgame*, fr. MF, fr. ML *amalgama*] **1** : an alloy of mercury with another metal that is solid or liquid at room temperature according to the proportion of mercury present and is used esp. in making tooth cements **2** : a mixture of different elements
amal·gam·ate \-gə-ˌmāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** : to unite in or as if in an amalgam; *esp* : to merge into a single body ***syn*** see MIX — **amal·gam·ator** \-ˌmāt-ər \ *n*
amal·gam·ation \ə-ˌmal-gə-'mā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the action or process of amalgamating : UNITING **b** : the state of being amalgamated **2** : the result of amalgamating : AMALGAM **3** : CONSOLIDATION, MERGER ⟨~ of two corporations⟩ — **amal·gam·ative** \-'mal-gə-ˌmāt-iv\ *adj*
am·a·ni·ta \ˌam-ə-'nīt-ə, -'nēt-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *amanitai*, pl., a kind of fungus] : any of various mostly poisonous white-spored fungi (genus *Amanita*) with the volva separate from the cap
aman·ta·dine \ə-'mant-ə-ˌdēn\ *n* [ISV *adamant*ane ($C_{10}H_{16}$) + am*ine*] : an antiviral drug used esp. to prevent infection (as by an influenza virus) by interfering with virus penetration into host cells
aman·u·en·sis \ə-ˌman-yə-'wen(t)-səs\ *n, pl* **-en·ses** \-(ˌ)sēz\ [L, fr. (*servus*) *a manu* slave with secretarial duties] : one employed to write from dictation or to copy manuscript
am·a·ranth \'am-ə-ˌran(t)th\ *n* [L *amarantus*, a flower, fr. Gk *amaranton*, fr. neut. of *amarantos* unfading, fr. *a-* + *marainein* to waste away — more at SMART] **1** : a flower that never fades **2** : any of a large genus (*Amaranthus* of the family Amaranthaceae, the amaranth family) of coarse herbs including pigweeds and various forms cultivated for their showy flowers **3** : a dark reddish purple
am·a·ran·thine \ˌam-ə-'ran(t)-thən, -'ran-ˌthīn\ *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to an amaranth **b** : that does not fade : UNDYING **2** : of the color amaranth
am·a·ryl·lis \ˌam-ə-'ril-əs\ *n* [NL, genus name, prob. fr. L, name of a shepherdess in Vergil's *Eclogues*] : any of a genus (*Amaryllis* of the family Amaryllidaceae, the amaryllis family) of bulbous African herbs with showy umbellate flowers; *also* : a plant of any of several related genera (as *Hippeastrum* or *Sprekelia*)
amass \ə-'mas\ *vb* [MF *amasser*, fr. OF, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *masser* to gather into a mass, fr. *masse* mass] *vt* **1** : to collect for oneself : ACCUMULATE ⟨~ a great fortune⟩ **2** : to collect into a mass : GATHER ⟨~ the wool into a large ball⟩ ~ *vi* : to come together : ASSEMBLE — **amass·er** *n* — **amass·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
am·a·teur \'am-ə-ˌtər, -ət-ər, -ə-ˌt(y)ù(ə)r, -ə-ˌchù(ə)r, -ə-chər\ *n* [F, fr. L *amator* lover, fr. *amatus*, pp. of *amare* to love] **1** : DEVOTEE, ADMIRER **2** : one who engages in a pursuit, study, science, or sport as a pastime rather than as a profession **3** : one lacking in experience and competence in an art or science — **amateur** *adj* — **am·a·teur·ish** \ˌam-ə-'tər-ish, -'t(y)ù(ə)r-\ *adj* — **am·a·teur·ish·ly** *adv* — **am·a·teur·ish·ness** *n* — **am·a·teur·ism** \'am-ə-ˌtər-ˌiz-əm, -ət-ə-ˌriz-, -ə-ˌt(y)ù(ə)r-ˌiz-, -ˌchù(ə)r-ˌiz-, -chə-ˌriz-\ *n*
syn AMATEUR, DILETTANTE, DABBLER, TYRO *shared meaning element* : one who follows a pursuit without attaining proficiency or professional status ***ant*** professional, expert
Ama·ti \ä-'mät-ē,ə-\ *n, pl* **Amatis** : a violin made by a member of the Amati family of Cremona
am·a·tive \'am-ət-iv\ *adj* [ML *amativus*, fr. L *amatus*] : disposed or disposing to love : AMOROUS — **am·a·tive·ly** *adv* — **am·a·tive·ness** *n*
am·a·tol \'am-ə-ˌtȯl, -ˌtäl, -ˌtōl\ *n* [ISV *am*monium + connective *-a-* + trinitro*tol*uene] : an explosive consisting of ammonium nitrate and trinitrotoluene
am·a·to·ry \'am-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or expressing sexual love
am·au·ro·sis \ˌam-ȯ-'rō-səs\ *n, pl* **-ro·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *amaurōsis*, lit., dimming, fr. *amauroun* to dim, fr. *amauros* dim] : decay of sight occurring without perceptible external change — **am·au·rot·ic** \-'rät-ik\ *adj*
¹amaze \ə-'māz\ *vb* **amazed; amaz·ing** [ME *amasen*, fr. OE *āmasian*, fr. *ā-* (perfective prefix) + (assumed) *masian* to confuse — more at ABIDE] *vt* **1** *obs* : BEWILDER, PERPLEX **2** : to fill with wonder : ASTOUND ~ *vi* : to show or cause astonishment ⟨his calmness continues to ~⟩ ***syn*** see SURPRISE — **amaz·ing·ly** \-'mā-ziŋ-lē\ *adv*
²amaze *n* : AMAZEMENT
amaze·ment \ə-'māz-mənt\ *n* **1** *obs* : CONSTERNATION, BEWILDERMENT **2** : the quality or state of being amazed
am·a·zon \'am-ə-ˌzän, -ə-zən\ *n* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk *Amazōn*] **1** *cap* : a member of a race of female warriors repeatedly warring with the Greeks of classical mythology **2** : a tall strong masculine woman
Am·a·zo·nian \ˌam-ə-'zō-nē-ən, -nyən\ *adj* **1 a** : relating to, resembling, or befitting an Amazon **b** *not cap* : MASCULINE, WARLIKE ⟨an *amazonian* woman⟩ **2** : of or relating to the Amazon river or its valley
am·a·zon·ite \'am-ə-zə-ˌnīt\ *n* [*Amazon* river] : an apple-green or bluish-green microcline
am·a·zon·stone \-zən-ˌstōn\ *n* : AMAZONITE
amb *abbr* ambassador
am·bage \'am-bij\ *n, pl* **am·ba·ges** \am-'bā-(ˌ)jēz, 'am-bij-əz\ [back-formation fr. ME *ambages*, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L, fr. *ambi-* + *agere* to drive — more at AGENT] **1** *archaic* : AMBIGUITY, CIRCUMLOCUTION — usu. used in pl. **2** *pl, archaic* : indirect ways or proceedings — **am·ba·gious** \am-'bā-jəs\ *adj*
am·bas·sa·dor \am-'bas-əd-ər, əm-, im-\ *n* [ME *ambassadour*, fr. MF *ambassadeur*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *ambaht* service] **1** : an official envoy; *esp* : a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign as the resident representative of his own government or sovereign or appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment **2 a** : an authorized representative or messenger **b** : an unofficial representative ⟨travelers abroad should be ~*s* of goodwill⟩ — **am·bas·sa·do·ri·al** \-ˌbas-ə-'dōr-ē-əl, -'dȯr-\ *adj* — **am·bas·sa·dor·ship** \-'bas-əd-ər-ˌship\ *n*
ambassador–at–large *n, pl* **ambassadors–at–large** : a minister of the highest rank not accredited to a particular foreign government or sovereign
am·bas·sa·dress \am-'bas-ə-drəs, əm-, im-\ *n* **1** : a female ambassador **2** : the wife of an ambassador
am·beer \'am-ˌbi(ə)r\ *n* [prob. alter. of *amber;* fr. its color] *chiefly South & Midland* : TOBACCO JUICE
¹am·ber \'am-bər\ *n* [ME *ambre*, fr. MF, fr. ML *ambra*, fr. Ar *'anbar* ambergris] **1** : a hard yellowish to brownish translucent fossil resin that takes a fine polish and is used chiefly in making ornamental objects (as beads) **2** : a variable color averaging a dark orange yellow
²amber *adj* **1** : consisting of amber **2** : resembling amber; *esp* : having the color amber
am·ber·gris \'am-bər-ˌgris, -ˌgrēs\ *n* [ME *ambregris*, fr. MF *ambre gris*, fr. *ambre* + *gris* gray — more at GRIZZLE] : a waxy substance found floating in or on the shores of tropical waters, believed to originate in the intestines of the sperm whale, and used in perfumery as a fixative
am·ber·jack \-ˌjak\ *n* [fr. its color] : any of several carangid fishes (genus *Seriola*); *esp* : a large vigorous sport fish (*S. dumerili*) of the western Atlantic
ambi- *prefix* [L *ambi-, amb-* both, around; akin to L *ambo* both, Gk *amphō* both, *amphi* around — more at BY] : both ⟨*ambi*valent⟩
am·bi·dex·ter·i·ty \ˌam-bi-(ˌ)dek-'ster-ət-ē\ *n* : the quality or state of being ambidextrous
am·bi·dex·trous \ˌam-bi-'dek-strəs\ *adj* [LL *ambidexter*, fr. L *ambi-* + *dexter*] **1** : using both hands with equal ease **2** : unusually skillful : VERSATILE **3** : characterized by duplicity : DOUBLE-DEALING — **am·bi·dex·trous·ly** *adv*
am·bi·ence *or* **am·bi·ance** \'am-bē-ən(t)s, ä⁰n-byä⁰s\ *n* [F *ambiance*, fr. *ambiant* ambient] : a surrounding or pervading atmosphere : ENVIRONMENT
¹am·bi·ent \'am-bē-ənt\ *adj* [L *ambient-, ambiens*, prp. of *ambire* to go around, fr. *ambi-* + *ire* to go — more at ISSUE] : surrounding on all sides : ENCOMPASSING
²ambient *n* : an encompassing atmosphere : ENVIRONMENT
am·bi·gu·ity \ˌam-bə-'gyü-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ities** **1 a** : the quality or state of being ambiguous in meaning ⟨~ is often a feature of poetry⟩ **b** : an ambiguous word or expression **2** : UNCERTAINTY ⟨the basic ~ of her self-image⟩
am·big·u·ous \am-'big-yə-wəs\ *adj* [L *ambiguus*, fr. *ambigere* to wander about, fr. *ambi-* + *agere* to drive — more at AGENT] **1 a** : doubtful or uncertain esp. from obscurity or indistinctness ⟨eyes of an ~ color⟩ **b** : INEXPLICABLE **2** : capable of being understood in two or more possible senses ***syn*** see OBSCURE ***ant*** explicit — **am·big·u·ous·ly** *adv* — **am·big·u·ous·ness** *n*
am·bi·sex·trous \ˌam-bi-'sek-strəs\ *adj* [alter. (influenced by *ambidextrous*) of *ambisexual* (common to both sexes)] **1** : not distinguishable as male or female ⟨~ clothing⟩ **2** : including males and females ⟨an ~ party⟩
am·bit \'am-bət\ *n* [ME, fr. L *ambitus*, fr. *ambitus*, pp. of *ambire*] **1** : CIRCUIT, COMPASS **2** : the bounds or limits of a place or district **3** : a sphere of action, expression, or influence : SCOPE
¹am·bi·tion \am-'bish-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *ambition-, ambitio*, lit., going around, fr. *ambitus*, pp.] **1 a** : an ardent desire for rank, fame, or power **b** : desire to achieve a particular end **2** : the object of ambition **3** : a desire for activity or exertion ⟨felt sick and had no ~⟩ — **am·bi·tion·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
syn AMBITION, ASPIRATION, PRETENSION *shared meaning element* : strong desire for advancement or success
²ambition *vt* : to have as one's ambition : DESIRE
am·bi·tious \am-'bish-əs\ *adj* **1 a** : having or controlled by ambition **b** : having a desire to achieve a particular goal : ASPIRING **2** : resulting from, characterized by, or showing ambition — **am·bi·tious·ly** *adv* — **am·bi·tious·ness** *n*
am·biv·a·lence \am-'biv-ə-lən(t)s\ *n* [ISV] **1** : simultaneous attraction toward and repulsion from an object, person, or action **2 a** : continual fluctuation (as between one thing and its opposite) **b** : uncertainty as to which approach to follow — **am·biv·a·lent** \-lənt\ *adj* — **am·biv·a·lent·ly** *adv*
am·bi·ver·sion \ˌam-bi-'vər-zhən, -shən\ *n* [*ambi-* + *-version* (as in *introversion*)] : the personality configuration of an ambivert — **am·bi·ver·sive** \-'vər-siv, -ziv\ *adj*

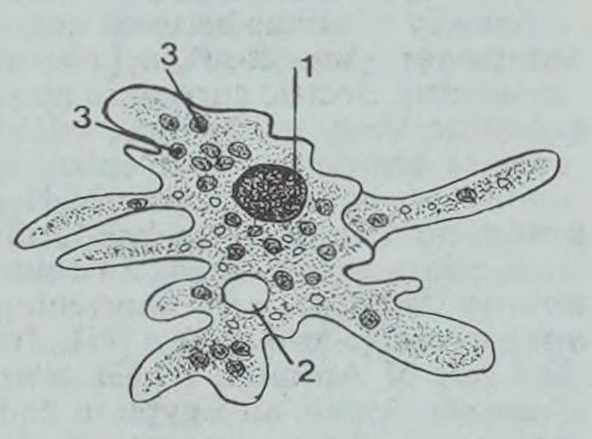
am·bi·vert \'am-bi-ˌvərt\ *n* [*ambi-* + *-vert* (as in *introvert*)] : a person having characteristics of both extrovert and introvert
[1]am·ble \'am-bəl\ *vi* **am·bled; am·bling** \-b(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *amblen*, fr. MF *ambler*, fr. L *ambulare* to walk] : to go at or as if at an amble : SAUNTER — **am·bler** \-b(ə-)lər\ *n*
[2]amble *n* **1 a** : an easy gait of a horse in which the legs on the same side of the body move together **b** : [7]RACK b **2** : an easy gait **3** : a leisurely walk
am·blyg·o·nite \am-'blig-ə-ˌnīt\ *n* [G *amblygonit*, fr. Gk *amblygōnios* obtuse-angled, fr. *amblys* blunt, dull + *gōnia* angle; akin to L *molere* to grind — more at MEAL, -GON] : a mineral (Li,Na) $A1PO_4(F,OH)$ consisting of basic lithium aluminum phosphate commonly containing sodium and fluorine and occurring in white cleavable masses
am·bly·opia \ˌam-blē-'ō-pē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *amblyōpia*, fr. *amblys* + *-ōpia* -opia] : dimness of sight without apparent change in the eye structures associated esp. with toxic effects or dietary deficiencies — **am·bly·opic** \-'ōpik, -'äp-ik\ *adj*
am·bo·cep·tor \'am-bō-ˌsep-tər\ *n* [ISV *ambi-* + *receptor*] : the lytic antibody used in complement-fixation tests
Am·boi·nese \ˌam-ˌbȯi-'nēz, -'nēs, am-'bȯi-ˌ\ *or* **Am·bo·nese** \ˌam-bə-'nēz, -'nēs\ *n, pl* **Amboinese** *or* **Ambonese** [*Amboina* (*Ambon*) + *-ese*] **1** : a native or inhabitant of Ambon **2** : the language of the people of Ambon
am·boy·na *or* **am·boi·na** \am-'bȯi-nə\ *n* [*Amboina*, Moluccas, Indonesia] : a mottled curly-grained wood of a leguminous tree (*Pterocarpus indicus*) of southeastern Asia
am·bro·sia \am-'brō-zh(ē-)ə\ *n* [L, fr. Gk, lit., immortality, fr. *ambrotos* immortal, fr. *a-* + *-mbrotos* (akin to *brotos* mortal) — more at MURDER] **1 a** : the food of the Greek and Roman gods **b** : the ointment or perfume of the gods **2** : something extremely pleasing to taste or smell **3** : a dessert made of oranges and shredded coconut — **am·bro·sial** \-zh(ē-)əl\ *adj* — **am·bro·sial·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
am·bro·type \'am-brə-ˌtīp\ *n* [Gk *ambrotos* + E *type*] : a positive picture made of a photographic negative on glass backed by a dark surface
am·bry \'am-brē; 'äm-rē, 'ȯm-\ *n, pl* **ambries** [ME *armarie*, fr. OF, fr. L *armarium*, fr. *arma* weapons — more at ARM] **1** : a recess in a church wall (as for holding sacramental vessels) **2** *dial chiefly Brit* : PANTRY
ambs·ace \'ām-ˌzās\ *n* [ME *ambes as*, fr. OF, fr. *ambes* both + *as* aces] *archaic* : the lowest throw at dice; *also* : something worthless or unlucky
am·bu·la·crum \ˌam-byə-'lak-rəm, -'lāk-\ *n, pl* **-cra** \-rə\ [NL, fr. L, alley, fr. *ambulare* to walk] : one of the radial areas of echinoderms along which run the principal nerves, blood vessels, and elements of the water-vascular system — **am·bu·la·cral** \-rəl\ *adj*
am·bu·lance \'am-byə-lən(t)s\ *n* [F, field hospital, fr. *ambulant* itinerant, fr. L *ambulant-, ambulans*, prp. of *ambulare*] : a vehicle equipped for transporting the injured or sick
ambulance chaser *n* : a lawyer or lawyer's agent who incites accident victims to sue for damages — **ambulance chasing** *n*
am·bu·lant \'am-byə-lənt\ *adj* : moving about : AMBULATORY
am·bu·late \-ˌlāt\ *vi* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *ambulatus*, pp. of *ambulare*] : to move from place to place : WALK — **am·bu·la·tion** \ˌam-byə-'lā-shən\ *n*
[1]am·bu·la·to·ry \'am-byə-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or adapted to walking; *also* : occurring while walking **2** : moving from place to place : ITINERANT **3** : capable of being altered ⟨a will is ~ until the testator's death⟩ **4 a** : able to walk about and not bedridden **b** : involving an individual who is able to walk about ⟨~ medical care⟩ — **am·bu·la·to·ri·ly** \ˌam-byə-lə-'tōr-ə-lē, -'tȯr-\ *adv*
[2]ambulatory *n, pl* **-ries** : a sheltered place (as in a cloister or church) for walking
am·bus·cade \'am-bə-ˌskād, ˌam-bə-'\ *n* [MF *embuscade*, modif. of OIt *imboscata*, fr. *imboscare* to place in ambush, fr. *in* (fr. L) + *bosco* forest, perh. of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *busc* forest — more at IN, BUSH] : AMBUSH — **ambuscade** *vb* — **am·bus·cad·er** *n*
[1]am·bush \'am-ˌbůsh\ *vb* [ME *embushen*, fr. OF *embuschier*, fr. *en* in (fr. L *in*) + *busche* stick of firewood] *vt* **1** : to station in ambush **2** : to attack from an ambush : WAYLAY ~ *vi* : to lie in wait : LURK ***syn*** see SURPRISE — **am·bush·er** *n* — **am·bush·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
[2]ambush *n* **1** : a trap in which concealed persons lie in wait to attack by surprise **2** : the persons stationed in ambush; *also* : their concealed position
amdt *abbr* amendment
ameba, ameban, amebic, ameboid *var of* AMOEBA, AMOEBAN, AMOEBIC, AMOEBOID
am·e·bi·a·sis \ˌam-i-'bī-ə-səs\ *n* : infection with or disease caused by amoebas
ame·bic dysentery \ə-ˌmē-bik-\ *n* : acute intestinal amebiasis of man caused by an amoeba (*Endamoeba histolytica*) and marked by dysentery, griping pain, and erosion of the intestinal wall
amebocyte *var of* AMOEBOCYTE
âme dam·née \äm-dä-nā\ *n, pl* **âmes damnées** \äm-dä-nā(z)\ [F, lit., damned soul] : a willing tool of another person
ameer *var of* EMIR
ame·lio·rate \ə-'mēl-yə-ˌrāt, -'mē-lē-ə-\ *vb* **-rat·ed; -rat·ing** [alter. of *meliorate*] *vt* : to make better or more tolerable ~ *vi* : to grow better ***syn*** see IMPROVE ***ant*** worsen, deteriorate — **ame·lio·ration** \-mēl-yə-'rā-shən, -ˌmē-lē-ə-\ *n* — **ame·lio·ra·tive** \-'mēl-yəˌrāt-iv, -'mē-lē-ə-\ *adj* — **ame·lio·ra·tor** \-ˌrāt-ər\ *n* — **ame·lio·ra·to·ry** \-rə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*
amen \(')ā-'men, (')ä-; 'ä- *when sung*\ *interj* [ME, fr. OE, fr. LL, fr. Gk *amēn*, fr. Heb *āmēn*] — used to express solemn ratification (as of an expression of faith) or hearty approval (as of an assertion)
ame·na·ble \ə-'mē-nə-bəl, -'men-ə-\ *adj* [prob. fr. (assumed) AF, fr. MF *amener* to lead up, fr. OF, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *mener* to lead, fr. L *minare* to drive, fr. *minari* to threaten — more at MOUNT] **1** : liable to be brought to account : ANSWERABLE ⟨citizens ~ to the law⟩ **2 a** : capable of submission (as to judgment or test) ⟨the data is ~ to analysis⟩ **b** : readily brought to yield or submit : TRACTABLE ⟨a child ~ to discipline⟩ ***syn*** see OBEDIENT ***ant*** recalcitrant, refractory — **ame·na·bil·i·ty** \-ˌmē-nə-'bil-ət-ē, -ˌmen-ə-\ *n* — **ame·na·bly** \-'mē-nə-blē, -'men-ə-\ *adv*
amen corner \ˌā-ˌmen-\ *n* : a conspicuous corner in a church occupied by fervent worshipers
amend \ə-'mend\ *vb* [ME *amenden*, fr. OF *amender*, modif. of L *emendare*, fr. *e, ex* out + *menda* fault; akin to L *mendax* lying, *mendicus* beggar, Skt *mindā* physical defect] *vt* **1** : to put right; *specif* : to make emendations in (as a text) **2 a** : to change or modify for the better : IMPROVE ⟨~ the situation⟩ **b** : to alter esp. in phraseology; *specif* : to alter formally by modification, deletion, or addition ⟨~ the constitution⟩ ~ *vi* : to reform oneself ***syn*** see CORRECT ***ant*** debase, impair — **amend·able** \-'men-də-bəl\ *adj* — **amend·er** *n*
amen·da·to·ry \ə-'men-də-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* [*amend* + *-atory* (as in *emendatory*)] : CORRECTIVE
amend·ment \ə-'men(d)-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of amending esp. for the better : CORRECTION **2** : a substance that aids plant growth indirectly by improving the condition of the soil **3 a** : the process of amending by parliamentary or constitutional procedure **b** : an alteration proposed or effected by this process ⟨the 18th ~⟩
amends \ə-'men(d)z\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [ME *amendes*, fr. OF, pl. of *amende* reparation, fr. *amender*] : compensation for a loss or injury : RECOMPENSE
ame·ni·ty \ə-'men-ət-ē, -'mē-nət-\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *amenite*, fr. L *amoenitat-, amoenitas*, fr. *amoenus* pleasant] **1 a** : the quality of being pleasant or agreeable **b** (1) : the attractiveness and value of real estate or of a residential structure (2) : a feature conducive to such attractiveness and value **2** : something that conduces to material comfort or convenience **3** : something (as a conventional social gesture) that conduces to smoothness or pleasantness of social intercourse
amen·or·rhea \ˌā-ˌmen-ə-'rē-ə, ˌäm-ˌen-\ *n* [NL, fr. *a-* + Gk *mēn* month + NL *-o-* + *-rrhea* — more at MOON] : abnormal absence or suppression of the menstrual discharge — **amen·or·rhe·ic** \-'rē-ik\ *adj*
ament \'am-ənt, 'ā-mənt\ *n* [NL *amentum*, fr. L, thong, strap] : an indeterminate spicate inflorescence (as in the willow) bearing scaly bracts and apetalous unisexual flowers — **amen·ta·ceous** \ˌam-ən-'tā-shəs, ˌā-mən-\ *adj* — **amen·tif·er·ous** \-'tif-(ə-)rəs\ *adj*


staminate ament

amen·tia \(')ā-'men-ch(ē-)ə, (')ä-\ *n* [NL, fr. L, madness, fr. *ament-, amens* mad, fr. *a-* (fr. *ab-*) + *ment-, mens* mind — more at MIND] : mental deficiency; *specif* : a condition of lack of development of intellectual capacity
Amer *abbr* America; American
Am·er·asian \ˌam-ə-'rā-zhən, -shən\ *n* [*American* + *Asian*] : a person of mixed American and Asian descent; *esp* : one whose mother is Asian and whose father is American
amerce \ə-'mərs\ *vt* **amerced; amerc·ing** [ME *amercien*, fr. AF *amercier*, fr. OF *a merci* at (one's) mercy] : to punish by a fine whose amount is fixed by the court; *broadly* : PUNISH — **amercement** \-'mər-smənt\ *n* — **amer·cia·ble** \-'mər-sē-ə-bəl, -'mər-shə-bəl\ *adj*
[1]Amer·i·can \ə-'mer-ə-kən\ *n* **1** : an Indian of No. America or So. America **2** : a native or inhabitant of No. America or So. America **3** : a citizen of the U.S.
[2]American *adj* **1** : of or relating to America **2** : of or relating to the U.S. or its possessions or original territory **3** : of or relating to the division of mankind that comprises the Indians of No. America and So. America — **Amer·i·can·ness** \-kən-nəs\ *n*
Amer·i·ca·na \ə-ˌmer-ə-'kan-ə, -'kän-, -'kā-nə\ *n pl* : materials concerning or characteristic of America, its civilization, or its culture; *also* : a collection of such materials
American chameleon *n* : a lizard (*Anolis carolinensis*) of the southeastern U.S.
American cheese *n* : a process cheese made from American cheddar cheese
American dream *n* : an American social ideal that stresses egalitarianism and esp. material prosperity
American elm *n* : a large elm (*Ulmus americana*) with gradually spreading branches and pendulous branchlets that is common in eastern No. America
American English *n* : the native language of most inhabitants of the U.S. — used esp. with the implication that it is clearly distinguishable from British English yet not so divergent as to be a separate language
American foxhound *n* : any of an American breed of foxhounds that are smaller than the English foxhound but with longer ears and that have a dense hard glossy coat usu. of black, tan, and white, straight forelegs, and powerful hindquarters
American Indian *n* : a member of any of the aboriginal peoples of the western hemisphere except usu. the Eskimos constituting one of the divisions of the Mongoloid stock
American Indian Day *n* : the fourth Friday in September observed in honor of the American Indian
Amer·i·can·ism \ə-'mer-ə-kə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* **1** : a characteristic feature of American English esp. as contrasted with British English **2** : attachment or allegiance to the traditions, interests, or ideals of the U.S. **3 a** : a custom or trait peculiar to America **b** : the political principles and practices essential to American national culture
Amer·i·can·ist \-kə-nəst\ *n* **1** : a specialist in the languages or cultures of the aboriginal inhabitants of America **2** : a specialist in American culture or history
American ivy *n* : VIRGINIA CREEPER
Amer·i·can·iza·tion \ə-ˌmer-ə-kə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of Americanizing **2** : instruction of foreigners (as immigrants) in English and in U.S. history, government, and culture

Amer·i·can·ize \ə-'mer-ə-kə-ˌnīz\ *vb* **-ized; -iz·ing** *vt* : to cause to acquire or conform to American characteristics ~ *vi* : to acquire or conform to American traits
American plan *n* : a hotel plan whereby the daily rates cover the costs of the room and meals — compare EUROPEAN PLAN
American saddle horse *n* : a 3-gaited or 5-gaited saddle horse of a breed developed chiefly in Kentucky from Thoroughbreds and native stock
American Standard Version *n* : an American version of the Bible based on the Revised Version and published in 1901 — called also *American Revised Version*
American trotter *n* : STANDARDBRED
American water spaniel *n* : a medium-sized spaniel of American origin with a thick curly chocolate or liver-colored coat
am·er·i·ci·um \ˌam-ə-'ris(h)-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. *America* + NL *-ium*] : a radioactive metallic element produced by bombardment of plutonium with high-energy neutrons — see ELEMENT table
AmerInd *abbr* American Indian
Am·er·in·di·an \ˌam-ə-'rin-dē-ən\ *n* [*American* + *Indian*] : AMERICAN INDIAN — **Am·er·ind** \'am-ə-ˌrind\ *n* — **Amerindian** *adj* — **Am·er·in·dic** \ˌam-ə-'rin-dik \ *adj*
âmes damnées *pl of* ÂME DAMNÉE
am·e·thop·ter·in \ˌam-ə-'thäp-tə-rən\ *n* [amin- + *meth-* + *pteroic* acid + *-in*] : METHOTREXATE
am·e·thyst \'am-ə-thəst, -(ˌ)thist\ *n* [ME *amatiste*, fr. OF & L; OF, fr. L *amethystus*, fr. Gk *amethystos*, lit., remedy against drunkenness, fr. *a-* + *methyein* to be drunk, fr. *methy* wine — more at MEAD] **1 a** : a clear purple or bluish violet variety of crystallized quartz that is much used as a jeweler's stone **b** : a deep purple variety of corundum **2** : a variable color averaging a moderate purple — **am·e·thys·tine** \ˌam-ə-'this-tən\ *adj*
am·e·tro·pia \ˌam-ə-'trō-pē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *ametros* without measure (fr. *a-* + *metron* measure) + NL *-opia* — more at MEASURE] : an abnormal refractive condition of the eye in which images fail to focus upon the retina — **am·e·tro·pic** \-'trō-pik, -'träp-ik\ *adj*
AMG *abbr* allied military government
Am·har·ic \am-'har-ik\ *n* : the Semitic language that is the official language of Ethiopia — **Amharic** *adj*
ami·a·ble \'ā-mē-ə-bəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. LL *amicabilis* friendly, fr. L *amicus* friend; akin to L *amare* to love] **1** *archaic* : PLEASING, ADMIRABLE **2 a** : generally agreeable ⟨an ~ musical comedy⟩ **b** : having a friendly, sociable, and congenial disposition — **ami·a·bil·i·ty** \ˌā-mē-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **ami·a·ble·ness** \'ā-mē-ə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **ami·a·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
syn AMIABLE, GOOD-NATURED, OBLIGING, COMPLAISANT *shared meaning element* : having or showing a will to please ***ant*** unamiable
am·i·an·thus \ˌam-ē-'an(t)-thəs\ *or* **am·i·an·tus** \-'ant-əs\ *n* [L *amiantus*, fr. Gk *amiantos*, fr. *amiantos* unpolluted, fr. *a-* + *miainein* to pollute] : fine silky asbestos
am·i·ca·ble \'am-i-kə-bəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. LL *amicabilis*] : characterized by friendly goodwill : PEACEABLE — **am·i·ca·bil·i·ty** \ˌam-i-kə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **am·i·ca·ble·ness** \'am-i-kə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **am·i·ca·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
syn AMICABLE, NEIGHBORLY, FRIENDLY *shared meaning element* : exhibiting goodwill and an absence of antagonism ***ant*** antagonistic
am·ice \'am-əs\ *n* [ME *amis*, prob. fr. MF, pl. of *amit*, fr. ML *amictus*, fr. L, cloak, fr. *amictus*, pp. of *amicire* to wrap around, fr. *am-*, *amb-* around + *jacere* to throw — more at AMBI-, JET] : a liturgical vestment made of an oblong piece of cloth usu. of white linen and worn about the neck and shoulders and partly under the alb — see VESTMENT illustration
ami·cus cu·ri·ae \ə-ˌmē-kə-'sk(y)ůr-ē-ˌī\ *n, pl* **ami·ci curiae** \-ˌmē-(ˌ)kē-'k(y)ůr-\ [NL, lit., friend of the court] : one (as a professional person or organization) that is not a party to a particular litigation but that is permitted by the court to advise it in respect to some matter of law that directly affects the case in question
amid \ə-'mid\ *or* **amidst** \-'midst, -'mitst\ *prep* [*amid* fr. ME *amidde*, fr. OE *onmiddan*, fr. *on* + *middan*, dat. of *midde* mid; *amidst* fr. ME *amiddes*, fr. *amidde* + *-es* -s] **1** : in or into the middle of : AMONG **2** : DURING
amid- *or* **amido-** *comb form* [ISV, fr. *amide*] **1** : containing the group NH_2 characteristic of amides united to a radical of acid character ⟨*amido*sulfuric⟩ **2** : AMIN- ⟨*amido*phenol⟩
am·i·dase \'am-ə-ˌdās, -ˌdāz\ *n* [ISV *amide* + *-ase*] : an enzyme that hydrolyzes acid amides usu. with the liberation of ammonia
am·ide \'am-ˌīd, -əd\ *n* [ISV, fr. NL *ammonia*] : a compound resulting from replacement of an atom of hydrogen in ammonia by an element or radical or of one or more atoms of hydrogen in ammonia by univalent acid radicals — compare IMIDE — **amid·ic** \ə-'mid-ik, a-\ *adj*
ami·do \ə-'mēd-(ˌ)ō, 'am-ə-ˌdō\ *adj* [*amid-*] **1** : relating to or containing the group NH_2 or a substituted group NHR or NR_2 united to a radical of acid character — compare AMINO **2** : AMINO
am·i·dol \'am-ə-ˌdȯl, -ˌdōl\ *n* [G, fr. *Amidol*, a trademark] : a colorless crystalline salt $C_6H_8N_2O.2HCl$ used chiefly as a photographic developer
amid·ships \ə-'mid-ˌships\ *adv* **1** : in or toward the part of a ship midway between the bow and the stern **2** : in or toward the middle
ami·go \ə-'mē-(ˌ)gō, ä-\ *n, pl* **-gos** [Sp, fr. L *amicus* — more at AMIABLE] : FRIEND
amin- *or* **amino-** *comb form* [ISV, fr. *amine*] : containing the group NH_2 united to a radical other than an acid radical ⟨*amino*benzoic acid⟩
amine \ə-'mēn, 'am-ˌēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. NL *ammonia*] **1** : any of various basic compounds derived from ammonia by replacement of hydrogen by one or more univalent hydrocarbon radicals **2** : a compound containing one or more halogen atoms attached to nitrogen — **ami·nic** \ə-'mē-nik, a-, -'min-ik\ *adj*
ami·no \ə-'mē-(ˌ)nō\ *adj* [*amin-*] : relating to or containing the group NH_2 or a substituted group NHR or NR_2 united to a radical other than an acid radical — compare AMIDO
amino acid *n* : an amphoteric organic acid containing the amino group NH_2; *esp* : any of the alpha-amino acids that are the chief components of proteins and are synthesized by living cells or are obtained as essential components of the diet
ami·no·ac·id·uria \ə-ˌmē-nō-ˌas-ə-'d(y)ůr-ē-ə\ *n* [NL] : a condition in which one or more amino acids are excreted in excessive amounts
ami·no·ben·zo·ic acid \ə-ˌmē-nō-ben-ˌzō-ik-\ *n* [ISV] : any of three crystalline derivatives $C_7H_7NO_2$ of benzoic acid of which the yellowish para-substituted acid is a growth factor of the vitamin B complex and of folic acids
amino nitrogen *n* : nitrogen occurring as a constituent of the amino group
am·i·noph·yl·line \ˌam-ə-'näf-ə-lən\ *n* [*amin-* + theo*phylline*] : a compound of theophylline and the diamine of ethylene that has various medical and veterinary uses
ami·no·py·rine \ə-ˌmē-nō-'pī(ə)r-ˌēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. *amin-* + anti*pyrine*] : a white crystalline compound $C_{13}H_{17}N_3O$ formerly much used to relieve pain and fever but now largely curtailed because of the association of fatal agranulocytosis with its abuse
ami·no·sal·i·cyl·ic acid \ə-ˌmē-nō-ˌsal-ə-ˌsil-ik-\ *n* : any of four isomeric derivatives $C_7H_8O_3N$ of salicylic acid that have a single amino group; *esp* : PARA-AMINOSALICYLIC ACID
ami·no·trans·fer·ase \-'tran(t)s-fə-ˌrās, -ˌrāz\ *n* : TRANSAMINASE
ami·no·tri·azole \ə-ˌmē-nō-'trī-ə-ˌzōl\ *n* [*amin-* + *triazole*] : AMITROLE
amir *var of* EMIR
Amish \'äm-ish, 'am-, 'ām-\ *adj* [prob. fr. G *amisch*, fr. Jacob *Amman* or *Amen fl* 1693 Swiss Mennonite bishop] : of or relating to a strict sect of Mennonite followers of Amman that settled in America chiefly in the 18th century — **Amish** *n*
[1]amiss \ə-'mis\ *adv* **1 a** : in a mistaken way : WRONGLY ⟨if you think he is guilty, you judge ~⟩ **b** : ASTRAY ⟨something had gone ~⟩ **2** : in a faulty way : IMPERFECTLY
[2]amiss *adj* **1** : not being in accordance with right order **2** : FAULTY, IMPERFECT **3** : out of place in given circumstances — usu. used with a negative ⟨a few pertinent remarks may not be ~ here⟩
ami·to·sis \ˌā-mī-'tō-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. [2]a- + *mitosis*] : cell division by simple cleavage of the nucleus and division of the cytoplasm without spindle formation or appearance of chromosomes — **ami·tot·ic** \-'tät-ik\ *adj* — **ami·tot·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-) lē\ *adv*
am·i·trip·ty·line \ˌam-ə-'trip-tə-ˌlēn\ *n* [origin unknown] : an antidepressant drug $C_{20}H_{23}N$
am·i·trole \'am-ə-ˌtrōl\ *n* [*amin-* + *triazole*] : a systemic herbicide $C_2H_4N_4$ used in areas other than food croplands
am·i·ty \'am-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *amite*, fr. MF *amité*, fr. ML *amicitas*, fr. L *amicus* friend — more at AMIABLE] : FRIENDSHIP; *esp* : friendly relations between nations
am·me·ter \'am-ˌēt-ər\ *n* [*ampere* + *-meter*] : an instrument for measuring electric current in amperes
am·mine \'am-ˌēn, a-'mēn\ *n* [ISV *ammonia* + *-ine*] **1** : a molecule of ammonia as it exists in a coordination complex ⟨hexa*ammine*-cobalt chloride $CoN_6H_{18}Cl_3$⟩ **2** : an ammino compound
am·mi·no \'am-ə-ˌnō, a-'mē-(ˌ)nō\ *adj* [ISV *ammino-*, fr. *ammine*] : of, relating to, or being an ammine
am·mo \'am-(ˌ)ō\ *n* [by shortening & alter.] : AMMUNITION
am·mo·nia \ə-'mō-nyə\ *n* [NL, fr. L *sal ammoniacus* sal ammoniac, lit., salt of Ammon, fr. Gk *ammōniakos* of Ammon, fr. *Ammōn* Ammon, Amen, an Egyptian god near one of whose temples it was prepared] **1** : a pungent colorless gaseous alkaline compound of nitrogen and hydrogen NH_3 that is very soluble in water and can easily be condensed to a liquid by cold and pressure **2** : AMMONIA WATER
am·mo·ni·ac \ə-'mō-nē-ˌak\ *n* [ME & L; ME, fr. L *ammoniacum*, fr. Gk *ammōniakon*, fr. neut. of *ammōniakos* of Ammon] : the aromatic gum resin of a Persian herb (*Dorema ammoniacum*) of the carrot family used as an expectorant and stimulant and in plasters
am·mo·ni·a·cal \ˌam-ə-'nī-ə-kəl\ *or* **am·mo·ni·ac** \ə-'mō-nē-ˌak\ *adj* : of, relating to, containing, or having the properties of ammonia
am·mo·ni·ate \ə-'mō-nē-ˌāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** **1** : to combine or impregnate with ammonia or an ammonium compound **2** : to subject to ammonification — **am·mo·ni·a·tion** \-ˌmō-nē-'ā-shən\ *n*
ammonia water *n* : a water solution of ammonia
am·mo·ni·fi·ca·tion \ə-ˌmän-ə-fə-'kā-shən, -ˌmō-nə-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of ammoniating **2** : decomposition with production of ammonia or ammonium compounds esp. by the action of bacteria on nitrogenous organic matter — **am·mo·ni·fi·er** \-'män-ə-ˌfī(-ə)r, nə-\ *n* — **am·mo·ni·fy** \-ˌfī\ *vb*
am·mo·nite \'am-ə-ˌnīt\ *n* [NL *ammonites*, fr. L *cornu Ammonis*, lit., horn of Ammon] : any of numerous flat spiral fossil shells of cephalopods (order Ammonoidea) esp. abundant in the Mesozoic age — **am·mo·nit·ic** \ˌam-ə-'nit-ik\ *adj*
Am·mon·ite \'am-ə-ˌnīt\ *n* [LL *Ammonites*, fr. Heb *'Ammōn*, Ammon (son of Lot), descendant of Ammon] : a member of a Semitic people who in Old Testament times lived east of the Jordan between the Jabbok and the Arnon — **Ammonite** *adj*
am·mo·ni·um \ə-'mō-nē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. *ammonia*] : an ion NH_4^+ or radical NH_4 derived from ammonia by combination with a hydrogen ion or atom and known in compounds (as salts) that resemble in properties the compounds of the alkali metals and in organic compounds (as quaternary ammonium compounds)
ammonium carbonate *n* : a carbonate of ammonium; *specif* : the commercial mixture of the bicarbonate and carbamate used esp. in smelling salts

ammonium chloride *n* : a white crystalline volatile salt NH_4Cl that is used in dry cells and as an expectorant — called also *sal ammoniac*
ammonium cyanate *n* : an inorganic white crystalline salt N_5H_4OC that can be converted into organic urea
ammonium hydroxide *n* : a weakly basic compound NH_5O that is formed when ammonia dissolves in water and that exists only in solution
ammonium nitrate *n* : a colorless crystalline salt $N_2H_4O_3$ used in explosives and fertilizers
ammonium phosphate *n* : a phosphate of ammonium; *esp* : a white crystalline compound $N_2H_9PO_4$ used esp. as a fertilizer and as a fire retardant
ammonium sulfate *n* : a colorless crystalline salt $N_2H_8SO_4$ used chiefly as a fertilizer
am·mo·noid \'am-ə-ˌnȯid\ *n* : AMMONITE
am·mu·ni·tion \ˌam-yə-'nish-ən\ *n* [obs. F *amunition*, fr. MF, alter. of *munition*] **1 a** : the projectiles with their fuzes, propelling charges, and primers fired from guns **b** : explosive military items (as grenades or bombs) **2** : material for use in attacking or defending a position ⟨derived their critical ~ from . . . Aristotelian doctrines — R. A. Hall *b*1911⟩
Amn *abbr* airman
am·ne·sia \am-'nē-zhə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *amnēsia* forgetfulness, prob. alter. of *amnēstia*] **1** : loss of memory due usu. to brain injury, shock, fatigue, repression, or illness **2** : a gap in one's memory — **am·ne·si·ac** \-z(h)ē-ˌak\ *or* **am·ne·sic** \-zik, -sik\ *adj or n* — **am·nes·tic** \-'nes-tik\ *adj*
am·nes·ty \'am-nə-stē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [Gk *amnēstia* forgetfulness, fr. *amnēstos* forgotten, fr. *a-* + *mnasthai* to remember — more at MIND] : the act of an authority (as a government) by which pardon is granted to a large group of individuals — **amnesty** *vt*
am·nio·cen·te·sis \ˌam-nē-ō-(ˌ)sen-'tē-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. *amnion* + *centesis* puncture, fr. Gk *kentesis*, fr. *kentein* to prick — more at CENTER] : the surgical insertion of a hollow needle through the abdominal wall and uterus of a pregnant female esp. to obtain amniotic fluid for the determination of sex or chromosomal abnormality
am·ni·on \'am-nē-ˌän, -ən\ *n, pl* **amnions** *or* **am·nia** \-nē-ə\ [NL, fr. Gk, caul, prob. fr. dim. of *amnos* lamb — more at YEAN] **1** : a thin membrane forming a closed sac about the embryos of reptiles, birds, and mammals and containing a serous fluid in which the embryo is immersed **2** : a membrane analogous to the amnion and occurring in various invertebrates — **am·ni·ote** \-nē-ˌōt\ *adj or n* — **am·ni·ot·ic** \ˌam-nē-'ät-ik\ *adj*
amo·bar·bi·tal \ˌam-ō-'bär-bə-ˌtȯl\ *n* [*amyl* + *-o-* + *barbital*] : a barbiturate $C_{11}H_{18}N_2O_3$ used as a hypnotic and sedative; *also* : its sodium salt
amoe·ba \ə-'mē-bə\ *n, pl* **-bas** *or* **-bae** \-(ˌ)bē\ [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *amoibē* change, fr. *ameibein* to change — more at MIGRATE] : any of a large genus (*Amoeba*) of naked rhizopod protozoans with lobed and never anastomosing pseudopodia and without permanent organelles or supporting structures that are widely distributed in fresh and salt water and moist terrestrial situations; *broadly* : a naked rhizopod or other amoeboid protozoan — **amoe·bic** \-bik\ *also* **amoe·ban** \-bən\ *adj*



amoeba: *1* nucleus, *2* contractile vacuole, *3* food vacuoles

am·oe·bi·a·sis *var of* AMEBIASIS
amoe·bo·cyte \ə-'mē-bə-ˌsīt\ *n* : a cell (as a phagocyte) having amoeboid form or movements
amoe·boid \-ˌbȯid\ *adj* : resembling an amoeba specif. in moving or changing in shape by means of protoplasmic flow
[1]amok \ə-'mək, -'mäk\ *adv* [Malay *amok*] **1** : in a murderously frenzied state **2 a** : in a violently raging manner ⟨a virus that had run ~⟩ **b** : in an undisciplined or faulty manner
[2]amok *adj* : possessed with a murderous or violently uncontrollable frenzy
[3]amok *n* : a murderous frenzy that occurs chiefly among Malays
amo·le \ə-'mō-lē\ *n* [Sp. fr. Nahuatl *amolli* soap] : a plant part (as a root) possessing detergent properties and serving as a substitute for soap; *also* : a plant so used
among \ə-'məŋ\ *also* **amongst** \-'məŋ(k)st\ *prep* [*among* fr. ME, fr. OE *on gemonge*, fr. *on* + *gemonge*, dat. of *gemong* crowd, fr. *ge-* (associative prefix) + *-mong* (akin to OE *mengan* to mix); *amongst* fr. ME *amonges*, fr. *among* + *-es* -s — more at CO-, MINGLE] **1** : in or through the midst of : surrounded by **2** : in company or association with ⟨living ~ artists⟩ **3** : by or through the aggregate of ⟨discontent ~ the poor⟩ **4** : in the number or class of ⟨wittiest ~ poets⟩ ⟨~ other things he was president of his college class⟩ **5** : in shares to each of ⟨divided ~ the heirs⟩ **6 a** : through the reciprocal acts of ⟨quarrel ~ themselves⟩ **b** : through the joint action of ⟨made a fortune ~ themselves⟩
amon·til·la·do \ə-ˌmän-tə-'läd-(ˌ)ō, -ti(l)-'yäth-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-dos** [Sp, fr. *a* to + *montilla* a wine from Montilla, Spain] : a pale dry sherry
amor·al \(')ā-'mȯr-əl, (')a-, -'mär-\ *adj* **1 a** : being neither moral nor immoral; *specif* : lying outside the sphere to which moral judgments apply **b** : lacking moral sensibility ⟨infants are ~⟩ **2** : being outside or beyond the moral order or a particular code of morals ⟨~ customs⟩ ***syn*** see IMMORAL — **amor·al·ism** \-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* — **amo·ral·i·ty** \ˌā-mə-'ral-ət-ē, ˌa-, -(ˌ)mȯ-\ *n* — **amor·al·ly** \(')ā-'mȯr-ə-lē, (')a-, -'mär-\ *adv*
amo·ret·to \ˌam-ə-'ret-(ˌ)ō, ˌäm-\ *n, pl* **-ti** \-(ˌ)ē\ *or* **amorettos** [It, dim. of *amore* love, cupid, fr. L *amor*] : CUPID, CHERUB 2
am·or·ist \'am-ə-rəst\ *n* **1** : a devotee of love and esp. sexual love : GALLANT **2** : one that writes about romantic love — **am·or·istic** \ˌam-ə-'ris-tik\ *adj*
Am·o·rite \'am-ə-ˌrīt\ *n* [Heb *Ĕmōrī*] : a member of one of various Semitic peoples living in Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine during the 3d and 2d millennia B.C. — **Amorite** *adj*
am·o·rous \'am-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. ML *amorosus*, fr. L *amor* love, fr. *amare* to love] **1** : strongly moved by love and esp. sexual love ⟨~ women⟩ **2** : being in love : ENAMORED — usu. used with *of* ⟨~ of the girl⟩ **3 a** : indicative of love ⟨received ~ glances from her partner⟩ **b** : of or relating to love ⟨an ~ novel⟩ — **am·o·rous·ly** *adv* — **am·o·rous·ness** *n*
amor·phism \ə-'mȯr-ˌfiz-əm\ *n* : amorphous quality
amor·phous \-fəs\ *adj* [Gk *amorphos*, fr. *a-* + *morphē* form] **1 a** : having no definite form : SHAPELESS ⟨an ~ cloud mass⟩ **b** : being without definite character or nature : UNCLASSIFIABLE **c** : lacking organization or unity **2** : having no real or apparent crystalline form : UNCRYSTALLIZED ⟨an ~ mineral⟩ — **amor·phous·ly** *adv* — **amor·phous·ness** *n*
amort \ə-'mȯ(ə)rt\ *adj* [short for *all-a-mort*, by folk etymology fr. MF *a la mort* to the death] *archaic* : being at the point of death
am·or·ti·za·tion \ˌam-ərt-ə-'zā-shən *also* ə-ˌmȯrt-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of amortizing **2** : the result of amortizing
am·or·tize \'am-ər-ˌtīz *also* ə-'mȯr-\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz·ing** [ME *amortisen* to deaden, alienate in mortmain, modif. of MF *amortiss-*, stem of *amortir*, fr. (assumed) VL *admortire* to deaden, fr. L *ad-* + *mort-*, *mors* death — more at MURDER] : to provide for the gradual extinguishment of (as a mortgage) usu. by contribution to a sinking fund at the time of each periodic interest payment — **am·or·tizable** \-ˌtī-zə-bəl\ *adj*
Amos \'ā-məs\ *n* [Heb *'Āmōs*] **1** : a Hebrew prophet of the 8th century B.C. **2** : a prophetic book of canonical Jewish and Christian Scripture — see BIBLE table
[1]amount \ə-'maůnt\ *vi* [ME *amounten*, fr. OF *amonter*, fr. *amont* upward, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *mont* mountain — more at MOUNT] **1** : to add up ⟨the bill ~*s* to $10⟩ **2** : to be equivalent ⟨acts that ~ to treason⟩
[2]amount *n* **1** : the total number or quantity : AGGREGATE **2 a** : the whole effect, significance, or import **b** : the quantity at hand or under consideration ⟨has an enormous ~ of energy⟩ **3** : a principal sum and the interest on it
amour \ə-'mu̇(ə)r, ä-, a-\ *n* [ME, love, affection, fr. OF, fr. OProv *amor*, fr. L, fr. *amare* to love] : a usu. illicit love affair
amour pro·pre \ˌam-ˌu̇r-'prōpr², ˌäm-, -'prȯpr²\ *n* [F *amour-propre*, lit., love of oneself] : SELF-ESTEEM
Amoy \ä-'mȯi, a-, ə-\ *n* : the dialect of Chinese spoken in and near Amoy in southeastern China
amp *abbr* ampere
AMP \ˌā-ˌem-'pē\ *n* [*a*denosine *m*onophosphate] : a mononucleotide of adenine $C_{10}H_{12}N_5O_3H_2PO_4$ that was orig. isolated from mammalian muscle and is reversibly convertible to ADP and ATP in metabolic reactions — called also *adenosine monophosphate*; compare CYCLIC AMP
am·per·age \'am-p(ə-)rij, -ˌpi(ə)r-ij\ *n* : the strength of a current of electricity expressed in amperes
am·pere \'am-ˌpi(ə)r *also* -ˌpe(ə)r\ *n* [André M. *Ampère* †1836 F physicist] **1** : the practical mks unit of electric current that is equivalent to a flow of one coulomb per second or to the steady current produced by one volt applied across a resistance of one ohm **2** : a unit of electric current equal to a constant current that when maintained in two straight parallel conductors of infinite length and negligible circular sections one meter apart in a vacuum produces between the conductors a force equal to 2×10^{-7} newton per meter of length
ampere-hour *n* : a unit quantity of electricity equal to the quantity carried past any point of a circuit in one hour by a steady current of one ampere
ampere-turn *n* : the mks unit of magnetomotive force equal to the magnetomotive force around a path that links with one turn of wire carrying an electric current of one ampere
am·per·sand \'am-pər-ˌsand\ *n* [alter. of *and* (&)*per se and*, lit., (the character) & by itself (is the word) *and*] : a character typically & standing for the word *and*
am·phet·amine \am-'fet-ə-ˌmēn, -mən\ *n* [ISV *a*lpha + *m*ethyl + *phen-* + *e*thyl + *amine*] **1** : a compound $C_9H_{13}N$ used esp. as an inhalant and in solution as a spray in head colds and hay fever **2** : any of various derivatives of amphetamine used as stimulants for the central nervous system: as **a** : a white crystalline compound $C_{18}H_{28}N_2O_4S$ — called also *amphetamine sulfate* **b** : a compound consisting of the dextrorotatory form of amphetamine sulfate — called also *dextroamphetamine*
amphi- *or* **amph-** *prefix* [L *amphi-* around, on both sides, fr. Gk *amphi-*, *amph-*, fr. *amphi* — more at AMBI-] : on both sides : of both kinds : both ⟨*amphi*biotic⟩ ⟨*amphi*stylar⟩
am·phib·ia \am-'fib-ē-ə\ *n pl* : AMPHIBIANS
am·phib·i·an \-ē-ən\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *amphibion* amphibious being, fr. neut. of *amphibios*] **1** : an amphibious organism; *esp* : any of a class (Amphibia) of cold-blooded vertebrates (as frogs, toads, or newts) intermediate in many characters between fishes and reptiles and having gilled aquatic larvae and air-breathing adults **2** : an airplane designed to take off from and land on either land or water **3** : a flat-bottomed vehicle that moves on tracks having finlike extensions by means of which it is propelled on land or water — **amphibian** *adj*
am·phib·i·ous \am-'fib-ē-əs\ *adj* [Gk *amphibios*, lit., living a double life, fr. *amphi-* + *bios* mode of life — more at QUICK] **1** : able to live both on land and in water ⟨~ plants⟩ **2 a** : relating to or adapted for both land and water ⟨~ vehicles⟩ **b** : executed by coordinated action of land, sea, and air forces organized for invasion; *also* : trained or organized for such action ⟨~ forces⟩ **3** : combining two characteristics — **am·phib·i·ous·ly** *adv* — **amphib·i·ous·ness** *n*
am·phi·bole \'am(p)-fə-ˌbōl\ *n* [F, fr. LL *amphibolus*, fr. Gk *amphibolos* ambiguous fr. *amphiballein* to throw round, doubt, fr. *amphi-* + *ballein* to throw — more at DEVIL] **1** : HORNBLENDE **2** : any of a group of minerals $A_2B_5(Si, Al)_8O_{22}(OH)_2$ with like crystal structures usu. containing three groups of metal ions

am·phib·o·lite \am-'fib-ə-ˌlīt\ *n* : a usu. metamorphic rock consisting essentially of amphibole — **am·phib·o·lit·ic** \(ˌ)am-ˌfib-ə-'lit-ik\ *adj*

am·phi·brach \'am(p)-fə-ˌbrak\ *n* [L *amphibrachys*, fr. Gk, lit., short at both ends, fr. *amphi-* + *brachys* short — more at BRIEF] : a metrical foot consisting of a long syllable between two short syllables in quantitative verse or of a stressed syllable between two unstressed syllables in accentual verse ⟨*romantic* is an accentual ~⟩ — **am·phi·brach·ic** \ˌam(p)-fə-'brak-ik\ *adj*

am·phic·ty·o·ny \am-'fik-tē-ə-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [Gk *amphiktyonia*] : an association of neighboring states in ancient Greece to defend a common religious center; *broadly* : an association of neighboring states for their common interest — **am·phic·ty·on·ic** \(ˌ)am-ˌfik-tē-'än-ik\ *adj*

am·phi·dip·loid \ˌam(p)-fi-'dip-ˌlȯid\ *adj, of an interspecific hybrid* : having a complete diploid chromosome set from each parent strain — **amphidiploid** *n* — **am·phi·dip·loi·dy** \-ˌlȯid-ē\ *n*

am·phim·a·cer \am-'fim-ə-sər\ *n* [L *amphimacrus*, fr. Gk *amphimakros*, lit., long at both ends, fr. *amphi-* + *makros* long — more at MEAGER] : a metrical foot consisting of a short syllable between two long syllables in quantitative verse or of an unstressed syllable between two stressed syllables in accentual verse ⟨*twenty-two* is an accentual ~⟩

am·phi·mic·tic \ˌam(p)-fi-'mik-tik\ *adj* [ISV *amphi-* + Gk *miktos* blended, fr. *mignynai*] : capable of interbreeding freely and of producing fertile offspring — **am·phi·mic·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

am·phi·mix·is \-'mik-səs\ *n, pl* **-mix·es** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *amphi-* + Gk *mixis* mingling, fr. *mignynai* to mix — more at MIX] : the union of germ cells in sexual reproduction

Am·phi·on \am-'fī-ən\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Amphiōn*] : a musician who built the walls of Thebes by charming the stones into place with his lyre

am·phi·ox·us \ˌam(p)-fē-'äk-səs\ *n, pl* **-oxi** \-ˌsī\ *or* **-ox·us·es** [NL, fr. *amphi-* + Gk *oxys* sharp] : any of a genus (*Branchiostoma*) of lancelets; *broadly* : LANCELET

am·phi·ploid \'am(p)-fi-ˌplȯid\ *adj, of an interspecific hybrid* : having at least one complete diploid set of chromosomes derived from each ancestral species — **amphiploid** *n* — **am·phi·ploi·dy** \-ˌplȯid-ē\ *n*

am·phi·pod \-ˌpäd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *amphi-* + *pod-, pous* foot — more at FOOT] : any of a large group (Amphipoda) of small crustaceans (as the sand flea) with a laterally compressed body — **amphipod** *adj*

am·phi·pro·style \ˌam(p)-fi-'prō-ˌstīl\ *adj* [L *amphiprostylos*, fr. Gk, fr. *amphi-* + *prostylos* having pillars in front, fr. *pro-* + *stylos* pillar — more at STEER] : having columns at each end only ⟨an ~ building⟩ — **amphiprostyle** *n*

am·phis·bae·na \ˌam(p)-fəs-'bē-nə\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *amphisbaina*, fr. *amphis* on both sides (fr. *amphi* around) + *bainein* to walk, go — more at BY, COME] : a serpent in classical mythology having a head at each end and capable of moving in either direction — **am·phis·bae·nic** \-nik\ *adj*

am·phi·sty·lar \ˌam(p)-fi-'stī-lər\ *adj* : having columns at both ends or on both sides ⟨an ~ building⟩

am·phi·the·ater \'am(p)-fəˌthē-ət-ər\ *n* [L *amphitheatrum*, fr. Gk *amphitheatron*, fr. *amphi-* + *theatron* theater] **1** : an oval or circular building with rising tiers of seats ranged about an open space and used in ancient Rome esp. for contests and spectacles **2 a** : a very large auditorium **b** : a room with a gallery from which doctors and students may observe surgical operations **c** : a rising gallery in a modern theater **d** : a flat or gently sloping area surrounded by abrupt slopes **3** : a place of public games or contests — **am·phi·the·at·ric** \ˌam(p)-fə-thē-'a-trik\ *or* **am·phi·the·at·ri·cal** \-tri-kəl\ *adj* — **am·phi·the·at·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

am·phit·ro·pous \am-'fi-trə-pəs\ *adj* : having the ovule inverted but with the attachment near the middle of one side

Am·phit·ry·on \am-'fi-trē-ən\ *n* [Gk *Amphitryōn*] : the husband of Alcmene

am·pho·ra \'am(p)-fə-rə\ *n, pl* **-rae** \-ˌrē, -ˌrī\ *or* **-ras** [L, modif. of Gk *amphoreus, amphiphoreus*, fr. *amphi-* + *phoreus* bearer, fr. *pherein* to bear — more at BEAR] **1** : an ancient Greek jar or vase with a large oval body, narrow cylindrical neck, and two handles that rise almost to the level of the mouth **2** : a 2-handled vessel shaped like an amphora

am·pho·ter·ic \ˌam(p)-fə-'ter-ik\ *adj* [ISV, fr. Gk *amphoteros* each of two, fr. *amphō* both — more at AMBI-] : partly one and partly the other; *specif* : capable of reacting chemically either as an acid or as a base

am·pho·ter·i·cin \-'ter-ə-sən\ *n* [*amphoteric* + *-in*] : either of two antibiotic drugs obtained from a soil actinomycete (*Streptomyces nodosus*); *esp* : the one useful against deep-seated and systemic fungal infections — called also *amphotericin B*

amp hr *abbr* ampere-hour

am·pi·cil·lin \ˌam-pə-'sil-ən\ *n* [*amin-* + *penicillin*] : an antibiotic of the penicillin group that is effective against gram-negative bacteria

am·ple \'am-pəl\ *adj* **am·pler** \-p(ə-)lər\; **am·plest** \-p(ə-)ləst\ [MF, fr. L *amplus*] **1** : generous or more than adequate in size, scope, or capacity ⟨there was room for an ~ garden⟩ **2** : generously sufficient to satisfy a requirement or need ⟨they had ~ money for the trip⟩ **3** : BUXOM, PORTLY ⟨an ~ figure⟩ ***syn*** **1** see SPACIOUS **2** see PLENTIFUL ***ant*** meager, scant — **am·ple·ness** \-pəl-nəs\ *n* — **am·ply** \-plē\ *adv*

am·plex·i·caul \am-'plek-sə-ˌkȯl\ *adj* [NL *amplexicaulis*, fr. L *amplexus* (pp. of *amplecti* to entwine, fr. *ambi-* + *plectere* to braid) + *-i-* + *caulis* stem — more at HOLE] *of a leaf* : sessile with the base or stipules surrounding the stem

am·plex·us \am-'plek-səs\ *n* [NI , fr. L, embrace, fr. *amplexus*, pp.] : the mating embrace of a frog or toad during which eggs are shed into the water and there fertilized

am·pli·dyne \'am-plə-ˌdīn\ *n* [*amplifier* + Gk *dyn*amis power — more at DYNAMIC] : a direct-current generator that by the use of compensating coils and a short circuit across two of its brushes precisely controls a large power output whenever a small power input is varied in the field winding of the generator

am·pli·fi·ca·tion \ˌam-plə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* **1** : an act, example, or product of amplifying **2 a** : the particulars by which a statement is expanded **b** : an expanded statement

am·pli·fi·er \'am-plə-ˌfī(-ə)r\ *n* : one that amplifies; *specif* : a device usu. employing electron tubes or transistors to obtain amplification of voltage, current, or power

am·pli·fy \-ˌfī\ *vb* **-fied; -fy·ing** [ME *amplifien*, fr. MF *amplifier*, fr. L *amplificare*, fr. *amplus*] *vt* **1** : to expand (as a statement) by the use of detail or illustration or by closer analysis **2** : to make larger or greater (as in amount, importance, or intensity) : INCREASE **3** : to utilize (an input of power) so as to obtain an output of greater magnitude through the relay action of a transducer ~ *vi* : to expand one's remarks or ideas ***syn*** see EXPAND ***ant*** abridge, condense

am·pli·tude \-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of being ample : FULLNESS **2** : the extent or range of a quality, property, process, or phenomenon: as **a** : the extent of a vibratory movement (as of a pendulum) measured from the mean position to an extreme **b** : the maximum departure of the value of an alternating current or wave from the average value **3** : the arc of the horizon between the true east or west point and the foot of the vertical circle passing through any star or object

amplitude modulation *n* **1** : modulation of the amplitude of a radio carrier wave in accordance with the strength of the audio or other signal **2** : a broadcasting system using amplitude modulation — abbr. *AM*; compare FREQUENCY MODULATION

am·pul *or* **am·pule** *or* **am·poule** \'am-ˌpyü(ə)l, -pül\ *n* [ME *ampulle* flask, fr. OE & OF; OE *ampulle* & OF *ampoule*, fr. L *ampulla*] **1** : a hermetically sealed small bulbous glass vessel that is used to hold a solution for hypodermic injection **2** : a vial resembling an ampul

am·pul·la \am-'půl-ə, -'pəl-\ *n, pl* **-lae** \-(ˌ)ē, -ˌī\ [ME, fr. OE, fr. L, dim. of *amphora*] **1** : a glass or earthenware flask with a globular body and two handles used esp. by the ancient Romans to hold ointment, perfume, or wine **2** : a saccular anatomic swelling or pouch — **am·pul·lar** \-ər\ *adj*

am·pu·tate \'am-pyə-ˌtāt\ *vt* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [L *amputatus*, pp. of *amputare*, fr. *am-, amb-* around + *putare* to cut, prune — more at AMBI-, PAVE] : to cut or lop off; *esp* : to cut (as a limb) from the body — **am·pu·ta·tion** \ˌam-pyə-'tā-shən\ *n* — **am·pu·ta·tor** \'am-pyə-ˌtāt-ər\ *n*

am·pu·tee \ˌam-pyə-'tē\ *n* : one that has had a limb amputated

AMS *abbr* Agricultural Marketing Service

amt *abbr* amount

am·trac *or* **am·track** \'am-ˌtrak\ *n* [*am*phibious + *trac*tor] : AMPHIBIAN 3

AMU *abbr* atomic mass unit

amuck \ə-'mək\ *var of* AMOK

am·u·let \'am-yə-lət\ *n* [L *amuletum*] : a charm (as an ornament) often inscribed with a magic incantation or symbol to protect the wearer against evil (as disease or witchcraft) or to aid him ***syn*** see FETISH

amuse \ə-'myüz\ *vb* **amused; amus·ing** [MF *amuser*, fr. OF, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *muser* to muse] *vt* **1 a** *archaic* : to divert the attention so as to deceive : BEMUSE **b** *obs* : to occupy the attention of : ABSORB **c** *obs* : DISTRACT, BEWILDER **2 a** : to entertain or occupy in a light, playful, or pleasant manner ⟨~ the child with a story⟩ **b** : to appeal to the sense of humor of ⟨the joke doesn't ~ me⟩ ~ *vi, obs* : MUSE — **amus·ed·ly** \-'myü-zəd-lē\ *adv* — **amuser** *n*

syn AMUSE, DIVERT, ENTERTAIN *shared meaning element* : to pass or cause to pass one's time pleasantly ***ant*** bore

amuse·ment \ə-'myüz-mənt\ *n* **1** : a means of amusing or entertaining ⟨what are her favorite ~s⟩ **2** : the condition of being amused ⟨his ~ knew no bounds⟩ **3** : pleasurable diversion : ENTERTAINMENT ⟨plays the piano for ~⟩

amusement park *n* : a commercially operated park with various devices for entertainment and booths for the sale of food and drink

amus·ing \ə-'myü-ziŋ\ *adj* : giving amusement : DIVERTING — **amus·ing·ly** \-ziŋ-lē\ *adv* — **amus·ing·ness** *n*

amu·sive \ə-'myü-ziv, -siv\ *adj* : tending to amuse or arouse mirth : AMUSING

AMVETS \'am-ˌvets\ *abbr* American Veterans (of World War II)

amyg·da·la \ə-'mig-də-lə\ *n, pl* **-lae** \-ˌlē, -ˌlī\ [NL, fr. L, almond, fr. Gk *amygdalē*] : an almond-shaped mass of gray matter in the roof of a lateral ventricle of the brain

amyg·da·lin \-lən\ *n* [NL *Amygdalus*, genus name, fr. LL, almond tree, fr. Gk *amygdalos*; akin to Gk *amygdalē*] : a white crystalline cyanogenetic glucoside $C_{20}H_{27}NO_{11}$ found esp. in the bitter almond (*Amygdalus communis amara*)

[1]amyg·da·loid \-ˌlȯid\ *n* [Gk *amygdaloeidēs*, adj.] : an igneous and usu. volcanic rock orig. containing small cavities filled with deposits of different minerals (as chalcedony or calcite) — **amyg·da·loi·dal** \-ˌmig-də-'lȯid-ᵊl\ *adj*

[2]amygdaloid *adj* [Gk *amygdaloeidēs*, fr. *amygdalē* almond] **1** : almond-shaped **2** : of or relating to an amygdala

am·yl \'am-əl\ *n* [blend of *amyl-* and *-yl*] : a univalent hydrocarbon radical C_5H_{11} that occurs in various isomeric forms and is derived from pentane — called also *pentyl*

amyl- *or* **amylo-** *comb form* [LL *amyl-*, fr. L *amylum*, fr. Gk *amylon*, fr. neut. of *amylos* not ground at the mill, fr. *a-* + *mylē* mill — more at MEAL] : starch ⟨*amylase*⟩

am·y·la·ceous \ˌam-ə-'lā-shəs\ *adj* : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of starch : STARCHY

amyl acetate *n* : BANANA OIL 1
amyl alcohol *n* : any of eight isomeric alcohols $C_5H_{12}O$ used esp. as solvents and in making esters; *also* : either of two commercially produced mixtures of amyl alcohols obtained from fusel oil or derived from pentanes and used esp. as solvents
am·y·lase \'am-ə-ˌlās, -ˌlāz\ *n* : any of the enzymes (as amylopsin) that accelerate the hydrolysis of starch and glycogen or their intermediate hydrolysis products
[1]am·y·loid \-ˌlȯid\ *or* **am·y·loi·dal** \ˌam-ə-'lȯid-ᵊl\ *adj* : resembling or containing amylum
[2]amyloid *n* 1 : a nonnitrogenous starchy food **2** : a waxy translucent substance consisting of protein in combination with polysaccharides that is deposited in some animal organs under abnormal conditions
am·y·loid·osis \ˌam-ə-ˌlȯi-'dō-səs\ *n* [NL] : a condition characterized by the deposition of amyloid in organs or tissues of the animal body
am·y·lol·y·sis \ˌam-ə-'läl-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] : the conversion of starch into soluble products (as dextrins and sugars) esp. by enzymes — **am·y·lo·lyt·ic** \-lō-'lit-ik\ *adj*
am·y·lo·pec·tin \ˌam-ə-lō-'pek-tən\ *n* : a component of starch that has a high molecular weight and branched structure and does not tend to gel in aqueous solutions
am·y·lop·sin \ˌam-ə-'läp-sən\ *n* [*amyl-* + *-psin* (as in *trypsin*)] : the amylase of the pancreatic juice
am·y·lose \'am-ə-ˌlōs, -ˌlōz\ *n* **1** : any of various polysaccharides (as starch or cellulose) **2** : a component of starch characterized by its straight chains of glucose units and by the tendency of its aqueous solutions to set to a stiff gel **3** : any of various compounds $(C_6H_{10}O_5)_x$ obtained by the hydrolysis of starch
am·y·lum \-ləm\ *n* [L — more at AMYL-] : STARCH
amyo·to·nia \ˌā-ˌmī-ə-'tō-nē-ə\ *n* [NL] : deficiency of muscle tone
[1]an \ən, ('ə)an\ *indefinite article* [ME, fr. OE *ān* one — more at ONE] : [2]A — used (1) usu. in speech and writing before words beginning with a vowel sound ⟨*an* oak⟩ ⟨*an* hour⟩ ⟨*an* X ray⟩; (2) usu. in speech and less often in writing before *h*-initial words with an initial unstressed syllable in which \h\ is often lost after *an* ⟨*an* historian⟩; (3) sometimes esp. in England before words whose initial letter is a vowel and whose initial sound is a consonant ⟨*an* unique occurrence⟩ ⟨such *an* one⟩
[2]an \ən, an\ *prep* : [3]A 2 — used usu. before words with an initial vowel sound ⟨once *an* afternoon⟩ ⟨fifty cents *an* hour⟩
[3]an *or* **an'** *conj* **1** *see* AND\ : AND **2** \('ə)an\ *archaic* : IF
[4]an *abbr* annum
an- — see A-
[1]-an *or* **-ian** *also* **-ean** *n suffix* [*-an* & *-ian* fr. ME *-an, -ian*, fr. OF & L; OF *-ien*, fr. L *-ianus*, fr. *-i-* + *-anus*, fr. *-anus*, adj. suffix; *-ean* fr. such words as *Mediterranean, European*] **1** : one that is of or relating to ⟨American⟩ ⟨Bostonian⟩ **2** : one skilled in or specializing in ⟨phonetician⟩
[2]-an *or* **-ian** *also* **-ean** *adj suffix* **1** : of or belonging to ⟨American⟩ ⟨Floridian⟩ **2** : characteristic of : resembling ⟨Mozartean⟩
[3]-an *n suffix* [ISV *-an, -ane*, alter. of *-ene, -ine, & -one*] **1** : unsaturated carbon compound ⟨tolan⟩ **2** : anhydride of a carbohydrate ⟨dextran⟩
[1]ana \'an-ə\ *adv* [ME, fr. ML, fr. Gk, at the rate of, lit., up] : of each an equal quantity — used in prescriptions
[2]ana \'an-ə, 'än-ə, 'ā-nə\ *n, pl* **ana** *or* **anas** [*-ana*] **1** : a collection of the memorable sayings of a person **2** : a collection of anecdotes or interesting information about a person or a place
ANA *abbr* **1** American Newspaper Association **2** American Nurses Association **3** Association of National Advertisers
ana- *or* **an-** *prefix* [L, fr. Gk, up, back, again, fr. *ana* up — more at ON] **1** : up : upward ⟨*ana*bolism⟩ **2** : back : backward ⟨*ana*tropous⟩
-ana \'an-ə, 'än-ə, 'ā-nə\ *or* **-i·ana** \ē-'\ *n pl suffix* [NL, fr. L, neut. pl. of *-anus* -an & *-ianus* -ian] : collected items of information esp. anecdotal or bibliographical concerning ⟨American*ana*⟩ ⟨Johnson*iana*⟩
ana·bap·tism \ˌan-ə-'bap-ˌtiz-əm\ *n* [NL *anabaptismus*, fr. LGk *anabaptismos* rebaptism, fr. *anabaptizein* to rebaptize, fr. *ana-* again + *baptizein* to baptize] **1** *cap* **a** : the doctrine or practices of the Anabaptists **b** : the Anabaptist movement **2** : the baptism of one previously baptized
Ana·bap·tist \-'bap-təst\ *n* : a Protestant sectarian of a radical movement arising in Zurich in 1524 and advocating the baptism and church membership of adult believers only, nonresistance, and the separation of church and state — **Anabaptist** *adj*
anab·a·sis \ə-'nab-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-a·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [Gk, inland march, fr. *anabainein* to go up or inland, fr. *ana-* + *bainein* to go — more at COME] **1** : a going or marching up : ADVANCE; *esp* : a military advance **2** [fr. the retreat of Gk mercenaries in Asia Minor described in the *Anabasis* of Xenophon] : a difficult and dangerous military retreat
an·a·bat·ic \ˌan-ə-'bat-ik\ *adj* [Gk *anabatos*, verbal of *anabainein*] : moving upward : RISING ⟨an ~ wind⟩
ana·bi·o·sis \ˌan-ə-bī-'ō-səs, -bē-\ *n, pl* **-o·ses** \-'ō-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *anabiōsis* return to life, fr. *anabioun* to return to life, fr. *ana-* + *bios* life — more at QUICK] : a state of suspended animation induced in some organisms by desiccation — **ana·bi·ot·ic** \-'ät-ik\ *adj*
anab·o·lism \ə-'nab-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* [ISV *ana-* + *-bolism* (as in *metabolism*)] : the constructive part of metabolism concerned esp. with macromolecular synthesis — **an·a·bo·lic** \ˌan-ə-'bäl-ik\ *adj*
anach·ro·nism \ə-'nak-rə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* [prob. fr. MGk *anachronismos*, fr. *anachronizesthai* to be an anachronism, fr. LGk *anachronizein* to be late, fr. Gk *ana-* + *chronos* time] **1** : an error in chronology; *esp* : a chronological misplacing of persons, events, objects, or customs in regard to each other **2** : a person or a thing that is chronologically out of place; *esp* : one from a former age that is incongruous in the present — **anach·ro·nis·tic** \ə-ˌnak-rə-'nis-tik\ *also* **ana·chron·ic** \ˌan-ə-'krän-ik\ *or* **anach·ro·nous** \ə-'nak-rə-nəs\ *adj* — **anach·ro·nis·ti·cal·ly** \ə-ˌnak-rə-'nis-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *also* **anach·ro·nous·ly** *adv*
an·a·clit·ic \ˌan-ə-'klit-ik\ *adj* [Gk *anaklitos*, verbal of *anaklinein* to lean upon, fr. *ana-* + *klinein* to lean — more at LEAN] : characterized by dependence of libido on a nonsexual instinct
an·a·co·lu·thon \ˌan-ə-kə-'lü-ˌthän\ *n, pl* **-tha** \-thə\ *or* **-thons** [LL, fr. LGk *anakolouthon* inconsistency in logic, fr. Gk, neut. of *anakolouthos*, inconsistent, fr. *an-* + *akolouthos* following, fr. *ha-, a-* together + *keleuthos* path; akin to Gk *hama* together — more at SAME] : syntactical inconsistency or incoherence within a sentence; *esp* : the shift from one construction to another (as in "you really ought — well, do it your own way") — **an·a·co·lu·thic** \-thik\ *adj* — **an·a·co·lu·thi·cal·ly** \-thi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
an·a·con·da \ˌan-ə-'kän-də\ *n* [prob. modif. of Sinhalese *henakandayā*, a slender green snake] : a large semiaquatic snake (*Eunectes murinus*) of the boa family of tropical So. America that crushes its prey in its coils; *broadly* : a large constricting snake
anac·re·on·tic \ə-ˌnak-rē-änt-ik\ *n* : a poem in the manner of Anacreon; *esp* : a drinking song or light lyric
Anacreontic *adj* [L *anacreonticus*, fr. *Anacreont-, Anacreon* Anacreon, fr. Gk *Anakreont-, Anakreōn*] **1** : of, relating to, or resembling the poetry of Anacreon **2** : convivial or amatory in tone or theme
an·a·cru·sis \ˌan-ə-'krü-səs\ *n, pl* **-cru·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *anakrousis* beginning of a song, fr. *anakrouein* to begin a song, fr. *ana-* + *krouein* to strike, beat; akin to Lith *krušti* to stamp] **1** : one or more syllables at the beginning of a line of poetry that are regarded as preliminary to and not a part of the metrical pattern **2** : UPBEAT; *specif* : one or more notes or tones preceding the first downbeat of a musical phrase
ana·cul·ture \'an-ə-ˌkəl-chər\ *n* [ISV] : a mixed bacterial culture; *esp* : one used in the preparation of autogenous vaccines
an·a·dem \'an-ə-ˌdem\ *n* [L *anadema*, fr. Gk *anadēma*, fr. *anadein* to wreathe, fr. *ana-* + *dein* to bind — more at DIADEM] *archaic* : a wreath for the head : GARLAND
ana·di·plo·sis \ˌan-əd-ə-'plō-səs, ˌan-ə-(ˌ)dī-'plō-\ *n, pl* **-plo·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [LL, fr. Gk *anadiplōsis*, lit., repetition, fr. *anadiploun* to double, fr. *ana-* + *diploun* to double — more at DIPLOMA] : repetition of a prominent and usu. the last word in one phrase or clause at the beginning of the next (as in "rely on his honor — honor such as his?")
anad·ro·mous \ə-'nad-rə-məs\ *adj* [Gk *anadromos* running upward, fr. *anadramein* to run upward, fr. *ana-* + *dramein* to run — more at DROMEDARY] : ascending rivers from the sea for breeding ⟨shad are ~⟩
anae·mia, anae·mic *var of* ANEMIA, ANEMIC
an·aer·obe \'an-ə-ˌrōb; ('ə)an-'a(-ə)r-ˌōb, -'e(-ə)r-\ *n* [ISV] : an anaerobic organism
an·aer·o·bic \ˌan-ə-'rō-bik; ˌan-ˌa(-ə)r-'ō-, -ˌe(-ə)r-\ *adj* **1** : living, active, or occurring in the absence of free oxygen ⟨~ respiration⟩ **2** : relating to or induced by anaerobes — **an·aer·o·bi·cal·ly** \-bi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
an·aero·bi·o·sis \ˌan-ə-rō-(ˌ)bī-'ō-səs, -bē-; ˌan-ˌa(-ə)r-ō-, -ˌe(-ə)r-\ *n pl* **-o·ses** \-'ō-ˌsēz\ : life in the absence of air or free oxygen
an·aes·the·sia, an·aes·thet·ic *var of* ANESTHESIA, ANESTHETIC
ana·glyph \'an-ə-ˌglif\ *n* [LL *anaglyphus* embossed, fr. Gk *anaglyphos*, fr. *anaglyphein* to emboss, fr. *ana-* + *glyphein* to carve — more at CLEAVE] **1** : a sculptured, chased, or embossed ornament worked in low relief **2** : a stereoscopic motion or still picture in which the right component of a composite image usu. red in color is superposed on the left component in a contrasting color to produce a three-dimensional effect when viewed through correspondingly colored filters in the form of spectacles — **ana·glyph·ic** \ˌan-ə-'glif-ik\ *adj*
an·a·go·ge *or* **an·a·go·gy** \'an-ə-ˌgō-jē\ *n, pl* **-ges** *or* **-gies** [LL *anagoge*, fr. LGk *anagōgē*, fr. Gk, reference, fr. *anagein* to refer, fr. *ana-* + *agein* to lead — more at AGENT] : interpretation of a word, passage, or text (as of Scripture or poetry) that finds beyond the literal, allegorical, and moral senses a fourth and ultimate spiritual or mystical sense — **an·a·gog·ic** \ˌan-ə-'gäj-ik\ *or* **an·a·gog·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **an·a·gog·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
[1]ana·gram \'an-ə-ˌgram\ *n* [prob. fr. MF *anagramme*, fr. NL *anagrammat-, anagramma*, modif. of Gk *anagrammatismos*, fr. *anagrammatizein* to transpose letters, fr. *ana-* + *grammat-, gramma* letter — more at GRAM] **1** : a word or phrase made by transposing the letters of another word or phrase **2** *pl but sing in constr* : a game in which words are formed by rearranging the letters of other words or by arranging letters taken (as from a stock of cards or blocks) at random — **ana·gram·mat·ic** \ˌan-ə-grə-'mat-ik\ *or* **ana·gram·mat·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **ana·gram·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
[2]anagram *vt* **-grammed; -gram·ming** **1** : ANAGRAMMATIZE **2** : to rearrange (the letters of a text) in order to discover a hidden message
ana·gram·ma·tize \ˌan-ə-'gram-ə-ˌtīz\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz·ing** : to transpose (as letters in a word) so as to form an anagram — **ana·gram·ma·ti·za·tion** \-ˌgram-ət-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*
[1]anal \'ān-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or situated near the anus **2** **a** : of, relating to, or characterized by the stage of psychosexual development in psychoanalytic theory during which the child is concerned esp. with its feces **b** : of, relating to, or characterized by personality traits (as parsimony, meticulousness, and ill humor) considered typical of fixation at the anal stage of development — **anal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*
[2]anal *abbr* **1** analogy **2** analysis; analytic
anal·cime \ə-'nal-ˌsēm\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *analkimos* weak, fr. *an-* + *alkimos* strong, fr. *alkē* strength] : a white or slightly colored mineral $NaAlSi_2O_6.H_2O$ occurring in various igneous rocks massive or in crystals — **anal·ci·mic** \-ˌnal-'sē-mik, -'sim-ik\ *adj*
anal·cite \ə-'nal-ˌsīt\ *n* : ANALCIME
an·a·lects \ˌan-ᵊl-ˌek(t)s\ *also* **an·a·lec·ta** \ˌan-ᵊl-'ek-tə\ *n pl* [NL *analecta*, fr. Gk *analekta*, neut. pl. of *analektos*, verbal of *analegein* to collect, fr. *ana-* + *legein* to gather — more at LEGEND] : selected miscellaneous written passages
an·a·lem·ma \ˌan-ə-'lem-ə\ *n* [L, sundial on a pedestal, fr. Gk *analēmma*, lofty structure, sundial, fr. *analambanein* to take up, fr.

ana- + *lambanein* to take — more at LATCH] : a graduated scale having the shape of a figure 8 and showing the sun's declination and the equation of time for each day of the year — **an·a·lem·mat·ic** \-le-'mat-ik, -lə-\ *adj*

an·a·lep·tic \ˌan-ᵊl-'ep-tik\ *adj* [Gk *analēptikos*, fr. *analambanein* to take up, restore] : RESTORATIVE; *esp* : stimulant to the central nervous system — **analeptic** *n*

an·al·ge·sia \ˌan-ᵊl-'jē-zhə, -z(h)ē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *analgēsia*, fr. *an-* + *algēsis* sense of pain, fr. *algein* to suffer pain, fr. *algos* pain] : insensibility to pain without loss of consciousness — **an·al·ge·sic** \-'jē-zik, -sik\ *adj or n* — **an·al·get·ic** \-'jet-ik\ *adj or n*

anal·i·ty \ā-'nal-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** : the psychological state or quality of being anal

analog *also* **analogue** \'an-ᵊl-ˌȯg, -ˌäg\ *adj* : of or relating to an analog computer

analog computer *n* : a computer that operates with numbers represented by directly measurable quantities (as voltages or rotations) — compare DIGITAL COMPUTER, HYBRID COMPUTER

an·a·log·i·cal \ˌan-ᵊl-'äj-i-kəl\ *also* **an·a·log·ic** \-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or based on analogy **2** : expressing or implying analogy — **an·a·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

anal·o·gist \ə-'nal-ə-jəst\ *n* : one who searches for or reasons from analogies

anal·o·gize \-ˌjīz\ *vb* **-gized; -giz·ing** *vi* : to use or exhibit analogy ~ *vt* : to compare by analogy

anal·o·gous \ə-'nal-ə-gəs\ *adj* [L *analogus*, fr. Gk *analogos*, lit., proportionate, fr. *ana-* + *logos* reason, ratio, fr. *legein* to gather, speak — more at LEGEND] **1** : showing an analogy or a likeness that permits one to draw an analogy : COMPARABLE **2** : being or related to as an analogue ***syn*** see SIMILAR — **anal·o·gous·ly** *adv* — **anal·o·gous·ness** *n*

analogue *or* **an·a·log** \'an-ᵊl-ˌȯg, -ˌäg\ *n* [F *analogue*, fr. *analogue* analogous, fr. Gk *analogos*] **1** : something that is analogous or similar to something else **2** : an organ similar in function to an organ of another animal or plant but different in structure and origin **3** : a chemical compound structurally similar to another but differing often by a single element of the same valence and group of the periodic table as the element it replaces ***syn*** see PARALLEL

anal·o·gy \ə-'nal-ə-jē\ *n, pl* **-gies** **1** : inference that if two or more things agree with one another in some respects they will prob. agree in others **2** : resemblance in some particulars between things otherwise unlike : SIMILARITY **3** : correspondence between the members of pairs or sets of linguistic forms that serves as a basis for the creation of another form **4** : correspondence in function between anatomical parts of different structure and origin — compare HOMOLOGY ***syn*** see LIKENESS

analogy test *n* : a reasoning test that requires the person tested to supply the missing term in a proportion (as *darkness* in the proportion *day:light::night: . . .*)

an·al·pha·bet \(')an-'al-fə-ˌbet, -bət\ *n* [Gk *analphabētos* not knowing the alphabet, fr. *an-* + *alphabētos* alphabet] : one who cannot read : ILLITERATE — **an·al·pha·bet·ic** \ˌan-ˌal-fə-'bet-ik\ *adj or n* — **an·al·pha·bet·ism** \(')an-'al-fə-bə-ˌtiz-əm\ *n*

anal·y·sand \ə-'nal-ə-ˌsand\ *n* [*analyse* + *-and* (as in *multiplicand*)] : one who is undergoing psychoanalysis

an·a·lyse *chiefly Brit var of* ANALYZE

anal·y·sis \ə-'nal-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-y·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *analyein* to break up, fr. *ana-* + *lyein* to loosen — more at LOSE] **1** : separation of a whole into its component parts **2 a** : an examination of a complex, its elements, and their relations **b** : a statement of such an analysis **3** : the use of function words instead of inflectional forms as a characteristic device of a language **4 a** : the identification or separation of ingredients of a substance **b** : a statement of the constituents of a mixture **5 a** : proof of a mathematical proposition by assuming the result and deducing a valid statement by a series of reversible steps **b** (1) : a branch of mathematics concerned mainly with functions and limits (2) : CALCULUS 3b **6 a** : a method in philosophy of resolving complex expressions into simpler or more basic ones **b** : clarification of an expression by an elucidation of its use in discourse **7** : PSYCHOANALYSIS

analysis of variance : analysis of variation in an experimental outcome and esp. of a statistical variance in order to determine the contributions of given factors or variables to the variance

analysis si·tus \-'sīt-əs, -'sēt-; -'sī-ˌtüs, -'sē-\ *n* [NL, lit., analysis of situation] : TOPOLOGY 2a

an·a·lyst \'an-ᵊl-əst\ *n* [prob. fr. *analyze*] **1** : a person who analyzes or who is skilled in analysis **2** : PSYCHOANALYST **3** : SYSTEMS ANALYST

an·a·lyt·ic \ˌan-ᵊl-'it-ik\ *adj* [LL *analyticus*, fr. Gk *analytikos*, fr. *analyein*] **1** : of or relating to analysis or analytics; *esp* : separating something into component parts or constituent elements **2** : skilled in or using analysis esp. in thinking or reasoning ⟨a keenly ~ man⟩ **3** : not synthetic; *esp* : logically necessary : TAUTOLOGOUS ⟨an ~ truth⟩ **4** : characterized by analysis rather than inflection ⟨~ languages⟩ **5** : PSYCHOANALYTIC **6** : treated or treatable by or using the methods of algebra and calculus **7 a** *of a function of a real variable* : capable of being expanded in a Taylor's series in powers of $x - h$ in some neighborhood of the point h **b** *of a function of a complex variable* : differentiable at every point in some neighborhood of a given point or points ***syn*** see LOGICAL — **an·a·lyt·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **an·a·lyt·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **an·a·ly·tic·i·ty** \ˌan-ᵊl-ə-'tis-ət-ē\ *n*

analytic geometry *n* : the study of geometric properties by means of algebraic operations upon symbols defined in terms of a coordinate system — called also *coordinate geometry*

analytic philosophy *n* : PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS

an·a·lyt·ics \ˌan-ᵊl-'it-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : the method of logical analysis

an·a·ly·za·tion \ˌan-ᵊl-ə-'zā-shən\ *n* : ANALYSIS

an·a·lyze \'an-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vt* **-lyzed; -lyz·ing** [prob. irreg. fr. *analysis*] **1** : to study or determine the nature and relationship of the parts of by analysis ⟨~ a traffic pattern⟩ **2** : to subject to scientific or grammatical analysis **3** : PSYCHOANALYZE — **an·a·lyz·abil·i·ty** \ˌan-ᵊl-ˌī-zə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **an·a·lyz·able** \'an-ᵊl-ˌī-zə-bəl\ *adj*

syn ANALYZE, RESOLVE, DISSECT, BREAK DOWN *shared meaning element* : to divide a complex whole into its component parts or constituent elements ***ant*** compose, compound, construct

an·am·ne·sis \ˌan-ˌam-'nē-səs\ *n, pl* **-ne·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *anamnēsis*, fr. *anamimnēskesthai* to remember, fr. *ana-* + *mimnēskesthai* to remember — more at MIND] **1** : a recalling to mind : REMINISCENCE **2** : a preliminary case history of a medical or psychiatric patient

an·am·nes·tic \-'nes-tik\ *adj* [Gk *anamnēstikos* easily recalled, fr. *anamimnēskesthai*] **1** : of or relating to an anamnesis **2** : of or relating to a secondary response to an immunogenic substance after serum antibodies can no longer be detected in the blood — **an·am·nes·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ana·mor·phic \ˌan-ə-'mȯr-fik\ *adj* [NL *anamorphosis* distorted optical image] : producing or having different magnification of the image in each of two perpendicular directions — used of an optical device or its image

An·a·ni·as \ˌan-ə-'nī-əs\ *n* [Gk, prob. fr. Heb *Hānanyāh*] **1** : an early Christian struck dead for lying about his donation to the church **2** : a Christian of Damascus who baptized Paul **3** : LIAR

an·a·pest \'an-ə-ˌpest\ *n* [L *anapaestus*, fr. Gk *anapaistos*, lit., struck back (a dactyl reversed), fr. (assumed) Gk *anapaiein* to strike back, fr. Gk *ana-* + *paiein* to strike] **1** : a metrical foot consisting of two short syllables followed by one long syllable or of two unstressed syllables followed by one stressed syllable (as *unabridged*) — compare DACTYL **2** : a verse written in anapests — **an·a·pes·tic** \ˌan-ə-'pes-tik\ *adj or n*

ana·phase \'an-ə-ˌfāz\ *n* [ISV] : the stage of mitosis and meiosis in which the chromosomes move toward the poles of the spindle — **ana·pha·sic** \ˌan-ə-'fā-zik\ *adj*

anaph·o·ra \ə-'naf-ə-rə\ *n* [LL, fr. LGk, fr. Gk, act of carrying back, reference fr. *anapherein* to carry back, refer, fr. *ana-* + *pherein* to carry — more at BEAR] **1** : repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of two or more successive clauses or verses esp. for rhetorical or poetic effect — compare EPISTROPHE **2** : use of a grammatical substitute (as a pronoun or a pro-verb) to refer to a preceding word or group of words

an·a·phor·ic \ˌan-ə-'fȯr-ik, -'fär-\ *adj* : referring to a preceding word or group of words ⟨the ~ *does* in "she dances better than he does"⟩

an·aph·ro·di·sia \ˌan-ˌaf-rə-'dizh-(ē)ə\ *n* [NL, fr. *a-* + Gk *aphrodisios* sexual — more at APHRODISIAC] : absence or impairment of sexual desire — **an·aph·ro·dis·i·ac** \-'diz-ē-ˌak\ *adj or n*

ana·phy·lac·tic \ˌan-ə-fə-'lak-tik\ *adj* : of, relating to, affected by, or causing anaphylaxis ⟨~ shock⟩ — **ana·phy·lac·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ana·phy·lac·toid \-'lak-ˌtȯid\ *adj* : resembling anaphylaxis

ana·phy·lax·is \-'lak-səs\ *n, pl* **-lax·es** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *ana-* + *-phylaxis* (as in *prophylaxis*)] : hypersensitivity (as to foreign proteins or drugs) resulting from sensitization following prior contact with the causative agent

an·a·pla·sia \ˌan-ə-'plā-zh(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL] : reversion of cells to a more primitive or undifferentiated form — **an·a·plas·tic** \-'plas-tik\ *adj*

an·arch \'an-ˌärk\ *n* [back-formation fr. *anarchy*] : a leader or advocate of revolt or anarchy

an·ar·chic \a-'när-kik, ə-\ *adj* **1 a** : of, relating to, or advocating anarchy **b** : likely to bring about anarchy ⟨~ violence⟩ **2** : lacking order, regularity, or definiteness ⟨~ art forms⟩

an·ar·chism \'an-ər-ˌkiz-əm, -ˌär-\ *n* **1** : a political theory holding all forms of governmental authority to be unnecessary and undesirable and advocating a society based on voluntary cooperation and free association of individuals and groups **2** : the advocacy or practice of anarchistic principles

an·ar·chist \'an-ər-kəst, -ˌär-\ *n* **1** : one who rebels against any authority, established order, or ruling power **2** : one who believes in, advocates, or promotes anarchism or anarchy; *esp* : one who uses violent means to overthrow the established order — **anarchist** *or* **an·ar·chis·tic** \ˌan-ər-'kis-tik, -(ˌ)är-\ *adj*

an·ar·cho–syn·di·cal·ism \a-ˌnär-kō-'sin-di-kə-ˌliz-əm, ˌan-ər-kō-\ *n* : SYNDICALISM — **an·ar·cho–syn·di·cal·ist** \-kə-ləst\ *n or adj*

an·ar·chy \'an-ər-kē, -ˌär-\ *n* [ML *anarchia*, fr. Gk, fr. *anarchos* having no ruler, fr. *an-* + *archos* ruler — more at ARCH-] **1 a** : absence of government **b** : a state of lawlessness or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority **c** : a utopian society made up of individuals who have no government and who enjoy complete freedom **2** : absence of order : DISORDER **3** : ANARCHISM

an·ar·thria \a-'när-thrē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *anarthros* inarticulate, fr. *an-* + *arthron* joint — more at ARTHR-] : inability to articulate words as a result of brain lesion

an·a·sar·ca \ˌan-ə-'sär-kə\ *n* [NL, fr. *ana-* + Gk *sark-*, *sarx* flesh — more at SARCASM] : edema with accumulation of serum in the connective tissue — **ana·sar·cous** \-kəs\ *adj*

an·astig·mat \a-'nas-tig-ˌmat, ˌan-ə-'stig-\ *n* [G, back-formation fr. *anastigmatisch* anastigmatic] : an anastigmatic lens

an·astig·mat·ic \ˌan-ə-(ˌ)stig-'mat-ik, ˌan-ˌas-tig-\ *adj* [ISV] : not astigmatic — used esp. of lenses that are able to form approximately point images of object points

anas·to·mose \ə-'nas-tə-ˌmōz, -ˌmōs\ *vb* **-mosed; -mos·ing** [prob. back-formation fr. *anastomosis*] *vt* : to connect or join by anastomosis ~ *vi* : to communicate by anastomosis

anas·to·mo·sis \ə-ˌnas-tə-'mō-səs\ *n, pl* **-mo·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [LL, fr. Gk *anastomōsis*, fr. *anastomoun* to provide with an outlet, fr. *ana-* +

stoma mouth, opening — more at STOMACH] **1** : the union of parts or branches (as of streams, blood vessels, or leaf veins) so as to intercommunicate : INOSCULATION **2** : a product of anastomosis : NETWORK — **anas·to·mot·ic** \-'mät-ik\ *adj*

anas·tro·phe \ə-'nas-trə-(,)fē\ *n* [ML, fr. Gk *anastrophē*, lit., turning back, fr. *anastrephein* to turn back, fr. *ana-* + *strephein* to turn — more at STROPHE] : inversion of the usual syntactical order of words for rhetorical effect — compare HYSTERON PROTERON

anat *abbr* anatomical; anatomy

an·a·tase \'an-ə-,tās, -,tāz\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *anatasis* extension, fr. *anateinein* to extend, fr. *ana-* + *teinein* to stretch — more at THIN] : a tetragonal titanium dioxide used esp. as a white pigment

anath·e·ma \ə-'nath-ə-mə\ *n* [LL *anathemat-, anathema*, fr. Gk, thing devoted to evil, curse, fr. *anatithenai* to set up, dedicate, fr. *ana-* + *tithenai* to place, set — more at DO] **1 a** : a ban or curse solemnly pronounced by ecclesiastical authority and accompanied by excommunication **b** : the denunciation of something as accursed **c** : a vigorous denunciation : CURSE **2 a** : one that is cursed by ecclesiastical authority **b** : one that is intensely disliked or loathed ⟨men whose names were ~ —Thomas Wolfe⟩

anath·e·ma·tize \-,tīz\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz·ing** : to pronounce an anathema upon ***syn*** see EXECRATE

An·a·to·lian \,an-ə-'tō-lē-ən, -'tōl-yən\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Anatolia and specif. of the western plateau lands of Turkey in Asia **2** : a branch of the Indo-European language family that includes a group of extinct languages of ancient Anatolia — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table — **Anatolian** *adj*

an·a·tom·i·co- \,an-ə-'täm-i-(,)kō\ *or* **anat·o·mo-** \ə-'nat-ə-(,)mō\ *comb form* : anatomical and : anatomical ⟨*anatomico*pathological⟩ ⟨*anatomo*clinical⟩

anat·o·mist \ə-'nat-ə-məst\ *n* **1** : a student of anatomy; *esp* : one skilled in dissection **2** : one who analyzes minutely and critically ⟨an ~ of urban society⟩

anat·o·mize \-,mīz\ *vt* **-mized; -miz·ing** **1** : to cut in pieces in order to display or examine the structure and use of the parts : DISSECT **2** : ANALYZE

anat·o·my \ə-'nat-ə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** [LL *anatomia* dissection, fr. Gk *anatomē*, fr. *anatemnein* to dissect, fr. *ana-* + *temnein* to cut — more at TOME] **1** : a branch of morphology that deals with the structure of organisms **2** : a treatise on anatomic science or art **3** : the art of separating the parts of an animal or plant in order to ascertain their position, relations, structure, and function : DISSECTION **4** *obs* : a body dissected or to be dissected **5** : structural makeup esp. of an organism or any of its parts **6** : a separating or dividing into parts for detailed examination : ANALYSIS **7 a** (1) : SKELETON (2) : MUMMY **b** : the human body — **an·a·tom·ic** \,an-ə-'täm-ik\ *or* **an·a·tom·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **an·a·tom·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ana·tox·in \,an-ə-'täk-sən\ *n* [ISV *ana-* + *toxin*] : TOXOID

anat·ro·pous \ə-'na-trə-pəs\ *adj* : having the ovule inverted so that the micropyle is bent down to the funiculus to which the body of the ovule is united

anc *abbr* ancient

-ance \ən(t)s, ᵊn(t)s\ *n suffix* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *-antia*, fr. *-ant-*, *-ans* -ant + *-ia* -y] **1** : action or process ⟨further*ance*⟩ : instance of an action or process ⟨perform*ance*⟩ **2** : quality or state : instance of a quality or state ⟨protuber*ance*⟩ **3** : amount or degree ⟨conduc*tance*⟩

an·ces·tor \'an-,ses-tər\ *n* [ME *ancestre*, fr. OF, fr. L *antecessor* one that goes before, fr. *antecessus*, pp. of *antecedere* to go before, fr. *ante-* + *cedere* to go — more at CEDE] **1 a** : one from whom a person is descended and who is usu. more remote in the line of descent than a grandparent **b** : FOREFATHER 2 **2** : FORERUNNER, PROTOTYPE **3** : a progenitor of a more recent or existing species or group — **an·ces·tress** \-trəs\ *n*

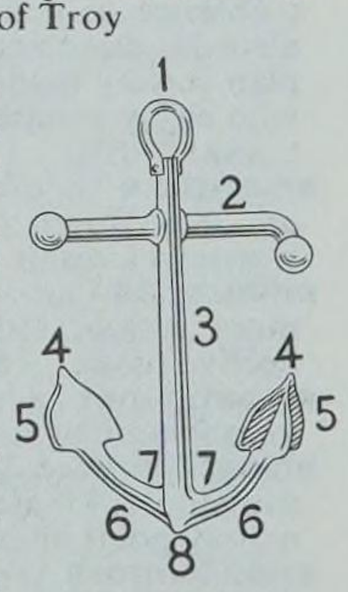
ancestor worship *n* : the custom of venerating deceased ancestors who are considered still a part of the family and whose spirits are believed to have the power of intervention in the affairs of the living

an·ces·tral \an-'ses-trəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or inherited from an ancestor ⟨~ estates⟩ — **an·ces·tral·ly** \-trə-lē\ *adv*

an·ces·try \'an-,ses-trē\ *n* **1** : line of descent : LINEAGE; *specif* : honorable, noble, or aristocratic descent **2** : persons initiating or comprising a line of descent : ANCESTORS

An·chi·ses \an-'kī-(,)sēz, aŋ-\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Anchisēs*] : the father of Aeneas rescued by his son from the burning city of Troy

¹an·chor \'aŋ-kər\ *n, often attrib* [ME *ancre*, fr. OE *ancor*, fr. L *anchora*, fr. Gk *ankyra*; akin to L *uncus* hook — more at ANGLE] **1** : a device usu. of metal attached to a ship or boat by a cable and cast overboard to hold it in a particular place by means of a fluke that digs into the bottom **2** : a reliable support : MAINSTAY **3** : something that serves to hold an object firmly **4** : an object shaped like a ship's anchor **5** : ANCHORMAN **6** *pl, slang* : the brakes of a motor vehicle — **an·chor·less** \-ləs\ *adj*



anchor 1: *1* ring, *2* stock, *3* shank, *4* bill, *5* fluke, *6* arm, *7* throat, *8* crown

²anchor *vb* **an·chored; an·chor·ing** \-k(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* **1** : to hold in place in the water by an anchor **2** : to secure firmly : FIX **3** : to serve as an anchorman on ⟨~*ing* a television interview program —Charles Mandel⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to cast anchor **2** : to become fixed

an·chor·age \'aŋ-k(ə-)rij\ *n* **1 a** : the act of anchoring : the condition of lying at anchor **b** : a place where vessels anchor : a place suitable for anchoring **2** : a means of securing : a source of reassurance ⟨this ~ of Christian hope —T. O. Wedel⟩ **3** : something that provides a secure hold

an·cho·ress \'aŋ-k(ə-)rəs\ *or* **an·cress** \-krəs\ *n* [ME *ankeresse*, fr. *anker* hermit, fr. OE *ancor*, fr. OIr *anchara*, fr. LL *anachoreta*] : a female anchorite

an·cho·rite \'aŋ-kə-,rīt\ *also* **an·cho·ret** \-,ret\ *n* [ME, fr. ML *anchorita*, alter. of LL *anachoreta*, fr. LGk *anachōrētēs*, fr. Gk *anachōrein* to withdraw, fr. *ana-* + *chōrein* to make room, fr. *chōros* place; akin to Gk *chēros* left, bereaved — more at HEIR] : one who lives in seclusion usu. for religious reasons — **an·cho·rit·ic** \,aŋ-kə-'rit-ik\ *adj* — **an·cho·rit·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

an·chor·man \'aŋ-kər-,man\ *n* **1** : one who is last: as **a** : the member of a team who competes last ⟨the ~ on a relay team⟩ **b** : one who has the lowest scholastic standing in his graduating class **2** : a broadcaster who coordinates the related activities of other usu. remotely located broadcasters so as to produce a coherent program **3** : MODERATOR 2c

an·cho·vy \'an-,chō-vē, an-'\ *n, pl* **-vies** *or* **-vy** [Sp *anchova*] : any of numerous small fishes (family Engraulidae) resembling herrings; *esp* : a common Mediterranean fish (*Engraulis encrasicholus*) used esp. for making sauces and relishes

an·cien ré·gime \äⁿs-yaⁿ-rā-zhēm\ *n* [F, lit., old regime] **1** : the political and social system of France before the Revolution of 1789 **2** : a system or mode no longer prevailing

¹an·cient \'ān-shənt, -chənt, 'āŋ(k)-shənt\ *adj* [ME *ancien*, fr. MF, fr. (assumed) VL *anteanus*, fr. L *ante* before — more at ANTE-] **1** : having had an existence of many years **2** : of or relating to a remote period, to a time early in history, or to those living in such a period or time; *specif* : of or relating to the historical period beginning with the earliest known civilizations and extending to the fall of the western Roman Empire in 476 **3** : having the qualities of age or long existence: **a** : VENERABLE **b** : OLD-FASHIONED, ANTIQUE ***syn*** see OLD ***ant*** modern — **an·cient·ness** *n*

²ancient *n* **1** : an aged living being ⟨a penniless ~⟩ **2** : one who lived in ancient times: **a** *pl* : the civilized people of antiquity; *esp* : those of the classical nations **b** : one of the classical authors ⟨Plutarch and other ~*s*⟩ **3** : an ancient coin

³ancient *n* [alter. of *ensign*] **1** *archaic* : ENSIGN, STANDARD, FLAG **2** *obs* : the bearer of an ensign

ancient history *n* **1** : the history of ancient times **2** : knowledge or information (as of something in the recent past) that is widespread and has lost its initial freshness or importance : common knowledge

an·cient·ly *adv* : in ancient times : long ago

an·cient·ry \-rē\ *n* : ANTIQUITY, ANCIENTNESS

an·cil·la \an-'sil-ə\ *n, pl* **-lae** \-(,)ē\ [L, female servant] : AID, HELPER

an·cil·lary \'an(t)-sə-,ler-ē, *esp Brit* an-'sil-ə-rē\ *adj* **1** : SUBORDINATE, SUBSIDIARY ⟨the main factory and its ~ plants⟩ **2** : AUXILIARY, SUPPLEMENTARY ⟨the need for ~ evidence⟩ — **ancillary** *n*

an·con \'aŋ-,kän\ *n, pl* **an·co·nes** \aŋ-'kō-nēz\ [L, fr. Gk *ankōn* elbow; akin to L *uncus* hook] : a bracket, elbow, or console used as an architectural support

-an·cy \ən-sē, ᵊn-\ *n suffix* [L *-antia* — more at -ANCE] : quality or state ⟨piqu*ancy*⟩

an·cy·lo·sto·mi·a·sis \,aŋ-ki-lō-stə-'mī-ə-səs, ,an(t)-sə-\ *n, pl* **-a·ses** \-,sēz\ [NL, fr. *Ancylostoma*, genus of hookworms, fr. Gk *ankylos* hooked + *stoma* mouth; akin to L *incus* hook — more at ANGLE, STOMACH] : infestation with or disease caused by hookworms; *esp* : a lethargic anemic state in man due to blood loss through the feeding of hookworms in the small intestine

and \ən(d), (')an(d), *usu* ᵊn(d) *after* t, d, s *or* z, *often* ᵊm *after* p *or* b, *sometimes* ᵊŋ *after* k *or* g\ *conj* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *unti* and] **1** — used as a function word to indicate connection or addition esp. of items within the same class or type; used to join sentence elements of the same grammatical rank or function **2** — used as a function word to express logical modification, consequence, antithesis, or supplementary explanation **3** *obs* : IF **4** — used in logic as a sentential connective that forms a complex sentence which is true only if both constituent sentences are true — compare CONJUNCTION — **and how** \'and-'haù\ — used to emphasize the preceding idea — **and so forth** \ən-'sō-,fōrth, -,fȯrth\ **1** : and others or more of the same or similar kind **2** : further in the same or similar manner **3** : and the rest **4** : and other things — **and so on** \ən-'sō-,ȯn, -,än\ : and so forth

AND \'and\ *n* : a logical operator equivalent to the sentential connective *and* ⟨~ gate in a computer⟩

an·da·lu·site \,an-də-'lü-,sīt\ *n* [F *andalousite*, fr. *Andalousie* Andalusia, region in Spain] : a mineral Al_2SiO_5 consisting of a silicate of aluminum usu. in thick nearly square orthorhombic prisms of various colors

¹an·dan·te \än-'dän-(,)tā, -'dänt-ē; an-'dant-ē\ *adv or adj* [It, lit., going, prp. of *andare* to go] : moderately slow — used as a direction in music

²andante *n* : a musical composition or movement in andante tempo

¹an·dan·ti·no \,än-,dän-'tē-(,)nō\ *adv or adj* [It dim. of *andante*] : slightly faster than andante — used as a direction in music

²andantino *n, pl* **-nos** : a musical composition or movement in andantino tempo

an·des·ite \'an-di-,zīt\ *n* [G *andesit*, fr. *Andes*] : an extrusive usu. dark grayish rock consisting essentially of oligoclase or feldspar — **an·des·it·ic** \,an-di-'zit-ik\ *adj*

and·iron \'an-,dī(-ə)rn\ *n* [ME *aundiren*, modif. of OF *andier*] : one of a pair of metal supports for firewood used on a hearth and made of a horizontal bar mounted on short legs with usu. a vertical shaft surmounting the front end

and/or \'an-'dȯ(ə)r\ *conj* — used as a function word to indicate that two words or expressions are to be taken together or individually

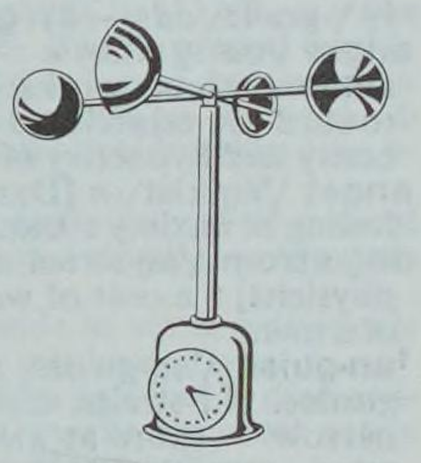
andr- *or* **andro-** *comb form* [MF, fr. L, fr. Gk, fr. *andr-*, *anēr* man (male); akin to Oscan *ner* man, Skt *nṛ*, OIr *nert* strength] **1** : man ⟨*andro*phobia⟩ **2** : male ⟨*andro*ecium⟩

an·dra·dite \an-'dräd-,īt, 'an-drə-,dīt\ *n* [José B. de *Andrada* e Silva †1838 Brazilian geologist] : a garnet $Ca_3Fe_2(SiO_4)_3$ of any of various colors ranging from yellow and green to brown and black

An·dro·cles \'an-drə-,klēz\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Androklēs*] : a fabled Roman slave spared in the arena by a lion from whose foot he had years before extracted a thorn

an·droe·ci·um \an-'drē-s(h)ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-cia** \-s(h)ē-ə\ [NL, fr. *andr-* + Gk *oikion*, dim of *oikos* house — more at VICINITY] : the aggregate of microsporophylls in the flower of a seed plant

an·dro·gen \'an-drə-jən\ *n* [ISV] : a male sex hormone (as testosterone) — **an·dro·gen·ic** \ˌan-drə-'jen-ik\ *adj*
an·drog·y·nous \an-'präj-ə-nəs\ *adj* [L *androgynus* hermaphrodite, fr. Gk *androgynos*, fr. *andr-* + *gynē* woman — more at QUEEN] **1** : having the characteristics or nature of both male and female **2** : bearing both staminate and pistillate flowers in the same cluster with the male flowers uppermost — **an·drog·y·ny** \-nē\ *n*
an·droid \'an-ˌdrȯid\ *n* [LGk *androeidēs* manlike, fr. Gk *andr-* + *-oeidēs* -oid] : an automaton with a human form
An·drom·a·che \an-'präm-ə-(ˌ)kē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Andromachē*] : the wife of Hector
An·drom·e·da \an-'präm-əd-ə\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Andromedē*] **1** : an Ethiopian princess of classical mythology rescued from a monster by her future husband Perseus **2** [L (gen. *Andromedae*)] : a northern constellation directly south of Cassiopeia between Pegasus and Perseus
an·dros·ter·one \an-'präs-tə-ˌrōn\ *n* [ISV *andr-* + *sterol* + *-one*] : an androgenic hormone that is a hydroxy ketone $C_{19}H_{30}O_2$ and is found in human male and female urine
-an·drous \'an-drəs\ *adj comb form* [NL *-andrus*, fr. Gk *-andros* having (such or so many) men, fr. *andr-*, *anēr*] : having (such or so many) stamens ⟨mon*androus*⟩
ane \'ān\ *adj or n or pron, chiefly Scot* : ONE
-ane \ˌān\ *n suffix* [ISV *-an, -ane*, alter. of *-ene, -ine, & -one*] **1** : ³-AN 1 ⟨tol*ane*⟩ **2** : saturated or completely hydrogenated carbon compound (as a hydrocarbon) ⟨meth*ane*⟩
an·ec·dot·age \'an-ik-ˌdōt-ij\ *n* : the telling of anecdotes; *also* : ANECDOTES
an·ec·dot·al \ˌan-ik-'dōt-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : relating to, characteristic of, or containing anecdotes **2** : having the form or style of anecdotes **3** : depicting an anecdote ⟨~ art⟩ — **an·ec·dot·al·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*
an·ec·dote \'an-ik-ˌdōt\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *anekdota* unpublished items, fr. neut. pl. of *anekdotos* unpublished, fr. *a-* + *ekdidonai* to publish, fr. *ex* out + *didonai* to give — more at EX-, DATE] : a usu. short narrative of an interesting, amusing, or biographical incident
an·ec·dot·ic \ˌan-ik-'dät-ik\ *or* **an·ec·dot·i·cal** \-'dät-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** : ANECDOTAL **2** : given to or skilled in telling anecdotes — **an·ec·dot·i·cal·ly** \-'dät-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
an·ec·dot·ist \'an-ik-ˌdōt-əst\ *or* **an·ec·dot·al·ist** \ˌan-ik-'dōt-ᵊl-əst\ *n* : one who is given to or is skilled in telling anecdotes
an·echo·ic \ˌan-i-'kō-ik\ *adj* : free from echoes and reverberations ⟨an ~ chamber⟩
anem- *or* **anemo-** *comb form* [prob. fr. F *anémo-*, fr. Gk *anem-*, *anemo-*, fr. *anemos* — more at ANIMATE] : wind ⟨*anem*ometer⟩
ane·mia \ə-'nē-mē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *anaimia* bloodlessness, fr. *a-* + *-aimia* -emia] **1 a** : a condition in which the blood is deficient in red blood cells, in hemoglobin, or in total volume **b** : ISCHEMIA **2** : lack of vitality — **ane·mic** \ə-'nē-mik\ *adj* — **ane·mi·cal·ly** \-mi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
anemo·graph \ə-'nem-ə-ˌgraf\ *n* : a recording anemometer — **anemo·graph·ic** \-ˌnem-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj*
an·e·mom·e·ter \ˌan-ə-'mäm-ət-ər\ *n* : an instrument for measuring and indicating the force or speed of the wind — **an·e·mo·met·ric** \ˌan-ə-mō-'me-trik\ *also* **an·e·mo·met·ri·cal** \-tri-kəl\ *adj*
an·e·mom·e·try \ˌan-ə-'mäm-ə-trē\ *n* : the act or process of ascertaining the force, speed, and direction of wind


anemometer

anem·o·ne \ə-'nem-ə-nē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *anemōnē*] **1** : any of a large genus (*Anemone*) of the buttercup family having lobed or divided leaves and showy flowers without petals but with conspicuous often colored sepals **2** : SEA ANEMONE
an·e·moph·i·lous \ˌan-ə-'mäf-ə-ləs\ *adj* : normally wind-pollinated — **an·e·moph·i·ly** \-lē\ *n*
anent \ə-'nent\ *prep* [ME *onevent, anent*, fr. OE *on efen* alongside, fr. *on* + *efen* even] : ABOUT, CONCERNING
an·er·oid \'an-ə-ˌrȯid\ *adj* [F *anéroïde*, fr. Gk *a-* + LGk *nēron* water, fr. Gk, neut. of *nearos*, *nēros* fresh; akin to Gk *neos* new — more at NEW] : containing no liquid or actuated without the use of liquid ⟨an ~ manometer⟩
aneroid barometer *n* : a barometer in which the action of atmospheric pressure in bending a metallic surface is made to move a pointer
an·es·the·sia \ˌan-əs-'thē-zhə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *anaisthēsia* insensibility, fr. *a-* + *aisthēsis* perception, fr. *aisthanesthai* to perceive — more at AUDIBLE] : loss of sensation with or without loss of consciousness
an·es·the·si·ol·o·gist \-ˌthē-zē-'äl-ə-jəst\ *n* : ANESTHETIST; *specif* : a physician specializing in anesthesiology
an·es·the·si·ol·o·gy \-jē\ *n* : a branch of medical science dealing with anesthesia and anesthetics
¹an·es·thet·ic \ˌan-əs-'thet-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or capable of producing anesthesia **2** : lacking awareness or sensitivity ⟨unmoved and quite ~ to his presence —S. J. Perelman⟩ — **an·es·thet·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
²anesthetic *n* **1** : a substance that produces anesthesia **2** : something that brings relief : PALLIATIVE
anes·the·tist \ə-'nes-thət-əst\ *n* : one who administers anesthetics
anes·the·tize \-thə-ˌtīz\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz·ing** : to subject to anesthesia
an·es·trous \(')an-'es-trəs\ *adj* **1** : not exhibiting estrus **2** : of or relating to anestrus
an·es·trus \-trəs\ *n* [NL, fr. *a-* + *estrus*] : the period of sexual quiescence between two periods of sexual activity in cyclically breeding mammals
an·eu·ploid \'an-yü-ˌploid\ *adj* [*an-* + *euploid*] : having or being a chromosome number that is not an exact multiple of the usu. haploid number — **aneuploid** *n* — **an·eu·ploi·dy** \-ˌplȯid-ē\ *n*
an·eu·rysm *also* **an·eu·rism** \'an-yə-ˌriz-əm\ *n* [Gk *aneurysma* fr. *aneurynein* to dilate, fr. *ana-* + *eurynein* to stretch, fr. *eurys* wide — more at EURY-] : a permanent abnormal blood-filled dilatation of a blood vessel resulting from disease of the vessel wall — **an·eu·rys·mal** \ˌan-yə-'riz-məl\ *adj*
anew \ə-'n(y)ü\ *adv* [ME *of newe*, fr. OE *of nīwe*, fr. *of* + *nīwe* new] **1** : for an additional time : AFRESH **2** : in a new or different form
an·frac·tu·os·i·ty \(ˌ)an-ˌfrak-chə-'wäs-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being anfractuous **2** : a winding channel or course; *esp* : an intricate path or process (as of the mind)
an·frac·tu·ous \an-'frak-chə-wəs\ *adj* [F *anfractueux*, fr. LL *anfractuosus*, fr. L *anfractus* coil, bend, fr. *anfractus* crooked, fr. *an-* (fr. *ambi-* around) + *fractus*, pp. of *frangere* to break — more at AMBI-, BREAK] : full of windings and intricate turnings : TORTUOUS
Ang *abbr* Anglesey
an·ga·ry \'aŋ-gə-rē\ *n* [LL *angaria* service to a lord, fr. Gk *angareia* compulsory public service, fr. *angaros* Persian courier] : the right in international law of a belligerent to seize, use, or destroy property of neutrals
an·gel \'ān-jəl\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *angele*, fr. LL *angelus*, fr. Gk *angelos*, lit., messenger] **1 a** : a spiritual being superior to man in power and intelligence; *specif* : one in the lowest rank in the Dionysian hierarchy **b** *pl* : an order of angels —see CELESTIAL HIERARCHY **2** : an attendant spirit or guardian **3** : a white-robed winged figure of human form in fine art **4** : MESSENGER, HARBINGER ⟨~ of death⟩ **5** : a person believed to resemble an angel **6** *Christian Science* : a message originating from God in his aspects of Truth and Love **7** : one (as a backer of a theatrical venture) who aids or supports with money or influence — **an·gel·ic** \an-'jel-ik\ *or* **an·gel·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **an·gel·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
an·gel·fish \'ān-jəl-ˌfish\ *n* **1** : any of several compressed bright-colored teleost fishes (family Chaetodontidae) of warm seas **2** : SCALARE
angel food cake *n* : a usu. white sponge cake made of flour, sugar, and whites of eggs
an·gel·i·ca \an-'jel-i-kə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. ML, fr. LL, fem. of *angelicus* angelic, fr. LGk *angelikos*, fr. Gk, of a messenger, fr. *angelos*] **1** : any of a genus (*Angelica*) of herbs of the carrot family; *esp* : a biennial (*A. archangelica*) whose roots and fruit furnish a flavoring oil **2** *cap* : a sweet dessert wine produced in California
angelica tree *n* : HERCULES'-CLUB 1
An·ge·lus \'an-jə-ləs\ *n* [ML, fr. LL, angel; fr. the first word of the opening versicle] **1** : a devotion of the Western church that commemorates the Incarnation and is said morning, noon, and evenings **2** : a bell announcing the time for the Angelus
¹an·ger \'aŋ-gər\ *n* [ME, affliction, anger, fr. ON *angr* grief; akin to OE *enge* narrow, L *angere* to strangle, Gk *anchein*] **1** : a strong feeling of displeasure and usu. of antagonism **2** : RAGE 2 — **an·ger·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

syn ANGER, IRE, RAGE, FURY, INDIGNATION, WRATH *shared meaning element* : emotional excitement induced by intense displeasure. ANGER, the most general term, names the reaction but in itself conveys nothing about intensity or justification or manifestation of the emotional state ⟨tried to hide his *anger*⟩ ⟨Moses' *anger* waxed hot —Exod 32:19 (AV)⟩ IRE, more frequent in literary contexts, may suggest greater intensity than *anger*, often with an evident display of feeling ⟨cheeks flushed dark with *ire*⟩ RAGE suggests loss of self-control from violence of emotion ⟨screaming with *rage*⟩ FURY is overmastering destructive rage merging on madness ⟨in his *fury* made sudden decisions which would prove utterly disastrous —W. L. Shirer⟩ INDIGNATION stresses righteous anger at what one considers unfair, mean, or shameful ⟨behavior that caused general *indignation*⟩ WRATH may imply either rage or indignation but is likely to suggest a desire or intent to revenge or punish ⟨rose in his *wrath* and struck his tormentor to the floor⟩ ***ant*** pleasure, gratification, forbearance

²anger *vb* **an·gered; an·ger·ing** \-g(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* : to make angry ~ *vi* : to become angry
An·ge·vin \'an-jə-vən\ *adj* [F, fr. OF, fr. ML *andegavinus*, fr. *Andegavia* Anjou] : of, relating to, or characteristic of Anjou or the Plantagenets — **Angevin** *n*
angi- *or* **angio-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *angei-*, *angeio-*, fr. *angeion* vessel, blood vessel, dim. of *angos* vessel] **1** : blood or lymph vessel : blood vessels and ⟨*angi*oma⟩ ⟨*angio*cardiography⟩ **2** : seed vessel ⟨*angio*carpous⟩
an·gi·na \an-'jī-nə, 'an-jə-\ *n* [L, quinsy, fr. *angere*] : a disease marked by spasmodic attacks of intense suffocative pain: as **a** : a severe inflammatory or ulcerated condition of the mouth or throat **b** : ANGINA PECTORIS — **an·gi·nal** \an-'jīn-ᵊl, 'an-jən-\ *adj* — **an·gi·nose** \'an-jə-ˌnōs\ *adj*
angina pec·to·ris \-'pek-t(ə-)rəs\ *n* [NL, lit., angina of the chest] : a disease marked by brief paroxysmal attacks of chest pain precipitated by deficient oxygenation of the heart muscles
an·gio·car·di·og·ra·phy \ˈan-jē-ō-ˌkärd-ē-'äg-rə-fē\ *n* : the roentgenographic visualization of the heart and its blood vessels after injection of a radiopaque substance — **an·gio·car·dio·graph·ic** \-ē-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj*
an·gio·car·pous \ˌan-jē-ō-'kär-pəs\ *or* **an·gio·car·pic** \-pik\ *adj* : having or being fruit enclosed within an external covering — **an·gio·car·py** \'an-jē-ō-ˌkär-pē\ *n*
an·gi·og·ra·phy \ˌan-jē-'äg-rə-fē\ *n* : the roentgenographic visualization of the blood vessels after injection of a radiopaque substance — **an·gio·graph·ic** \ˌan-jē-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj*
an·gi·ol·o·gy \ˌan-jē-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* : the study of blood vessels and lymphatics
an·gi·o·ma \ˌan-jē-'ō-mə\ *n* : a tumor composed chiefly of blood vessels or lymph vessels — **an·gi·o·ma·tous** \-mət-əs\ *adj*
an·gio·sperm \'an-jē-ə-ˌspərm\ *n* [deriv. of NL *angi-* + Gk *sperma* seed — more at SPERM] : any of a class (Angiospermae) of vascular

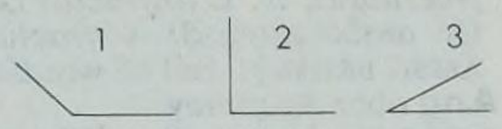
plants (as orchids or roses) having the seeds in a closed ovary — **an·gio·sper·mous** \ˌan-jē-ə-'spər-məs\ *adj*

an·gio·ten·sin \ˌan-jē-ō-'ten(t)-sən\ *n* [*angi-* + hyper*tension* + *-in*] : either of two forms of a kinin of which one has marked vasoconstrictive action; *also* : a synthetic amide of the active form used to treat some forms of hypotension

an·gio·ten·sin·ase \-sə-ˌnās, -ˌnāz\ *n* : any of several enzymes in the blood that hydrolyze angiotensin

Angl *abbr* Anglican

¹an·gle \'aŋ-gəl\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *angulus;* akin to OE *anclēow* ankle] **1** : a corner whether constituting a projecting part or a partially enclosed space ⟨they sheltered in an ~ of the building⟩ **2 a** : the figure formed by two lines extending from the same point or by two surfaces diverging from the same line **b** : a measure of the amount of turning necessary to bring one line or plane into coincidence with or parallel to another **3 a** : the precise viewpoint from which something is observed or considered; *also* : the aspect seen from such an angle **b** (1) : a special approach, point of attack, or technique for accomplishing an objective (2) : an often improper or illicit method of obtaining advantage ⟨he always had an ~ to beat the other fellow⟩ **4** : a sharply divergent course ⟨the road went off at an ~⟩ **5** : a position to the side of an opponent in football from which a player may block his opponent more effectively or without penalty — usu. used in the phrases *get an angle* or *have an angle* ***syn*** see PHASE — **an·gled** \-gəld\ *adj*



angles 2a: *1* obtuse, *2* right, *3* acute

²angle *vb* **an·gled; an·gling** \-g(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* **1** : to turn, move, or direct at an angle **2** : to present (as a news story) from a particular or prejudiced point of view : SLANT ~ *vi* : to turn or proceed at an angle

³angle *vi* **an·gled; an·gling** \-g(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *angelen,* fr. *angel* fishhook, fr. OE, fr. *anga* hook; akin to OHG *ango* hook, L *uncus,* Gk *onkos* barbed hook, *ankos* glen] **1** : to fish with a hook **2** : to use artful means to attain an objective ⟨*angled* for an invitation⟩

angle bracket *n* : BRACKET 3b

An·gle·doz·er \'aŋ-gəl-ˌdō-zər\ *trademark* — used for a tractor-driven pusher and scraper with the blade at an angle for pushing material to one side

angle iron *n* **1** : an iron cleat for joining parts of a structure at an angle **2** : a piece of structural steel rolled with an L-shaped section

angle of attack : the acute angle between the direction of the relative wind and the chord of an airfoil

angle of depression : the angle formed by the line of sight and the horizontal plane for an object below the horizontal

angle of elevation : the angle formed by the line of sight and the horizontal plane for an object above the horizontal

angle of incidence : the angle that a line (as a ray of light) falling on a surface makes with a perpendicular to the surface at the point of incidence

angle of reflection : the angle between a reflected ray and the normal drawn at the point of incidence to a reflecting surface

angle of refraction : the angle between a refracted ray and the normal drawn at the point of incidence to the interface at which refraction occurs

an·gler \'aŋ-glər\ *n* **1** : one that angles **2** : any of several pediculate fishes; *esp* : one (*Lophius piscatorius*) having a large flattened head and wide mouth with a lure on the head and fleshy mouth appendages used to attract smaller fishes as prey

An·gles \'aŋ-gəlz\ *n pl* [L *Angli,* of Gmc origin; akin to OE *Engle* Angles] : a Germanic people that invaded England along with the Saxons and Jutes in the 5th century A.D. and merged with them to form the Anglo-Saxon peoples

angle shot *n* : a picture taken with the camera pointed at an angle from the horizontal

an·gle·site \'aŋ-gəl-ˌsīt, -glə-\ *n* [F *anglésite,* fr. *Anglesey* island, Wales] : a mineral $PbSO_4$ consisting of lead sulfate formed by the oxidation of galena

an·gle·worm \'aŋ-gəl-ˌwərm\ *n* : EARTHWORM

An·gli·an \'aŋ-glē-ən\ *n* **1** : a member of the Angles **2** : the Old English dialects of Mercia and Northumbria — **Anglian** *adj*

An·gli·can \'aŋ-gli-kən\ *adj* [ML *anglicanus,* fr. *anglicus* English, fr. LL *Angli* English people, fr. L, Angles] **1** : of or relating to the established episcopal Church of England and churches of similar faith and order in communion with it **2** : of or relating to England or the English nation — **Anglican** *n* — **An·gli·can·ism** \-kə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*

an·gli·ce \'aŋ-glə-(ˌ)sē\ *adv, often cap* [ML, adv. of *anglicus*] : in English; *esp* : in readily understood English ⟨the city of Napoli, ~ Naples⟩

an·gli·cism \'aŋ-glə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n, often cap* [ML *anglicus* English] **1** : a characteristic feature of English occurring in another language **2** : adherence or attachment to English customs or ideas

An·gli·cist \'aŋ-glə-səst\ *n* : a specialist in English linguistics

an·gli·cize \'aŋ-glə-ˌsīz\ *vt* **-cized; -ciz·ing** *often cap* **1** : to make English in quality or characteristics **2** : to adapt (a foreign word or phrase) to English usage; *esp* : to borrow into English without alteration of form or spelling and with or without change in pronunciation — **an·gli·ci·za·tion** \ˌaŋ-glə-sə-'zā-shən\ *n, often cap*

an·gling \'aŋ-gliŋ\ *n* : the act of one who angles; *esp* : the act or sport of fishing with hook and line

An·glist \'aŋ-gləst\ *n* : ANGLICIST

An·glo \'aŋ-(ˌ)glō\ *n, pl* **Anglos** [in sense 2, fr. MexSp, fr. Sp *anglo-americano* Anglo-American] **1** : ANGLO-AMERICAN **2** : a Caucasian inhabitant of the U.S. of non-Latin extraction — **Anglo** *adj*

Anglo- *comb form* [NL, fr. LL *Anglī*] **1** : English ⟨*Anglo*-Norman⟩ **2** : English and ⟨*Anglo*-Japanese⟩

An·glo–Amer·i·can \ˌaŋ-glō-ə-'mer-ə-kən\ *n* **1** : an inhabitant of the U.S. of English origin or descent **2** : a North American whose native language is English and whose culture is of English origin — **Anglo–American** *adj*

An·glo–Cath·o·lic \-'kath-(ə-)lik\ *adj* : of or relating to a High Church movement in Anglicanism emphasizing its continuity with historic Catholicism and fostering Catholic dogmatic and liturgical traditions — **Anglo–Catholic** *n* — **An·glo–Cathol·i·cism** \-kə-'thäl-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n*

An·glo–French \-'french\ *n* : the French language used in medieval England

An·glo–Nor·man \-'nȯr-mən\ *n* **1** : one of the Normans living in England after the Conquest **2** : the form of Anglo-French used by Anglo-Normans

an·glo·phile \'aŋ-glə-ˌfīl\ *also* **an·glo·phil** \-ˌfil\ *n, often cap* [F, fr. *anglo-* + *-phile*] : one who greatly admires or favors England and things English — **an·glo·phil·ic** \ˌaŋ-glə-'fil-ik\ *adj, often cap* — **an·gloph·i·lism** \aŋ-'gläf-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n, often cap* — **an·gloph·i·ly** \aŋ-'gläf-ə-lē\ *n*

an·glo·phil·ia \ˌaŋ-glə-'fil-ē-ə\ *n, often cap* : excessive admiration of or partiality for England or English ways — **an·glo·phil·i·ac** \-ē-ˌak\ *adj, often cap*

an·glo·phobe \'aŋ-glə-ˌfōb\ *n, often cap* [prob. fr. F, fr. *anglo-* + *-phobe*] : one who is averse to England and things English — **an·glo·pho·bia** \ˌaŋ-glə-'fō-bē-ə\ *n, often cap* — **an·glo·pho·bic** \-bik\ *adj, often cap*

an·glo·phone \'aŋ-glə-ˌfōn\ *adj, often cap* : consisting of or belonging to an English-speaking population — **Anglophone** *n*

An·glo–Sax·on \ˌaŋ-glō-'sak-sən\ *n* [NL *Anglo-Saxones,* pl., alter. of ML *Angli Saxones,* fr. L *Angli* Angles + LL *Saxones* Saxons] **1** : a member of the Germanic peoples conquering England in the 5th century A.D. and forming the ruling class until the Norman conquest — compare ANGLES, JUTE, SAXON **2** : ENGLISHMAN; *specif* : a person descended from the Anglo-Saxons **3** : OLD ENGLISH 1 **4** : direct plain English — **Anglo–Saxon** *adj*

an·go·ra \aŋ-'gōr-ə, an-, -'gȯr-\ *n* **1** : the hair of the Angora rabbit or Angora goat — called also *angora wool* **2** : a yarn of Angora rabbit hair used esp. for knitting **3** *cap* **a** : ANGORA CAT **b** : ANGORA GOAT **c** : ANGORA RABBIT

Angora cat *n* [*Angora* (Ankara), Turkey] : a long-haired domestic cat

Angora goat *n* : any of a breed or variety of the domestic goat raised for its long silky hair which is the true mohair

Angora rabbit *n* : a long-haired usu. white rabbit with red eyes that is raised for fine wool

an·gos·tu·ra bark \ˌaŋ-gə-'st(y)u̇r-ə-\ *n* [*Angostura* (now Ciudad Bolivar), Venezuela] : the aromatic bitter bark of either of two So. American trees (*Galipea officinalis* and *Cusparia trifoliata*) of the rue family that is used as a tonic and antipyretic

an·gry \'aŋ-grē\ *adj* **an·gri·er; -est** **1** : feeling or showing anger : WRATHFUL **2 a** : indicative of or proceeding from anger ⟨~ words⟩ **b** : seeming to show anger or to threaten in an angry manner ⟨an ~ sky⟩ **3** : painfully inflamed ⟨an ~ rash⟩ — **an·gri·ly** \-grə-lē\ *adv* — **an·gri·ness** \-grē-nəs\ *n*

angry young man *n* : one of a group of mid-20th century British authors whose works express the bitterness of the lower classes toward the established sociopolitical system and toward the mediocrity and hypocrisy of the middle and upper classes

angst \'äŋ(k)st\ *n* [Dan & G; Dan, fr. G; akin to L *angustus*] : a feeling of anxiety : DREAD

ang·strom \'aŋ-strəm *also* 'ȯŋ-\ *n* [Anders J. *Ångström* †1874 Sw physicist] : a unit of wavelength of light equal to one ten-billionth of a meter

¹an·guish \'aŋ-gwish\ *n* [ME *angwisshe,* fr. OF *angoisse,* fr. L *angustiae,* pl., straits, distress fr. *angustus* narrow; akin to OE *enge* narrow — more at ANGER] : extreme pain or distress of body or mind ***syn*** see SORROW ***ant*** relief

²anguish *vi* : to suffer intense pain or sorrow ~ *vt* : to cause to suffer anguish or distress

an·guished *adj* **1** : suffering anguish : TORMENTED ⟨the ~ martyrs⟩ **2** : expressing anguish : AGONIZED ⟨~ cries⟩

an·gu·lar \'aŋ-gyə-lər\ *adj* [MF or L; MF *angulaire,* fr. L *angularis,* fr. *angulus* angle] **1 a** : having one or more angles **b** : forming an angle : sharp-cornered **2** : measured by an angle ⟨~ distance⟩ **3 a** : stiff in character or manner **b** : having the bones prominent from lack of plumpness — **an·gu·lar·ly** *adv*

an·gu·lar·i·ty \ˌaŋ-gyə-'lar-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality of being angular **2** *pl* : angular outlines or characteristics

angular momentum *n* : a vector quantity that is the measure of the intensity of rotational motion, that is equal in classical physics to the product of the angular velocity of a rotating body or system and its moment of inertia with respect to the rotation axis, and that is directed along the rotation axis

angular velocity *n* : the time rate of change of angular position that has direction and sense such that the motion appears clockwise to one looking in the direction of the vector

an·gu·la·tion \ˌaŋ-gyə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1** : the action of making angular **2** : an angular position, formation, or shape

An·gus \'aŋ-gəs\ *n* [*Angus,* county in Scotland] : ABERDEEN ANGUS

an·hin·ga \an-'hiŋ-gə\ *n* [Pg, fr. Tupi] : SNAKEBIRD; *esp* : WATER TURKEY

anhyd *abbr* anhydrous

an·hy·dride \(')an-'hī-ˌdrīd\ *n* : a compound derived from another (as an acid) by removal of the elements of water

an·hy·drite \-ˌdrīt\ *n* [G *anhydrit,* fr. Gk *anydros*] : a mineral $CaSO_4$ consisting of an anhydrous calcium sulfate that is usu. massive and white or slightly colored

an·hy·drous \-drəs\ *adj* [Gk *anydros,* fr. *a-* + *hydōr* water — more at WATER] : free from water and esp. water of crystallization

ani \ä-'nē\ *n* [Sp *aní,* or Pg *ani,* fr. Tupi *anî*] : any of several black cuckoos (genus *Crotophaga*) of the warmer parts of America

anile \'an-ˌīl, 'ā-ˌnīl\ *adj* [L *anilis,* fr. *anus* old woman; akin to OHG *ano* grandfather] : of or resembling a doddering old woman; *esp* : SENILE — **anil·i·ty** \a-'nil-ət-ē, ā-, ə-\ *n*

an·i·line \'an-ᵊl-ən\ *n* [G *anilin,* fr. *anil* indigo, fr. F, fr. Pg, fr. Ar *an-nīl* the indigo plant, fr. Skt *nīlī* indigo, fr. fem. of *nīla* dark blue]

: an oily liquid poisonous amine $C_6H_5NH_2$ obtained esp. by the reduction of nitrobenzene and used chiefly in organic synthesis (as of dyes)

aniline dye *n* : a dye made by the use of aniline or one chemically related to such a dye; *broadly* : a synthetic organic dye

ani·lin·gus \ˌā-ni-'liŋ-gəs\ *or* **ani·linc·tus** \-'liŋ(k)-təs\ *n* [NL, fr. *anus* + *-i-* + *-lingus, -linctus* (as in *cunnilingus, cunnilinctus*)] : erotic stimulation achieved by contact between mouth and anus

an·i·ma \'an-ə-mə\ n [NL, fr. L, soul] : an individual's true inner self that in the analytic psychology of C. G. Jung reflects archetypal ideals of conduct; *esp* : an inner feminine part of the male personality — compare PERSONA 2

an·i·mad·ver·sion \ˌan-ə-ˌmad-'vər-zhən, -məd-, -'vər-shən\ *n* [L *animadversion-, animadversio,* fr. *animadversus,* pp. of *animadvertere*] **1** : a critical and usu. censorious remark **2** : adverse and typically ill-natured or unfair criticism
syn ANIMADVERSION, STRICTURE, ASPERSION, REFLECTION *shared meaning element* : adverse criticism ***ant*** commendation

an·i·mad·vert \-'vərt\ *vb* [L *animadvertere* to pay attention to, censure, fr. *animum advertere,* lit., to turn the mind to] *vt, archaic* : NOTICE, OBSERVE ~ *vi* : to make an animadversion ***syn*** see REMARK

[1]an·i·mal \'an-ə-məl\ *n* [L, fr. *animale,* neut. of *animalis* animate, fr. *anima* soul] **1** : any of a kingdom (Animalia) of living beings typically differing from plants in capacity for spontaneous movement and rapid motor response to stimulation **2 a** : one of the lower animals as distinguished from man **b** : MAMMAL **3** : a human being considered chiefly with regard to his physical nature **4** : ANIMALITY 2 — **an·i·mal·like** \-məl-ˌ(l)īk\ *adj* — **an·i·mal·ness** \-məl-nəs\ *n*

[2]animal *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or derived from animals **2 a** : of or relating to the physical or sentient as contrasted with the intellectual or rational **b** : SENSUAL, FLESHLY **3** : of or relating to the animal pole of an egg or to the part from which ectoderm normally develops ***syn*** see CARNAL ***ant*** rational — **an·i·mal·ly** \-mə-lē\ *adv*

animal cracker *n* : a small animal-shaped cracker

an·i·mal·cule \ˌan-ə-'mal-(ˌ)kyü(ə)l\ *or* **an·i·mal·cu·lum** \-'mal-kyə-ləm\ *n, pl* **-cules** *or* **-cu·la** \-kyə-lə\ [NL *animalculum,* dim. of L *animal*] : a minute usu. microscopic organism — **an·i·mal·cu·lar** \-kyə-lər\ *adj*

animal heat *n* : heat produced in the body of a living animal by functional chemical and physical activities

animal husbandry *n* : a branch of agriculture concerned with the production and care of domestic animals

an·i·mal·ism \'an-ə-mə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* **1 a** (1) : the qualities typical of animals; *esp* : buoyant health and uninhibited vitality (2) : the exercise of these qualities **b** : preoccupation with the satisfaction of physical drives or wants **2** : a theory that human beings are nothing more than animals — **an·i·mal·ist** \-mə-ləst\ *n* — **an·i·mal·is·tic** \ˌan-ə-mə-'lis-tik\ *adj*

an·i·mal·i·ty \ˌan-ə-'mal-ət-ē\ *n* **1** : ANIMALISM 1a (1) **2 a** : the state of being an animal **b** : animal nature **3** : the animal world

an·i·mal·ize \'an-ə-mə-ˌlīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to represent in animal form **2 a** : BRUTALIZE ⟨men *animalized* by the war⟩ **b** : SENSUALIZE ⟨*animalized* by passion⟩ — **an·i·mal·iza·tion** \ˌan-ə-mə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n*

animal kingdom *n* : the one of the three basic groups of natural objects that includes all living and extinct animals — compare MINERAL KINGDOM, PLANT KINGDOM

animal magnetism *n* : a force held to reside in some individuals by which a strong quasi-hypnotic influence can be exerted

animal pole *n* : the point on the surface of an egg that is diametrically opposite to the vegetal pole and usu. marks the most active part of the protoplasm or the part containing least yolk

animal spirits *n pl* : vivacity arising from physical health and energy

animal starch *n* : GLYCOGEN

[1]an·i·mate \'an-ə-mət\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *animatus,* pp. of *animare* to give life to, fr. *anima* breath, soul; akin to OE *ōthian* to breathe, L *animus* spirit, mind, courage, Gk *anemos* wind] **1 a** : possessing life : ALIVE **b** : of the kind or class of which life is a characteristic ⟨all ~ creation⟩ **2** : of or relating to animal life as opposed to plant life **3** : full of life : ANIMATED ***syn*** see LIVING ***ant*** inanimate — **an·i·mate·ly** *adv* — **an·i·mate·ness** *n*

[2]an·i·mate \-ˌmāt\ *vt* **-mat·ed; -mat·ing** **1** : to give spirit and support to : ENCOURAGE **2 a** : to give life to **b** : to give vigor and zest to **3** : to move to action **4 a** : to make or design in such a way that apparently spontaneous lifelike movement is effected **b** : to produce in the form of an animated cartoon ***syn*** see QUICKEN

an·i·mat·ed \-ˌmāt-əd\ *adj* **1 a** : endowed with life or the qualities of life : ALIVE ⟨viruses that can behave as ~ bodies or inert crystals⟩ **b** : full of movement and activity **c** : full of vigor and spirit : VIVACIOUS ⟨an ~ discussion⟩ **2** : having the appearance of something alive **3** : made in the form of an animated cartoon ***syn*** **1** see LIVING ***ant*** inert **2** see LIVELY — **an·i·mat·ed·ly** *adv*

animated cartoon *n* **1** : a motion picture made from a series of drawings simulating motion by means of slight progressive changes **2** : ANIMATION 2a

an·i·ma·tion \ˌan-ə-'mā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of animating : the state of being animate or animated **2 a** : a motion picture made by photographing successive positions of inanimate objects (as puppets or mechanical parts) **b** : ANIMATED CARTOON 1 **3** : the preparation of animated cartoons

an·i·ma·to \ˌan-ə-'mät-(ˌ)ō\ *adv or adj* [It, fr. L *animatus*] : with animation — used as a direction in music

an·i·ma·tor \'an-ə-ˌmāt-ər\ *n* : one that contributes to the production of an animated cartoon

an·i·mism \'an-ə-ˌmiz-əm\ *n* [G *animismus,* fr. L *anima* soul] **1** : a doctrine that the soul is the vital principle of organic development **2** : attribution of conscious life to nature or natural objects **3** : belief in the existence of spirits separable from bodies — **an·i·mist** \-məst\ *n* — **an·i·mis·tic** \ˌan-ə-'mis-tik\ *adj*

an·i·mos·i·ty \ˌan-ə-'mäs-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *animosite,* fr. MF or LL; MF *animosité,* fr. LL *animositat-, animositas,* fr. L *animosus* spirited, fr. *animus*] : ill will or resentment tending toward active hostility ***syn*** see ENMITY

an·i·mus \'an-ə-məs\ *n* [L, spirit, mind, courage, anger] **1** : basic attitude or governing spirit : DISPOSITION, INTENTION **2** : a usu. prejudiced and often spiteful or malevolent ill will **3** : an inner masculine part of the female personality in the analytic psychology of C. G. Jung ***syn*** see ENMITY ***ant*** favor

an·ion \'an-ˌī-ən\ *n* [Gk, neut. of *aniōn,* prp. of *anienai* to go up, fr. *ana-* + *ienai* to go — more at ISSUE] : the ion in an electrolyzed solution that migrates to the anode; *broadly* : a negatively charged ion

an·ion·ic \ˌan-(ˌ)ī-'än-ik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to anions **2** : characterized by an active and esp. surface-active anion — **an·ion·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

anis- *or* **aniso-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *anisos,* fr. *a-* + *isos* equal] : unequal ⟨*anis*eikonia⟩ ⟨*aniso*dactylous⟩

an·ise \'an-əs\ *n* [ME *anis,* fr. OF, fr. L *anisum,* fr. Gk *annēson, anison*] : an herb (*Pimpinella anisum*) of the carrot family having carminative and aromatic seeds; *also* : ANISEED

ani·seed \'an-ə(s)-ˌsēd\ *n* [ME *anis seed,* fr. *anis* + *seed*] : the seed of anise often used as a flavoring in cordials and in cooking

an·is·ei·ko·nia \ˌan-ˌī-ˌsī-'kō-nē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. *anis-* + Gk *eikōn* image — more at ICON] : a defect of binocular vision in which the two retinal images of an object differ in size — **an·is·ei·kon·ic** \-'kän-ik\ *adj*

an·is·ette \ˌan-ə-'set, -'zet\ *n* [F, fr. *anis*] : a usu. colorless sweet liqueur flavored with aniseed

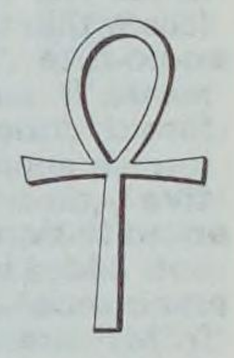
an·isog·a·mous \ˌan-(ˌ)ī-'säg-ə-məs\ *also* **an·iso·gam·ic** \-ˌī-sə-'gam-ik\ *adj* : characterized by fusion of heterogamous gametes or of individuals that usu. differ chiefly in size ⟨~ reproduction⟩ — **an·isog·a·my** \-(ˌ)ī-'säg-ə-mē\ *n*

an·iso·me·tro·pia \ˌan-ˌī-sə-mə-'trō-pē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *anisometros* of unequal measure (fr. *anis-* + *metron* measure) + NL *-opia* — more at MEASURE] : unequal refractive power in the two eyes — **an·iso·me·tro·pic** \-'träp-ik, -'trō-pik\ *adj*

an·iso·trop·ic \ˌan-ˌī-sə-'träp-ik\ *adj* **1** : exhibiting properties with different values when measured along axes in different directions ⟨an ~ crystal⟩ **2** : assuming different positions in response to external stimuli — **an·iso·trop·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **an·isot·ro·py** \-(ˌ)ī-'sä-trə-pē\ *or* **an·isot·ro·pism** \-ˌpiz-əm\ *n*

an·ker·ite \'aŋ-kə-ˌrīt\ *n* [G *ankerit,* fr. M. J. *Anker* †1843 Austrian mineralogist] : a dolomitic iron-containing mineral $Ca(Fe,Mg,Mn)(CO_3)_2$

ankh \'äŋk\ *n* [Egypt *ʿnh*] : a cross having a loop for its upper vertical arm and serving esp. in ancient Egypt as an emblem of life


ankh

an·kle \'aŋ-kəl\ *n* [ME *ankel,* fr. OE *anclēow;* akin to OHG *anchlāo* ankle, L *angulus* angle] **1** : the joint between the foot and the leg; *also* : the region of this joint **2** : the joint between the cannon bone and pastern (as in the horse)

an·kle·bone \ˌaŋ-kəl-'bōn, 'aŋ-kəl-ˌ\ *n* : TALUS 1

an·klet \'aŋ-klət\ *n* **1** : something (as an ornament) worn around the ankle **2** : a short sock reaching slightly above the ankle **3** : a woman's or child's low shoe having one or more ankle straps

an·ky·lose \'aŋ-ki-ˌlōs, -ˌlōz\ *vb* **-losed; -los·ing** [back-formation fr. *ankylosis*] *vt* : to unite or stiffen by ankylosis ~ *vi* : to undergo ankylosis

an·ky·lo·sis \ˌaŋ-ki-'lō-səs\ *n, pl* **-lo·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *ankylōsis,* fr. *ankyloun* to make crooked, fr. *ankylos* crooked; akin to L *uncus* hooked — more at ANGLE] **1** : stiffness or fixation of a joint by disease or surgery **2** : union of separate bones or hard parts to form a single bone or part — **an·ky·lot·ic** \-'lät-ik\ *adj*

an·la·ge \'än-ˌläg-ə\ *n, pl* **-gen** \-ən\ *also* **-ges** \-əz\ [G, lit., act of laying on] : the foundation of a subsequent development; *specif* : the first recognizable commencement of a developing part or organ in an embryo

ann *abbr* **1** annals **2** annual

an·na \'än-ə\ *n* [Hindi *ānā*] **1** : a former monetary unit of Burma, India, and Pakistan equal to $^1/_{16}$ rupee **2** : a coin representing one anna

an·nal·ist \'an-ᵊl-əst\ *n* : a writer of annals : HISTORIAN — **an·nal·is·tic** \ˌan-ᵊl-'is-tik\ *adj*

an·nals \'an-ᵊlz\ *n pl* [L *annales,* fr. pl. of *annalis* yearly — more at ANNUAL] **1** : a record of events arranged in yearly sequence **2** : historical records : CHRONICLES **3** : records of the activities of an organization ***syn*** see HISTORY

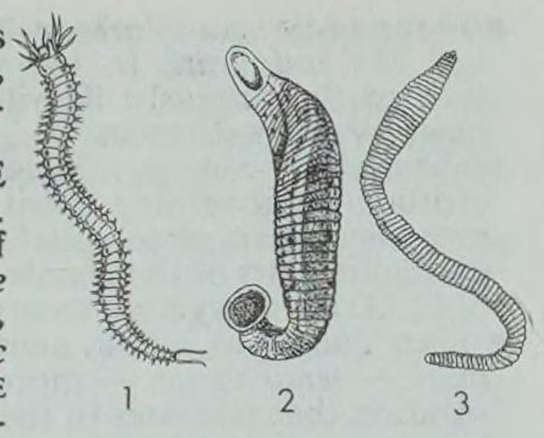
An·nam·ese \ˌan-ə-'mēz, -'mēs\ *n, pl* **Annamese** [*Annam,* region of Vietnam] **1 a** : a Mongolian people inhabiting Vietnam **b** *or* **An·nam·ite** \'an-ə-ˌmīt\ : a member of this people **2** : the language of the Annamese people : VIETNAMESE — **Annamese** *adj* — **Annamite** *adj*

an·nat·to \ə-'nät-(ˌ)ō\ *n* [of Cariban origin; akin to Galibi *annoto* tree producing annatto] : a yellowish red dyestuff made from the pulp around the seeds of a tropical tree (*Bixa orellana,* family Bixaceae)

an·neal \ə-'nē(ə)l\ *vt* [ME *anelen,* fr. OE *onǣlan,* fr. *on* + *ǣlan* to set on fire, burn, fr. *āl* fire; akin to OE *ād* funeral pyre — more at EDIFY] **1** : to heat (as glass) in order to fix laid-on colors **2** : to heat and then cool (as steel or glass) usu. for softening and making less brittle **3** : STRENGTHEN, TOUGHEN

an·ne·lid \'an-ᵊl-əd\ *n* [deriv. of L *anellus* little ring — more at ANNULET] : any of a phylum (Annelida) of coelomate and usu. elon-

gated segmented invertebrates (as earthworms, various marine worms, and leeches) — **annelid** *adj* — **an·nel·i·dan** \ə-'nel-əd-ᵊn, a-\ *adj or n*



annelid: *1* nereis, *2* leech, *3* earthworm

¹an·nex \ə-'neks, 'an-ˌeks\ *vt* [ME *annexen*, fr. MF *annexer*, fr. OF, fr. *annexe* joined, fr. L *annexus*, pp. of *annectere* to bind to, fr. *ad-* + *nectere* to bind] **1** : to attach as a quality, consequence, or condition **2** *archaic* : to join together materially : UNITE **3** : SUBJOIN, APPEND **4** : to incorporate (a country or other territory) within the domain of a state **5** : to obtain or take for oneself — **an·nex·ation** \ˌan-ˌek-'sā-shən\ *n* — **an·nex·ation·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **an·nex·ation·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n*

²an·nex \'an-ˌeks, -iks\ *n* : something annexed or appended: as **a** : an added stipulation or statement : APPENDIX **b** : a subsidiary or supplementary structure : WING

an·nexe \'an-ˌeks, -iks\ *chiefly Brit var of* ²ANNEX

An·nie Oak·ley \ˌan-ē-'ō-klē\ *n, pl* **Annie Oakleys** [*Annie Oakley* †1926 Am markswoman; fr. the resemblance of a punched pass to a playing card with bullet holes through the spots] : a free ticket (as to a theater)

an·ni·hi·late \ə-'nī-ə-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [LL *annihilatus*, pp. of *annihilare* to reduce to nothing, fr. L *ad-* + *nihil* nothing — more at NIL] *vt* **1 a** : to cause to be of no effect : NULLIFY **b** : to destroy the substance or force of **2** : to regard as of no consequence **3** : to cause to cease to exist **4 a** : to destroy a considerable part of ⟨the army was *annihilated*⟩ **b** : to vanquish completely : ROUT ~ *vi* : to cease to exist : VANISH — used of a particle and its antiparticle upon coming together ***syn*** see ABOLISH — **an·ni·hi·la·tion** \-ˌnī-ə-'lā-shən\ *n* — **an·ni·hi·la·tive** \ə-'nī-ə-ˌlāt-iv\ *adj* — **an·ni·hi·la·tor** \-ˌlāt-ər\ *n* — **an·ni·hi·la·to·ry** \-'nī-ə-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr\ *adj*

an·ni·ver·sa·ry \ˌan-ə-'vərs-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** *often attrib* [ME *anniversarie*, fr. ML, *anniversarium*, fr. L, neut. of *anniversarius* returning annually, fr. *annus* year + *versus*, pp. of *vertere* to turn — more at ANNUAL, WORTH] **1** : the annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event **2** : the celebration of an anniversary

an·no Do·mi·ni \ˌan-(ˌ)ō-'däm-ə-nē, -'dō-mə-, -ˌnī\ *adv, often cap A* [ML, in the year of the Lord] — used to indicate that a time division falls within the Christian era

an·no he·gi·rae \-hi-'jī(ə)r-(ˌ)ē, -'hej-ə-ˌrē\ *adv, often cap A&H* [NL, in the year of the Hegira] — used to indicate that a time division falls within the Muslim era

an·no·tate \'an-ə-ˌtāt\ *vb* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [L *annotatus*, pp. of *annotare*, fr. *ad-* + *notare* to mark — more at NOTE] *vi* : to make or furnish critical or explanatory notes or comment ~ *vt* : to make or furnish annotations for (a literary work or subject) — **an·no·ta·tive** \-ˌtāt-iv\ *adj*— **an·no·ta·tor** \-ˌtāt-ər\ *n*

an·no·ta·tion \ˌan-ə-'tā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of annotating **2** : a note added by way of comment or explanation

an·nounce \ə-'naůn(t)s\ *vb* **-nounced; -nounc·ing** [ME *announcen*, fr. MF *annoncer*, fr. L *annuntiare*, fr. *ad-* + *nuntiare* to report, fr. *nuntius* messenger] *vt* **1** : to make known publicly : PROCLAIM ⟨*announced* their engagement⟩ **2 a** : to give notice of the arrival, presence, or readiness of ⟨~ dinner⟩ **b** : to indicate beforehand : FORETELL **3** : to serve as an announcer of ~ *vi* **1** : to serve as an announcer **2** : to declare one's candidacy : give one's political support ***syn*** see DECLARE

an·nounce·ment \ə-'naůn(t)-smənt\ *n* **1** : the act of announcing or of being announced **2** : a public notification or declaration **3** : a piece of formal stationery designed for a social or business announcement

an·nounc·er \ə-'naůn(t)-sər\ *n* : one that announces; *esp* : one that introduces television or radio programs, makes commercial announcements, reads news summaries, and gives station identification

an·noy \ə-'nȯi\ *vb* [ME *anoien*, fr. OF *enuier*, fr. LL *inodiare* to make loathsome, fr. L *in* + *odium* hatred — more at ODIUM] *vt* **1** : to disturb or irritate esp. by repeated acts : VEX **2** : to harass esp. by quick and brief attacks ~ *vi* : to be a source of annoyance — **an·noy·er** *n*

syn **1** ANNOY, VEX, IRK, BOTHER *shared meaning element* : to disturb and nervously upset a person ***ant*** soothe **2** see WORRY

an·noy·ance \ə-'nȯi-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act of annoying or of being annoyed **2** : the state or feeling of being annoyed : VEXATION **3** : a source of vexation or irritation : NUISANCE

an·noy·ing *adj* : causing vexation : IRRITATING — **an·noy·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

¹an·nu·al \'an-yə(-wə)l\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF & LL; MF *annuel*, fr. LL *annualis*, blend of L *annuus* yearly (fr. *annus* year) and L *annalis* yearly (fr. *annus* year); akin to Goth *athnam* (dat. pl.) years, Skt *atati* he walks, goes] **1** : covering the period of a year ⟨~ rainfall⟩ **2** : occurring or performed once a year : YEARLY ⟨an ~ reunion⟩ **3** : completing the life cycle in one growing season — **an·nu·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

²annual *n* **1** : a publication appearing yearly **2** : an event that occurs yearly **3** : something that lasts one year or season; *specif* : an annual plant

annual ring *n* : the layer of wood produced by a single year's growth of a woody plant

an·nu·itant \ə-'n(y)ü-ət-ənt\ *n* : a beneficiary of an annuity

an·nu·ity \ə-'n(y)ü-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ities** [ME *annuite*, fr. MF *annuité*, fr. ML *annuitat-, annuitas*, fr. L *annuus* yearly] **1** : an amount payable yearly or at other regular intervals **2** : the right to receive or the obligation to pay an annuity **3** : a contract or agreement providing for the payment of an annuity

an·nul \ə-'nəl\ *vt* **an·nulled; an·nul·ling** [ME *annullen*, fr. MF *annuller*, fr. LL *annullare*, fr. L *ad-* + *nullus* not any — more at NULL] **1** : to reduce to nothing : OBLITERATE **2** : to make ineffective or inoperative : NEUTRALIZE ⟨~ the drug's effect⟩ **3** : to declare or make legally invalid or void ⟨wants his marriage *annulled*⟩ ***syn*** see NULLIFY

an·nu·lar \'an-yə-lər\ *adj* [MF or L; MF *annulaire*, fr. L *annularis*, fr. *annulus*] : of, relating to, or forming a ring — **an·nu·lar·i·ty** \ˌan-yə-'lar-ət-ē\ *n* — **an·nu·lar·ly** \'an-yə-lər-lē\ *adv*

annular eclipse *n* : an eclipse in which a thin outer ring of the sun's disk is not covered by the apparently smaller dark disk of the moon

an·nu·late \'an-yə-lət, -ˌlāt\ *or* **an·nu·lat·ed** \-ˌlāt-əd\ *adj* : furnished with or composed of rings : RINGED — **an·nu·late·ly** *adv*

an·nu·la·tion \ˌan-yə-'lā-shən\ *n* : formation of rings; *also* : RING

an·nu·let \'an-yə-lət\ *n* [modif. of MF *annelet*, dim. of *anel*, fr. L *anellus*, dim. of *annulus*] **1** : a little ring **2** : a small architectural molding or ridge forming a ring

an·nul·ment \ə-'nəl-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of annulling or of being annulled **2** : a judicial pronouncement declaring a marriage invalid

an·nu·lus \'an-yə-ləs\ *n, pl* **-li** \-ˌlī, -lē\ *also* **-lus·es** [L, dim. of *anus* ring, anus — more at ANUS] **1** : RING **2** : a part, structure, or marking resembling a ring; as **a** : a line of cells around a fern sporangium that ruptures the sporangium by contracting **b** : a growth ring (as on the scale of a fish) that is used in estimating age

an·nun·ci·ate \ə-'nən(t)-sē-ˌāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** : ANNOUNCE

an·nun·ci·a·tion \ə-ˌnən(t)-sē-'ā-shən\ *n* [ME *annunciacioun*, fr. MF *anunciation*, fr. LL *annuntiation-, annuntiatio*, fr. L *annuntiatus*, pp. of *annuntiare* — more at ANNOUNCE] **1** : the act of announcing or of being announced : ANNOUNCEMENT **2** *cap* : March 25 observed as a church festival in commemoration of the announcement of the Incarnation to the Virgin Mary

an·nun·ci·a·tor \ə-'nən(t)-sē-ˌāt-ər\ *n* : one that annunciates; *specif* : a usu. electrically controlled signal board or indicator — **an·nun·ci·a·to·ry** \-sē-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

an·nus mi·ra·bi·lis \ˌan-ə-smə-'räb-ə-ləs, ˌän-\ *n, pl* **an·ni mi·ra·bi·les** \'an-ˌī-mə-'räb-ə-ˌlēz, 'än-(ˌ)ē-mə-'räb-ə-ˌlās\ [NL] : wonderful year — used of an esp. notable year

an·ode \'an-ˌōd\ *n* [Gk *anodos* way up, fr. *ana-* + *hodos* way — more at CEDE] **1** : the positive terminal of an electrolytic cell — compare CATHODE **2** : the negative terminal of a primary cell or of a storage battery that is delivering current **3** : the electron-collecting electrode of an electron tube — **an·od·ic** \a-'näd-ik\ *or* **an·od·al** \-'nōd-ᵊl\ *adj* — **an·od·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *or* **an·od·al·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

an·od·ize \'an-ə-ˌdīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to subject (a metal) to electrolytic action as the anode of a cell in order to coat with a protective or decorative film — **an·od·iza·tion** \ˌan-ˌōd-ə-'zā-shən, -əd-\ *n*

¹an·o·dyne \'an-ə-ˌdīn\ *adj* [L *anodynos*, fr. Gk *anōdynos*, fr. *a-* + *odynē* pain; akin to OE *etan* to eat] : serving to assuage pain

²anodyne *n* **1** : a drug that allays pain **2** : something that soothes, calms, or comforts ⟨the ~ of bridge, a comfortable book, or sport — Harrison Smith⟩ — **an·o·dyn·ic** \ˌan-ə-'din-ik\ *adj*

anoint \ə-'nȯint\ *vt* [ME *anointen*, fr. MF *enoint*, pp. of *enoindre*, fr. L *inunguere*, fr. *in-* + *unguere* to smear — more at OINTMENT] **1** : to smear or rub with oil or an oily substance **2 a** : to apply oil to as a sacred rite esp. for consecration **b** : to designate as if through the rite of anointment : CONSECRATE — **anoint·er** *n* — **anoint·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

anom·a·lis·tic \ə-ˌnäm-ə-'lis-tik\ *adj* : of or relating to the astronomical anomaly — **anom·a·lis·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj*

anom·a·lous \ə-'näm-ə-ləs\ *adj* [LL *anomalus*, fr. Gk *anōmalos*, lit., uneven, fr. *a-* + *homalos* even, fr. *homos* same — more at SAME] **1** : deviating from a general rule, method, or analogy : ABNORMAL **2** : being out of keeping with accepted notions of fitness or order; *also* : inconsistent with what would naturally be expected ***syn*** see IRREGULAR — **anom·a·lous·ly** *adv* — **anom·a·lous·ness** *n*

anom·a·ly \ə-'näm-ə-lē\ *n, pl* **-lies** **1** : the angular distance of a planet from its perihelion as seen from the sun **2** : deviation from the common rule : IRREGULARITY **3** : something anomalous; *esp* : something that deviates in excess of normal variation ***syn*** see PARADOX

an·o·mie *or* **an·o·my** \'an-ə-mē\ *n* [F *anomie*, fr. Gk *anomia* lawlessness, fr. *anomos* lawless, fr. *a-* + *nomos* law, fr. *nemein* to distribute — more at NIMBLE] : a state of society in which normative standards of conduct and belief are weak or lacking; *also* : a similar condition in an individual commonly characterized by disorientation, anxiety, and isolation — **ano·mic** \ə-'näm-ik, -'nō-mik\ *adj*

¹anon \ə-'nän\ *adv* [ME, fr. OE *on ān*, fr. *on* in + *ān* one — more at ON, ONE] **1** *obs* : at once : IMMEDIATELY **2** *archaic* : SOON, PRESENTLY **3** : after a while : LATER

²anon *abbr* anonymous; anonymously

an·o·nym \'an-ə-ˌnim\ *n* **1** : one who is anonymous **2** : PSEUDONYM

an·o·nym·i·ty \ˌan-ə-'nim-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being anonymous **2** : one that is anonymous

anon·y·mous \ə-'nän-ə-məs\ *adj* [LL *anonymus*, fr. Gk *anōnymos*, fr. *a-* + *onyma* name — more at NAME] **1** : having or giving no name ⟨an ~ author⟩ **2** : of unknown or unnamed origin ⟨~ gifts⟩ **3** : marked by lack of individuality or personality ⟨the gray ~ streets — William Styron⟩ — **anon·y·mous·ly** *adv* — **anon·y·mous·ness** *n*

anoph·e·les \ə-'näf-ə-ˌlēz\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *anōphelēs* useless, fr. *a-* + *ophelos* advantage, help; akin to OE *ō-* behind, OHG *ā-*, Skt *ā-* toward and to Skt *phalam* fruit, profit] : any of a genus (*Anopheles*) of mosquitoes that includes all mosquitoes which transmit malaria to man — see MOSQUITO illustration — **anoph·e·line** \-ˌlīn\ *adj or n*

an·o·rak \'an-ə-ˌrak\ *n* [Greenland Esk *ánorâq*] : PARKA

an·o·rec·tic \ˌan-ə-'rek-tik\ *or* **an·o·ret·ic** \-'ret-ik\ *adj* [Gk *anorektos*, fr. *an-* ²*a-* + *oregein* to reach after] **1** : lacking appetite **2** : causing loss of appetite

an·orex·ia \ˌan-ə-'rek-sē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *a-* + *orexis* appetite, fr. *oregein* to stretch out, reach after — more at RIGHT] : loss of appetite esp. when prolonged — **an·orexi·gen·ic** \ˌan-ə-ˌrek-sə-'jen-ik\ *adj*

an·or·thite \ə-'nȯr-ˌthīt\ *n* [F, fr. *a-* + Gk *orthos* straight — more at ARDUOUS] : a white, grayish, or reddish feldspar $CaAl_2Si_2O_8$ occurring in many igneous rocks — **an·or·thit·ic** \ˌan-ȯr-'thit-ik\ *adj*

an·or·tho·site \ə-'nȯr-thə-ˌsīt\ *n* [F *anorthose*, a feldspar, fr. *a-* + Gk *orthos*] : a granular plutonic igneous rock composed almost exclusively of a soda-lime feldspar (as labradorite)

an·os·mia \a-'näz-mē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. *a-* + Gk *osmē* smell — more at ODOR] : loss or impairment of the sense of smell — **an·os·mic** \-mik\ *adj*

[1]an·oth·er \ə-'nəth-ər\ *adj* **1** : different or distinct from the one first considered ⟨the same scene viewed from ~ angle⟩ **2** : some other : LATER ⟨do it ~ time⟩ **3** : being one more in addition to one or more of the same kind : NEW ⟨have ~ piece of pie⟩

[2]another *pron* **1** : an additional one : one more **2** : one that is different from the first or present one **3** : one of a group of unspecified or indefinite things

anoth·er–guess \ə-'nəth-ər-ˌges\ *adj* [alter. of *anothergates*, fr. [1]*another* + *gate*] *archaic* : of another sort

an·ovu·lant \a-'näv-yə-lənt, -'nōv-\ *n* [[2]*a-* + *ovulate* + *-ant*] : a drug that suppresses ovulation — **anovulant** *adj*

an·ovu·la·to·ry \(ˈ)an-'äv-yə-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -'ōv-, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* [[2]*a-* + *ovulate* + *-ory*] **1** : not involving or associated with ovulation ⟨~ bleeding⟩ **2** : suppressing ovulation

an·ox·emia \ˌan-ˌäk-'sē-mē-ə\ *n* [NL] : a condition of subnormal oxygenation of the arterial blood — **an·ox·emic** \-mik\ *adj*

an·ox·ia \a-'näk-sē-ə\ *n* [NL] : hypoxia esp. of such severity as to result in permanent damage — **an·ox·ic** \-sik\ *adj*

ans *abbr* answer

an·ser·ine \'an(t)-sə-ˌrīn\ *adj* [L *anserinus*, fr. *anser* goose — more at GOOSE] : of, relating to, or resembling a goose

[1]an·swer \'an(t)-sər\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *andswaru*; akin to ON *andsvar* answer; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc compound whose first constituent is represented by OE *and-* against, and whose second constituent is akin to OE *swerian* to swear — more at ANTE-] **1 a** : something spoken or written in reply to a question **b** : a correct response **2 a** : a reply to a charge : DEFENSE **b** : a rejoinder made by the defendant in an equity case in reply to the charges made by the complainant in his bill **3** : something done in response ⟨his only ~ was to walk out⟩ **4** : a solution of a problem ⟨the ~ to a chess problem⟩

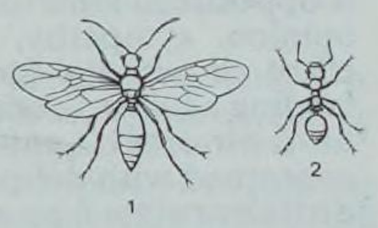
[2]answer *vb* **an·swered; an·swer·ing** \'an(t)s-(ə-)riŋ\ *vi* **1** : to speak or write in reply **2 a** : to be or make oneself responsible or accountable **b** : to make amends : ATONE **3** : to be in conformity or correspondence ⟨~*ed* to the description⟩ **4** : to act in response to an action performed elsewhere or by another **5** : to be adequate : SERVE ~ *vt* **1 a** : to speak or write in reply to **b** : to say or write by way of reply **2** : to reply in rebuttal, justification, or explanation **3 a** : to correspond to **b** : to be adequate or usable for : serve the purpose of often in a temporary or expedient manner **4** *obs* : to atone for **5** : to act in response to **6** : to offer a solution for; *esp* : SOLVE — **an·swer·er** \'an(t)-sər-ər\ *n*

syn **1** ANSWER, RESPOND, REPLY, REJOIN, RETORT *shared meaning element* : to say or write or do something in return **2** see SATISFY

an·swer·able \'an(t)s-(ə-)rə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : liable to be called to account : RESPONSIBLE **2** *archaic* : SUITABLE, ADEQUATE **3** *archaic* : ACCORDANT, CORRESPONDING **4** : capable of being refuted

answering service *n* : a commercial service that answers telephone calls for its clients

[1]ant \'ant\ *n* [ME *ante*, *emete*, fr. OE *æmette*; akin to OHG *āmeiza* ant] : any of a family (Formicidae) of colonial hymenopterous insects with a complex social organization and various castes performing special duties



ants: *1* winged male, *2* worker

[2]ant *abbr* **1** antenna **2** antonym

Ant *abbr* **1** Antarctica **2** Antrim

ant- — see ANTI-

[1]-ant \ənt, ᵊnt\ *n suffix* [ME, fr. OF, fr. *-ant*, prp. suffix, fr. L *-ant*, *-ans*, prp. suffix of first conjugation, fr. *-a-* (stem vowel of first conjugation) + *-nt-*, *-ns*, prp. suffix; akin to OE *-nde*, prp. suffix, Gk *-nt-*, *-n*, part. suffix] **1 a** : one that performs (a specified action) : personal or impersonal agent ⟨claim*ant*⟩ ⟨cool*ant*⟩ **b** : thing that promotes (a specified action or process) ⟨expector*ant*⟩ **2** : one connected with ⟨annuit*ant*⟩ **3** : thing that is acted upon (in a specified manner) ⟨inhal*ant*⟩

[2]-ant *adj suffix* **1** : performing (a specified action) or being (in a specified condition) ⟨somnambul*ant*⟩ **2** : promoting (a specified action or process) ⟨expector*ant*⟩

an·ta \'ant-ə\ *n, pl* **antas** *or* **an·tae** \'an-ˌtē, -ˌtī\ [L; akin to ON *önd* anteroom] : a pier produced by thickening a wall at its termination

A, A antas

ANTA *abbr* American National Theater and Academy

ant·ac·id \(ˈ)ant-'as-əd\ *adj* : counteractive of acidity — **antacid** *n*

An·tae·an \an-'tē-ən\ *adj* [*Antaeus*, a giant overcome by Hercules] **1** : having superhuman strength **2** : MAMMOTH

an·tag·o·nism \an-'tag-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* **1 a** : actively expressed opposition, hostility, or antipathy ⟨~ between factions⟩ **b** : opposition of a conflicting force, tendency, or principle ⟨the ~ of democracy to dictatorship⟩ **2** : opposition in physiological action; *esp* : interaction of two or more substances such that the action of any one of them on living cells or tissues is lessened ***syn*** see ENMITY ***ant*** accord, comity

an·tag·o·nist \-nəst\ *n* **1** : one that opposes another esp. in combat : ADVERSARY **2** : an agent of physiological antagonism: as **a** : a muscle that contracts with and limits the action of an agonist with which it is paired — called also *antagonistic muscle* **b** : a drug that opposes the action of another ***syn*** see OPPONENT

an·tag·o·nis·tic \(ˌ)an-ˌtag-ə-'nis-tik\ *adj* : characterized by or resulting from antagonism : OPPOSING ***syn*** see ADVERSE ***ant*** favoring, favorable — **an·tag·o·nis·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

an·tag·o·nize \an-'tag-ə-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-nized; -niz·ing** [Gk *antagōnizesthai*, fr. *anti-* + *agōnizesthai* to struggle, fr. *agōn* contest — more at AGONY] **1** : to act in opposition to : COUNTERACT **2** : to incur or provoke the hostility of ***syn*** see OPPOSE

ant·arc·tic \(ˈ)ant-'ärk-tik, -'ärt-ik\ *adj, often cap* [ME *antartik*, fr. L *antarcticus*, fr. Gk *antarktikos*, fr. *anti-* + *arktikos* arctic] : of or relating to the south pole or to the region near it

antarctic circle *n, often cap A&C* : the parallel of latitude that is approximately $66\frac{1}{2}$ degrees south of the equator and that circumscribes the southern frigid zone

An·tar·es \an-'ta(ə)r-(ˌ)ēz, -'te(ə)r-\ *n* [Gk *Antarēs*] : a giant red star of very low density that is the brightest star in Scorpio

ant bear *n* : a large anteater (*Myrmecophaga jubata*) of So. America with shaggy gray fur, a black band across the breast, and a white stripe on the shoulder



ant bear

ant cow *n* : an aphid from which ants obtain honeydew

[1]an·te \'ant-ē\ *n* [*ante-*] **1** : a poker stake usu. put up before the deal to build the pot ⟨the dealer called for a dollar ~⟩ **2** : an amount paid : PRICE ⟨these improvements would raise the ~⟩

[2]ante *vt* **an·ted; an·te·ing** : to put up (an ante); *also* : PAY, PRODUCE — often used with *up*

ante- *prefix* [ME, fr. L, fr. *ante* before, in front of; akin to OE *and-* against, Gk *anti* before, against — more at END] **1 a** : prior : earlier ⟨*ante*type⟩ **b** : anterior : forward ⟨*ante*room⟩ **2 a** : prior to : earlier than ⟨*ante*diluvian⟩ **b** : in front of ⟨*ante*choir⟩

ant·eat·er \'ant-ˌēt-ər\ *n* : any of several mammals that feed largely or entirely on ants: as **a** : an edentate with a long narrow snout, a long tongue, and enormous salivary glands **b** : ECHIDNA **c** : AARDVARK

an·te·bel·lum \ˌant-i-'bel-əm\ *adj* [L *ante bellum* before the war] : existing before a war; *esp* : existing before the Civil War ⟨an ~ brick mansion⟩

an·te·cede \ˌant-ə-'sēd\ *vt* **-ced·ed; -ced·ing** [L *antecedere*, fr. *ante-* + *cedere* to go — more at CEDE] : PRECEDE

an·te·ced·ence \-'sēd-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* : PRIORITY, PRECEDENCE

[1]an·te·ced·ent \ˌant-ə-'sēd-ᵊnt\ *n* [ME, fr. ML & L; ML *antecedent-, antecedens*, fr. L, logical antecedent, lit., one that goes before, fr. neut. of *antecedent-, antecedens*, prp. of *antecedere*] **1** : a substantive word, phrase, or clause referred to by a pronoun (as *John* in "I saw John and spoke to him"); *broadly* : a word or group of words replaced and referred to by a substitute **2** : the conditional element in a proposition (as *if A* in "if A, then B") **3** : the first term of a mathematical ratio **4 a** : a preceding event, condition, or cause **b** *pl* : the significant events, conditions, and traits of one's earlier life **5 a** : a predecessor in a series; *esp* : a model or stimulus for later developments **b** *pl* : ANCESTORS, PARENTS ***syn*** see CAUSE

[2]antecedent *adj* **1** : prior in time or order **2** : causally or logically prior ***syn*** see PRECEDING ***ant*** subsequent, consequent — **an·te·ced·ent·ly** *adv*

an·te·ces·sor \ˌant-i-'ses-ər\ *n* [ME *antecessour*, fr. L *antecessor* — more at ANCESTOR] : one that goes before : PREDECESSOR

an·te·cham·ber \'ant-i-ˌchām-bər\ *n* [F *antichambre*, fr. MF, fr. It *anti-* (fr. L *ante-*) + MF *chambre* room — more at CHAMBER] : ANTEROOM

an·te·choir \'ant-i-ˌkwī(ə)r\ *n* : a space enclosed or reserved for the clergy and choristers at the entrance to a choir

[1]an·te·date \'ant-i-ˌdāt\ *n* : a date assigned to an event or document earlier than the actual date of the event or document

[2]an·te·date \'ant-i-ˌdāt, ˌant-i-'\ *vt* **1 a** : to date as of a time prior to that of execution **b** : to assign to a date prior to that of actual occurrence **2** *archaic* : ANTICIPATE **3** : to precede in time

an·te·di·lu·vi·an \ˌant-i-də-'lü-vē-ən, -(ˌ)dī-\ *adj* [*ante-* + L *diluvium* flood — more at DELUGE] **1** : of or relating to the period before the flood described in the Bible **2** : made, evolved, or developed a long time ago : ANTIQUATED ⟨an ~ automobile⟩ — **antediluvian** *n*

an·te·fix \'ant-i-ˌfiks\ *n* [L *antefixum*, fr. neut. of *antefixus*, pp. of *antefigere* to fasten before, fr. *ante-* + *figere* to fasten — more at DIKE] **1** : an ornament at the eaves of a classical building concealing the ends of the joint tiles of the roof **2** : an ornament of the molding of a classic cornice — **an·te·fix·al** \ˌant-i-'fik-səl\ *adj*

an·te·lope \'ant-ᵊl-ˌōp\ *n, pl* **-lope** *or* **-lopes** [ME, fabulous heraldic beast, prob. fr. MF *antelop* savage animal with sawlike horns, fr. ML *anthalopus*, fr. LGk *antholop-, antholops*] **1 a** : any of various Old World ruminant mammals (family Bovidae) that differ from the true oxen esp. in lighter racier build and horns directed upward and backward **b** : PRONGHORN **2** : leather from antelope hide

an·te me·ri·di·em \ˌant-i-mə-'rid-ē-əm, -ē-ˌem\ *adj* [L] : being before noon — abbr. *a.m.*

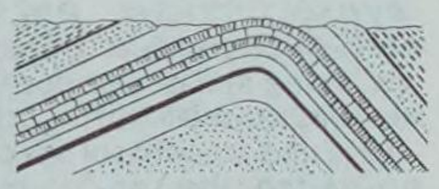
an·te·mor·tem \-'mȯrt-əm\ *adj* [L *ante mortem*] : preceding death

an·te·na·tal \-'nāt-ᵊl\ *adj* : of or relating to an unborn child : PRENATAL; *also* : occurring during pregnancy

an·ten·na \an-'ten-ə\ *n, pl* **-nae** \-(ˌ)ē\ *or* **-nas** [ML, fr. L, sail yard] **1** : a movable segmented organ of sensation on the head of insects, myriapods, and crustaceans — see INSECT illustration **2** *pl* anten-

nas : a usu. metallic device (as a rod or wire) for radiating or receiving radio waves — **an·ten·nal** \-'ten-ᵊl\ *adj*
an·ten·nule \an-'ten-(ˌ)yü(ə)l\ *n* : a small antenna or similar appendage
an·te·pen·di·um \ˌant-i-'pen-dē-əm\ *n, pl* **-di·ums; -dia** \-dē-ə\ [ML, fr. L *ante-* + *pendēre* to hang — more at PENDANT] : a hanging for the front of an altar, pulpit, or lectern
an·te·pe·nult \ˌant-i-'pē-ˌnəlt, -pi-'\ *also* **an·te·pen·ul·ti·ma** \-pi-'nəl-tə-mə\ *n* [LL *antepaenultima*, fem. of *antepaenultimus* preceding the next to last, fr. L *ante-* + *paenultimus* penultimate] : the 3d syllable of a word counting from the end (as *cu* in *accumulate*) — **an·te·pen·ul·ti·mate** \-pi-'nəl-tə-mət\ *adj or n*
an·te·ri·or \an-'tir-ē-ər\ *adj* [L, compar. of *ante* before — more at ANTE-] **1 a** : situated before or toward the front **b** : ABAXIAL **2 a** : coming before in time : ANTECEDENT **b** : logically prior ***syn*** see PRECEDING ***ant*** posterior — **an·te·ri·or·ly** *adv*
an·tero- \ˌant-ə-(ˌ)rō\ *comb form* [NL, fr. L *anterior*] : anterior ⟨*antero*parietal⟩ : anterior and ⟨*antero*lateral⟩ : from front to ⟨*antero*posterior⟩
an·te·room \'ant-i-ˌrüm, -ˌrům\ *n* : an outer room that leads to another usu. more important room and that is often used as a waiting room
anth- — see ANTI-
an·the·lion \ant-'hēl-yən, an-'thēl-\ *n, pl* **-lia** \-yə\ *or* **-lions** [Gk *anthēlion*, fr. neut. of *anthēlios* opposite the sun, fr. *anti-* + *hēlios* sun — more at SOLAR] : a somewhat bright white spot appearing on the parhelic circle opposite the sun
an·thel·min·tic \ˌant-ˌhel-'mint-ik, ˌan-ˌthel-\ *adj* [*anti-* + Gk *helminth-, helmis* worm — more at HELMINTH] : expelling or destroying parasitic worms esp. of the intestine — **anthelmintic** *n*
an·them \'an(t)-thəm\ *n* [ME *antem*, fr. OE *antefn*, fr. LL *antiphona*, fr. LGk *antiphōna*, pl. of *antiphōnon*, fr. Gk, neut. of *antiphōnos* responsive, fr. *anti-* + *phōnē* sound — more at BAN] **1 a** : a psalm or hymn sung antiphonally or responsively **b** : a sacred vocal composition with words usu. from the Scriptures **2** : a song or hymn of praise or gladness
an·the·mi·on \an-'thē-mē-ən\ *n, pl* **-mia** \-mē-ə\ [Gk, fr. dim. of *anthemon* flower, fr. *anthos* — more at ANTHOLOGY] : an ornament of floral or foliated forms arranged in a radiating cluster but always flat (as in relief sculpture or in painting)
an·ther \'an(t)-thər\ *n* [NL *anthera*, fr. L, medicine made fr. flowers, fr. Gk *anthēra*, fr. fem. of *anthēros* flowery, fr. *anthos*] : the part of a stamen that develops and contains pollen and is usu. borne on a stalk — see FLOWER illustration — **an·ther·al** \-thə-rəl\ *adj*
an·ther·id·i·um \ˌan(t)-thə-'rid-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-id·ia** \-ē-ə\ [NL, fr. *anthera*] : the male reproductive organ of a cryptogamous plant — **an·ther·id·i·al** \-ē-əl\ *adj*
an·the·sis \an-'thē-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *anthēsis* bloom, fr. *anthein* to flower, fr. *anthos*] : the action or period of opening of a flower
ant·hill \'ant-ˌhil\ *n* : a mound thrown up by ants or termites in digging their nest
an·tho·cy·a·nin \ˌan(t)-thə-'sī-ə-nən\ *also* **an·tho·cy·an** \-'sī-ən, -ˌan\ *n* [Gk *anthos* + *kyanos* dark blue] : any of various soluble glycoside pigments producing blue to red coloring in flowers and plants
an·thol·o·gist \an-'thäl-ə-jəst\ *n* : a compiler of an anthology
an·thol·o·gize \-ˌjīz\ *vt* **-gized; -giz·ing** : to compile or publish in an anthology — **an·thol·o·giz·er** \-ˌjī-zər\ *n*
an·thol·o·gy \an-'thäl-ə-jē\ *n, pl* **-gies** [NL *anthologia* collection of epigrams, fr. MGk, fr. Gk, flower gathering, fr. *anthos* flower + *logia* collecting, fr. *legein* to gather; akin to Skt *andha* herb — more at LEGEND] : a collection of selected literary pieces or passages
an·thoph·a·gous \an-'thäf-ə-gəs\ *adj* [Gk *anthos* + E *-phagous*] : feeding on flowers — **an·thoph·a·gy** \-ə-jē\ *n*
an·tho·zo·an \ˌan(t)-thə-'zō-ən\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *anthos* + *zōion* animal; akin to Gk *zōē* life — more at QUICK] : any of a class (Anthozoa) of marine coelenterates (as the corals and sea anemones) having polyps with radial partitions — **anthozoan** *adj*
an·thra·cene \'an(t)-thrə-ˌsēn\ *n* : a crystalline cyclic hydrocarbon $C_{14}H_{10}$ obtained from coal-tar distillation
an·thra·cite \'an(t)-thrə-ˌsīt\ *n* [Gk *anthrakitis*, fr. *anthrak-, anthrax* coal] : a hard natural coal of high luster differing from bituminous coal in containing little volatile matter — **an·thra·cit·ic** \ˌan(t)-thrə-'sīt-ik\ *adj*
an·thrac·nose \an-'thrak-ˌnōs\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *anthrak-, anthrax* + *nosos* disease] : any of numerous destructive plant diseases caused by imperfect fungi and characterized by often dark sunken lesions or blisters
an·thra·ni·late \an-'thran-ᵊl-ˌāt, ˌan-thrə-'nil-ˌāt\ *n* : a salt or ester of anthranilic acid
an·thra·nil·ic acid \ˌan(t)-thrə-ˌnil-ik-\ *n* [ISV *anthr*acene + *ani*line] : a crystalline acid $NH_2C_6H_4COOH$ used as an intermediate in the manufacture of dyes (as indigo), pharmaceuticals, and perfumes
an·thra·qui·none \ˌan(t)-thrə-kwin-'ōn, -'kwin-ˌōn\ *n* [prob. fr. F, fr. *anthracene* + *quinone*] : a yellow crystalline ketone $C_{14}H_8O_2$ derived from anthracene and used esp. in the manufacture of dyes
an·thrax \'an-ˌthraks\ *n* [ME *antrax* carbuncle, fr. L *anthrax*, fr. Gk, coal, carbuncle] : an infectious disease of warm-blooded animals (as cattle and sheep) caused by a spore-forming bacterium (*Bacillus anthracis*), transmissible to man esp. by the handling of infected products (as hair), and characterized by external ulcerating nodules or by lesions in the lungs
anthrop *abbr* anthropological; anthropology
anthrop- *or* **anthropo-** *comb form* [L *anthropo-*, fr. Gk *anthrōp-, anthrōpo-*, fr. *anthrōpos*] : human being ⟨*anthropo*genesis⟩
an·throp·ic \an-'thräp-ik\ *or* **an·throp·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* [Gk *anthrōpikos*, fr. *anthrōpos*] : of or relating to mankind or the period of man's existence on earth
an·thro·po·cen·tric \ˌan(t)-thrə-pə-'sen-trik\ *adj* **1** : considering man to be the most significant entity of the universe **2** : interpreting or regarding the world in terms of human values and experiences — **an·thro·po·cen·tri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **an·thro·po·cen·tric·i·ty** \-pō-(ˌ)sen-'tris-ət-ē\ *n*
an·thro·po·gen·e·sis \ˌan(t)-thrə-pə-'jen-ə-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. *anthrop-* + L *genesis*] : the study of the origin and development of man — **an·thro·po·ge·net·ic** \-(ˌ)pō-jə-'net-ik\ *adj*
an·thro·po·gen·ic \-pə-'jen-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or influenced by the impact of man on nature ⟨~ ecosystems⟩
an·thro·pog·ra·phy \ˌan(t)-thrə-'päg-rə-fē\ *n* : a branch of anthropology dealing with the distribution of man as distinguished by physical character, language, institutions, and customs
[1]an·thro·poid \'an(t)-thrə-ˌpȯid\ *adj* [Gk *anthrōpoeidēs*, fr. *anthrōpos*] **1** : resembling man **2** : resembling an ape ⟨~ gangsters⟩
[2]anthropoid *n* : any of several large tailless semierect apes (family Pongidae)
anthropoid ape *n* : APE 1b
an·thro·pol·o·gy \ˌan(t)-thrə-'päl-ə-jē\ *n* [NL *anthropologia*, fr. *anthrop-* + *-logia* -logy] **1** : the science of man; *esp* : the study of man in relation to distribution, origin, classification, and relationship of races, physical character, environmental and social relations, and culture **2** : teaching about the origin, nature, and destiny of man esp. from the perspective of his relation to God — **an·thro·po·log·i·cal** \-pə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **an·thro·po·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **an·thro·pol·o·gist** \ˌan(t)-thrə-'päl-ə-jəst\ *n*
an·thro·pom·e·try \ˌan(t)-thrə-'päm-ə-trē\ *n* [F *anthropométrie*, fr. *anthrop-* + *-métrie* -metry] : the study of human body measurements esp. on a comparative basis — **an·thro·po·met·ric** \-pə-'me-trik\ *or* **an·thro·po·met·ri·cal** \-tri-kəl \ *adj* — **an·thro·po·met·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
an·thro·po·mor·phic \ˌan(t)-thrə-pə-'mȯr-fik\ *adj* [LL, *anthropomorphus* of human form, fr. Gk *anthrōpomorphos*, fr. *anthrōp-* + *-morphos* -morphous] **1** : described or thought of as having a human form or human attributes ⟨~ deities⟩ **2** : ascribing human characteristics to nonhuman things ⟨~ supernaturalism⟩ — **an·thro·po·mor·phi·cal·ly** \-fi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
an·thro·po·mor·phism \-ˌfiz-əm\ *n* : an interpretation of what is not human or personal in terms of human or personal characteristics : HUMANIZATION — **an·thro·po·mor·phist** \-fəst\ *n*
an·thro·po·mor·phize \-ˌfīz\ *vt* **-phized; -phiz·ing** : to attribute human form or personality to
an·thro·po·pa·thism \ˌan(t)-thrə-'päp-ə-ˌthiz-əm, -pō-'path-ˌiz-\ *n* [LGk *anthrōpopatheia* humanity, fr. Gk *anthrōpopathēs* having human feelings, fr. *anthrōp-* + *pathos* experience — more at PATHOS] : the ascription of human feelings to something not human
an·thro·poph·a·gous \ˌan(t)-thrə-'päf-ə-gəs\ *adj* : feeding on human flesh — **an·thro·poph·a·gy** \-ə-jē\ *n*
an·thro·poph·a·gus \-ə-gəs\ *n, pl* **-a·gi** \-ə-ˌgī, -ˌjī, -ˌgē\ [L, fr. Gk *anthrōpophagos*, fr. *anthrōp-* + *-phagos* -phagous] : MAN-EATER, CANNIBAL
an·thro·pos·o·phy \ˌan(t)-thrə-'päs-ə-fē\ *n* : a 20th century religious system growing out of theosophy and centering on man rather than God
[1]an·ti \'an-ˌtī, 'ant-ē\ *n, pl* **antis** [*anti-*] : one that is opposed
[2]anti *prep* : opposed to : AGAINST
anti- *or* **ant-** *or* **anth-** *prefix* [*anti-* fr. ME, fr. OF & L; OF, fr. L, against, fr. Gk, fr. *anti-; ant-* fr. ME, fr. L, against, fr. Gk, fr. *anti; anth-* fr. L, against, fr. Gk, fr. *anti* — more at ANTE-] **1 a** : of the same kind but situated opposite, exerting energy in the opposite direction, or pursuing an opposite policy ⟨*anti*clinal⟩ **b** : one that is opposite in kind to ⟨*anti*climax⟩ **2 a** : opposing or hostile to in opinion, sympathy, or practice ⟨*anti*-Semite⟩ **b** : opposing in effect or activity ⟨*ant*acid⟩ ⟨*anti*catalyst⟩ **3** : combating or defending against ⟨*anti*aircraft⟩ ⟨*anti*missile⟩
[1]an·ti·air·craft \ˌant-ē-'a(ə)r-ˌkraft, -'e(ə)r-\ *adj* : designed for or concerned with defense against air attack
[2]antiaircraft *n* : an antiaircraft weapon
an·ti·anx·i·ety \ˌant-ē-(ˌ)aŋ-'zī-ət-ē\ *adj* : tending to prevent or relieve anxiety ⟨~ drugs⟩
an·ti·ar·rhyth·mic \ˌant-ē-(ˌ)ā-'rith-mik, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : tending to prevent or relieve arrhythmia ⟨an ~ agent⟩
an·ti–art \-'ärt\ *n* : art based on premises antithetical to traditional or popular art forms; *specif* : DADA
an·ti·au·thor·i·tar·i·an \-ȯ-ˌthär-ə-'ter-ē-ən, -ə-ˌthär-, -ˌthȯr-\ *adj* : opposing or hostile to authoritarians or authoritarianism — **an·ti·au·thor·i·tar·i·an·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n*
an·ti·aux·in \-'ȯk-sən\ *n* : a plant substance that opposes or suppresses the natural effect of an auxin
an·ti·bac·te·ri·al \ˌant-i-bak-'tir-ē-əl, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : directed or effective against bacteria
an·ti·bal·lis·tic missile \ˌant-i-bə-ˌlis-tik-, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n* : a missile for intercepting and destroying ballistic missiles
an·ti·bi·o·sis \-bī-'ō-səs, -bē-\ *n* [NL] : antagonistic association between organisms to the detriment of one of them or between one organism and a metabolic product of another
[1]an·ti·bi·ot·ic \-bī-'ät-ik, -bē-\ *adj* **1** : tending to prevent, inhibit, or destroy life **2** : of or relating to antibiosis or antibiotics — **an·ti·bi·ot·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
[2]antibiotic *n* : a substance produced by a microorganism and able in dilute solution to inhibit or kill another microorganism
an·ti·black \-'blak\ *adj* : opposed or hostile to people belonging to the Negro race ⟨his ~ attitude⟩ — **an·ti·black·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n*
an·ti·body \'ant-i-ˌbäd-ē\ *n* : any of the body globulins that combine specifically with antigens and neutralize toxins, agglutinate bacteria or cells, and precipitate soluble antigens
[1]an·tic \'ant-ik\ *n* **1** : a ludicrous act or action : CAPER ⟨childish ~s⟩ **2** *archaic* : a performer of a grotesque or ludicrous part : BUFFOON
[2]antic *adj* [It *antico* ancient, fr. L *antiquus* — more at ANTIQUE] **1** *archaic* : GROTESQUE, BIZARRE **2 a** : characterized by clownish extravagance or absurdity **b** : whimsically gay : FROLICSOME — **an·ti·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
an·ti·can·cer \ˌant-i-'kan(t)-sər, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *also* **an·ti·can·cer·ous** \-'kan(t)s-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* : used or effective against cancer ⟨~ drugs⟩

an·ti·cat·a·lyst \-'kat-ᵊl-əst\ *n* **1** : an agent that retards a chemical reaction **2** : a catalytic poison
an·ti·cho·lin·er·gic \-ˌkō-lə-'nər-jik\ *adj* : opposing or annulling the physiologic action of acetylcholine — **anticholinergic** *n*
an·ti·cho·lin·es·ter·ase \-'nes-tə-ˌrās, -ˌrāz\ *n* : a substance that inhibits a cholinesterase by combination with it
An·ti·christ \'ant-i-ˌkrīst\ *n* [ME *anticrist*, fr. OF & LL; OF, fr. LL *Antichristus*, fr. Gk *Antichristos*, fr. *anti-* + *Christos* Christ] **1** : one who denies or opposes Christ; *specif* : a great antagonist expected to fill the world with wickedness but to be conquered forever by Christ at his second coming **2** : a false Christ
an·tic·i·pant \an-'tis-ə-pənt\ *adj* : EXPECTANT, ANTICIPATING — usu. used with *of* — **anticipant** *n*
an·tic·i·pate \an-'tis-ə-ˌpāt\ *vb* **-pat·ed; -pat·ing** [L *anticipatus*, pp. of *anticipare*, fr. *ante-* + *-cipare* (fr. *capere* to take) — more at HEAVE] *vt* **1** : to give advance thought, discussion, or treatment to **2** : to meet (an obligation) before a due date **3** : to foresee and deal with in advance : FORESTALL **4** : to use or expend in advance of actual possession **5** : to act before (another) often so as to check or counter **6** : to look forward to as certain : EXPECT ~ *vi* : to speak or write in knowledge or expectation of later matter ***syn*** see FORESEE — **an·tic·i·pat·able** \-ˌpāt-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **an·tic·i·pa·tor** \-ˌpāt-ər\ *n*
an·tic·i·pa·tion \(ˌ)an-ˌtis-ə-'pā-shən\ *n* **1** : the use of money before it is available; *esp* : the taking or alienation of the income of a trust estate before it is due **2 a** : a prior action that takes into account or forestalls a later action **b** : the act of looking forward; *specif* : pleasurable expectation **3 a** : visualization of a future event or state **b** : an object or form that anticipates a later type **4** : the early sounding of one or more tones of a succeeding chord to form a temporary dissonance — compare SUSPENSION ***syn*** see PROSPECT
an·tic·i·pa·tive \an-'tis-ə-ˌpāt-iv, -pət-\ *adj* : given to or engaged in anticipation — **an·tic·i·pa·tive·ly** *adv*
an·tic·i·pa·to·ry \an-'tis-ə-pə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : characterized by anticipation : ANTICIPATING
an·ti·cler·i·cal \ˌant-i-'kler-i-kəl, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : opposed to clericalism or to the interference or influence of the clergy in secular affairs — **anticlerical** *n* — **an·ti·cler·i·cal·ism** \-kə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* — **an·ti·cler·i·cal·ist** \-ləst\ *n*
an·ti·cli·mac·tic \ˌant-i-klī-'mak-tik\ *also* **an·ti·cli·mac·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or marked by anticlimax — **an·ti·cli·mac·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
an·ti·cli·max \-'klī-ˌmaks\ *n* **1** : the usu. sudden transition in writing or speaking from a significant idea to a trivial or ludicrous idea; *also* : an instance of this transition **2** : an event (as at the end of a series) that is strikingly less important than what has preceded it
an·ti·cli·nal \-'klīn-ᵊl\ *adj* [*anti-* + Gk *klinein* to lean — more at LEAN] : inclining in opposite directions; *specif* : of or relating to a geological anticline
an·ti·cline \'ant-i-ˌklīn\ *n* [back-formation fr. *anticlinal*] : an arch of stratified rock in which the layers bend downward in opposite directions from the crest — compare SYNCLINE



cross section of strata showing anticline

an·ti·clock·wise \ˌant-i-'kläk-ˌwīz, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj or adv* : COUNTERCLOCKWISE
an·ti·co·ag·u·lant \-kō-'ag-yə-lənt\ *n* : a substance that hinders the clotting of blood
an·ti·co·ag·u·late \-ˌlāt\ *vt* [back-formation fr. *anticoagulant*] : to hinder the clotting of the blood of esp. by treatment with an anticoagulant — **an·ti·co·ag·u·la·tion** \-ˌag-yə-'lā-shən\ *n*
an·ti·co·don \-'kō-ˌdän\ *n* [*anti-* + *codon*] : a triplet of nucleotide bases in transfer RNA that is believed to identify the amino acid carried and to bind to a complementary codon in messenger RNA during protein synthesis at a ribosome
an·ti·con·vul·sant \-kən-'vəl-sənt\ *or* **an·ti·con·vul·sive** \-siv\ *adj* : used or tending to control or prevent convulsions (as in epilepsy) — **anticonvulsant** *n*
an·ti·cy·clone \ˌant-i-'sī-ˌklōn\ *n* **1** : a system of winds that rotates about a center of high atmospheric pressure clockwise in the northern hemisphere and counterclockwise in the southern, that usu. advances at 20 to 30 miles per hour, and that usu. has a diameter of 1500 to 2500 miles **2** : HIGH 2 — **an·ti·cy·clon·ic** \-sī-'klän-ik\ *adj*
an·ti·de·pres·sant \ˌant-i-di-'pres-ᵊnt, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *or* **an·ti·de·pres·sive** \-'pres-iv\ *adj* : used or tending to relieve or prevent psychic depression — **antidepressant** *n*
an·ti·de·riv·a·tive \-di-'riv-ət-iv\ *n* : INDEFINITE INTEGRAL
an·ti·di·uret·ic \ˌant-i-ˌdī-yù-'ret-ik\ *n* : a substance that tends to check or oppose excretion of urine — **antidiuretic** *adj*
antidiuretic hormone *n* : VASOPRESSIN
an·ti·dot·al \ˌant-i-'dōt-ᵊl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or acting as an antidote — **an·ti·dot·al·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*
an·ti·dote \'ant-i-ˌdōt\ *n* [ME *antidot*, fr. L *antidotum*, fr. Gk *antidotos*, fr. fem. of *antidotos* given as an antidote, fr. *antididonai* to give as an antidote, fr. *anti-* + *didonai* to give — more at DATE] **1** : a remedy to counteract the effects of poison **2** : something that relieves, prevents, or counteracts ⟨an ~ to the mechanization of our society⟩
an·ti·elec·tron \ˌant-ē-ə-'lek-ˌträn, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n* : POSITRON
an·ti·en·zyme \-'en-ˌzīm\ *n* : an inhibitor of enzyme action; *esp* : one produced by living cells
an·ti·es·tab·lish·ment \-is-'tab-lish-mənt\ *adj* : opposed or hostile to the social, political, economic, or moral principles of a ruling class (as of a nation)
an·ti–fed·er·al·ist \ˌant-i-'fed-(ə-)rə-ləst, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n, often cap A & F* : a member of the group that opposed the adoption of the U.S. Constitution
an·ti·fer·til·i·ty \-fər-'til-ət-ē\ *adj* : capable of or tending to reduce or destroy fertility : CONTRACEPTIVE ⟨~ agents⟩
an·ti·foul·ing \-'faù-liŋ\ *adj* : intended to prevent fouling of underwater structures (as the bottoms of ships) ⟨~ paint⟩
an·ti·freeze \'ant-i-ˌfrēz\ *n* : a substance added to a liquid (as the water in an automobile engine) to lower its freezing point
an·ti·fun·gal \ˌant-i-'fəŋ-gəl, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : used or effective against fungi : FUNGICIDAL ⟨~ drugs⟩
an·ti·gen \'ant-i-jən\ *n* [ISV] : a usu. protein or carbohydrate substance (as a toxin or enzyme) that when introduced into the body stimulates the production of an antibody — **an·ti·gen·ic** \ˌant-i-'jen-ik\ *adj* — **an·ti·gen·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **an·ti·ge·nic·i·ty** \-jə-'nis-ət-ē\ *n*
an·ti·glob·u·lin \ˌant-i-'gläb-yə-lən, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n* : an antibody that combines with and precipitates globulin
An·tig·o·ne \an-'tig-ə-(ˌ)nē\ *n* [Gk *Antigonē*] : a daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta who buries her brother Polynices' body against the order of her uncle Creon
[1]an·ti·grav·i·ty \ˌant-i-'grav-ət-ē, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : reducing or canceling the effect of gravity or protecting against it
[2]antigravity *n* : a hypothetical effect resulting from cancellation or reduction of a gravitational field
an·ti·he·mo·phil·ic \ˌant-i-ˌhē-mə-'fil-ik, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : counteracting the bleeding tendency in hemophilia
an·ti·he·ro \'ant-i-ˌhē-(ˌ)rō, 'an-ˌtī, -ˌhi(ə)r-(ˌ)ō\ *n* : a protagonist who is notably lacking in heroic qualities (as courage or unselfishness) — **an·ti·he·ro·ic** \ˌant-i-hi-'rō-ik, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj*
an·ti·his·ta·mine \ˌant-i-'his-tə-ˌmēn, ˌan-ˌtī-, -mən\ *n* : any of various compounds that counteract histamine in the body and that are used for treating allergic reactions and cold symptoms — **an·ti·his·ta·min·ic** \-ˌhis-tə-'min-ik\ *adj or n*
an·ti·hu·man \ˌant-i-'hyü-mən, ˌan-ˌtī-, -'yü-\ *adj* : acting or being against man; *esp* : reacting strongly with human antigens
an·ti·hy·per·ten·sive \-ˌhī-pər-'ten(t)-siv\ *n* : a substance that is effective against high blood pressure — **antihypertensive** *adj*
an·ti–in·flam·ma·to·ry \ˌant-ē-in-'flam-ə-ˌtōr-ē, ˌan-ˌtī-, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : counteracting inflammation
an·ti·knock \ˌant-i-'näk\ *n* : a substance used as a fuel or fuel additive to prevent knocking in an internal-combustion engine
an·ti·leu·ke·mic \ˌant-i-lü-'kē-mik, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : counteracting the effects of leukemia
an·ti·lit·ter \-'lit-ər\ *adj* : serving to prevent or discourage the littering of public areas ⟨~ laws⟩
antilog *abbr* antilogarithm
an·ti·log·a·rithm \ˌant-i-'lȯg-ə-ˌrith-əm, ˌan-ˌtī-, -'läg-\ *n* : the number corresponding to a given logarithm
an·ti·lym·pho·cyte serum \-'lim(p)-fə-ˌsīt-\ *n* : a serum used for suppressing graft rejection caused by lymphocyte-controlled immune responses in organ or tissue transplant recipients
an·ti·lym·pho·cyt·ic serum \ˌant-i-ˌlim-fə-ˌsit-ik-, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n* : ANTILYMPHOCYTE SERUM
an·ti·ma·cas·sar \ˌant-i-mə-'kas-ər\ *n* [*anti-* + *Macassar* (*oil*) (a hairdressing)] : a cover to protect the back or arms of furniture
an·ti·mag·net·ic \ˌant-i-mag-'net-ik, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj, of a watch* : having a balance unit composed of alloys that will not remain magnetized
an·ti·ma·lar·i·al \-mə-'ler-ē-əl\ *adj* : serving to prevent, check, or cure malaria — **antimalarial** *n*
an·ti·mat·ter \'ant-i-ˌmat-ər\ *n* : matter composed of the counterparts of ordinary matter, antiprotons instead of protons, positrons instead of electrons, and antineutrons instead of neutrons
an·ti·me·tab·o·lite \ˌant-i-mə-'tab-ə-ˌlīt, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n* : a substance that replaces or inhibits the utilization of a metabolite
an·ti·mi·cro·bi·al \ˌant-i-mī-'krō-bē-əl\ *adj* : destroying or inhibiting the growth of microorganisms — **antimicrobial** *n*
an·ti·mis·sile missile \ˌant-i-'mis-əl-, ˌan-ˌtī-; *chiefly Brit* ˌant-i-'mis-ˌīl-\ *n* : ANTIBALLISTIC MISSILE
an·ti·mi·tot·ic \ˌant-i-mī-'tät-ik\ *adj* : inhibiting or disrupting mitosis ⟨~ agents⟩ ⟨~ activity⟩ — **antimitotic** *n*
an·ti·mo·ni·al \ˌant-ə-'mō-nē-əl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing antimony — **antimonial** *n*
an·ti·mon·ic \-'män-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or derived from antimony with a valence of five
an·ti·mo·ni·ous \-'mō-nē-əs\ *adj* : of, relating to, or derived from antimony with a valence of three
an·ti·mo·ny \'ant-ə-ˌmō-nē\ *n* [ME *antimonie*, fr. ML *antimonium*] **1** : STIBNITE **2** : a trivalent and pentavalent metalloid commonly metallic silvery white, crystalline, and brittle element that is used esp. as a constituent of alloys and in medicine — see ELEMENT table
an·ti·my·cin A \ˌant-i-ˌmīs-ᵊn-'ā\ *n* [*anti-* + *myc-* + *-in*] : a crystalline antibiotic $C_{28}H_{40}N_2O_9$ used esp. as a fungicide, insecticide, and miticide — called also *antimycin*
an·ti·neo·plas·tic \ˌant-i-ˌnē-ə-'plas-tik, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : inhibiting or preventing the growth and spread of neoplasms or malignant cells
an·ti·neu·tri·no \-n(y)ü-'trē-(ˌ)nō\ *n* : the antiparticle of the neutrino
an·ti·neu·tron \-'n(y)ü-ˌträn\ *n* : an uncharged particle of mass equal to that of the neutron but having a magnetic moment in the opposite direction
ant·ing \'ant-iŋ\ *n* : the deliberate placing by some passerine birds of living ants among the feathers
an·ti·node \'ant-i-ˌnōd, 'an-ˌtī-\ *n* [ISV] : a region of maximum amplitude situated between adjacent nodes in a vibrating body — **an·ti·nod·al** \ˌant-i-'nōd-ᵊl, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj*
an·ti·no·mi·an \ˌant-i-'nō-mē-ən\ *n* [ML *antinomus*, fr. L *anti-* + Gk *nomos* law] **1** : one who holds that under the gospel dispensation of grace the moral law is of no use or obligation because faith alone is necessary to salvation **2** : one who rejects a socially es-

tablished morality — **antinomian** *adj* — **an·ti·no·mi·an·ism** \-mē-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*

an·tin·o·my \an-'tin-ə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** [G *antinomie,* fr. L *antinomia* conflict of laws, fr. Gk, fr. *anti-* + *nomos* law — more at NIMBLE] **1** : a contradiction between two apparently equally valid principles or between inferences correctly drawn from such principles **2** : conflict (as of principles, ideas, or aspirations) insoluble in the light of available knowledge ***syn*** see PARADOX

an·ti·nov·el \'ant-i-ˌnäv-əl, 'an-ˌtī-\ *n* : a work of fiction that lacks most or all of the traditional features of the novel — **an·ti·nov·el·ist** \-ˌnäv-(ə-)ləst\ *n*

an·ti·nu·cle·on \ˌant-i-'n(y)ü-klē-ˌän, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n* : the antiparticle of the nucleon

an·ti·ox·i·dant \ˌant-ē-'äk-səd-ənt, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n* : a substance that opposes oxidation or inhibits reactions promoted by oxygen or peroxides — **antioxidant** *adj*

an·ti·par·a·sit·ic \ˌant-i-ˌpar-ə-'sit-ik, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : acting against parasites

an·ti·par·ti·cle \'ant-i-ˌpärt-i-kəl, 'an-ˌtī-\ *n* : an elementary particle identical to another elementary particle in mass but opposite to it in electric and magnetic properties that when brought together with its counterpart produces mutual annihilation

an·ti·pas·to \ˌant-i-'pas-(ˌ)tō, ˌänt-i-'päs-\ *n, pl* **-tos** [It, fr. *anti-* (fr. L *ante-*) + *pasto* food, fr. L *pastus,* fr. *pastus,* pp. of *pascere* to feed — more at FOOD] : HORS D'OEUVRE

an·ti·pa·thet·ic \ˌant-i-pə-'thet-ik\ *adj* **1** : having a natural aversion ⟨a person ~ to violence⟩ **2** : arousing or showing antipathy — **an·ti·pa·thet·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

an·tip·a·thy \an-'tip-ə-thē\ *n, pl* **-thies** [L *antipathia,* fr. Gk *antipatheia,* fr. *antipathēs* of opposite feelings, fr. *anti-* + *pathos* experience — more at PATHOS] **1** *obs* : opposition in feeling **2** : settled aversion or dislike : DISTASTE **3** : an object of aversion ***syn*** see ENMITY ***ant*** taste (*for*), affection (*for*)

an·ti·pe·ri·od·ic \-ˌpir-ē-'äd-ik\ *adj* [ISV] : preventing periodic returns of disease — **antiperiodic** *n*

an·ti·per·son·nel \ˌant-i-ˌpərs-ᵊn-'el, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : designed for use against military personnel ⟨an ~ mine⟩

an·ti·per·spi·rant \-'pər-sp(ə-)rənt\ *n* : a cosmetic preparation used to check excessive perspiration

an·ti·phlo·gis·tic \-flə-'jis-tik\ *adj* : counteracting inflammation — **antiphlogistic** *n*

an·ti·phon \'ant-ə-fən, -ˌfän\ *n* [LL *antiphona* — more at ANTHEM] **1** : a psalm, anthem, or verse sung responsively **2** : a verse usu. from Scripture said or sung before and after a canticle, psalm, or psalm verse as part of the liturgy

¹an·tiph·o·nal \an-'tif-ən-ᵊl\ *n* : ANTIPHONARY

²antiphonal *adj* : of or relating to an antiphon or antiphony — **an·tiph·o·nal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

an·tiph·o·nary \an-'tif-ə-ˌner-ē\ *n, pl* **-nar·ies** **1** : a book containing a collection of antiphons **2** : a book containing the choral parts of the Divine Office

an·tiph·o·ny \an-'tif-ə-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** : responsive alternation between two groups esp. of singers

an·tiph·ra·sis \an-'tif-rə-səs\ *n, pl* **-ra·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [LL, fr. Gk, fr. *anti-* + *phrasis* diction — more at PHRASE] : the usu. ironic or humorous use of words in senses opposite to the generally accepted meanings ⟨"the child is a giant of 3 feet 4 inches" is an example of ~⟩

¹an·tip·o·dal \an-'tip-əd-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the antipodes; *specif* : situated at the opposite side of the earth or moon ⟨an ~ meridian⟩ ⟨an ~ continent⟩ **2** : diametrically opposite ⟨an ~ point on a sphere⟩ **3** : OPPOSED

²antipodal *n* : any of three cells in the female gametophyte of most angiosperms that are grouped at the end of the embryo sac farthest from the micropyle

an·ti·pode \'ant-ə-ˌpōd\ *n, pl* **an·tip·o·des** \an-'tip-ə-ˌdēz\ [ME *antipodes,* pl., persons dwelling at opposite points on the globe, fr. L, fr. Gk, fr. pl. of *antipod-, antipous* with feet opposite, fr. *anti-* + *pod-, pous* foot — more at FOOT] **1** : the parts of the earth diametrically opposite — usu. used in pl. **2** : the exact opposite or contrary — **an·tip·o·de·an** \(ˌ)an-ˌtip-ə-'dē-ən\ *adj*

an·ti·po·et·ic \ˌant-i-pō-'et-ik, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characterized by opposition to traditional poetic technique or style

an·ti·pol·lu·tion \-pə-'lü-shən\ *adj* : designed to prevent, reduce, or eliminate pollution ⟨~ laws⟩ — **antipollution** *n*

an·ti·pope \'ant-i-ˌpōp\ *n* [MF *antipape,* fr. ML *antipapa,* fr. *anti-* + *papa* pope] : one elected or claiming to be pope in opposition to the pope canonically chosen

an·ti·pov·er·ty \ˌant-i-'päv-ərt-ē, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : of or relating to action designed to relieve poverty ⟨~ programs⟩

an·ti·pro·ton \-'prō-ˌtän\ *n* : the antiparticle of the proton

an·ti·psy·chot·ic \ˌant-i-sī-'kät-ik\ *adj* : tending to alleviate psychosis or psychotic states ⟨an ~ drug⟩ — **antipsychotic** *n*

an·ti·py·ret·ic \-pī-'ret-ik\ *n* : an agent that reduces fever — **antipyretic** *adj*

an·ti·py·rine \-'pī(ə)r-ˌēn\ *n* [fr. *Antipyrine,* a trademark] : a white crystalline compound $C_{11}H_{12}N_2O$ used to relieve fever, pain, or rheumatism

antiq *abbr* antiquarian; antiquary

¹an·ti·quar·i·an \ˌant-ə-'kwer-ē-ən\ *n* : one who collects or studies antiquities

²antiquarian *adj* **1** : of or relating to antiquarians or antiquities **2** : dealing in old or rare books — **an·ti·quar·i·an·ism** \-ē-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*

an·ti·quary \'ant-ə-ˌkwer-ē\ *n, pl* **-quar·ies** : ANTIQUARIAN

an·ti·quate \'ant-ə-ˌkwāt\ *vt* **-quat·ed; -quat·ing** [LL *antiquatus,* pp. of *antiquare,* fr. L *antiquus*] : to make old or obsolete — **an·ti·qua·tion** \ˌant-ə-'kwā-shən\ *n*

an·ti·quat·ed *adj* **1** : OBSOLETE ⟨a calendar becomes ~ —A. L. Kroeber⟩ **2** : outmoded or discredited by reason of age : being out of style or fashion ⟨~ methods of farming⟩ **3** : advanced in age ***syn*** see OLD ***ant*** modish

¹an·tique \an-'tēk\ *adj* [MF, fr. L *antiquus,* fr. *ante* before — more at ANTE-] **1** : existing since ancient or former times : belonging to antiquity ⟨a few of the ~ virtues still persist⟩ **2** : belonging to earlier times : ANCIENT ⟨ruins of an ~ city⟩ **3 a** : being in the style or fashion of former times ⟨~ manners and graces⟩ **b** : made in or representative of the work of an earlier period ⟨~ mirrors⟩; *also* : being an antique **4** : selling or exhibiting antiques ⟨an ~ show⟩ ***syn*** see OLD ***ant*** modern, current

²antique *n* **1** : a relic or object of ancient times or of an earlier period than the present **2** : a work of art, piece of furniture, or decorative object made at an earlier period and according to various customs laws at least 100 years ago

³antique *vt* **-tiqued; -tiquing** : to finish or refinish in antique style : give an appearance of age to

an·tiq·ui·ty \an-'tik-wət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : ancient times; *esp* : those before the Middle Ages **2** : the quality of being ancient **3** *pl* **a** : relics or monuments (as coins, statues, or buildings) of ancient times **b** : matters relating to the life or culture of ancient times **4** : the people of ancient times

an·ti·rac·ism \ˌant-i-'rā-ˌsiz-əm, ˌan-ˌtī- *also* -ˌshiz-\ *n* : adherence to the view that racism is a social evil

an·ti·rheu·mat·ic \-rü-'mat-ik\ *adj* : alleviating or preventing rheumatism — **antirheumatic** *n*

an·tir·rhi·num \ˌant-ə-'rī-nəm\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, snapdragon, fr. Gk *antirrhinon,* fr. *anti-* like (fr. *anti* against, equivalent to) + *rhin-, rhis* nose — more at ANTI-] : any of a large genus (*Antirrhinum*) of herbs (as the snapdragon) of the figwort family with bright-colored irregular flowers

antis *pl of* ANTI

an·ti–Sem·i·tism \ˌant-i-'sem-ə-ˌtiz-əm, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n* : hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious or racial group — **an·ti–Se·mit·ic** \-sə-'mit-ik\ *adj* — **an·ti–Sem·ite** \-'sem-ˌīt\ *n*

an·ti·sep·sis \ˌant-ə-'sep-səs\ *n* : the inhibiting of the growth and multiplication of microorganisms by antiseptic means

¹an·ti·sep·tic \ˌant-ə-'sep-tik\ *adj* [*anti-* + Gk *sēptikos* putrefying, septic] **1 a** : opposing sepsis, putrefaction, or decay; *esp* : preventing or arresting the growth of microorganisms (as on living tissue) **b** : acting or protecting like an antiseptic **2** : relating to or characterized by the use of antiseptics **3 a** : scrupulously clean : ASEPTIC **b** : extremely neat or orderly; *esp* : neat to the point of being bare or uninteresting **c** : free from what is held to be contaminating **4** : IMPERSONAL, DETACHED; *esp* : coldly impersonal ⟨"acceptable losses on the battlefield" is another ~ phrase⟩ — **an·ti·sep·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

²antiseptic *n* : a substance that checks the growth or action of microorganisms esp. in or on living tissue; *also* : GERMICIDE

an·ti·se·rum \'ant-i-ˌsir-əm, 'an-ˌtī-, -ˌser-\ *n* [ISV] : a serum containing antibodies

an·ti·slav·ery \ˌant-i-'slāv-(ə-)rē, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n* : opposition to slavery

an·ti·smog \-'smäg *also* -'smȯg\ *adj* : designed to reduce pollutants contributing to the formation of smog ⟨~ devices for automobiles⟩

an·ti·so·cial \-'sō-shəl\ *adj* **1** : hostile or harmful to organized society; *esp* : being or marked by behavior deviating sharply from the social norm **2** : averse to the society of others : UNSOCIABLE ***syn*** see UNSOCIAL ***ant*** social

an·ti·spas·mod·ic \-spaz-'mäd-ik\ *adj* : capable of preventing or relieving spasms or convulsions — **antispasmodic** *n*

an·ti·spec·u·la·tion \-ˌspek-yə-'lā-shən\ *adj* : directed against or designed to control speculation

an·tis·tro·phe \an-'tis-trə-(ˌ)fē\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *antistrophē,* fr. *anti-* + *strophē* strophe] **1** : a returning movement in Greek choral dance exactly answering to a previous strophe; *specif* : the part of a choral song delivered during this movement **2 a** : the repetition of words in reversed order **b** : the repetition of a word or phrase at the end of successive clauses — **an·ti·stroph·ic** \ˌant-ə-'sträf-ik\ *adj* — **an·ti·stroph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

an·ti·sub·ma·rine \ˌant-i-'səb-mə-ˌrēn, ˌan-ˌtī-, -ˌsəb-mə-'\ *adj* : designed or waged to destroy submarines ⟨an ~ gun⟩ ⟨~ warfare⟩

an·ti·sym·met·ric \-sə-'me-trik\ *adj* : relating to or being a relation (as "is a subset of") that implies equality of any two quantities for which it holds in both directions ⟨the relation R is ~ if aRb and bRa implies $a = b$⟩

an·ti·tank \-'taŋk\ *adj* : designed to destroy or check tanks ⟨an ~ gun⟩

an·tith·e·sis \an-'tith-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-e·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [LL, fr. Gk, lit., opposition, fr. *antitithenai* to oppose, fr. *anti-* + *tithenai* to set — more at DO] **1 a** (1) : the rhetorical contrast of ideas by means of parallel arrangements of words, clauses, or sentences (as in "action, not words" or "they promised freedom and provided slavery") (2) : OPPOSITION, CONTRAST ⟨the ~ of prose and verse⟩ **b** (1) : the second of two opposing constituents of an antithesis (2) : the direct opposite **2** : the second stage of a dialectic process

an·ti·thet·i·cal \ˌant-ə-'thet-i-kəl\ *or* **an·ti·thet·ic** \-'thet-ik\ *adj* **1** : constituting or marked by antithesis **2** : being in direct and unequivocal opposition ***syn*** see OPPOSITE — **an·ti·thet·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

an·ti·thy·roid \ˌant-i-'thī-ˌrȯid\ *adj* : able to counteract excessive thyroid activity

an·ti·tox·ic \-'täk-sik\ *adj* **1** : counteracting poison **2** : of, relating to, or being an antitoxin

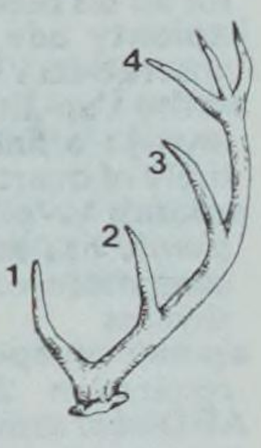
an·ti·tox·in \ˌant-i-'täk-sən\ *n* [ISV] : an antibody formed in the body as a result of the introduction of a toxin and capable of neutralizing the specific toxin that stimulated its production and produced commercially in animals by injection of a toxin or toxoid (as of human disease) with the resulting serum being used to counteract the toxin in other individuals; *also* : a serum containing antitoxins

an·ti·trades \'ant-i-ˌtrādz, 'an-ˌtī-\ *n pl* **1** : the prevailing westerly winds of middle latitudes **2** : the westerly winds above the trade winds

an·ti·trust \ˌant-i-'trəst, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *adj* : of or relating to legislation or opposition to trusts or combinations; *specif* : consisting of laws to protect trade and commerce from unlawful restraints and monopolies or unfair business practices

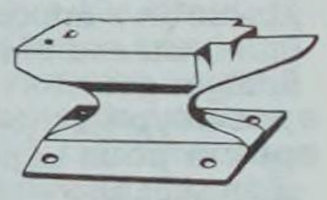
an·ti·trust·er \-'trəs-tər\ *n* : one who advocates or enforces antitrust provisions of the law

an·ti·tu·ber·cu·lous \-t(y)ù-'bər-kyə-ləs\ *also* **an·ti·tu·ber·cu·lar** \-'bər-kyə-lər\ *adj* : used or effective against tuberculosis
an·ti·tu·mor \-'t(y)ü-mər\ *also* **an·ti·tu·mor·al** \-mə-rəl\ *adj* : ANTICANCER
an·ti·tus·sive \-'təs-iv\ *adj* : tending or having the power to control or prevent cough — **antitussive** *n*
an·ti–uto·pia \ˌant-i-yù-'tō-pē-ə, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n* : a place, state, or condition of social, political, and economic discord
[1]an·ti–uto·pi·an \-pē-ən\ *adj* : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of an anti-utopia
[2]anti–utopian *n* : one that believes in or predicts an anti-utopia
an·ti·ven·in \ˌant-i-'ven-ən, ˌan-ˌtī-\ *n* [ISV] : an antitoxin to a venom : an antiserum containing such antitoxin
an·ti·vi·ral \ˌan-ti-'vī-rəl\ *adj* : acting to make a virus ineffective
an·ti·vi·ta·min \'ant-i-ˌvīt-ə-mən\ *n* : a substance that makes a vitamin ineffective
an·ti·white \ˌant-i-'hwīt, ˌan-ˌtī-, -'wīt\ *adj* : opposed or hostile to people belonging to a light-skinned race ⟨~ propaganda⟩ — **an·ti·whit·ism** \-'hwīt-ˌiz-əm, -'wīt-\ *n*
ant·ler \'ant-lər\ *n* [ME *aunteler*, fr. MF *antoillier*, fr. (assumed) VL *anteoculare*, fr. neut. of *anteocularis* located before the eye, fr. L *ante-* + *oculus* eye — more at EYE] : the solid deciduous horn of an animal of the deer family; *also* : a branch of this horn — **ant·lered** \-lərd\ *adj*



antlers: *1* brow antler, *2* bay antler, *3* royal antler, *4* surroyal

ant lion *n* : any of various neuropterous insects (as of the genus *Myrmeleon*) having a long-jawed larva that digs a conical pit in which it lies in wait to catch insects (as ants) on which it feeds
An·to·ni·an \an-'tō-nē-ən\ *n* [L *Antonius* Anthony] : a member of one of several monastic communities (as the Armenian Antonians) that follow a rule derived from St. Anthony
ant·onym \'ant-ə-ˌnim\ *n* : a word of opposite meaning ⟨the usual ~ of *good* is *bad*, of *hot* is *cold*⟩ — **ant·onym·ic** \ˌant-ə-'nim-ik\ *adj* — **an·ton·y·mous** \an-'tän-ə-məs\ *adj* — **an·ton·y·my** \-mē\ *n*
an·tre \'ant-ər\ *n* [F, fr. L *antrum*] : CAVE 1
an·trorse \'an-ˌtrȯ(ə)rs\ *adj* [NL *antrorsus*, irreg. fr. L *anterior* + *-orsus* (as in *dextrorsus* toward the right) — more at DEXTRORSE] : directed forward or upward — **an·trorse·ly** *adv*
an·trum \'an-trəm\ *n, pl* **an·tra** \-trə\ [LL, fr. L, cave, fr. Gk *antron*] : the cavity of a hollow organ or a sinus — **an·tral** \-trəl\ *adj*
an·uran \ə-'n(y)u̇r-ən, a-\ *adj or n* [deriv. of *a-* + Gk *oura* tail — more at SQUIRREL] : SALIENTIAN
an·uria \ə-'n(y)u̇r-ē-ə, a-\ *n* [NL] : absence or defective excretion of urine — **an·uric** \-'n(y)u̇r-ik\ *adj*
an·urous \ə-'n(y)u̇r-əs, a-\ *adj* : having no tail
anus \'ā-nəs\ *n* [L; akin to OIr *āinne* anus] : the posterior opening of the alimentary canal
an·vil \'an-vəl\ *n* [ME *anfilt*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *anafalz* anvil; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc compound whose first constituent is represented by OE *an* on, and whose second constituent is akin to Sw dial. *filta* to beat; akin to L *pellere* to beat — more at ON, FELT] **1** : a heavy usu. steel-faced iron block on which metal is shaped (as by hand hammering) **2** : INCUS


anvil 1

anx·i·ety \aŋ-'zī-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-eties** [L *anxietas*, fr. *anxius*] **1 a** : painful or apprehensive uneasiness of mind usu. over an impending or anticipated ill **b** : fearful concern or interest **c** : a cause of anxiety **2** : an abnormal and overwhelming sense of apprehension and fear often marked by physiological signs (as sweating, tension, and increased pulse), by doubt concerning the reality and nature of the threat, and by self-doubt about one's capacity to cope with it ***syn*** see CARE ***ant*** security
anx·ious \'aŋ(k)-shəs\ *adj* [L *anxius*; akin to L *angere* to strangle, distress — more at ANGER] **1** : characterized by extreme uneasiness of mind or brooding fear about some contingency : WORRIED **2** : characterized by, resulting from, or causing anxiety : WORRYING **3** : ardently or earnestly wishing ***syn*** see EAGER ***ant*** loath — **anx·ious·ly** *adv* — **anx·ious·ness** *n*
[1]any \'en-ē\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *ænig*; akin to OHG *einag* any, OE *ān* one — more at ONE] **1** : one or some indiscriminately of whatever kind: **a** : one or another taken at random ⟨ask ~ man you meet⟩ **b** : EVERY — used to indicate one selected without restriction ⟨~ child would know that⟩ **2** : one, some, or all indiscriminately of whatever quantity: **a** : one or more — used to indicate an undetermined number or amount ⟨have you ~ money⟩ **b** : ALL — used to indicate a maximum or whole ⟨needs ~ help he can get⟩ **c** : a or some without reference to quantity or extent **3 a** : unmeasured or unlimited in amount, number, or extent ⟨~ quantity you desire⟩ **b** : appreciably large or extended ⟨could not endure it ~ length of time⟩
[2]any *pron, sing or pl in constr* **1** : any person or persons : ANYBODY **2 a** : any thing or things **b** : any part, quantity, or number
[3]any *adv* : to any extent or degree : at all ⟨was never ~ good⟩
any·body \-ˌbäd-ē, -bəd-\ *pron* : any person : ANYONE
any·how \-ˌhau̇\ *adv* **1 a** : in any manner whatever **b** : in a haphazard manner **2 a** : at any rate **b** : in any event
any·more \ˌen-ē-'mō(ə)r, -'mȯ(ə)r\ *adv* : at the present time : NOW — usu. used in a negative context
any·one \-(ˌ)wən\ *pron* : any person at all : ANYBODY
any·place \-ˌplās\ *adv* : in any place : ANYWHERE
[1]any·thing \-ˌthiŋ\ *pron* : any thing whatever
[2]anything *adv* : at all
any·time \'en-ē-ˌtīm\ *adv* : at any time whatever
any·way \-ˌwā\ *adv* **1** : ANYWISE **2** : in any case : ANYHOW
any·ways \-ˌwāz\ *adv* **1** *archaic* : ANYWISE **2** *chiefly dial* : in any case
[1]any·where \-ˌ(h)we(ə)r, -ˌ(h)wa(ə)r, -(h)wər\ *adv* **1** : at, in, or to any place or point **2** : at all : to any extent **3** — used as a function word to indicate limits of variation ⟨~ from 40 to 60 students⟩
[2]anywhere *n* : any place
any·wise \'en-ē-ˌwīz\ *adv* : in any way whatever : at all
An·zac \'an-ˌzak\ *n* [*A*ustralian and *N*ew *Z*ealand *A*rmy *C*orps] : a soldier from Australia or New Zealand
AO *abbr* **1** account of **2** and others
AOH *abbr* Ancient Order of Hibernians
A–OK \ˌā-(ˌ)ō-'kā\ *adv or adj* : very definitely OK
A1 \'ā-'wən\ *adj* **1** : having the highest possible classification — used of a ship **2** : of the finest quality : FIRST-RATE
aor *abbr* aorist
ao·rist \'ā-ə-rəst, 'e-ə-\ *n* [LL & Gk; LL *aoristos*, fr. Gk, fr. *aoristos* undefined, fr. *a* + *horistos* definable, fr. *horizein* to define — more at HORIZON] : an inflectional form of a verb typically denoting simple occurrence of an action without reference to its completeness, duration, or repetition — **aorist** *or* **ao·ris·tic** \ˌā-ə-'ris-tik, ˌe-ə-\ *adj* — **ao·ris·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
aort- *or* **aorto-** *comb form* : aorta : aortic and ⟨*aorto*esophageal⟩
aor·ta \ā-'ȯrt-ə\ *n, pl* **-tas** *or* **-tae** \-ē\ [NL, fr. Gk *aortē*, fr. *aeirein* to lift] : the great trunk artery that carries blood from the heart to be distributed by branch arteries through the body — see HEART illustration — **aor·tal** \-'ȯrt-ᵊl\ *adj* — **aor·tic** \-'ȯrt-ik\ *adj*
aortic arch *n* : one of the arterial branches in vertebrate embryos that exist in a series of pairs with one on each side of the embryo, connect the ventral arterial system lying anterior to the heart to the dorsal arterial system above the alimentary tract, and persist in adult fishes but are reduced or much modified in the adult of higher forms
aor·tog·ra·phy \ˌā-ˌȯr-'täg-rə-fē\ *n* : arteriography of the aorta — **aor·to·graph·ic** \(ˌ)ā-ˌȯrt-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj*
aou·dad \'au̇-ˌdad, 'ä-u̇-\ *n* [F, fr. Berber *audad*] : a wild sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) of No. Africa
à ou·trance \ˌä-ˌü-'träⁿs\ *adv* [F] : to the limit : UNSPARINGLY
ap *abbr* **1** apostle **2** apothecaries'
AP *abbr* **1** additional premium **2** airplane **3** American plan **4** antipersonnel **5** arithmetic progression **6** armor-piercing **7** Associated Press **8** author's proof
[1]ap- — see AD-
[2]ap- — see APO-
APA *abbr* **1** American Philological Association **2** American Philosophical Association **3** American Psychiatric Association **4** American Psychological Association
apace \ə-'pās\ *adv* [ME, prob. fr. MF *à pas* on step] **1** : at a quick pace : SWIFTLY **2** : ABREAST — used with *of* or *with*
Apache \ə-'pach-ē, *in sense 3* ə-'pash\ *n, pl* **Apache** *or* **Apach·es** \-'pach-ēz, -'pash(-əz)\ [Sp] **1 a** : a group of Amerindian peoples of the southwestern U.S. **b** : a member of any of these peoples **2** : any of the Athapaskan languages of the Apache people **3** *not cap* [F, fr. *Apache* Apache Indian] **a** : a member of a gang of criminals esp. in Paris **b** : RUFFIAN
ap·a·nage *var of* APPANAGE
ap·a·re·jo \ˌap-ə-'rā-(ˌ)(h)ō\ *n, pl* **-jos** [AmerSp] : a packsaddle of stuffed leather or canvas
[1]apart \ə-'pärt\ *adv* [ME, fr. MF *a part*, lit., to the side] **1 a** : at a little distance ⟨tried to keep ~ from the family squabbles⟩ **b** : away from one another in space or time ⟨towns 20 miles ~⟩ **2 a** : as a separate unit : INDEPENDENTLY ⟨viewed ~, his arguments were unsound⟩ **b** : so as to separate one from another ⟨found it hard to tell the twins ~⟩ **3** : excluded from consideration : ASIDE ⟨a few blemishes ~, the novel is excellent⟩ **4** : in or into two or more parts : to pieces ⟨had to take the engine ~⟩
[2]apart *adj* **1** : SEPARATE, ISOLATED **2** : holding different opinions : DIVIDED — **apart·ness** *n*
apart from *prep* : other than : BESIDES
apart·heid \ə-'pär-ˌtāt, -ˌtīt\ *n* [Afrik, lit., separateness] : racial segregation; *specif* : a policy of segregation and political and economic discrimination against non-European groups in the Republic of So. Africa
apart·ment \ə-'pärt-mənt\ *n* [F *appartement*, fr. It *appartamento*] **1** : a room or set of rooms fitted esp. with housekeeping facilities and used as a dwelling **2** : a building made up of individual dwelling units — **apart·men·tal** \ə-ˌpärt-'ment-ᵊl\ *adj*
apartment hotel *n* : an apartment house containing suites equipped for housekeeping purposes and in addition furnished rooms and dining service for transient and permanent guests
apartment house *n* : a building containing separate residential apartments — called also *apartment building*
ap·a·thet·ic \ˌap-ə-'thet-ik\ *adj* **1** : having or showing little or no feeling or emotion : SPIRITLESS **2** : having little or no interest or concern : INDIFFERENT ***syn*** see IMPASSIVE ***ant*** alert — **ap·a·thet·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ap·a·thy \'ap-ə-thē\ *n* [Gk *apatheia*, fr. *apathēs* without feeling, fr. *a-* + *pathos* emotion — more at PATHOS] **1** : lack of feeling or emotion : IMPASSIVENESS **2** : lack of interest or concern : INDIFFERENCE
ap·a·tite \'ap-ə-ˌtīt\ *n* [G *apatit*, fr. Gk *apatē* deceit] : any of a group of calcium phosphate minerals of the approximate general formula $Ca_5(F,Cl,OH,{}^1/_2CO_3)(PO_4)_3$ occurring variously as hexagonal crystals, as granular masses, or in fine-grained masses as the chief constituent of phosphate rock and of bones and teeth; *specif* : calcium phosphate fluoride $Ca_5F(PO_4)_3$
APB *abbr* all points bulletin
[1]ape \'āp\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *apa*; akin to OHG *affo* ape] **1 a** : MONKEY; *esp* : one of the larger tailless or short-tailed Old World forms

b : any of a family (Pongidae) of large semierect primates (as the chimpanzee or gorilla) — called also *anthropoid ape* **2 a** : MIMIC **b** : a large uncouth person — **ape·like** \'ā-ˌplīk\ *adj*

²ape *vt* **aped; ap·ing** : to copy closely but often clumsily and ineptly ⟨servants *aping* the ways of their betters⟩ ***syn*** see COPY — **ap·er** *n*

apeak \ə-'pēk\ *adj or adv* [alter. of earlier *apike*, prob. fr. *a-* + *pike*] : being in a vertical position ⟨with oars ~⟩

ape–man \'āp-'man, -ˌman\ *n* : a primate (as pithecanthropus) intermediate in character between Homo sapiens and the higher apes

aper·çu \ȧ-per-sǖ, ˌap-ər-'sü\ *n, pl* **aperçus** \-sǖ(z), -'süz\ [F] **1** : an immediate impression; *esp* : INSIGHT 2 **2** : a brief survey or sketch : OUTLINE

ape·ri·ent \ə-'pir-ē-ənt\ *adj* [L *aperient-, aperiens*, prp. of *aperire*] : gently moving the bowels : LAXATIVE — **aperient** *n*

ape·ri·od·ic \ˌā-ˌpir-ē-'äd-ik\ *adj* **1** : of irregular occurrence ⟨~ floods⟩ **2** : not having periodic vibrations : not oscillatory **3** *cryptology* : not repeating or not repeating with a short or easily discoverable period ⟨an ~ key⟩ — **ape·ri·od·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **ape·ri·o·dic·i·ty** \-ē-ə-'dis-ət-ē\ *n*

aper·i·tif \ˌäp-ˌer-ə-'tēf, ə-'per-ə-ˌ\ *n* [F *apéritif* aperient, aperitif, fr. MF *aperitif*, adj., aperient, fr. ML *aperitivus*, irreg. fr. L *aperire*] : an alcoholic drink taken before a meal as an appetizer

ap·er·ture \'ap-ə(r)-ˌchu̇(ə)r, -chər, -ˌt(y)u̇(ə)r\ *n* [ME, fr. L *apertura*, fr. *apertus*, pp. of *aperire* to open — more at WEIR] **1** : an opening or open space : HOLE **2 a** : the opening in a photographic lens that admits the light **b** : the diameter of the stop in an optical system that determines the diameter of the bundle of rays traversing the instrument **c** : the diameter of the objective lens or mirror of a telescope

syn APERTURE, INTERSTICE, ORIFICE *shared meaning element* : an opening allowing passage through or in and out

apet·al·ous \(ˈ)ā-'pet-ᵊl-əs\ *adj* : having no petals — **apet·aly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *n*

apex \'ā-ˌpeks\ *n, pl* **apex·es** *or* **api·ces** \'ā-pə-ˌsēz, 'ap-ə-\ [L] **1 a** : the uppermost point : VERTEX ⟨the ~ of a mountain⟩ **b** : the narrowed or pointed end : TIP ⟨the ~ of the tongue⟩ **2** : the highest or culminating point ⟨the ~ of his career⟩ ***syn*** see SUMMIT

aphaer·e·sis *or* **apher·e·sis** \ə-'fer-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-e·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [LL, fr. Gk *aphairesis*, lit., taking off, fr. *aphairein* to take away, fr. *apo-* + *hairein* to take] : the loss of one or more sounds or letters at the beginning of a word (as in *round* for *around* and *coon* for *raccoon*) — **aph·ae·ret·ic** \ˌaf-ə-'ret-ik\ *adj*

aph·a·nite \'af-ə-ˌnīt\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *aphanēs* invisible, fr. *a-* + *phainesthai* to appear — more at PHENOMENON] : a dark rock of such close texture that its separate grains are invisible to the naked eye — **aph·a·nit·ic** \ˌaf-ə-'nit-ik\ *adj*

apha·sia \ə-'fā-zh(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *a-* + *-phasia*] : loss or impairment of the power to use words usu. resulting from a brain lesion — **apha·si·ac** \-zē-ˌak\ *adj* — **apha·sic** \-zik\ *n or adj*

aph·elion \a-'fēl-yən\ *n, pl* **-elia** \-yə\ [NL, fr. *apo-* + Gk *hēlios* sun — more at SOLAR] : the point of a planet's or comet's orbit most distant from the sun — compare PERIHELION

aph·e·sis \'af-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-e·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk, release, fr. *aphienai* to let go, fr. *apo-* + *hienai* to send — more at JET] : aphaeresis consisting of the loss of a short unaccented vowel (as in *lone* for *alone*) — **aphet·ic** \ə-'fet-ik\ *adj* — **aphet·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

aphid \'ā-fəd, 'af-əd\ *n* : any of numerous small sluggish homopterous insects (superfamily Aphidoidea) that suck the juices of plants

aphis \'ā-fəs, 'af-əs\ *n, pl* **aphi·des** \'ā-fə-ˌdēz, 'af-ə-\ [NL *Aphid-, Aphis*, genus name] : an aphid of a common genus (*Aphis*); *broadly* : APHID

aphis lion *n* : any of several insect larvae (as a lacewing or ladybug larva) that feed on aphids

aph·o·late \'af-ə-ˌlāt\ *n* [prob. fr. *az-* + *phos*phine + *-late* (of unknown origin)] : a chemosterilant esp. effective in controlling houseflies

apho·nia \(ˈ)ā-'fō-nē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *aphōnia*, fr. *aphōnos* voiceless, fr. *a-* + *phōnē* sound — more at BAN] : loss of voice and of all but whispered speech — **apho·nic** \-'fän-ik, -'fō-nik\ *adj*

aph·o·rism \'af-ə-ˌriz-əm\ *n* [MF *aphorisme*, fr. LL *aphorismus*, fr. Gk *aphorismos* definition, aphorism, fr. *aphorizein* to define, fr. *apo-* + *horizein* to bound — more at HORIZON] **1** : a concise statement of a principle **2** : a terse formulation of a truth or sentiment : ADAGE — **aph·o·rist** \-rəst\ *n* — **aph·o·ris·tic** \ˌaf-ə-'ris-tik\ *adj* — **aph·o·ris·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

aph·o·rize \'af-ə-ˌrīz\ *vi* **-rized; -riz·ing** : to write or speak in or as if in aphorisms

apho·tic \(ˈ)ā-'fōt-ik\ *adj* : lacking light ⟨the ~ zone in the ocean⟩

aph·ro·dis·i·ac \ˌaf-rə-'diz-ē-ˌak\ *adj* [Gk *aphrodisiakos* sexual, fr. *aphrodisia* sexual pleasures, fr. neut. pl. of *aphrodisios* of Aphrodite, fr. *Aphroditē*] : exciting sexual desire — **aphrodisiac** *n* — **aph·ro·di·si·a·cal** \ˌaf-rəd-ə-'zī-ə-kəl, -'sī-\ *adj*

Aph·ro·di·te \ˌaf-rə-'dīt-ē\ *n* [Gk *Aphroditē*] : the Greek goddess of love and beauty — compare VENUS

aphyl·lous \(ˈ)ā-'fil-əs\ *adj* [Gk *aphyllos*, fr. *a-* + *phyllon* leaf — more at BLADE] : not having foliage leaves — **aphyl·ly** \'ā-ˌfil-ē\ *n*

API *abbr* **1** air position indicator **2** American Petroleum Institute

api·an \'ā-pē-ən\ *adj* [L *apianus*, fr. *apis*] : of or relating to bees

api·ar·i·an \ˌā-pē-'er-ē-ən\ *adj* : of or relating to beekeeping or bees

api·a·rist \'ā-pē-ə-rəst, -pē-ˌer-əst\ *n* : BEEKEEPER

api·ary \'ā-pē-ˌer-ē\ *n, pl* **-ar·ies** [L *apiarium*, fr. *apis* bee] : a place where bees are kept; *esp* : a collection of hives or colonies of bees kept for their honey

api·cal \'ā-pi-kəl *also* 'ap-i-\ *adj* [prob. fr. NL *apicalis*, fr. L *apic-, apex*] **1** : of, relating to, or situated at an apex **2** : of, relating to, or formed with the tip of the tongue ⟨*n, l,* and *r* are ~ consonants⟩ — **api·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

apical dominance *n* : inhibition of the growth of lateral buds by the terminal bud of a shoot

apic·u·late \ə-'pik-yə-lət, ā-\ *adj* [NL *apiculus*, dim. of L *apic-, apex*] : ending abruptly in a small distinct point ⟨an ~ leaf⟩

api·cul·ture \'ā-pə-ˌkəl-chər\ *n* [prob. fr. F, fr. L *apis* bee + F *culture*] : the keeping of bees esp. on a large scale — **api·cul·tur·al** \ˌā-pə-'kəlch(-ə)-rəl\ *adj* — **api·cul·tur·ist** \-rəst\ *n*

apiece \ə-'pēs\ *adv* : for each one : INDIVIDUALLY

Apis \'ā-pəs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk, fr. Egypt *ḥp*] : a sacred bull worshiped by the ancient Egyptians

ap·ish \'ā-pish\ *adj* : resembling an ape: as **a** : given to slavish imitation **b** : extremely silly or affected — **ap·ish·ly** *adv* — **ap·ish·ness** *n*

apla·cen·tal \ˌā-plə-'sent-ᵊl\ *adj* : having or developing no placenta

ap·la·nat·ic \ˌap-lə-'nat-ik\ *adj* [*a-* + Gk *planasthai* to wander — more at PLANET] : free from or corrected for spherical aberration ⟨an ~ lens⟩

apla·sia \(ˈ)ā-'plā-zh(ē-)ə, ə-\ *n* [NL, fr. ²*a-* + *-plasia*] : incomplete or faulty development of an organ or part — **aplas·tic** \(ˈ)ā-'plas-tik\ *adj*

¹aplen·ty \ə-'plent-ē\ *adj* : being in plenty or abundance ⟨money ~ for all his needs⟩

²aplenty *adv* **1** : in abundance : PLENTIFULLY **2** : very much : EXTREMELY ⟨scared ~⟩

ap·lite \'ap-ˌlīt\ *n* [prob. fr. G *aplit*, fr. Gk *haploos* simple — more at HAPL-] : a fine-grained light-colored granite consisting almost entirely of quartz and feldspar — **ap·lit·ic** \a-'plit-ik\ *adj*

aplomb \ə-'pläm, -'pləm\ *n* [F, lit., perpendicularity, fr. MF, fr. *a plomb*, lit., according to the plummet] : complete and confident composure or self-assurance : POISE ***syn*** see CONFIDENCE ***ant*** shyness

ap·nea *or* **ap·noea** \'ap-nē-ə\ *n* [NL] **1** : transient cessation of respiration **2** : ASPHYXIA — **ap·ne·ic** \-nē-ik\ *adj*

APO *abbr* army post office

apo- *or* **ap-** *prefix* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L, fr. Gk, fr. *apo* — more at OF] **1** : away from : off ⟨*ap*helion⟩ **2** : detached : separate ⟨*apo*carpous⟩ **3** : formed from : related to ⟨*apo*morphine⟩

Apoc *abbr* **1** Apocalypse **2** Apocrypha; apocryphal

apoc·a·lypse \ə-'päk-ə-ˌlips\ *n* [ME, revelation, Revelation, fr. LL *apocalypsis*, fr. Gk *apokalypsis*, fr. *apokalyptein* to uncover, fr. *apo-* + *kalyptein* to cover — more at HELL] **1 a** : one of the Jewish and Christian writings of 200 B.C. to A.D. 150 marked by pseudonymity, symbolic imagery, and the expectation of an imminent cosmic cataclysm in which God destroys the ruling powers of evil and raises the righteous to life in a messianic kingdom **b** *cap* : REVELATION 2 **2** : something viewed as a prophetic revelation

apoc·a·lyp·tic \ə-ˌpäk-ə-'lip-tik\ *also* **apoc·a·lyp·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or resembling an apocalypse **2** : forecasting the ultimate destiny of the world : PROPHETIC **3** : foreboding imminent disaster or final doom : TERRIBLE **4** : wildly unrestrained in making predictions : GRANDIOSE **5** : ultimately decisive : CLIMACTIC — **apoc·a·lyp·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

apoc·a·lyp·ti·cism \-tə-ˌsiz-əm\ *or* **apoc·a·lyp·tism** \ə-'päk-ə-ˌlip-ˌtiz-əm\ *n* : apocalyptic expectation; *esp* : a doctrine concerning an imminent end of the world and an ensuing general resurrection and final judgment

apoc·a·lyp·tist \ə-'päk-ə-ˌlip-təst\ *n* : the writer of an apocalypse

apo·car·pous \ˌap-ə-'kär-pəs\ *adj* : having the carpels of the gynoecium separate — **apo·car·py** \'ap-ə-ˌkär-pē\ *n*

apo·chro·mat·ic \ˌap-ə-krō-'mat-ik\ *adj* [ISV] : free from chromatic and spherical aberration ⟨an ~ lens⟩

apoc·o·pe \ə-'päk-ə-(ˌ)pē\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *apokopē*, lit., cutting off, fr. *apokoptein* to cut off, fr. *apo-* + *koptein* to cut — more at CAPON] : the loss of one or more sounds or letters at the end of a word (as in *sing* from Old English *singan*)

apo·crine \'ap-ə-krən, -ˌkrīn, -ˌkrēn\ *adj* [ISV *apo-* + Gk *krinein* to separate — more at CERTAIN] : producing a secretion by separation of part of the cytoplasm of the secreting cells

apoc·ry·pha \ə-'päk-rə-fə\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [ML, fr. LL, neut. pl. of *apocryphus* secret, not canonical, fr. Gk *apokryphos* obscure, fr. *apokryptein* to hide away, fr. *apo-* + *kryptein* to hide — more at CRYPT] **1** : writings or statements of dubious authenticity **2** *cap* **a** : books included in the Septuagint and Vulgate but excluded from the Jewish and Protestant canons of the Old Testament — see BIBLE table **b** : early Christian writings not included in the New Testament

apoc·ry·phal \-fəl\ *adj* **1** *often cap* : of or resembling the Apocrypha **2** : of doubtful authenticity : SPURIOUS ***syn*** see FICTITIOUS — **apoc·ry·phal·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **apoc·ry·phal·ness** *n*

apo·cyn·thi·on \ˌap-ə-'sin(t)-thē-ən\ *n* [NL, fr. *apo-* + *Cynthia*] : APOLUNE

ap·o·dal \'ap-əd-ᵊl\ *or* **ap·o·dous** \-əd-əs\ *adj* [Gk *apod-, apous*, fr. *a-* + *pod-, pous* foot — more at FOOT] : having no feet or analogous appendages ⟨eels are ~⟩

apo·dic·tic \ˌap-ə-'dik-tik\ *also* **apo·deic·tic** \-'dīk-tik\ *adj* [L *apodicticus*, fr. Gk *apodeiktikos*, fr. *apodeiknynai* to demonstrate, fr. *apo-* + *deiknynai* to show — more at DICTION] : expressing or of the nature of necessary truth or absolute certainty — **apo·dic·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

apod·o·sis \ə-'päd-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-o·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *apodidonai* to give back, deliver, fr. *apo-* + *didonai* to give — more at DATE] : the main clause of a conditional sentence — compare PROTASIS

apo·en·zyme \ˌap-ō-'en-ˌzīm\ *n* [ISV] : a protein that forms an active enzyme system by combination with a coenzyme and determines the specificity of this system for a substrate

apog·a·my \ə-'päg-ə-mē\ *n* [ISV] : development of a sporophyte from a gametophyte without fertilization — **apo·gam·ic** \ˌap-ə-'gam-ik\ *or* **apog·a·mous** \ə'päg-ə-məs\ *adj*

apo·gee \'ap-ə-(ˌ)jē\ *n* [F *apogée*, fr. NL *apogaeum*, fr. Gk *apogaion*, fr. neut. of *apogeios, apogaios* far from the earth, fr. *apo-* + *gē* earth] **1** : the point in the orbit of a satellite of the earth or of a vehicle orbiting the earth that is at the greatest distance from the center of the earth; *also* : the point farthest from a planet or a satellite (as the moon) reached by an object orbiting it — compare PERIGEE **2**

: the farthest or highest point : CULMINATION ⟨Aegean civilization reached its ~ in Crete⟩ — **apo·ge·an** \ˌap-ə-'jē-ən\ *adj*

apolit·i·cal \ˌā-pə-'lit-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** : having an aversion for or no interest or involvement in political affairs **2** : having no political significance — **apolit·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

Ap·ol·lin·i·an \ˌap-ə-'lin-ē-ən\ *adj* : APOLLONIAN

Apol·lo \ə-'päl-(ˌ)ō\ *n* [L *Apollin-, Apollo,* fr. Gk *Apollōn*] : the Greek god and in later times the Roman god of sunlight, prophecy, music, and poetry

Ap·ol·lo·ni·an \ˌap-ə-'lō-nē-ən\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or resembling the god Apollo **2** : harmonious, measured, ordered, or balanced in character

Apol·lyon \ə-'päl-yən, -'päl-ē-ən\ *n* [Gk *Apollyōn*] : the angel of the bottomless pit in the Book of Revelation

[1]apol·o·get·ic \ə-ˌpäl-ə-'jet-ik\ *adj* [Gk *apologētikos,* fr. *apologeisthai* to defend, fr. *apo-* + *logos* speech] **1 a** : offered in defense or vindication ⟨the ~ writings of the early Christians⟩ **b** : offered by way of excuse or apology ⟨an ~ smile⟩ **2** : regretfully acknowledging fault or failure : CONTRITE ⟨was most ~ about his mistake⟩ — **apol·o·get·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

[2]apologetic *n* : APOLOGETICS

apol·o·get·ics \-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1** : systematic argumentative discourse in defense (as of a doctrine) **2** : a branch of theology devoted to the defense of the divine origin and authority of Christianity

ap·o·lo·gia \ˌap-ə-'lō-j(ē-)ə\ *n* [LL] : a defense esp. of one's opinions, position, or actions ⟨the finest ~ or explanation of what drives a man to devote his life to pure mathematics —*Brit. Book News*⟩ ***syn*** see APOLOGY

apol·o·gist \ə-'päl-ə-jəst\ *n* : one who speaks or writes in defense of a faith, a cause, or an institution

apol·o·gize \-ˌjīz\ *vi* **-gized; -giz·ing** : to make an apology — **apol·o·giz·er** *n*

ap·o·logue \'ap-ə-ˌlȯg, -ˌläg\ *n* [F, fr. L *apologus,* fr. Gk *apologos,* fr. *apo-* + *logos* speech, narrative] : an allegorical narrative usu. intended to convey a moral

apol·o·gy \ə-'päl-ə-jē\ *n, pl* **-gies** [MF or LL; MF *apologie,* fr. LL *apologia,* fr. Gk, fr. *apo-* + *logos* speech — more at LEGEND] **1 a** : a formal justification : DEFENSE **b** : EXCUSE 2a **2** : an admission of error or discourtesy accompanied by an expression of regret **3** : a poor substitute : MAKESHIFT

syn APOLOGY, APOLOGIA, EXCUSE, PLEA, PRETEXT, ALIBI *shared meaning element* : matter offered in explanation or defense (as of an act, a policy, or a view). APOLOGY usually applies to an expression of regret for a mistake or wrong with implied admission of guilt or fault and with or without reference to palliating circumstances ⟨said by way of *apology* that he would have met them if he could⟩ Sometimes *apology,* like APOLOGIA, implies not admission of guilt or regret but a desire to clear the grounds for some course, belief, or position ⟨the speech was an effective *apology* for his foreign policy⟩ EXCUSE implies an intent to avoid or remove blame or censure ⟨used his illness as an *excuse* for missing the meeting⟩ PLEA stresses argument or appeal for understanding or sympathy or mercy ⟨their *pleas* for help were ignored⟩ PRETEXT suggests subterfuge and the offering of false reasons or motives in excuse or explanation ⟨used any *pretext* to get out of work⟩ ALIBI implies a desire to shift blame or evade punishment and imputes plausibility rather than truth to the explanation offered ⟨his *alibi* failed to stand scrutiny⟩

apo·lune \'ap-ə-ˌlün\ *n* [*apo-* + L *luna* moon — more at LUNAR] : the point in the path of a body orbiting the moon that is farthest from the center of the moon — compare PERILUNE

apo·mict \'ap-ə-ˌmikt\ *n* [prob. back-formation fr. ISV *apomictic,* fr. *apo-* + Gk *mignynai* to mix — more at MIX] : one produced or reproducing by apomixis — **apo·mic·tic** \ˌap-ə-'mik-tik\ *adj* — **apo·mic·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

apo·mix·is \ˌap-ə-'mik-səs\ *n, pl* **-mix·es** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *apo-* + Gk *mixis* act of mixing, fr. *mignynai*] : reproduction (as apogamy or parthenogenesis) involving specialized generative tissues but not dependent on fertilization

apo·mor·phine \ˌap-ə-'mȯr-ˌfēn\ *n* [ISV] : an artificial crystalline alkaloid $C_{17}H_{17}NO_2$ from morphine with a powerful emetic action

apo·neu·ro·sis \ˌap-ə-n(y)u̇-'rō-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *aponeurōsis,* fr. *aponeurousthai* to pass into a tendon, fr. *apo-* + *neuron* sinew — more at NERVE] : any of the thicker and denser of the deep fasciae that cover, invest, and form the terminations and attachments of various muscles and differ from tendons in being flat and thin — **apo·neu·rot·ic** \-'rät-ik\ *adj*

apo·phyl·lite \ˌap-ə-'fil-ˌīt, ə-'päf-ə-ˌlīt\ *n* [F, fr. *apo-* + Gk *phyllon* leaf] : a mineral $KCa_4Si_8O_{20}(F,OH).8H_2O$ composed of a hydrous potassium calcium silicate related to the zeolites and usu. found in transparent square prisms or white or grayish masses

apoph·y·sis \ə-'päf-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-y·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *apo-* + *phyein* to bring forth — more at BE] : an expanded or projecting part esp. of an organism — **apoph·y·se·al** \-ˌpäf-ə-'sē-əl\ *adj*

ap·o·plec·tic \ˌap-ə-'plek-tik\ *adj* [F or LL; F *apoplectique,* fr. LL *apoplecticus,* fr. Gk *apoplēktikos,* fr. *apoplēssein*] **1** : of, relating to, or causing apoplexy **2** : affected with, inclined to, or showing symptoms of apoplexy **3** : of a kind to cause apoplexy; *esp* : highly excited ⟨flew into an ~ rage⟩ — **ap·o·plec·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ap·o·plexy \'ap-ə-ˌplek-sē\ *n* [ME *apoplexie,* fr. MF & LL; MF, fr. LL *apoplexia,* fr. Gk *apoplēxia,* fr. *apoplēssein* to cripple by a stroke, fr. *apo-* + *plēssein* to strike — more at PLAINT] : sudden diminution or loss of consciousness, sensation, and voluntary motion caused by rupture or obstruction (as by a clot) of an artery of the brain

aport \ə-'pō(ə)rt, -'pȯ(ə)rt\ *adv* : on or toward the left side of a ship ⟨put the helm hard ~⟩

apo·se·le·ne \ˌap-ō-sə-'lē-nē\ *n* [ISV *apo-* + Gk *selēnē* moon — more at SELENIUM] : APOLUNE

apo·se·mat·ic \ˌap-ə-si-'mat-ik\ *adj* : being conspicuous and serving to warn ⟨~ coloration⟩ — **apo·se·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ap·o·si·o·pe·sis \ˌap-ə-ˌsī-ə-'pē-səs\ *n, pl* **-pe·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [LL, fr. Gk *aposiōpēsis,* fr. *aposiōpan* to be quite silent, fr. *apo-* + *siōpan* to be silent, fr. *siōpē* silence] : the leaving of a thought incomplete usu. by a sudden breaking off (as in "his behavior was — but I blush to mention that") — **ap·o·si·o·pet·ic** \-'pet-ik\ *adj*

apos·ta·sy \ə-'päs-tə-sē\ *n, pl* **-sies** [ME *apostasie,* fr. LL *apostasia,* fr. Gk, lit., revolt, fr. *aphistasthai* to revolt, fr. *apo-* + *histasthai* to stand — more at STAND] **1** : renunciation of a religious faith **2** : abandonment of a previous loyalty : DEFECTION

apos·tate \ə-'päs-ˌtāt, -tət\ *n* : one who commits apostasy — **apostate** *adj*

apos·ta·tize \ə-'päs-tə-ˌtīz\ *vi* **-tized; -tiz·ing** : to commit apostasy

a pos·te·ri·o·ri \ˌä-(ˌ)pō-ˌstir-ē-'ō(ə)r-ē, -ˌster-; ˌā-(ˌ)pä-ˌstir-ē-'ō(ə)r-ˌī, -(ˌ)pō-, -'ō(ə)r-ē; -'ȯ(ə)r-\ *adj* [L, lit., from the latter] **1** : INDUCTIVE **2** : relating to or derived by reasoning from observed facts — compare A PRIORI — **a posteriori** *adv*

apos·tle \ə-'päs-əl\ *n* [ME, fr. OF & OE; OF *apostle* & OE *apostol,* fr. LL *apostolus,* fr. Gk *apostolos,* fr. *apostellein* to send away, fr. *apo-* + *stellein* to send — more at STALL] **1** : one sent on a mission: as **a** : one of an authoritative New Testament group sent out to preach the gospel and made up esp. of Christ's 12 original disciples and Paul **b** : the first prominent Christian missionary to a region or group **2 a** : one who initiates a great moral reform or who first advocates an important belief or system **b** : an ardent supporter : ADHERENT ⟨an ~ of liberal tolerance⟩ **3** : the highest ecclesiastical official in some church organizations **4** : one of a Mormon administrative council of 12 men — **apos·tle·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

Apostles' Creed *n* : a Christian statement of belief ascribed to the Twelve Apostles and used esp. in public worship

apos·to·late \ə-'päs-tə-ˌlāt, -lət\ *n* [LL *apostolatus,* fr. *apostolus*] **1** : the office or mission of an apostle **2** : an association of persons dedicated to the propagation of a religion or a doctrine

ap·os·tol·ic \ˌap-ə-'stäl-ik\ *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to an apostle **b** : of, relating to, or conforming to the teachings of the New Testament apostles **2 a** : of or relating to a succession of spiritual authority from the apostles held (as by Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and Eastern Orthodox) to be perpetuated by successive ordinations of bishops and to be necessary for the validity of sacraments and orders **b** : PAPAL — **apos·to·lic·i·ty** \ə-ˌpäs-tə-'lis-ət-ē\ *n*

apostolic delegate *n* : an ecclesiastical representative of the Holy See in a country that has no formal diplomatic relations with it

Apostolic Father *n* : a church father of the first or second century A.D.

[1]apos·tro·phe \ə-'päs-trə-(ˌ)fē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *apostrophē,* lit., act of turning away, fr. *apostrephein* to turn away, fr. *apo-* + *strephein* to turn — more at STROPHE] : the addressing of a usu. absent person or a usu. personified thing rhetorically ⟨Carlyle's "O Liberty, what things are done in thy name!" is an example of ~⟩ — **ap·os·troph·ic** \ˌap-ə-'sträf-ik\ *adj*

[2]apostrophe *n* [MF & LL; MF, fr. LL *apostrophus,* fr. Gk *apostrophos,* fr. *apostrophos* turned away, fr. *apostrephein*] : a mark ' used to indicate the omission of letters or figures, the possessive case, or the plural of letters or figures — **apostrophic** *adj*

apos·tro·phize \ə-'päs-trə-ˌfīz\ *vb* **-phized; -phiz·ing** *vt* : to address by or in apostrophe ~ *vi* : to make use of apostrophe

apothecaries' measure *n* : a measure of capacity used chiefly by pharmacists — see WEIGHT table

apothecaries' weight *n* : a system of weights used chiefly by pharmacists — see WEIGHT table

apoth·e·cary \ə-'päth-ə-ˌker-ē\ *n, pl* **-car·ies** [ME *apothecarie,* fr. ML *apothecarius,* fr. LL, shopkeeper, fr. L *apotheca* storehouse, fr. Gk *apothēkē,* fr. *apotithenai* to put away, fr. *apo-* + *tithenai* to put — more at DO] **1** : one who prepares and sells drugs or compounds for medicinal purposes **2** : PHARMACY

apo·the·ci·um \-'thē-s(h)ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-cia** \-s(h)ē-ə\ [NL, fr. L *apotheca*] : a spore-bearing structure in many lichens and fungi consisting of a discoid or cupped body bearing asci on the exposed flat or concave surface — **apo·the·cial** \-sh(ē-)əl, -sē-əl\ *adj*

ap·o·thegm \'ap-ə-ˌthem\ *n* [Gk *apophthegmat-, apophthegma,* fr. *apophthengesthai* to speak out, fr. *apo-* + *phthengesthai* to utter] : a short, pithy, and instructive saying or formulation : APHORISM — **ap·o·theg·mat·ic** \ˌap-ə-theg-'mat-ik\ *or* **ap·o·theg·mat·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **ap·o·theg·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ap·o·them \'ap-ə-ˌthem\ *n* [ISV *apo-* + *-them* (fr. Gk *thema* something laid down, theme)] : the perpendicular from the center of a regular polygon to one of the sides

apo·the·o·sis \ə-ˌpäth-ē-'ō-səs, ˌap-ə-'thē-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-o·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [LL, fr. Gk *apotheōsis,* fr. *apotheoun* to deify, fr. *apo-* + *theos* god] **1** : elevation to divine status : DEIFICATION **2** : the perfect example : QUINTESSENCE ⟨she is the ~ of womanhood⟩ — **apo·the·o·size** \ˌap-ə-'thē-ə-ˌsīz, ə-'päth-ē-ə-\ *vt*

apo·tro·pa·ic \ˌap-ə-trō-'pā-ik\ *adj* [Gk *apotropaios,* fr. *apotrepein* to avert, fr. *apo-* + *trepein* to turn — more at TROPE] : designed to avert evil ⟨an ~ ritual⟩ — **apo·tro·pa·i·cal·ly** \-'pā-ə-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

app *abbr* **1** apparatus **2** appendix

ap·pall *also* **ap·pal** \ə-'pȯl\ *vb* **ap·palled; ap·pall·ing** [ME *appallen,* fr. MF *apalir,* fr. OF, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *palir* to grow pale, fr. L *pallescere,* incho. of *pallēre* to be pale — more at FALLOW] *vi, obs* : WEAKEN, FAIL ~ *vt* : to overcome with consternation, shock, or dismay ***syn*** see DISMAY ***ant*** nerve, embolden

ap·pall·ing *adj* : inspiring horror, dismay, or disgust ⟨living under ~ conditions⟩ ***syn*** see FEARFUL ***ant*** reassuring — **ap·pall·ing·ly** \-'pȯ-liŋ-lē\ *adv*

ə abut ᵊ kitten ər further a back ā bake ä cot, cart
au̇ out ch chin e less ē easy g gift i trip ī life
j joke ŋ sing ō flow ȯ flaw ȯi coin th thin t͟h this
ü loot u̇ foot y yet yü few yu̇ furious zh vision

Ap·pa·loo·sa \ˌap-ə-'lü-sə\ *n* [prob. fr. *Palouse*, an Indian people of Wash. and Idaho] : a rugged saddle horse of a breed developed in western No. America that has a mottled skin, vertically striped hooves, and a blotched or dotted patch of white hair over the rump and loins

ap·pa·nage \'ap-ə-nij\ *n* [F *apanage*, fr. OF, fr. *apaner* to provide for a younger offspring, fr. OProv *apanar* to support, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *pan* bread, fr. L *panis* — more at FOOD] **1 a** : a grant (as of land or revenue) made by a sovereign or a legislative body to a dependent member of the royal family or a principal liege man **b** : a property or privilege appropriated to or by a person as his share **2** : a rightful endowment or adjunct

ap·pa·rat \'ap-ə-ˌrat, ˌäp-ə-'rät\ *n* [Russ] : APPARATUS 2

ap·pa·ra·tchik \ˌäp-ə-'räch-ik\ *n, pl* **-ratchiks** *or* **-ra·tchi·ki** \-'räch-ə-(ˌ)kē\ [Russ, fr. *apparat*] : a member of a Communist apparat

ap·pa·ra·tus \ˌap-ə-'rat-əs, -'rāt-\ *n, pl* **-tus·es** *or* **-tus** [L, fr. *apparatus*, pp. of *apparare* to prepare, fr. *ad-* + *parare* to prepare — more at PARE] **1 a** : a set of materials or equipment designed for a particular use **b** : an instrument or appliance designed for a specific operation **c** : a group of organs having a common function **2** : the functional machinery by means of which a systematized activity is carried out; *esp* : the organization of a political party or an underground movement

[1]ap·par·el \ə-'par-əl\ *vt* **-eled** *or* **-elled; -el·ing** *or* **-el·ling** [ME *apparaillen*, fr. OF *apareillier* to prepare, fr. (assumed) VL *appariculare*, irreg. fr. L *apparare*] **1** : to put clothes on : DRESS **2** : ADORN, EMBELLISH

[2]apparel *n* **1** : the equipment (as sails and rigging) of a ship **2** : personal attire : CLOTHING **3** : something that clothes or adorns ⟨the bright ~ of spring⟩

ap·par·ent \ə-'par-ənt, -'per-\ *adj* [ME, fr. OF *aparent*, fr. L *apparent-, apparens*, prp. of *apparēre* to appear] **1** : open to view : VISIBLE **2** : clear or manifest to the understanding **3** : appearing as actual to the eye or mind **4** : having an indefeasible right to succeed to a title or estate **5** : manifest to the senses or mind as real or true on the basis of evidence that may or may not be factually valid ⟨his ~ absorption was belied by his rigid pose⟩ — **ap·par·ent·ly** \-'par(-ə)nt-lē, -'per(-ə)nt-\ *adv* — **ap·par·ent·ness** \-'par-ənt-nəs, -'per-\ *n*

syn **1** APPARENT, ILLUSORY, ILLUSIONARY, SEEMING, OSTENSIBLE *shared meaning element* : not actually being what it appears to be ***ant*** real
2 see EVIDENT ***ant*** unintelligible

apparent time *n* : the time of day indicated by the hour angle of the sun or by a sundial

ap·pa·ri·tion \ˌap-ə-'rish-ən\ *n* [ME *appariciouη*, fr. LL *apparition-, apparitio* appearance, fr. L *apparitus*, pp. of *apparēre*] **1 a** : an unusual or unexpected sight : PHENOMENON **b** : a ghostly figure **2** : the act of becoming visible : APPEARANCE — **ap·pa·ri·tion·al** \-'rish-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj*

ap·par·i·tor \ə-'par-ət-ər\ *n* [L, fr. *apparitus*] : an official formerly sent to carry out the orders of a magistrate, judge, or court

[1]ap·peal \ə-'pē(ə)l\ *n* **1** : a legal proceeding by which a case is brought from a lower to a higher court for rehearing **2** : a criminal accusation **3 a** : an application (as to a recognized authority) for corroboration, vindication, or decision **b** : an earnest plea : ENTREATY **4** : the power of arousing a sympathetic response : ATTRACTION ⟨movies had a great ~ for him⟩

[2]appeal *vb* [ME *appelen* to accuse, appeal, fr. MF *apeler*, fr. L *appellare*, fr. *appellere* to drive to, fr. *ad-* + *pellere* to drive — more at FELT] *vt* **1** : to charge with a crime : ACCUSE **2** : to take proceedings to have (a case) reheard in a higher court ~ *vi* **1** : to take a case to a higher court for rehearing **2** : to call upon another for corroboration, vindication, or decision **3** : to make an earnest request **4** : to arouse a sympathetic response — **ap·peal·abil·i·ty** \-ˌpē-lə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **ap·peal·able** \-'pē-lə-bəl\ *adj* — **ap·peal·er** *n*

ap·peal·ing \ə-'pē-liŋ\ *adj* **1** : having appeal : PLEASING **2** : marked by earnest entreaty : IMPLORING — **ap·peal·ing·ly** \-liŋ-lē\ *adv*

ap·pear \ə-'pi(ə)r\ *vi* [ME *apperen*, fr. OF *aparoir*, fr. L *apparēre*, fr. *ad-* + *parēre* to show oneself; akin to Gk *peparein* to display] **1 a** : to be or come in sight ⟨the sun ~*s* on the horizon⟩ **b** : to show up ⟨~*s* promptly at eight each day⟩ **2** : to come formally before an authoritative body ⟨must ~ in court today⟩ **3** : to have an outward aspect ⟨~*s* happy enough⟩ **4** : to become evident or manifest ⟨there ~*s* growing evidence to the contrary⟩ **5** : to come into public view ⟨first ~*ed* on a television variety show⟩ **6** : to come into existence ⟨man ~*s* late in the evolutionary chain⟩ ***syn*** see SEEM

ap·pear·ance \ə-'pir-ən(t)s\ *n* **1 a** : the act, action, or process of appearing **b** : the coming into court of a party in an action or his attorney **2 a** : outward aspect : LOOK ⟨had a fierce ~⟩ **b** : external show : SEMBLANCE ⟨although hostile, he tried to preserve an ~ of neutrality⟩ **c** *pl* : outward indication ⟨would do anything to keep up ~*s*⟩ **3 a** : a sense impression or aspect of a thing ⟨the blue of distant hills is only an ~⟩ **b** : the world of sensible phenomena **4 a** : something that appears : PHENOMENON **b** : an instance of appearing : OCCURRENCE

ap·pease \ə-'pēz\ *vt* **ap·peased; ap·peas·ing** [ME *appesen*, fr. OF *apaisier*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *pais* peace — more at PEACE] **1** : to bring to a state of peace or quiet : CALM **2** : to cause to subside : ALLAY ⟨~ his hunger⟩ **3** : PACIFY, CONCILIATE; *esp* : to buy off (an aggressor) by concessions usu. at the sacrifice of principles — **ap·peas·able** \-'pē-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **ap·pease·ment** \ə-'pēz-mənt\ *n* — **ap·peas·er** *n*

[1]ap·pel·lant \ə-'pel-ənt\ *adj* : of or relating to an appeal : APPELLATE

[2]appellant *n* : one that appeals; *specif* : one that appeals from a judicial decision or decree

ap·pel·late \ə-'pel-ət\ *adj* [L *appellatus*, pp. of *appellare*] : of, relating to, or recognizing appeals; *specif* : having the power to review the judgment of another tribunal ⟨an ~ court⟩

ap·pel·la·tion \ˌap-ə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1** *archaic* : the act of calling by a name **2** : an identifying name or title : DESIGNATION

ap·pel·la·tive \ə-'pel-ət-iv\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a common noun **2** : of, relating to, or inclined to the giving of names — **appellative** *n* — **ap·pel·la·tive·ly** *adv*

ap·pel·lee \ˌap-ə-'lē\ *n* : one against whom an appeal is taken

ap·pend \ə-'pend\ *vt* [F *appendre*, fr. LL *appendere*, fr. L, to weigh, fr. *ad-* + *pendere* to weigh — more at PENDANT] **1** : ATTACH, AFFIX **2** : to add as a supplement or appendix (as in a book)

ap·pend·age \ə-'pen-dij\ *n* **1** : an adjunct to something larger or more important : APPURTENANCE **2** : a dependent or subordinate person **3** : a subordinate or derivative body part; *esp* : a limb or analogous part (as a seta)

ap·pen·dant \ə-'pen-dənt\ *adj* **1** : associated as an attendant circumstance **2** : belonging as a right — used of annexed land in English law **3** : attached as an appendage ⟨a seal ~ to a document⟩ — **appendant** *n*

ap·pen·dec·to·my \ˌap-ən-'dek-tə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** [L *appendic-, appendix* + E *-ectomy*] : surgical removal of the vermiform appendix

ap·pen·di·ci·tis \ə-ˌpen-də-'sīt-əs\ *n* : inflammation of the vermiform appendix

ap·pen·dic·u·lar \ˌap-ən-'dik-yə-lər\ *adj* : of or relating to an appendage and esp. a limb ⟨the ~ skeleton⟩

ap·pen·dix \ə-'pen-diks\ *n, pl* **-dix·es** *or* **-di·ces** \-də-ˌsēz\ [L *appendic-, appendix*, fr. *appendere*] **1 a** : APPENDAGE **b** : supplementary material usu. attached at the end of a piece of writing **2** : a bodily outgrowth or process; *specif* : VERMIFORM APPENDIX

ap·per·ceive \ˌap-ər-'sēv\ *vt* **-ceived; -ceiv·ing** [ME *apperceiven*, fr. OF *aperceivre*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *perceivre* to perceive] : to have apperception of

ap·per·cep·tion \-'sep-shən\ *n* [F *aperception*, fr. *apercevoir*] **1** : introspective self-consciousness **2** : mental perception; *esp* : the process of understanding something perceived in terms of previous experience ***syn*** see RECOGNITION — **ap·per·cep·tive** \-'sep-tiv\ *adj*

ap·per·tain \ˌap-ər-'tān\ *vi* [ME *apperteinen*, fr. MF *apartenir*, fr. LL *appertinēre*, fr. L *ad-* + *pertinēre* to belong — more at PERTAIN] : to belong or be connected as a rightful part or attribute : PERTAIN

ap·pe·tence \'ap-ət-ən(t)s\ *n* : APPETENCY

ap·pe·ten·cy \'ap-ət-ən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** [L *appetentia*, fr. *appetent-, appetens*, prp. of *appetere*] **1** : a fixed and strong desire : APPETITE **2** : a natural affinity (as between chemicals) — **ap·pe·tent** \-ənt\ *adj*

ap·pe·tite \'ap-ə-ˌtīt\ *n* [ME *apetit*, fr. MF, fr. L *appetitus*, fr. *appetitus*, pp. of *appetere* to strive after, fr. *ad-* + *petere* to go to — more at FEATHER] **1** : one of the instinctive desires necessary to keep up organic life; *esp* : the desire to eat **2 a** : an inherent craving ⟨an insatiable ~ for work⟩ **b** : TASTE, PREFERENCE ⟨the cultural ~*s* of the time —J. D. Hart⟩ — **ap·pe·ti·tive** \-ˌtīt-iv\ *adj*

ap·pe·tiz·er \'ap-ə-ˌtī-zər\ *n* : a food or drink that stimulates the appetite and is usu. served before a meal

ap·pe·tiz·ing \-ˌtī-ziŋ\ *adj* : appealing to the appetite esp. in appearance or aroma ***syn*** see PALATABLE ***ant*** unappetizing — **ap·pe·tiz·ing·ly** \-ziŋ-lē\ *adv*

Ap·pi·an Way \ˌap-ē-ən-\ *n* [*Appius* Claudius Caecus *fl* 300 B.C. Roman statesman] : an ancient paved highway extending from Rome to Brundisium

appl *abbr* applied

ap·plaud \ə-'plȯd\ *vb* [MF or L; MF *applaudir*, fr. L *applaudere*, fr. *ad-* + *plaudere* to applaud] *vi* : to express approval esp. by clapping the hands ~ *vt* **1** : to express approval of : PRAISE ⟨~ her efforts to lose weight⟩ **2** : to show approval of esp. by clapping the hands — **ap·plaud·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **ap·plaud·ably** \-blē\ *adv* — **ap·plaud·er** *n*

ap·plause \ə-'plȯz\ *n* [ML *applausus*, fr. L, clashing noise, fr. *applausus*, pp. of *applaudere*] **1** : approval publicly expressed (as by clapping the hands) **2** : marked commendation : ACCLAIM ⟨the kind of ~ every really creative writer wants—Robert Tallant⟩

ap·ple \'ap-əl\ *n, often attrib* [ME *appel*, fr. OE *æppel*; akin to OHG *apful* apple, OSlav *ablŭko*] **1** : the fleshy usu. rounded and red or yellow edible pome fruit of a tree (genus *Malus*) of the rose family; *also* : an apple tree **2** : a fruit or other vegetable production suggestive of an apple — **apple of one's eye** : one that is highly cherished ⟨his daughter is the *apple of his eye*⟩

ap·ple·jack \-ˌjak\ *n* : brandy distilled from cider; *also* : an alcoholic beverage traditionally made by freezing hard cider

apple maggot *n* : a two-winged fly (*Rhagoletis pomonella*) whose larva burrows in and feeds esp. on apples

ap·ple–pie \ˌap-əl-ˌpī\ *adj* **1** : EXCELLENT, PERFECT ⟨~ order⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or characterized by traditionally American values (as honesty or simplicity) ⟨is the epitome of ~ wholesomeness⟩

ap·ple–pol·ish \'ap-əl-ˌpäl-ish\ *vb* [fr. the traditional practice of schoolchildren bringing a shiny apple as a gift to their teacher] *vi* : to attempt to ingratiate oneself : TOADY ~ *vt* : to curry favor with (as by flattery) — **ap·ple–pol·ish·er** *n*

Ap·ple·ton layer \ˌap-əl-tən-, -əlt-ᵊn-\ *n* [Sir Edward *Appleton* †1965 E physicist] : F LAYER

ap·pli·ance \ə-'plī-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : an act of applying **2 a** : a piece of equipment for adapting a tool or machine to a special purpose : ATTACHMENT **b** : an instrument or device designed for a particular use; *specif* : a household or office device (as a stove, fan, or refrigerator) operated by gas or electric current **3** *obs* : COMPLIANCE

ap·pli·ca·ble \'ap-li-kə-bəl *also* ə-'plik-ə-\ *adj* : capable of or suitable for being applied : APPROPRIATE ⟨there are several statutes ~ to the case⟩ ***syn*** see RELEVANT ***ant*** inapplicable — **ap·pli·ca·bil·i·ty** \ˌap-li-kə-'bil-ət-ē *also* ə-ˌplik-ə-\ *n*

ap·pli·cant \'ap-li-kənt\ *n* : one who applies ⟨a job ~⟩

ap·pli·ca·tion \ˌap-lə-'kā-shən\ *n* [ME *applicacioun*, fr. L *application-, applicatio* inclination, fr. *applicatus*, pp. of *applicare*] **1** : an act of applying: **a** (1) : an act of putting to use ⟨~ of new techniques⟩ (2) : a use to which something is put ⟨new ~*s* for old remedies⟩ **b** : an act of administering or superposing ⟨~ of paint

to a house〉 **c** : assiduous attention 〈succeeds by ~ to his studies〉 **2 a** : REQUEST, PETITION 〈an ~ for financial aid〉 **b** : a form used in making a request **3** : the practical inference to be derived from a discourse (as a moral tale) **4** : a medicated or protective layer or material 〈an oily ~ for dry skin〉 **5** : capacity for practical use 〈words of varied ~〉

ap·pli·ca·tive \'ap-lə-ˌkāt-iv, ə-'plik-ət-\ *adj* **1** : APPLICABLE, PRACTICAL **2** : put to use : APPLIED — **ap·pli·ca·tive·ly** *adv*

ap·pli·ca·tor \'ap-lə-ˌkāt-ər\ *n* : one that applies; *specif* : a device for applying a substance (as medicine or polish)

ap·pli·ca·to·ry \'ap-li-kə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-, ə-'plik-ə-\ *adj* : capable of being applied
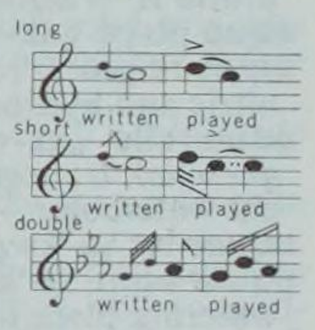
ap·plied \ə-'plīd\ *adj* : put to practical use; *esp* : applying general principles to solve definite problems 〈~ sciences〉

[1]ap·pli·qué \ˌap-lə-'kā\ *n* [F, pp. of *appliquer* to put on, fr. L *applicare*] : a cutout decoration fastened to a larger piece of material

[2]appliqué *vt* **-quéd; -qué·ing** : to apply (as a decoration or ornament) to a larger surface : OVERLAY

ap·ply \ə-'plī\ *vb* **ap·plied; ap·ply·ing** [ME *applien*, fr. MF *aplier*, fr. L *applicare*, fr. *ad-* + *plicare* to fold — more at PLY] *vt* **1 a** : to put to use esp. for some practical purpose 〈*applies* pressure to get what he wants〉 **b** : to bring into action 〈~ the brakes〉 **c** : to lay or spread on 〈~ varnish to a table〉 **d** : to put into operation or effect 〈~ a law〉 **2** : to employ diligently or with close attention 〈should ~ himself to his work〉 ~ *vi* **1** : to have relevance or a valid connection 〈this rule *applies* to freshmen only〉 **2** : to make an appeal or request esp. in the form of a written application 〈~ for a job〉 — **ap·pli·er** \-'plī(-ə)r\ *n*

ap·pog·gia·tu·ra \ə-ˌpäj-ə-'tůr-ə\ *n* [It, lit., support] : an embellishing note or tone preceding an essential melodic note or tone and usu. written as a note of smaller size



appoggiatura

ap·point \ə-'pȯint\ *vb* [ME *appointen*, fr. MF *apointier* to arrange, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *point*] *vt* **1 a** : to fix or set offically 〈~ a trial date〉 **b** : to name officially 〈will ~ him director of the program〉 **c** *archaic* : ARRANGE **d** : to determine the disposition of (an estate) to someone by virtue of a power of appointment **2** : to provide with complete and usu. appropriate or elegant furnishings or equipment ~ *vi* : to exercise a power of appointment ***syn*** see FURNISH

ap·poin·tee \ə-ˌpȯin-'tē, ˌa-\ *n* **1** : one who is appointed **2** : one to whom an estate is appointed

ap·point·ive \ə-'pȯint-iv\ *adj* : of, relating to, or filled by appointment 〈an ~ office〉

ap·point·ment \ə-'pȯint-mənt\ *n* **1 a** : an act of appointing : DESIGNATION **b** : the designation by virtue of a vested power of a person to enjoy an estate **2** : a nonelective office or position 〈holds an academic ~〉 **3** : an arrangement for a meeting : ENGAGEMENT **4** : EQUIPMENT, FURNISHINGS — usu. used in pl.

ap·por·tion \ə-'pōr-shən, -'pȯr-\ *vt* **ap·por·tioned; ap·por·tion·ing** \-sh(ə-)niŋ\ [MF *apportionner*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *portionner* to portion] : to divide and share out according to a plan; *esp* : to make a proportionate division or distribution of ***syn*** see ALLOT

ap·por·tion·ment \-shən-mənt\ *n* : an act or result of apportioning; *esp* : the apportioning of representatives or taxes among the states according to U.S. law

ap·pose \a-'pōz\ *vt* **ap·posed; ap·pos·ing** [MF *aposer*, fr. OF, fr. *a-* + *poser* to put — more at POSE] **1** *archaic* : to put before : apply (one thing) to another **2** : to place in juxtaposition or proximity

ap·po·site \'ap-ə-zət\ *adj* [L *appositus*, fr. pp. of *apponere* to place near, fr. *ad-* + *ponere* to put — more at POSITION] : highly pertinent or appropriate : APT ***syn*** see RELEVANT ***ant*** inapposite, inapt — **ap·po·site·ly** *adv* — **ap·po·site·ness** *n*

ap·po·si·tion \ˌap-ə-'zish-ən\ *n* **1 a** : a grammatical construction in which two usu. adjacent nouns having the same referent stand in the same syntactical relation to the rest of a sentence (as *the poet* and *Burns* in "a biography of the poet Burns") **b** : the relation of one of such a pair of nouns or noun equivalents to the other **2 a** : an act or instance of apposing; *specif* : the deposition of successive layers upon those already present (as in cell walls) **b** : the state of being apposed — **ap·po·si·tion·al** \-'zish-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **ap·po·si·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

ap·pos·i·tive \ə-'päz-ət-iv, a-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or standing in grammatical apposition — **appositive** *n* — **ap·pos·i·tive·ly** *adv*

ap·prais·al \ə-'prā-zəl\ *n* : an act or instance of appraising; *esp* : a valuation of property by the estimate of an authorized person

ap·praise \ə-'prāz\ *vt* **ap·praised; ap·prais·ing** [ME *appreisen*, fr. MF *aprisier* to apprize] **1** : to set a value on : estimate the amount of **2** : to evaluate the worth, significance, or status of; *esp* : to give an expert judgment of the value or merit of ***syn*** see ESTIMATE — **ap·praise·ment** \-'prāz-mənt\ *n* — **ap·prais·er** *n* — **ap·prais·ing** *adj* — **ap·prais·ing·ly** \-'prā-ziŋ-lē\ *adv*

ap·pre·cia·ble \ə-'prē-shə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being perceived or measured ***syn*** see PERCEPTIBLE ***ant*** inappreciable — **ap·pre·cia·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

ap·pre·ci·ate \ə-'prē-shē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [LL *appretiatus*, pp. of *appretiare*, fr. L *ad-* + *pretium* price — more at PRICE] *vt* **1 a** : to grasp the nature, worth, quality, or significance of 〈can't ~ the difference between right and wrong〉 **b** : to value or admire highly 〈think no one ~*s* his endeavors〉 **c** : to judge with heightened perception or understanding : be fully aware of 〈must experience it to ~ it〉 **d** : to recognize with gratitude 〈certainly ~*s* your kindness〉 **2** : to increase the value of ~ *vi* : to increase in number or value — **ap·pre·ci·a·tor** \-ˌāt-ər\ *n* — **ap·pre·cia·to·ry** \-shə-ˌtōr-ē, -tȯr-\ *adj*

syn **1** see UNDERSTAND ***ant*** depreciate
2 APPRECIATE, VALUE, PRIZE, TREASURE, CHERISH *shared meaning element* : to hold in high esteem ***ant*** despise

ap·pre·ci·a·tion \ə-ˌprē-shē-'ā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : sensitive awareness; *esp* : recognition of aesthetic values **b** : JUDGMENT, EVALUATION; *esp* : a favorable critical estimate **c** : an expression of admiration, approval, or gratitude **2** : increase in value

ap·pre·cia·tive \ə-'prē-shət-iv *also* -shē-ˌāt-\ *adj* : having or showing appreciation — **ap·pre·cia·tive·ly** *adv* — **ap·pre·cia·tive·ness** *n*

ap·pre·hend \ˌap-ri-'hend\ *vb* [ME *apprehenden*, fr. L *apprehendere*, lit., to seize, fr. *ad-* + *prehendere* to seize — more at PREHENSILE] *vt* **1** : ARREST, SEIZE 〈~ a thief〉 **2 a** : to become aware of : PERCEIVE **b** : to anticipate esp. with anxiety, dread, or fear **3** : to grasp with the understanding : recognize the meaning of ~ *vi* : UNDERSTAND, GRASP ***syn*** see FORESEE

ap·pre·hen·si·ble \ˌap-ri-'hen(t)-sə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being apprehended — **ap·pre·hen·si·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

ap·pre·hen·sion \ˌap-ri-'hen-chən\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *apprehension-*, *apprehensio*, fr. L *apprehensus*, pp. of *apprehendere*] **1 a** : the act or power of perceiving or comprehending 〈a man of dull ~〉 **b** : the result of apprehending mentally : CONCEPTION 〈according to popular ~〉 **2** : seizure by legal process : ARREST **3** : suspicion or fear esp. of future evil : FOREBODING

ap·pre·hen·sive \-'hen(t)-siv\ *adj* **1** : capable of apprehending or quick to do so : DISCERNING **2** : having apprehension : COGNIZANT **3** : viewing the future with anxiety or alarm ***syn*** see FEARFUL ***ant*** confident — **ap·pre·hen·sive·ly** *adv* — **ap·pre·hen·sive·ness** *n*

[1]ap·pren·tice \ə-'prent-əs\ *n* [ME *aprentis*, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *aprendre* to learn, fr. L *apprendere*, *apprehendere*] **1 a** : one bound by indenture to serve another for a prescribed period with a view to learning an art or trade **b** : one who is learning by practical experience under skilled workers a trade, art, or calling **2** : an inexperienced person : NOVICE 〈an ~ in cooking〉 — **ap·pren·tice·ship** \-ə(sh)-ˌship, -əs-ˌship\ *n*

[2]apprentice *vt* **-ticed; -tic·ing** : to set at work as an apprentice; *esp* : to bind to an apprenticeship by contract or indenture

ap·pressed \a-'prest\ *adj* [L *appressus*, pp. of *apprimere* to press to, fr. *ad-* + *premere* to press — more at PRESS] : pressed close to or lying flat against something 〈leaves ~ against the stem〉

ap·prise \ə-'prīz\ *vt* **ap·prised; ap·pris·ing** [F *appris*, pp. of *apprendre* to learn, teach, fr. OF *aprendre*] : to give notice to : TELL ***syn*** see INFORM

ap·prize \ə-'prīz\ *vt* **ap·prized; ap·priz·ing** [ME *apprisen*, fr. MF *aprisier*, fr. OF, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *prisier* to appraise — more at PRIZE] : VALUE, APPRECIATE

[1]ap·proach \ə-'prōch\ *vb* [ME *approchen*, fr. OF *aprochier*, fr. LL *appropiare*, fr. L *ad-* + *prope* near; akin to L *pro* before — more at FOR] *vt* **1 a** : to draw closer to : NEAR 〈~ the podium〉 **b** : to come very near to : be almost the same as 〈its mathematics ~*es* mysticism —Theodore Sturgeon〉 **2 a** : to make advances to esp. in order to create a desired result 〈was ~*ed* by several Broadway producers〉 **b** : to take preliminary steps toward accomplishment or full knowledge or experience of 〈~ the subject with an open mind〉 ~ *vi* **1** : to draw nearer 〈dawn ~*es*〉 **2** : to make an approach in golf ***syn*** see MATCH

[2]approach *n* **1 a** : an act or instance of approaching 〈the ~ of summer〉 **b** : APPROXIMATION 〈in this book he makes his closest ~ to greatness〉 **2 a** : the taking of preliminary steps toward a particular purpose 〈experimenting with new lines of ~〉 **b** : a particular manner of taking such steps 〈a highly individual ~ to language〉 **3** : a means of access : AVENUE **4 a** : a golf shot from the fairway toward the green **b** : the steps taken by a bowler before he delivers the ball; *also* : the part of the alley behind the foul line from which the bowler delivers the ball

ap·proach·able \ə-'prō-chə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being approached : ACCESSIBLE; *specif* : easy to meet or deal with — **ap·proach·abil·i·ty** \-ˌprō-chə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*

ap·pro·bate \'ap-rə-ˌbāt\ *vt* **-bat·ed; -bat·ing** [ME *approbaten*, fr. L *approbatus*, pp. of *approbare*] : APPROVE, SANCTION — **ap·pro·ba·to·ry** \'ap-rə-bə-ˌtōr-ē, ə-'prō-bə-, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

ap·pro·ba·tion \ˌap-rə-'bā-shən\ *n* **1** *obs* : PROOF **2 a** : an act of approving formally or officially **b** : COMMENDATION, PRAISE

[1]ap·pro·pri·ate \ə-'prō-prē-ˌāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [ME *appropriaten*, fr. LL *appropriatus*, pp. of *appropriare*, fr. L *ad-* + *proprius* own] **1** : to take exclusive possession of : ANNEX 〈no one should ~ a common benefit〉 **2** : to set apart for or assign to a particular purpose or use 〈~ money for the research program〉 **3** : to take or make use of without authority or right — **ap·pro·pri·a·ble** \-prē-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **ap·pro·pri·a·tor** \-prē-ˌāt-ər\ *n*

syn APPROPRIATE, PREEMPT, ARROGATE, CONFISCATE *shared meaning element* : to seize high-handedly

[2]ap·pro·pri·ate \ə-'prō-prē-ət\ *adj* : especially suitable or compatible : FITTING ***syn*** see FIT ***ant*** inappropriate — **ap·pro·pri·ate·ly** *adv* — **ap·pro·pri·ate·ness** *n*

ap·pro·pri·a·tion \ə-ˌprō-prē-'ā-shən\ *n* **1** : an act or instance of appropriating **2** : something that has been appropriated; *specif* : money set aside by formal action for a specific use — **ap·pro·pri·a·tive** \-'prō-prē-ˌāt-iv\ *adj*

ap·prov·able \ə-'prü-və-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being approved — **ap·prov·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

ap·prov·al \ə-'prü-vəl\ *n* : an act or instance of approving : APPROBATION — **on approval** : subject to a prospective buyer's acceptance or refusal 〈took the suit home *on approval*〉

ap·prove \ə-'prüv\ *vb* **ap·proved; ap·prov·ing** [ME *approven*, fr. OF *aprover*, fr. L *approbare*, fr. *ad-* + *probare* to prove — more at PROVE] *vt* **1** *obs* : PROVE, ATTEST **2** : to have or express a favorable opinion of 〈couldn't ~ his conduct〉 **3 a** : to accept as satisfactory 〈hopes he will ~ the date of the meeting〉 **b** : to give formal or official sanction to : RATIFY 〈Congress *approved* the proposed budget〉 ~ *vi* : to take a favorable view 〈doesn't ~ of fighting〉 — **ap·prov·ing·ly** \-'prü-viŋ-lē\ *adv*

syn APPROVE, ENDORSE, SANCTION, ACCREDIT, CERTIFY *shared meaning element* : to hold or express a favorable opinion ***ant*** disapprove

approved school *n, Brit* : a school for juvenile delinquents

approx *abbr* approximate; approximately

[1]ap·prox·i·mate \ə-'präk-sə-mət\ *adj* [LL *approximatus,* pp. of *approximare* to come near, fr. L *ad-* + *proximare* to come near — more at PROXIMATE] **1** : nearly correct or exact **2** : located close together ⟨~ leaves⟩ — **ap·prox·i·mate·ly** *adv*

[2]ap·prox·i·mate \-ˌmāt\ *vb* **-mat·ed; -mat·ing** *vt* **1 a** : to bring near or close **b** : to bring (cut edges of tissue) together **2** : to come near to or be close to in position, value or characteristics ⟨a child tries to ~ his parents' speech⟩ ~ *vi* : to come close

ap·prox·i·ma·tion \ə-ˌpräk-sə-'mā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of drawing together **2** : the quality or state of being close or near ⟨an ~ to the truth⟩ **3** : something that is approximate; *esp* : a mathematical quantity that is close in value to but not the same as a desired quantity — **ap·prox·i·ma·tive** \-'präk-sə-ˌmāt-iv\ *adj* — **ap·prox·i·ma·tive·ly** *adv*

appt *abbr* appoint; appointed; appointment

apptd *abbr* appointed

ap·pur·te·nance \ə-'pərt-nən(t)s, -ᵊn-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : an incidental right (as a right-of-way) attached to a principal property right and passing in possession with it **2** : a subordinate part or adjunct ⟨the ~ of welcome is fashion and ceremony—Shak.⟩ **3** *pl* : accessory objects : APPARATUS

ap·pur·te·nant \ə-'pərt-nənt, -ᵊn-ənt\ *adj* [ME *apertenant,* fr. MF, fr. OF, prp. of *apartenir* to belong — more at APPERTAIN] **1** : constituting a legal accompaniment **2** : AUXILIARY, ACCESSORY — **appurtenant** *n*

Apr *abbr* April

aprax·ia \(ˌ)ā-'prak-sē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk, inaction, fr. *a-* + *praxis* action, fr. *prassein* to do — more at PRACTICAL] : loss or impairment of the ability to execute complex coordinated movements — **aprac·tic** \-'prak-tik\ *or* **aprax·ic** \-'prak-sik\ *adj*

après–ski \ˌäp-ˌrā-'skē, ˌap-\ *n* [F *après* after + *ski* ski, skiing] : social activity (as at a ski lodge) after a day's skiing — **après–ski** *adj*

apri·cot \'ap-rə-ˌkät, 'ā-prə-\ *n, often attrib* [alter. of earlier *abrecock,* deriv. of Ar *al-birqūq* the apricot] **1 a** : the oval orange-colored fruit of a temperate-zone tree (*Prunus armeniaca*) resembling the related peach and plum in flavor **b** : a tree that bears apricots **2** : a variable color averaging a moderate orange

April \'ā-prəl\ *n* [ME, fr. OF & L; OF *avrill,* fr. L *Aprilis*] : the 4th month of the Gregorian calendar

April fool *n* : the butt of a joke or trick played on April Fools' Day; *also* : such a joke or trick

April Fools' Day *n* : April 1 characteristically marked by the playing of practical jokes

a pri·o·ri \ˌä-prē-'ō(ə)r-ē, ap-rē-; ˌā-(ˌ)prī-'ō(ə)r-ˌī, ˌā-prē-'ō(ə)r-ē; -'ȯ(ə)r-\ *adj* [L, from the former] **1 a** : DEDUCTIVE **b** : relating to or derived by reasoning from self-evident propositions — compare A POSTERIORI **c** : presupposed by experience **2** : being without examination or analysis : PRESUMPTIVE — **a priori** *adv* — **apri·or·i·ty** \-'ȯr-ət-ē\ *n*

apron \'ā-prən, -pərn\ *n, often attrib* [ME, alter. (resulting fr. incorrect division of *a napron*) of *napron,* fr. MF *naperon,* dim. of *nape* cloth, modif. of L *mappa* napkin — more at MAP] **1** : a garment usu. of cloth, plastic, or leather usu. tied around the waist and used to protect clothing or adorn a costume **2** : something that suggests or resembles an apron in shape, position, or use: as **a** : the lower member under the sill of the interior casing of a window **b** : an upward or downward vertical extension of a sink or lavatory **c** : a piece of waterproof cloth spread out (as before the seat of a vehicle) as a protection from rain or mud **d** : a covering (as of sheet metal) for protecting parts of machinery **e** : an endless belt for carrying material **f** : an extensive fan-shaped deposit of detritus **g** : the part of the stage in front of the proscenium arch **h** : the area along the waterfront edge of a pier or wharf **i** : a shield (as of concrete, planking, or brushwood) along the bank of a river, along a seawall, or below a dam **j** : the extensive paved part of an airport immediately adjacent to the terminal area or hangars

apron string *n* : the string of an apron — usu. used in pl. as a symbol of dominance or complete control ⟨though 40 years old he was still tied to his mother's *apron strings*⟩

[1]ap·ro·pos \ˌap-rə-'pō, 'ap-rə-ˌ\ *adv* [F *à propos,* lit., to the purpose] **1** : at an opportune time : SEASONABLY **2** : by the way

[2]apropos *adj* : being both relevant and opportune ***syn*** see RELEVANT

[3]apropos *prep* : apropos of

apropos of *prep* : with regard to : CONCERNING

apse \'aps\ *n* [ML & L; ML *apsis,* fr. L] **1** : a projecting part of a building (as a church) that is usu. semicircular in plan and vaulted — see BASILICA illustration **2** : APSIS 1

ap·si·dal \'ap-səd-ᵊl\ *adj* : of or relating to an apse

ap·sis \'ap-səs\ *n, pl* **ap·si·des** \-sə-ˌdēz\ [NL *apsid-, apsis,* fr. L, arch, orbit, fr. Gk *hapsid-, hapsis,* fr. *haptein* to fasten] **1** : the point in an astronomical orbit at which the distance of the body from the center of attraction is either greatest or least **2** : APSE 1

[1]apt \'apt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *aptus,* lit., fastened, fr. pp. of *apere* to fasten; akin to L *apisci* to reach, *apud* near, Skt *āpta* fit] **1** : unusually fitted or qualified : READY ⟨proved an ~ tool in the hands of the conspirators⟩ **2 a** : having a tendency : LIKELY ⟨plants ~ to suffer from drought⟩ **b** : ordinarily disposed : INCLINED ⟨~ to accept what is plausible as true⟩ **3** : suited to a purpose; *esp* : being to the point ⟨an ~ quotation⟩ **4** : keenly intelligent and responsive ***syn*** **1** see FIT ***ant*** inapt, inept **2** see QUICK — **apt·ly** \'ap-(t)lē\ *adv* — **apt·ness** \'ap(t)-nəs\ *n*

[2]apt *abbr* **1** apartment **2** aptitude

ap·ter·ous \'ap-tə-rəs\ *adj* [Gk *apteros,* fr. *a-* + *pteron* wing — more at FEATHER] : lacking wings ⟨~ insects⟩

ap·ter·yx \'ap-tə-riks\ *n* [NL, fr. *a-* + Gk *pteryx* wing; akin to Gk *pteron*] : KIWI

ap·ti·tude \'ap-tə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* **1** : capacity for learning : APTNESS **2 a** : INCLINATION, TENDENCY **b** : a natural ability : TALENT **3** : general suitability ***syn*** see GIFT — **ap·ti·tu·di·nal** \ˌap-tə-'t(y)üd-nəl, -ᵊn-əl\ *adj* — **ap·ti·tu·di·nal·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

ap·y·rase \'ap-ə-ˌrās, -ˌrāz\ *n* [*a*denosine + *pyr*ophosphate + *-ase*] : any of several enzymes that hydrolyze ATP with the liberation of phosphate

aq *abbr* aqua; aqueous

aqua \'ak-wə, 'äk-\ *n, pl* **aquae** \'ak-(ˌ)wē, 'äk-ˌwī\ *or* **aquas** [L — more at ISLAND] **1** : WATER; *esp* : an aqueous solution (as of a volatile substance) **2** : a light greenish blue color

aqua·cade \'ak-wə-ˌkād, 'äk-\ *n* [*Aquacade,* a water entertainment spectacle orig. at Cleveland, Ohio (1937)] : a water spectacle that consists usu. of exhibitions of swimming and diving with musical accompaniment

Aqua·dag \-ˌdag\ *trademark* — used for a colloidal suspension of fine particles of graphite in water for use as a lubricant

aqua·for·tis \ˌak-wə-'fȯrt-əs, ˌäk-\ *n* [NL *aqua fortis,* lit., strong water] : NITRIC ACID

aqua·lung·er \'ak-wə-ˌləŋ-ər, 'äk-\ *n* [fr. *Aqua-lung,* a trademark] : SCUBA DIVER

aqua·ma·rine \ˌak-wə-mə-'rēn, ˌäk-\ *n* [NL *aqua marina,* fr. L, sea water] **1** : a transparent beryl that is blue, blue-green, or green in color **2** : a pale blue to light greenish blue

aqua·naut \'ak-wə-ˌnȯt, 'äk-\ *n* [L *aqua* + E *-naut* (as in *aeronaut*)] : a scuba diver who lives and operates both inside and outside an underwater shelter for an extended period

aqua·plane \'ak-wə-ˌplān, 'äk-\ *n* : a board towed behind a speeding motorboat and ridden by a person standing on it — **aqua·plane** *vi* — **aqua·plan·er** *n*

aqua pu·ra \ˌak-wə-'pyůr-ə, ˌäk-\ *n* [L] : pure water

aqua re·gia \-'rē-j(ē-) ə\ *n* [NL, lit., royal water] : a mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acids that dissolves gold or platinum

aqua·relle \ˌak-wə-'rel, ˌäk-\ *n* [F, fr. obs. It *acquarella* (now *acquerello*), fr. *acqua* water, fr. L *aqua*] : a drawing usu. in transparent watercolor — **aqua·rell·ist** \-'rel-əst\ *n*

aquar·ist \ə-'kwar-əst, -'kwer-\ *n* : one who keeps an aquarium

aquar·i·um \ə-'kwar-ē-əm, -'kwer-\ *n, pl* **-i·ums** *or* **-ia** \-ē-ə\ [L, watering place for cattle, fr. neut. of *aquarius* of water, fr. *aqua*] **1** : a container (as a glass tank) or an artificial pond in which living aquatic animals or plants are kept **2** : an establishment where aquatic collections of living organisms are kept and exhibited

Aquar·i·us \-ē-əs\ *n* [L (gen. *Aquarii*), lit., water carrier] **1** : a constellation south of Pegasus pictured as a man pouring water **2 a** : the 11th sign of the zodiac in astrology — see ZODIAC table **b** : one born under this sign

[1]aquat·ic \ə-'kwät-ik, -'kwat-\ *adj* **1** : growing or living in or frequenting water **2** : taking place in or on water ⟨~ sports⟩ — **aquat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

[2]aquatic *n* **1** : an aquatic animal or plant **2** *pl but sing or pl in constr* : water sports

aqua·tint \'ak-wə-ˌtint, 'äk-\ *n* [It *acqua tinta* dyed water] : a method of etching a printing plate so that tones similar to watercolor washes can be reproduced; *also* : a print made from a plate so etched — **aquatint** *vt* — **aqua·tint·er** *n* — **aqua·tint·ist** \-əst\ *n*

aqua·vit \'äk-wə-ˌvēt\ *n* [Sw, Dan & Norw *akvavit,* fr. ML *aqua vitae*] : a clear Scandinavian liquor flavored with caraway seeds

aqua vi·tae \ˌak-wə-'vīt-ē, ˌäk-\ *n* [ME, fr. ML, lit., water of life] **1** : ALCOHOL **2** : a strong alcoholic liquor

aq·ue·duct \'ak-wə-ˌdəkt\ *n* [L *aquaeductus,* fr. *aquae* (gen. of *aqua*) + *ductus* act of leading — more at DUCT] **1 a** : a conduit for water; *esp* : one for carrying a large quantity of flowing water **b** : a structure for conveying a canal over a river or hollow **2** : a canal or passage in a part or organ

aque·ous \'ā-kwē-əs, 'ak-wē-\ *adj* [ML *aqueus,* fr. L *aqua*] **1 a** : of, relating to, or resembling water **b** : made from, with, or by water **2** : of or relating to the aqueous humor — **aque·ous·ly** *adv*

aqueous humor *n* : a limpid fluid occupying the space between the crystalline lens and the cornea of the eye

aqui·cul·ture *or* **aqua·cul·ture** \'ak-wə-ˌkəl-chər, 'äk-\ *n* [L *aqua* + E *-culture* (as in *agriculture*)] **1** : the cultivation of the natural produce of water **2** : HYDROPONICS — **aqui·cul·tur·al** \ˌak-wə-'kəlch-(ə-)rəl, ˌäk-\ *adj*

aqui·fer \'ak-wə-fər, 'äk-\ *n* [NL, fr. L *aqua* + *-fer*] : a water-bearing stratum of permeable rock, sand, or gravel — **aquif·er·ous** \ə-'kwif-ə-rəs, ä-\ *adj*

Aq·ui·la \'ak-wə-lə\ *n* [L (gen. *Aquilae*), lit., eagle] : a northern constellation in the Milky Way southerly from Lyra and Cygnus

aq·ui·le·gia \ˌak-wə-'lē-j(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL] : COLUMBINE

aq·ui·line \'ak-wə-ˌlīn, -lən\ *adj* [L *aquilinus,* fr. *aquila* eagle] **1** : of, relating to, or resembling an eagle **2** : curving like an eagle's beak ⟨an ~ nose⟩ — **aq·ui·lin·i·ty** \ˌak-wə-'lin-ət-ē\ *n*

aquiv·er \ə-'kwiv-ər\ *adj* : marked by trembling or quivering ⟨all ~ with excitement⟩

[1]ar \'är\ *n* [ME] : the letter *r*

[2]ar *abbr* arrival; arrive

Ar *symbol* argon

AR *abbr* **1** acknowledgment of receipt **2** all rail **3** all risks **4** annual return **5** Arkansas **6** army regulation **7** autonomous republic

-ar \ər *also* ˌär\ *adj suffix* [ME, fr. L *-aris,* alter. of *-alis* -al] : of or relating to ⟨molecul*ar*⟩ : being ⟨spectacul*ar*⟩ : resembling ⟨oracul*ar*⟩

[1]Ar·ab \'ar-əb, *in sense 2 often* 'ā-ˌrab\ *n* [ME, fr. L *Arabus, Arabs,* fr. Gk *Arab-, Araps,* fr. Ar *'Arab*] **1 a** : a member of the Semitic people of the Arabian peninsula **b** : a member of an Arabic-speaking people **2** *not cap* : STREET ARAB **3** : a horse of the stock used by the natives of Arabia and adjacent regions; *specif* : a horse of a breed noted for its graceful build, speed, intelligence, and spirit — **Arab** *adj*

[2]Arab *abbr* Arabian; Arabic

[1]ar·a·besque \ˌar-ə-'besk\ *adj* [F, fr. It *arabesco* Arabian in fashion, fr. *Arabo* Arab, fr. L *Arabus*] : of, relating to, or being in the style of arabesque

²arabesque *n* **1** : an ornament or style that employs flower, foliage, or fruit and sometimes animal and figural outlines to produce an intricate pattern of interlaced lines **2** : a posture in ballet in which the body is bent forward from the hip on one leg with the corresponding arm extended forward and the other arm and leg backward **3** : a contrived intricate pattern of verbal expression ⟨~s of alliteration —C. E. Montague⟩



arabesque 1

Ara·bi·an coffee \ə-ˌrā-bē-ən-\ *n* : COFFEE TREE 1a

Arabian horse *n* : ARAB 3

¹Ar·a·bic \ˈar-ə-bik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of Arabia or the Arabs **2** : of, relating to, or constituting Arabic **3** : expressed in or utilizing Arabic numerals

²Arabic *n* : a Semitic language orig. of the Arabs of the Hejaz and Nejd that is now the prevailing speech of Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and parts of northern Africa

Arabic alphabet *n* : the alphabet of 28 letters derived from the Aramaic which is used for writing Arabic and also with adaptations for numerous other languages of Asia, Africa, and Europe of peoples professing the Muslim religion

arab·i·cize \ə-ˈrab-ə-ˌsīz\ *vt* **-cized; -ciz·ing** *often cap* **1** : to adapt (a language or elements of a language) to the phonetic or structural pattern of Arabic **2** : ARABIZE 1

Arabic numeral *n* : one of the number symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 — see NUMBER table

arab·i·nose \ə-ˈrab-ə-ˌnōs, -ˌnōz\ *n* [ISV *arabin* (the solid principle in gum arabic, fr. *gum arabic* + *-in*) + *-ose*] : a crystalline aldose sugar $C_5H_{10}O_5$ of the pentose class

ara·bi·no·side \ˌar-ə-ˈbin-ə-ˌsīd, ə-ˈrab-ə-nō-ˌsīd\ *n* : a glycoside that yields arabinose on hydrolysis

Ar·ab·ist \ˈar-ə-bəst\ *n* : a specialist in the Arabic language or in Arabic culture

ar·ab·ize \ˈar-ə-ˌbīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** *often cap* **1 a** : to cause to acquire Arabic customs, manners, speech, or outlook **b** : to modify (a racial or national stock) by an admixture of Arab blood **2** : ARABICIZE 1

¹ar·a·ble \ˈar-ə-bəl\ *adj* [MF or L; MF, fr. L *arabilis*, fr. *arare* to plow; akin to OE *erian* to plow, Gk *aroun*] : fit for or cultivated by plowing or tillage — **ar·a·bil·i·ty** \ˌar-ə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n*

²arable *n* : land that is tilled or tillable

arach·nid \ə-ˈrak-nəd, -ˌnid\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *arachnē* spider] : any of a class (Arachnida) of arthropods comprising mostly air-breathing invertebrates, including the spiders and scorpions, mites, and ticks, and having a segmented body divided into two regions of which the anterior bears four pairs of legs but no antennae — **arachnid** *adj*

¹arach·noid \ə-ˈrak-ˌnȯid\ *n* [NL *arachnoides*, fr. Gk *arachnoeidēs*, like a cobweb, fr. *arachnē* spider, spider's web] : a thin membrane of the brain and spinal cord that lies between the dura mater and the pia mater

²arachnoid *adj* **1** : of or relating to the arachnoid ⟨the ~ membrane⟩ **2** : covered with or composed of soft loose hairs or fibers

³arachnoid *adj* [deriv. of Gk *arachnē*] : resembling or related to the arachnids

ara·go·nite \ə-ˈrag-ə-ˌnīt, ˈar-ə-gə-\ *n* [G *aragonit*, fr. *Aragon*, Spain] : a mineral $CaCO_3$ consisting like calcite of calcium carbonate but differing from calcite in its orthorhombic crystallization, greater density, and less distinct cleavage — **ara·go·nit·ic** \ə-ˌrag-ə-ˈnit-ik, ˌar-ə-gə-\ *adj*

Ar·a·maean \ˌar-ə-ˈmē-ən\ *n* [L *Aramaeus*, fr. Gk *Aramaios*, fr. Heb *'Ārām* Aram, ancient name for Syria] **1** : a member of a Semitic people of the second millennium B.C. in Syria and Upper Mesopotamia **2** : ARAMAIC — **Aramaean** *adj*

Ar·a·ma·ic \ˌar-ə-ˈmā-ik\ *n* : a Semitic language known since the ninth century B.C. as the speech of the Aramaeans and later used extensively in southwest Asia as a commercial and governmental language and adopted as their customary speech by various non-Aramaean peoples including the Jews after the Babylonian exile

Aramaic alphabet *n* **1** : an extinct North Semitic alphabet dating from the ninth century B.C. which was for several centuries the commercial alphabet of southwest Asia and the parent of other alphabets (as Syriac and Arabic) **2** : the square Hebrew alphabet as distinguished from the early Hebrew alphabet

ara·ne·id \ə-ˈrā-nē-əd, ˌar-ə-ˈ\ *n* [deriv. of L *aranea* spider] : SPIDER 1 — **ar·a·ne·idal** \ˌar-ə-ˈnē-əd-ᵊl\ *adj* — **ar·a·ne·idan** \-əd-ᵊn\ *adj or n*

Arap·a·ho *or* **Arap·a·hoe** \ə-ˈrap-ə-ˌhō\ *n, pl* **Arapaho** *or* **Arapahos** *or* **Arapahoe** *or* **Arapahoes** : a member of an Amerindian people of the plains region ranging from Saskatchewan and Manitoba to New Mexico and Texas

ar·a·pai·ma \ˌar-ə-ˈpī-mə\ *n* [Pg & Sp, of Tupian origin; akin to Mura *uarapâinu* pirarucu] : PIRARUCU

ar·a·ro·ba \ˌar-ə-ˈrō-bə\ *n* [Pg, of Tupian origin; akin to Tupi *araribá*, a Brazilian tree] : GOA POWDER

Arau·ca·ni·an \ə-ˌraù-ˈkän-ē-ən, ˌar-ˌȯ-ˈkān-\ *also* **Arau·can** \ə-ˈraù-kən\ *n* [Sp *araucano*, fr. *Arauco*, province in Chile] **1** : a member of a group of Indian peoples of south central Chile and adjacent regions of Argentina **2** : the language of the Araucanian people that constitutes an independent language family — **Araucanian** *adj*

ar·au·car·ia \ˌar-ˌo-ˈkar-ē-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. *Arauco*] : any of a genus (*Araucaria*) of So. American or Australian trees of the pine family — **ar·au·car·i·an** \-ē-ən\ *adj*

Ar·a·wak \ˈar-ə-ˌwäk\ *n, pl* **Arawak** *or* **Arawaks** **1** : a member of an American Indian people of the Arawakan group now living chiefly along the coast of Guyana **2** : the language of the Arawak people

Ar·a·wak·an \ˌar-ə-ˈwäk-ən\ *n, pl* **Arawakan** *or* **Arawakans** **1** : a member of a group of Indian peoples of South America and the West Indies **2** : the language family of the Arawakan peoples

ar·ba·lest *or* **ar·ba·list** \ˈär-bə-ləst\ *n* [ME *arblast*, fr. OE, fr. OF *arbaleste*, fr. LL *arcuballista*, fr. L *arcus* bow + *ballista* — more at ARROW] : CROSSBOW; *esp* : a medieval military weapon with a steel bow used to throw balls, stones, and quarrels — **ar·ba·lest·er** \-ˌles-tər\ *n*

ar·bi·ter \ˈär-bət-ər\ *n* [ME *arbitre*, fr. MF, fr. L *arbitr-, arbiter*] **1** : a person with power to decide a dispute : JUDGE **2** : a person or agency having absolute power of judging and determining

arbiter el·e·gan·ti·a·rum \-ˌel-ə-ˌgan-shē-ˈar-əm, -ˈer-\ *n* [L, arbiter of refinements] : one who prescribes, rules on, or is a recognized authority on matters of social behavior and taste

ar·bi·tra·ble \ˈär-bə-trə-bəl, är-ˈbi-\ *adj* : subject to decision by arbitration

¹ar·bi·trage \ˈär-bə-ˌträzh\ *n* [F, fr. MF, arbitration, fr. OF, fr. *arbitrer* to render judgment, fr. L *arbitrari*, fr. *arbitr-, arbiter*] : simultaneous purchase and sale of the same or equivalent security in order to profit from price discrepancies

²arbitrage *vi* **-traged; -trag·ing** : to engage in arbitrage

ar·bi·tra·geur \ˌär-bə-(ˌ)trä-ˈzhər\ *or* **ar·bi·trag·er** \ˈär-bə-ˌträzh-ər\ *n* [F *arbitrageur*, fr. *arbitrage* + *eur* -or] : one that practices arbitrage

ar·bi·tral \ˈär-bə-trəl\ *adj* : of or relating to arbiters or arbitration

ar·bit·ra·ment \är-ˈbi-trə-mənt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *arbitrement*, fr. *arbitrer*] **1** *archaic* : the right or power of deciding **2** : the settling of a dispute by an arbiter : ARBITRATION **3** : the judgment given by an arbitrator

ar·bi·trary \ˈär-bə-ˌtrer-ē\ *adj* **1** : depending on choice or discretion; *specif* : determinable by decision of a judge or tribunal **2 a** : arising from will or caprice **b** : selected at random and without reason **3** : DESPOTIC, TYRANNICAL ⟨~ rule⟩ — **ar·bi·trar·i·ly** \ˌär-bə-ˈtrer-ə-lē\ *adv* — **ar·bi·trar·i·ness** \ˈär-bə-ˌtrer-ē-nəs\ *n*

ar·bi·trate \ˈär-bə-ˌtrāt\ *vb* **-trat·ed; -trat·ing** *vi* : to act as arbitrator ⟨a committee appointed to ~ between the company and the union⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to act as arbiter upon **2** : to submit or refer for decision to an arbiter ⟨agreed to ~ their differences⟩ **3** *archaic* : DECIDE, DETERMINE — **ar·bi·tra·tive** \-ˌtrāt-iv\ *adj*

ar·bi·tra·tion \ˌär-bə-ˈtrā-shən\ *n* : the act of arbitrating; *esp* : the hearing and determination of a case in controversy by a person chosen by the parties or appointed under statutory authority — **ar·bi·tra·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

ar·bi·tra·tor \ˈär-bə-ˌträt-ər\ *n* **1** : a person chosen to settle differences between two parties in controversy **2** : ARBITER

¹ar·bor \ˈär-bər\ *n* [ME *erber* plot of grass, arbor, fr. OF *herbier* plot of grass, fr. *herbe* herb, grass] : a bower of vines or branches or of latticework covered with climbing shrubs or vines

²arbor *n* [L, tree, shaft] **1 a** : a main shaft or beam **b** : a spindle or axle of a wheel **c** : a shaft on which a revolving cutting tool is mounted **d** : a spindle on a cutting machine that holds the work to be cut **2** *pl* **ar·bo·res** \ˈär-bə-ˌrēz\ : a tree as distinguished from a shrub

Arbor Day *n* [L *arbor* tree] : a day designated for planting trees

ar·bo·re·al \är-ˈbōr-ē-əl, -ˈbȯr-\ *adj* [L *arboreus* of a tree, fr. *arbor*] **1** : of, relating to, or resembling a tree **2** : inhabiting or frequenting trees ⟨~ monkeys⟩ — **ar·bo·re·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*

ar·bo·re·ous \-ē-əs\ *adj* **1** : WOODED **2** : ARBOREAL ⟨an ~ palm⟩ ⟨an ~ bird⟩

ar·bo·res·cence \ˌär-bə-ˈres-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* : the condition of being arborescent

ar·bo·res·cent \-ᵊnt\ *adj* : resembling a tree in properties, growth, structure, or appearance — **ar·bo·res·cent·ly** *adv*

ar·bo·re·tum \ˌär-bə-ˈrēt-əm\ *n, pl* **-retums** *or* **-re·ta** \-ˈrēt-ə\ [NL, fr. L, place grown with trees, fr. *arbor*] : a place where trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes

ar·bo·ri·cul·ture \ˈär-bə-rə-ˌkəl-chər; är-ˈbōr-ə-, -ˈbȯr-\ *n* [²*arbor* + *-i-* + *culture*] : the cultivation of trees and shrubs esp. for ornament — **ar·bo·ri·cul·tur·ist** \ˌär-bə-rə-ˈkəlch-(ə-)rəst; är-ˌbōr-ə-, -ˌbȯr-\ *n*

ar·bor·ist \ˈär-bə-rəst\ *n* : a specialist in the care and maintenance of trees

ar·bo·ri·za·tion \ˌär-bə-rə-ˈzā-shən\ *n* : formation of or into an arborescent figure or arrangement; *also* : such a figure or arrangement

ar·bo·rize \ˈär-bə-ˌrīz\ *vi* **-rized; -riz·ing** : to branch freely and repeatedly

ar·bor·vi·tae \ˌär-bər-ˈvīt-ē\ *n* [NL *arbor vitae*, lit., tree of life] : any of various evergreen trees (esp. genus *Thuja*) of the pine family that usu. have closely overlapping or compressed scale leaves and are often grown for ornament and in hedges

ar·bour *chiefly Brit var of* ARBOR

ar·bo·vi·rus \ˌär-bə-ˈvī-rəs\ *n* [*arthropod-borne virus*] : any of various viruses transmitted by arthropods and including the causative agents of encephalitis, yellow fever, and dengue

ar·bu·tus \är-ˈbyüt-əs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, strawberry tree] **1** : any of a genus (*Arbutus*) of shrubs and trees of the heath family with white or pink flowers and scarlet berries **2** : a trailing plant (*Epigaea repens*) of the heath family that occurs in eastern No. America and bears fragrant pinkish flowers in early spring

¹arc \ˈärk\ *n* [ME *ark*, fr. MF *arc* bow, fr. L *arcus* bow, arch, arc — more at ARROW] **1** : the apparent path described above and below the horizon by a celestial body (as the sun) **2** : something arched or curved **3** : a sustained luminous discharge of electricity across a gap in a circuit or between electrodes; *also* : ARC LAMP **4** : a continuous portion (as of a circle or ellipse) of a curved line

²arc *vi* **1** : to form an electric arc **2** : to follow an arc-shaped course

---

ə abut ᵊ kitten ər further a back ā bake ä cot, cart
aù out ch chin e less ē easy g gift i trip ī life
j joke ŋ sing ō flow ȯ flaw ȯi coin th thin th this
ü loot ù foot y yet yü few yù furious zh vision

³arc *adj* [*arc sine* arc or angle (corresponding to the) sine (of so many degrees)] : INVERSE 2 — used with the trigonometric functions and hyperbolic functions ⟨~ sine⟩

ARC *abbr* American Red Cross

ar·cade \är-'kād\ *n* [F, fr. It *arcata*, fr. *arco* arch, fr. L *arcus*] **1** : a long arched building or gallery **2** : an arched covered passageway or avenue (as between shops) **3** : a series of arches with their columns or piers

ar·cad·ed \-'kād-əd\ *adj* : formed in or furnished or decorated with arches or arcades

ar·ca·dia \är-'kād-ē-ə\ *n, often cap* [*Arcadia*, region of ancient Greece frequently chosen as background for pastoral poetry] : a region or scene of simple pleasure and quiet

Ar·ca·di·an \är-'kād-ē-ən\ *n* **1** *often not cap* : a person who lives a simple quiet life **2** : a native or inhabitant of Arcadia **3** : the dialect of ancient Greek used in Arcadia — **arcadian** *adj, often cap*

ar·cad·ing \är-'kād-iŋ\ *n* : a series of arches or arcades used in the construction or decoration esp. of a building

Ar·ca·dy \'är-kəd-ē\ *n* : ARCADIA

ar·cane \är-'kān\ *adj* [L *arcanus*] : known or knowable only to one having the key : SECRET ⟨~ rites⟩ ***syn*** see MYSTERIOUS

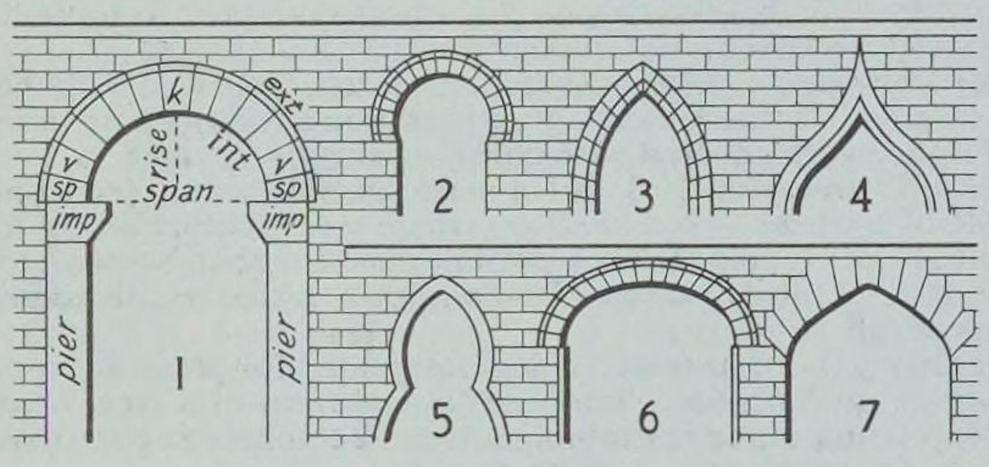
ar·ca·num \är-'kā-nəm\ *n, pl* **-na** \-nə\ [L, fr. neut. of *arcanus* secret, fr. *arca* chest — more at ARK] **1** : mysterious knowledge known only to the initiate **2** : ELIXIR 1

arc cosecant *n* : the inverse function to the cosecant ⟨if y is the cosecant of θ, then θ is the *arc cosecant* of y⟩ — symbol *arc csc* or csc^{-1}

arc cosine *n* : the inverse function to the cosine ⟨if y is the cosine of θ, then θ is the *arc cosine* of y⟩ — symbol *arc cos* or cos^{-1}

arc cotangent *n* : the inverse function to the cotangent ⟨if y is the cotangent of θ, then θ is the *arc cotangent* of y⟩ — symbol *arc cot* or cot^{-1}

¹arch \'ärch\ *n* [ME *arche*, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *arca*, fr. L *arcus* — more at ARROW] **1** : a typically curved structural member spanning an opening and serving as a support (as for the wall or other weight above the opening) **2 a** : something resembling an arch in form or function; *esp* : either of two vaulted portions of the bony structure of the foot that impart elasticity to it **b** : a curvature having the form of an arch **3** : ARCHWAY



arches 1: *1* round: *imp* impost, *sp* springer, *v* voussoir, *k* keystone, *ext* extrados, *int* intrados, *2* horseshoe, *3* lancet, *4* ogee, *5* trefoil, *6* basket-handle, *7* Tudor

²arch *vt* **1** : to cover or provide with an arch **2** : to form or bend into an arch ~ *vi* **1** : to form an arch **2** : to take an arch-shaped course

³arch *adj* [*arch-*] **1** : PRINCIPAL, CHIEF ⟨an *arch*-villain⟩ **2** [*arch-* (as in *archrogue*)] **a** : cleverly sly and alert **b** : playfully saucy ***syn*** see SAUCY — **arch·ly** *adv* — **arch·ness** *n*

⁴arch *abbr* **1** archaic **2** archery **3** architect; architectural; architecture

¹arch- *prefix* [ME *arche-, arch-*, fr. OE & OF; OE *arce-*, fr. LL *arch-* & L *archi-*; OF *arch-*, fr. LL *arch-* & L *archi-*, fr. Gk *arch-, archi-*, fr. *archein* to begin, rule; akin to Gk *archē* beginning, rule, *archos* ruler] **1** : chief : principal ⟨*arch*enemy⟩ **2** : extreme : most fully embodying the qualities of his or its kind ⟨*arch*rogue⟩

²arch- — see ARCHI-

¹-arch \ˌärk, *in a few words also* ərk\ *n comb form* [ME *-arche*, fr. OF & LL & L; OF *-arche*, fr. LL *-archa*, fr. L *-arches, -archus*, fr. Gk *-archēs, -archos*, fr. *archein*] : ruler : leader ⟨matri*arch*⟩

²-arch \ˌärk\ *adj comb form* [prob. fr. G, fr. Gk *archē* beginning] : having (such) a point or (so many) points of origin ⟨end*arch*⟩

archae- *or* **archaeo-** *also* **archeo-** *comb form* [Gk *archaio-*, fr. *archaios* ancient, fr. *archē* beginning] : ancient : primitive ⟨*Archaeo*pteryx⟩ ⟨*Archeo*zoic⟩

ar·chae·ol·o·gist *or* **ar·che·ol·o·gist** \ˌär-kē-'äl-ə-jəst\ *n* : a specialist in archaeology

ar·chae·ol·o·gy *or* **ar·che·ol·o·gy** \-jē\ *n* [F *archéologie*, fr. LL *archaeologia* antiquarian lore, fr. Gk *archaiologia*, fr. *archaio-* + *-logia* -logy] **1** : the scientific study of material remains (as fossil relics, artifacts, and monuments) of past human life and activities **2** : remains of the culture of a people : ANTIQUITIES — **ar·chae·o·log·i·cal** \ˌär-kē-ə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **ar·chae·o·log·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ar·chae·op·ter·yx \ˌär-kē-'äp-tə-riks\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. *archae-* + Gk *pteryx* wing; akin to Gk *pteron* wing — more at FEATHER] : a primitive bird (genus *Archaeopteryx*) of the Upper Jurassic period of Europe with reptilian characteristics

ar·chae·or·nis \ˌär-kē-'ȯr-nəs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. *archae-* + Gk *ornis* bird — more at ERNE] : any of a genus (*Archaeornis*) of Upper Jurassic toothed birds

ar·cha·ic \är-'kā-ik\ *adj* [F or Gk; F *archaïque*, fr. Gk *archaïkos*, fr. *archaios*] **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of an earlier or more primitive time : ANTIQUATED ⟨~ legal traditions⟩ **2** : having the characteristics of the language of the past and surviving chiefly in specialized uses **3** : surviving from an earlier period; *specif* : typical of a previously dominant evolutionary stage ***syn*** see OLD ***ant*** up-to-date — **ar·cha·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

archaic smile *n* : an expression that resembles a smile and is characteristic of early Greek sculpture

ar·cha·ism \'är-kē-ˌiz-əm, -(ˌ)kā-ˌiz-\ *n* [NL *archaïsmus*, fr. Gk *archaïsmos*, fr. *archaios*] **1** : the use of archaic diction or style **2** : an instance of archaic usage **3** : something that is outmoded or old-fashioned ⟨judicial ~⟩ — **ar·cha·ist** \-əst\ *n* — **ar·cha·is·tic** \ˌär-kē-'is-tik, -(ˌ)kā-\ *adj* — **ar·cha·ize** \'är-kē-ˌīz, -(ˌ)kā-\ *vb*

arch·an·gel \'ärk-ˌān-jəl\ *n* [ME, fr. OF or LL; OF *archangele*, fr. LL *archangelus*, fr. Gk *archangelos*, fr. *arch-* + *angelos* angel] **1** : a chief angel **2** *pl* : an order of angels — see CELESTIAL HIERARCHY — **arch·an·gel·ic** \ˌärk-(ˌ)kan-'jel-ik\ *adj*

arch·bish·op \(')ärch-'bish-əp\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *arcebiscop*, fr. LL *archiepiscopus*, fr. LGk *archiepiskopos*, fr. *archi-* + *episkopos* bishop — more at BISHOP] : a bishop at the head of an ecclesiastical province or one of equivalent honorary rank — **arch·bish·op·ric** \-ə-(ˌ)prik\ *n*

arch·dea·con \(')ärch-'dē-kən\ *n* [ME *archedeken*, fr. OE *arcediacon*, fr. LL *archidiaconus*, fr. LGk *archidiakonos*, fr. Gk *archi-* + *diakonos* deacon] : a clergyman having the duty of assisting a diocesan bishop in ceremonial functions or administrative work — **arch·dea·con·ate** \-kə-nət\ *n*

arch·dea·con·ry \-kən-rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** : the district or residence of an archdeacon

arch·di·o·cese \(')ärch-'dī-ə-səs, -ˌsēz, -ˌsēs\ *n* : the diocese of an archbishop — **arch·di·oc·e·san** \ˌärch-dī-'äs-ə-sən\ *adj*

arch·du·cal \(')ärch-'d(y)ü-kəl\ *adj* [F *archiducal*, fr. *archiduc*] : of or relating to an archduke or archduchy

arch·duch·ess \-'dəch-əs\ *n* [F *archiduchesse*, fem. of *archiduc* archduke, fr. MF *archeduc*] **1** : the wife or widow of an archduke **2** : a woman having in her own right a rank equal to that of an archduke

arch·duchy \-'dəch-ē\ *n* [F *archiduché*, fr. MF *archeduché*, fr. *arche-* arch- + *duché* duchy] : the territory of an archduke or archduchess

arch·duke \-'d(y)ük\ *n* [MF *archeduc*, fr. *arche-* arch- + *duc* duke] **1** : a sovereign prince **2** : a prince of the imperial family of Austria — **arch·duke·dom** \-dəm\ *n*

Ar·che·an *or* **Ar·chae·an** \är-'kē-ən\ *adj* [Gk *archaios*] : of, relating to, or being the earlier part of the Precambrian era or the oldest known group of rocks; *also* : PRECAMBRIAN — **Archean** *n*

arched \'ärcht\ *adj* : made with, formed in, or covered with an arch ⟨an ~ beam⟩ ⟨an ~ door⟩

ar·che·go·ni·al \ˌär-ki-'gō-nē-əl\ *adj* : of or relating to an archegonium; *also* : ARCHEGONIATE

¹ar·che·go·ni·ate \-nē-ət\ *adj* : bearing archegonia

²archegoniate *n* : a plant (as a moss, fern, horsetail, or club moss) that bears archegonia

ar·che·go·ni·um \-nē-əm\ *n, pl* **-nia** \-nē-ə\ [NL, fr. Gk *archegonos* originator, fr. *archein* to begin + *gonos* procreation; akin to Gk *gignesthai* to be born — more at ARCH-, KIN] : the flask-shaped female sex organ of mosses, ferns, and some gymnosperms

arch·en·e·my \(')är-'chen-ə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** : a principal enemy

arch·en·ter·on \är-'kent-ə-ˌrän, -rən\ *n* [NL] : the cavity of the gastrula of an embryo

archeol *abbr* archeology

Ar·cheo·zo·ic *also* **Ar·chaeo·zo·ic** \ˌär-kē-ə-'zō-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being the earliest era of geological history; *also* : relating to the system of rocks formed in this era — see GEOLOGIC TIME table — **Archeozoic** *n*

ar·cher \'är-chər\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. LL *arcarius*, alter. of *arcuarius*, fr. *arcuarius* of a bow, fr. L *arcus* bow — more at ARROW] **1** : one who uses a bow and arrow — called also *bowman* **2** *cap* : SAGITTARIUS

ar·chery \'ärch-(ə-)rē\ *n* **1** : the art, practice, or skill of shooting with bow and arrow **2** : an archer's weapons **3** : a body of archers

ar·che·spore \'är-ki-ˌspō(ə)r, -ˌspȯ(ə)r\ *or* **ar·che·spo·ri·um** \ˌär-ki-'spōr-ē-əm, -'spȯr-\ *n, pl* **-spores** *or* **-spo·ria** \-ē-ə\ [NL *archesporium*, fr. *arche-* (as in *archegonium*) + *-sporium* (fr. *spora* spore)] : the cell or group of cells from which spore mother cells develop — **ar·che·spo·ri·al** \ˌär-ki-'spōr-ē-əl, -'spȯr-\ *adj*

ar·che·type \'är-ki-ˌtīp\ *n* [L *archetypum*, fr. Gk *archetypon*, fr. neut. of *archetypos* archetypal, fr. *archein* + *typos* type] **1** : the original pattern or model of which all things of the same type are representations or copies : PROTOTYPE **2** : IDEA 1a **3** : an inherited idea or mode of thought in the psychology of C. G. Jung that is derived from the experience of the race and is present in the unconscious of the individual — **ar·che·typ·al** \ˌär-ki-'tī-pəl\ *or* **ar·che·typ·i·cal** \-'tip-i-kəl\ *adj* — **ar·che·typ·al·ly** \-pə-lē\ *or* **ar·che·typ·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

arch·fiend \(')ärch-'fēnd\ *n* : a chief fiend; *esp* : SATAN

archi- *or* **arch-** *prefix* [F or L; F, fr. L, fr. Gk — more at ARCH-] **1** : chief : principal ⟨*archi*blast⟩ **2** : primitive : original : primary ⟨*arch*enteron⟩ ⟨*archi*carp⟩

ar·chi·carp \'är-ki-ˌkärp\ *n* : the female sex organ in ascomycetous fungi consisting usu. of a filamentous trichogyne and a basal fertile ascogonium

ar·chi·di·ac·o·nal \ˌär-ki-dī-'ak-ən-ᵊl\ *adj* [LL *archidiaconus* archdeacon] : of or relating to an archdeacon

ar·chi·epis·co·pal \ˌär-kē-ə-'pis-kə-pəl\ *adj* [ML *archiepiscopalis*, fr. LL *archiepiscopus* archbishop — more at ARCHBISHOP] : of or relating to an archbishop — **ar·chi·epis·co·pal·ly** \-pə-lē\ *adv* — **ar·chi·epis·co·pate** \-pət, -ˌpāt\ *n*

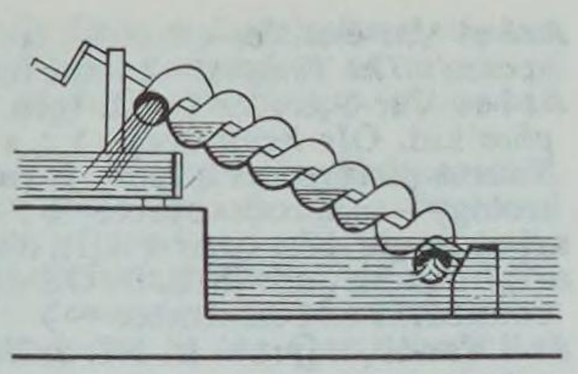
ar·chil \'är-chəl\ *n* [ME *orchell*] **1** : a violet dye obtained from lichens (genera *Roccella* and *Lecanora*) **2** : a plant that yields archil

ar·chi·man·drite \ˌär-kə-'man-ˌdrīt\ *n* [LL *archimandrites*, fr. LGk *archimandritēs*, fr. Gk *archi-* + LGk *mandra* monastery, fr. Gk, fold, pen] : a dignitary in an Eastern church ranking below a bishop; *specif* : the superior of a large monastery or group of monasteries

Ar·chi·me·des' screw \ˌär-kə-ˌmēd-ēz-\ *n* : a device made of a tube bent spirally around an axis or of a broad-threaded screw encased by a cylinder and used to raise water

ar·chi·pe·lag·ic \ˌär-kə-pə-ˈlaj-ik, ˌär-chə-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or located in an archipelago

ar·chi·pel·a·go \ˌär-kə-ˈpel-ə-ˌgō, ˌär-chə-\ *n, pl* **-goes** *or* **-gos** [*Archipelago* Aegean sea, fr. It *Arcipelago*, lit., chief sea, fr. *arci-* (fr. L *archi-*) + Gk *pelagos* sea — more at FLAKE] **1** : an expanse of water with many scattered islands **2** : a group of islands



Archimedes' screw

ar·chi·tect \ˈär-kə-ˌtekt\ *n* [MF *architecte*, fr. L *architectus*, fr. Gk *architektōn* master builder, fr. *archi-* + *tektōn* builder, carpenter — more at TECHNICAL] **1** : one who designs buildings and superintends their construction **2** : one who plans and achieves a difficult objective ⟨the great ~ of the military victory —*Time*⟩

ar·chi·tec·ton·ic \ˌär-kə-ˌtek-ˈtän-ik\ *adj* [L *architectonicus*, fr. Gk *architektonikos*, fr. *architektōn*] **1** : of, relating to, or according with the principles of architecture : ARCHITECTURAL **2** : resembling architecture in structure or organization — **ar·chi·tec·ton·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ar·chi·tec·ton·ics \-ˈtän-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr, also* **ar·chi·tec·ton·ic** \-ik\ **1** : the science of architecture **2 a** : the structural design of an entity **b** : the system of structure

ar·chi·tec·tur·al \ˌär-kə-ˈtek-chə-rəl, -ˈtek-shrəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or conforming to the rules of architecture — **ar·chi·tec·tur·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

ar·chi·tec·ture \ˈär-kə-ˌtek-chər\ *n* **1** : the art or science of building; *specif* : the art or practice of designing and building structures and esp. habitable ones **2** : formation or construction as or as if as the result of conscious act **3** : architectural product or work **4** : a method or style of building

ar·chi·trave \ˈär-kə-ˌtrāv\ *n* [MF, fr. OIt, fr. *archi-* + *trave* beam, fr. L *trabs* — more at THORP] **1** : the lowest division of an entablature resting in classical architecture immediately on the capital of the column — see ENTABLATURE illustration **2** : the molding around a rectangular opening (as a door)

ar·chi·val \är-ˈkī-vəl\ *adj* : relating to, contained in, or constituting archives

¹ar·chive \ˈär-ˌkīv\ *n* [F & L; F, fr. L *archivum*, fr. Gk *archeion* government house (in pl., official documents), fr. *archē* rule, government — more at ARCH-] : a place in which public records or historical documents are preserved; *also* : the material preserved — often used in pl.

²archive *vt* **ar·chived; ar·chiv·ing** : to file or collect (as records or documents) in an archive or other repository

ar·chi·vist \ˈär-kə-vəst, -ˌkī-\ *n* : a person in charge of archives

ar·chi·volt \ˈär-kə-ˌvōlt\ *n* [It *archivolto*, fr. ML *archivoltum*] : an ornamental molding around an arch corresponding to an architrave

ar·chon \ˈär-ˌkän, -kən\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *archōn*, fr. prp. of *archein*] **1** : a chief magistrate in ancient Athens **2** : a presiding officer

arch·priest \(ˈ)ärch-ˈprēst\ *n* : a priest who occupies a preeminent position

arch·way \ˈärch-ˌwā\ *n* : a way or passage under an arch; *also* : an arch over a passage

-ar·chy \ˌär-kē, *in a few words also* ər-kē\ *n comb form* [ME *-archie*, fr. MF, fr. L *-archia*, fr. Gk, fr. *archein* to rule — more at ARCH-] : rule : government ⟨squire*archy*⟩

arc lamp *n* : an electric lamp that produces light by an arc made when a current passes between two incandescent electrodes surrounded by gas — called also *arc light*

ar·co \ˈär-(ˌ)kō\ *adv or adj* [It, fr. *arco* bow, fr. L *arcus*] : with the bow — usu. used as a direction in music for players of stringed instruments; compare PIZZICATO

arc secant *n* : the inverse function to the secant ⟨if y is the secant of θ, then θ is the *arc secant* of y⟩ — symbol *arc sec* or sec^{-1}

arc sine *n* : the inverse function to the sine ⟨if y is the sine of θ, then θ is the *arc sine* of y⟩ — symbol *arc sin* or sin^{-1}

arc tangent *n* : the inverse function to the tangent ⟨if y is the tangent of θ, then θ is the *arc tangent* of y⟩ — symbol *arc tan* or tan^{-1}

¹arc·tic \ˈärk-tik, ˈärt-ik\ *adj* [ME *artik*, fr. L *arcticus*, fr. Gk *arktikos*, fr. *arktos* bear, Ursa Major, north; akin to L *ursus* bear] **1** *often cap* : of or relating to the region around the north pole to approximately 65° N **2 a** : bitter cold : FRIGID **b** : cold in temper or mood ⟨an ~ smile⟩ — **arc·ti·cal·ly** \-(t)i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

²arc·tic \ˈärt-ik, ˈärk-tik\ *n* : a rubber overshoe reaching to the ankle or above

arctic circle *n, often cap A&C* : the parallel of latitude that is approximately 66½ degrees north of the equator and that circumscribes the northern frigid zone

Arc·tu·rus \ärk-ˈt(y)u̇r-əs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Arktouros*, lit., bear watcher] : a giant fixed star of the first magnitude in Boötes

ar·cu·ate \ˈär-kyə-wət, -ˌwāt\ *adj* [L *arcuatus*, pp. of *arcuare* to bend like a bow, fr. *arcus* bow] : curved like a bow ⟨an ~ cloud⟩ ⟨an ~ view of a leaf⟩ — **ar·cu·ate·ly** *adv*

-ard \ərd\ *also* **-art** \ərt\ *n suffix* [ME, fr. OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *-hart* (in personal names such as *Gērhart* Gerard), OE *heard* hard] : one that is characterized by performing some action, possessing some quality, or being associated with some thing esp. conspicuously or excessively ⟨bragg*art*⟩ ⟨dull*ard*⟩ ⟨poll*ard*⟩

ar·deb \ˈär-ˌdeb\ *n* [Ar *ardabb, irdabb*] : any of numerous Egyptian units of capacity; *esp* : the customs unit equal to 5.44 imperial or 5.619 U.S. bushels

ar·dent \ˈärd-ᵊnt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *ardent-, ardens* prp. of *ardēre*] **1** : characterized by warmth of feeling typically expressed in eager zealous support or activity **2** : FIERY, HOT ⟨an ~ sun⟩ **3** : SHINING, GLOWING ⟨~ eyes⟩ ***syn*** see IMPASSIONED ***ant*** cool — **ar·den·cy** \-ᵊn-sē\ *n* — **ar·dent·ly** *adv*

ardent spirits *n pl* : strong distilled liquors

ar·dor \ˈärd-ər\ *n* [ME *ardour*, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *ardor*, fr. *ardēre* to burn; akin to OHG *essa* forge, L *aridus* dry] **1 a** : an often restless or transitory warmth of feeling ⟨the sudden ~ *s* of youth⟩ **b** : extreme vigor or energy : INTENSITY **c** : ZEAL, LOYALTY **2** : strong or burning heat ***syn*** see PASSION

ar·dour *chiefly Brit var of* ARDOR

ar·du·ous \ˈärj-(ə-)wəs\ *adj* [L *arduus* high, steep, difficult; akin to ON *örthigr* high, steep, Gk *orthos* straight] **1 a** : hard to accomplish or achieve : DIFFICULT ⟨years of ~ training⟩ **b** : marked by great labor or effort : STRENUOUS ⟨a life of ~ toil —A. C. Cole⟩ **2** : hard to climb : STEEP ***syn*** see HARD ***ant*** light, facile — **ar·du·ous·ly** *adv* — **ar·du·ous·ness** *n*

¹are [ME, fr. OE *earun;* akin to ON *eru, erum* are, OE *is* is] *pres 2d sing or pres pl of* BE

²are \ˈa(ə)r, ˈe(ə)r, ˈär\ *n* [F, fr. L *area*] — see METRIC SYSTEM table

ar·ea \ˈar-ē-ə, ˈer-\ *n* [L, piece of level ground, threshing floor, fr. *arēre* to be dry; akin to L *ardor*] **1** : a level piece of ground **2** : the surface included within a set of lines; *specif* : the number of unit squares equal in measure to the surface — see METRIC SYSTEM table, WEIGHT table **3** : AREAWAY ⟨went down the steps into the ~ of a house —James Joyce⟩ **4** : a particular extent of space or surface or one serving a special function **5** : the scope of a concept, operation, or activity : FIELD ⟨the whole ~ of foreign policy⟩ **6** : a part of the cerebral cortex having a particular function — **ar·e·al** \-ē-əl\ *adj* — **ar·e·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*

area code *n* : a 3-digit number that identifies each telephone service area in a country (as the U.S. or Canada)

area·way \ˈar-ē-ə-ˌwā, ˈer-\ *n* : a sunken space affording access, air, and light to a basement

are·ca \ə-ˈrē-kə, ˈar-i-kə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Pg, fr. Malayalam *atekka*] : any of several tropical Asian palms (*Areca* or related genera); *esp* : BETEL PALM

arec·o·line \ə-ˈrek-ə-ˌlēn\ *n* [ISV *areca* + *-ol* + *-ine*] : a toxic alkaloid $C_8H_{13}NO_2$ that has parasympathomimetic effects, is used as a veterinary anthelmintic, and occurs naturally in betel nuts

are·na \ə-ˈrē-nə\ *n* [L *harena, arena* sand, sandy place] **1** : an area in a Roman amphitheater for gladiatorial combats **2 a** : an enclosed area used for public entertainment **b** : a building containing an arena **3** : a sphere of interest or activity : SCENE ⟨the political ~⟩

ar·e·na·ceous \ˌar-ə-ˈnā-shəs\ *adj* [L *arenaceus*, fr. *arena*] **1** : resembling, made of, or containing sand or sandy particles **2** : growing in sandy places

arena theater *n* : a theater in which the stage is located in the center of the auditorium — called also *theater-in-the-round*

ar·e·nic·o·lous \ˌar-ə-ˈnik-ə-ləs\ *adj* [L *arena* + E *-i-* + *-colous*] : living, burrowing, or growing in sand

aren't \(ˈ)ärnt, ˈär-ənt\ **1** : are not **2** : am not — used in questions

ar·eo·cen·tric \ˌar-ē-ō-ˈsen-trik\ *adj* [Gk *Areios* of Ares, fr. *Arēs*] : having or relating to the planet Mars as a center

are·o·la \ə-ˈrē-ə-lə\ *n, pl* **-lae** \-ˌlē\ *or* **-las** [NL, fr. L, small open space, dim. of *area*] : a small area between things or about something; *esp* : a colored ring (as about the nipple, a vesicle, or a pustule) — **are·o·lar** \-lər\ *adj* — **are·o·late** \-lət\ *adj* — **are·o·la·tion** \ə-ˌrē-ə-ˈlā-shən, ˌar-ē-ə-\ *n*

ar·e·ole \ˈar-ē-ˌōl\ *n* : a small pit or cavity

Ar·e·op·a·gite \ˌar-ē-ˈäp-ə-ˌjīt, -ˌgīt\ *n* : a member of the Areopagus — **Ar·e·op·a·git·ic** \-ˌäp-ə-ˈjit-ik\ *adj*

Ar·e·op·a·gus \-ˈäp-ə-gəs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Areios pagos*, fr. *Areios pagos* (lit., hill of Ares), a hill in Athens where the tribunal met] : the supreme tribunal of Athens

Ar·es \ˈa(ə)r-(ˌ)ēz, ˈe(ə)r-\ *n* [Gk *Arēs*] : the Greek god of war — compare MARS

arête \ə-ˈrāt\ *n* [F, lit., fish bone, fr. LL *arista*, fr. L, beard of grain] : a sharp-crested ridge in rugged mountains

ar·e·thu·sa \ˌar-ə-ˈth(y)ü-zə\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Arethousa*] **1** *cap* : a wood nymph who fleeing the advances of the river god Alpheus was changed into a fountain **2** : any of a genus (*Arethusa*) of bog orchids with a single linear leaf and solitary purple flower

arg *abbr* **1** argent **2** argument

Arg *abbr* Argyll

ar·ga·li \ˈär-gə-lē\ *n* [Mongolian] : a large Asiatic wild sheep (*Ovis ammon*) noted for its large horns; *also* : any of several other large wild sheep (as the bighorn)

Ar·gand diagram \ˌär-ˌgän-, -ˌgan-\ *n* [John Robert *Argand* †1825 F mathematician] : a conventional diagram in which the complex number $x + iy$ is represented by the point whose rectangular coordinates are x and y

ar·gent \ˈär-jənt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *argentum;* akin to L *arguere* to make clear, Gk *argyros* silver, *argos* white] **1** *archaic* : the metal silver; *also* : WHITENESS **2** : the heraldic color silver or white — **argent** *adj*

ar·gen·tic \är-ˈjent-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing silver esp. when bivalent

ar·gen·tif·er·ous \ˌär-jən-ˈtif-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* : producing or containing silver

¹ar·gen·tine \ˈär-jən-ˌtīn, -ˌtēn\ *adj* : SILVER, SILVERY

²argentine *n* : SILVER; *also* : any of various materials resembling it

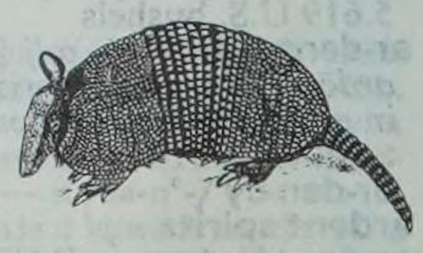
ar·gen·tite \ˈär-jən-ˌtīt\ *n* : native silver sulfide Ag_2S having a metallic luster and dark lead-gray color and constituting a valuable ore of silver

ar·gen·tous \är-ˈjent-əs\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing silver esp. when univalent

ar·gil \ˈär-jəl\ *n* [ME, fr. L *argilla*, fr. Gk *argillos;* akin to Gk *argos* white] : CLAY; *esp* : potter's clay

ar·gil·la·ceous \ˌär-jə-ˈlā-shəs\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing clay or clay minerals : CLAYEY

ar·gil·lite \'är-jə-ˌlīt\ *n* : a compact argillaceous rock differing from shale in being cemented by silica and from slate in having no slaty cleavage
ar·gi·nase \'är-jə-ˌnās, -ˌnāz\ *n* [ISV] : a crystalline enyzme that converts naturally occurring arginine into ornithine and urea
ar·gi·nine \'är-jə-ˌnēn\ *n* [G *arginin*] : a crystalline basic amino acid $C_6H_{14}N_4O_2$ derived from guanidine
Ar·give \'är-ˌjīv, -ˌgīv\ *adj* [L *Argivus*, fr. Gk *Argeios*, lit., of Argos, fr. *Argos* city-state of ancient Greece] : of or relating to the Greeks or Greece and esp. the Achaean city of Argos or the surrounding territory of Argolis — **Argive** *n*
Ar·go \'är-(ˌ)gō\ *n* [L (gen. *Argus*), fr. Gk *Argō*] : a large constellation in the southern hemisphere lying principally between Canis Major and the Southern Cross
ar·gol \'är-ˌgȯl\ *n* [ME *argoile*] : crude tartar deposited in wine casks during aging
ar·gon \'är-ˌgän\ *n* [Gk, neut. of *argos* idle, lazy, fr. *a-* + *ergon* work; fr. its relative inertness — more at WORK] : a colorless odorless gaseous element found in the air and in volcanic gases and used esp. as a filler for electric bulbs and electron tubes — see ELEMENT table
ar·go·naut \'är-gə-ˌnȯt, -ˌnät\ *n* [L *Argonautes*, fr. Gk *Argonautēs*, fr. *Argō*, ship in which the Argonauts sailed + *nautēs* sailor — more at NAUTICAL] **1 a** *cap* : one of a band of heroes sailing with Jason in quest of the Golden Fleece **b** : an adventurer engaged in a quest **2** : PAPER NAUTILUS
ar·go·sy \'är-gə-sē\ *n, pl* **-sies** [modif. of It *ragusea* Ragusan vessel, fr. *Ragusa*, Dalmatia (now Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia)] **1** : a large ship; *esp* : a large merchant ship ⟨three of your *argosies* are . . . come to harbor—Shak.⟩ **2** : a fleet of ships **3** : a rich supply ⟨an ~ of railway folklore —F.P. Donovan⟩
ar·got \'är-gət, -(ˌ)gō\ *n* [F] : an often more or less secret vocabulary and idiom peculiar to a particular group ⟨the American Negro has . . . developed his own ~ , partly to put the white man off, partly to put him down —Daniel Stern⟩ ***syn*** see DIALECT
ar·gu·able \'är-gyə-wə-bəl\ *adj* : open to argument, dispute, or question — **ar·gu·ably** \-blē\ *adv*
ar·gue \'är-(ˌ)gyü, -gyə(-w)\ *vb* **ar·gued; ar·gu·ing** [ME *arguen*, fr. MF *arguer* to accuse, reason & L *arguere* to make clear; MF *arguer*, fr. L *argutare* to prate, fr. *argutus* clear, noisy, fr. pp. of *arguere*] *vi* **1** : to give reasons for or against something : REASON **2** : to contend or disagree in words : DISPUTE ~ *vt* **1** : to give evidence of : INDICATE **2** : to consider the pros and cons of : DISCUSS **3** : to prove or try to prove by giving reasons : MAINTAIN **4** : to persuade by giving reasons : INDUCE ***syn*** see DISCUSS — **ar·gu·er** \-gyə-wər\ *n*
ar·gu·fy \'är-gyə-ˌfī\ *vb* **-fied; -fy·ing** *vt* : DISPUTE, DEBATE ~ *vi* : WRANGLE — **ar·gu·fi·er** \-ˌfī(-ə)r\ *n*
ar·gu·ment \'är-gyə-mənt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *argumentum*, fr. *arguere*] **1** *obs* : an outward sign : INDICATION **2** : a reason given in proof or rebuttal **3 a** : the act or process of arguing : ARGUMENTATION **b** : a coherent series of reasons offered **c** : QUARREL, DISAGREEMENT **4** : an abstract or summary esp. of a literary work ⟨a later editor added an ~ to the poem⟩ **5** : the subject matter esp. of a literary work **6 a** : one of the independent variables upon whose value that of a function depends **b** : the angle that fixes the direction of a complex number ⟨if $a + bi$ is written as $re^{i\theta} = r(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta)$ then θ is the ~⟩
ar·gu·men·ta·tion \ˌär-gyə-mən-'tā-shən, -ˌmen-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of forming reasons and of drawing conclusions and applying them to a case in discussion **2** : DEBATE, DISCUSSION
ar·gu·men·ta·tive \ˌär-gyə-'ment-ət-iv\ *also* **ar·gu·men·tive** \-'ment-iv\ *adj* **1** : characterized by argument : CONTROVERSIAL **2** : given to argument : DISPUTATIOUS ⟨~ to the point of being cantankerous —J. S. Clarke⟩ — **ar·gu·men·ta·tive·ly** *adv*
ar·gu·men·tum \ˌär-gyə-'ment-əm\ *n, pl* **-men·ta** \-'ment-ə\ [L] : ARGUMENT 3b
Ar·gus \'är-gəs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Argos*] **1** : a hundred-eyed monster of Greek legend **2** : a watchful guardian
Ar·gus–eyed \ˌär-gə-'sīd\ *adj* : vigilantly observant
ar·gy–bar·gy \ˌär-gē-'bär-gē\ *n* [redupl. of Sc & E dial. *argy*, alter. of *argue*] *chiefly Brit* : a lively discussion : ARGUMENT, DISPUTE
ar·gyle *also* **ar·gyll** \'är-ˌgīl, är-'\ *n, often cap* [*Argyle, Argyll*, branch of the Scottish clan of Campbell, fr. whose tartan the design was adapted] : a geometric knitting pattern of varicolored diamonds in solid and outline shapes on a single background color; *also* : a sock knit in this pattern
Ar·gy·rol \'är-jə-ˌrȯl, -ˌrōl\ *trademark* — used for a silver-protein compound whose aqueous solution is used as a local antiseptic esp. for mucous membranes
ar·hat \'är-(ˌ)hət\ *n* [Skt, fr. prp. of *arhati* he deserves; akin to Gk *alphein* to gain] : a Buddhist who has reached the stage of enlightenment — **ar·hat·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
aria \'är-ē-ə\ *n* [It, lit., atmospheric air, modif. of L *aer*] : AIR, MELODY, TUNE; *specif* : an accompanied elaborate melody sung (as in an opera) by a single voice
Ar·i·ad·ne \ˌar-ē-'ad-nē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Ariadnē*] : a daughter of Minos who gives Theseus the thread whereby he escapes from the labyrinth
Ar·i·an \'ar-ē-ən, 'er-\ *adj* : of or relating to Arius or his doctrines esp. that the Son is not of the same substance as the Father but was created as an agent for creating the world — **Arian** *n* — **Ar·i·an·ism** \-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*
-ar·i·an \'er-ē-ən, 'ar-\ *n suffix* [L *-arius* -ary] **1** : believer ⟨necessit*arian*⟩ : advocate ⟨latitudin*arian*⟩ **2** : producer ⟨disciplin*arian*⟩
ARIBA *abbr* Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects
ari·bo·fla·vin·osis \ˌā-ˌrī-bə-ˌflā-və-'nō-səs\ *n* [NL] : a deficiency disease due to inadequate intake of riboflavin
ar·id \'ar-əd\ *adj* [F or L; F *aride*, fr. L *aridus* — more at ARDOR] **1** : excessively dry; *specif* : having insufficient rainfall to support agriculture **2** : lacking in interest and life : JEJUNE ***syn*** see DRY ***ant*** moist, verdant — **arid·i·ty** \ə-'rid-ət-ē, a-\ *n* — **ar·id·ness** \'ar-əd-nəs\ *n*
Ar·i·el \'ar-ē-əl, 'er-\ *n* **1** : a supernatural prankster in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* **2** : the inner satellite of Uranus
Ar·i·es \'ar-ē-ˌēz, 'er-\ *n* [L (gen. *Arietis*), lit., ram; akin to Gk *eriphos* kid, OIr *heirp* doe] **1** : a constellation between Pisces and Taurus pictured as a ram **2 a** : the 1st sign of the zodiac in astrology — see ZODIAC table **b** : one born under this sign
ari·et·ta \ˌär-ē-'et-ə, ˌar-\ *n* [It, dim. of *aria*] : a short aria
aright \ə-'rīt\ *adv* [ME, fr. OE *ariht*, fr. ¹*a-* + *riht* right] : RIGHTLY, CORRECTLY ⟨if I remember ~ ⟩
ar·il \'ar-əl\ *n* [prob. fr. NL *arillus*, fr. ML, raisin, grape seed] : an exterior covering or appendage of some seeds that develops after fertilization as an outgrowth from the ovule stalk — **ar·iled** \'ar-əld\ *adj* — **ar·il·late** \'ar-ə-ˌlāt\ *adj*
ari·o·so \ˌär-ē-'ō-(ˌ)sō, -(ˌ)zō\ *n, pl* **-sos** *also* **-si** \-(ˌ)sē, -(ˌ)zē\ [It, fr. *aria*] : a musical passage or composition having a mixture of free recitative and metrical song
arise \ə-'rīz\ *vi* **arose** \-'rōz\; **aris·en** \-'riz-ᵊn\; **aris·ing** \-'rī-ziŋ\ [ME *arisen*, fr. OE *ārīsan*, fr. *ā-*, perfective prefix + *rīsan* to rise — more at ABIDE] **1** : to get up : RISE **2 a** : to originate from a source **b** : to come into being or to attention **3** : ASCEND ***syn*** see SPRING
aris·ta \ə-'ris-tə\ *n, pl* **-tae** \-(ˌ)tē, -ˌtī\ *or* **-tas** [NL, fr. L, beard of grain] : a bristlelike structure or appendage — **aris·tate** \-ˌtāt\ *adj*
ar·is·toc·ra·cy \ˌar-ə-'stäk-rə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** [MF & LL; MF *aristocratie*, fr. LL *aristocratia*, fr. Gk *aristokratia*, fr. *aristos* best + *-kratia* -cracy] **1** : government by the best individuals or by a small privileged class **2 a** : a government in which power is vested in a minority consisting of those believed to be best qualified **b** : a state with such a government **3** : a governing body or upper class usu. made up of an hereditary nobility **4** : the aggregate of those believed to be superior
aris·to·crat \ə-'ris-tə-ˌkrat, a-; 'ar-ə-stə-\ *n* **1** : a member of an aristocracy; *esp* : NOBLE **2 a** : one who has the bearing and viewpoint typical of the aristocracy **b** : one who favors aristocracy
aris·to·crat·ic \ə-ˌris-tə-'krat-ik, (ˌ)a-ˌris-tə-, ˌar-ə-stə-\ *adj* [MF *aristocratique*, fr. ML *aristocraticus*, fr. Gk *aristokratikos*, fr. *aristos* + *-kratikos* -cratic] **1** : belonging to, having the qualities of, or favoring aristocracy **2 a** : socially exclusive ⟨an ~ neighborhood⟩ **b** : SNOBBISH — **aris·to·crat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
Ar·is·to·te·lian *or* **Ar·is·to·te·lean** \ˌar-ə-stə-'tēl-yən\ *adj* [L *Aristoteles* Aristotle, fr. Gk *Aristotelēs*] : of or relating to the Greek philosopher Aristotle or his philosophy — **Aristotelian** *n* — **Ar·is·to·te·lian·ism** \-yə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*
arith *abbr* arithmetic; arithmetical
arith·me·tic \ə-'rith-mə-ˌtik\ *n* [ME *arsmetrik*, fr. OF *arismetique*, fr. L *arithmetica*, fr. Gk *arithmētikē*, fr. fem. of *arithmētikos* arithmetical, fr. *arithmein* to count, fr. *arithmos* number; akin to Gk *arariskein* to fit] **1 a** : a branch of mathematics that deals with real numbers including sometimes the transfinite cardinals and computations with them **b** : a treatise on arithmetic **2** : COMPUTATION, CALCULATION — **ar·ith·met·ic** \ˌar-ith-'met-ik\ *or* **ar·ith·met·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **ar·ith·met·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **arith·me·ti·cian** \ə-ˌrith-mə-'tish-ən\ *n*
arithmetic mean *n* : a value that is computed by dividing the sum of a set of terms by the number of terms
arithmetic progression *n* : a progression (as 3, 5, 7, 9) in which the difference between any term and its predecessor is constant
-ar·i·um \'ar-ē-əm, 'er-\ *n suffix, pl* **-ariums** *or* **-ar·ia** \-ē-ə\ [L, fr. neut. of *-arius* -ary] : thing or place relating to or connected with ⟨planet*arium*⟩
Ariz *abbr* Arizona
ark \'ärk\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *arc;* akin to OHG *arahha* ark; both fr. a prehistoric Gmc word borrowed fr. L *arca* chest; akin to L *arcēre* to hold off, defend, Gk *arkein*] **1 a** : a boat or ship held to resemble that in which Noah and his family were preserved from the Deluge **b** : something that affords protection and safety **2 a** : the sacred chest representing to the Hebrews the presence of God among them **b** : a repository traditionally in or against the wall of a synagogue for the scrolls of the Torah
Ark *abbr* Arkansas
¹arm \'ärm\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *earm;* akin to L *armus* shoulder, Gk *harmos* joint, L *arma* weapons, *ars* skill, Gk *arariskein* to fit] **1** : a human upper limb; *esp* : the part between the shoulder and the wrist **2** : something like or corresponding to an arm: as **a** : the forelimb of a vertebrate **b** : a limb of an invertebrate animal **c** : a branch or lateral shoot of a plant **d** : a slender part of a structure, machine, or an instrument projecting from a main part, axis, or fulcrum **e** : the end of a ship's yard; *also* : the part of an anchor from the crown to the fluke **3** : an inlet of water (as from the sea) **4** : POWER, MIGHT ⟨the long ~ of the law⟩ **5** : a support (as on a chair) for the elbow and forearm **6** : SLEEVE **7** : a functional division of a group or activity ⟨the logistical ~ of the air force⟩ — **armed** \'ärmd\ *adj* — **arm·less** \'ärm-ləs\ *adj* — **arm·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj*
²arm *vb* [ME *armen*, fr. OF *armer*, fr. L *armare*, fr. *arma* weapons, tools] *vt* **1** : to furnish or equip with weapons **2** : to furnish with something that strengthens or protects **3** : to fortify morally **4** : to equip or ready for action or operation ⟨~ a bomb⟩ ~ *vi* : to prepare oneself for struggle or resistance ***syn*** see FURNISH
³arm *n* [ME *armes* (pl.) weapons, fr. OF, fr. L *arma*] **1 a** : a means of offense or defense; *esp* : FIREARM **b** : a combat branch (as of an army) **c** : an organized branch of national defense (as the navy) **2** *pl* **a** : the hereditary heraldic devices of a family **b** : heraldic devices adopted by a government **3** *pl* **a** : active hostilities : WARFARE **b** : military service
Arm *abbr* **1** Armagh **2** Armenian
ar·ma·da \är-'mäd-ə, -'mad-, -'mād-\ *n* [Sp, fr. ML *armata* army, fleet, fr. L, fem. of *armatus*, pp. of *armare*] **1** : a fleet of warships **2** : a large force of moving things ⟨an ~ of fishing boats⟩
ar·ma·dil·lo \ˌär-mə-'dil-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-los** [Sp. fr. dim. of *armado* armed one, fr. L *armatus*] : any of several burrowing chiefly


armadillo

nocturnal edentate mammals (family Dasypodidae) of warm parts of the Americas having body and head encased in an armor of small bony plates in which many of them can curl up into a ball when attacked

Ar·ma·ged·don \ˌär-mə-ˈged-ᵊn\ *n* [Gk *Armageddōn, Harmagedōn,* scene of the battle foretold in Rev 16:14–16] **1 a** : a final and conclusive battle between the forces of good and evil **b** : the site or time of Armageddon **2** : a vast decisive conflict

Ar·ma·gnac \ˈär-mən-ˌyak\ *n* [F, fr. *Armagnac,* region in southwest France] : a brown dry brandy produced in the Gers district of France

ar·ma·ment \ˈär-mə-mənt\ *n* [F *armement,* fr. L *armamenta* (pl.) utensils, military or naval equipment, fr. *armare* to arm, equip] **1** : a military or naval force **2 a** : the aggregate of a nation's military strength **b** : arms and equipment (as of a combat unit) **c** : means of protection or defense : ARMOR **3** : the process of preparing for war

ar·ma·men·tar·i·um \ˌär-mə-ˌmen-ˈter-ē-əm, -mən-\ *n, pl* **-tar·ia** \-ē-ə\ [L, armory, fr. *armamenta*] **1** : the equipment and methods used esp. in medicine **2** : matter available or utilized for an undertaking or field of activity ⟨a whole ~ of devices to create an illusion of real life —Kenneth Rexroth⟩

ar·ma·ture \ˈär-mə-ˌchu̇(ə)r, -chər, -ˌt(y)u̇(ə)r\ *n* [L *armatura* armor, equipment, fr. *armatus*] **1** : an organ or structure (as teeth or thorns) for offense or defense **2 a** : a piece of soft iron or steel that connects the poles of a magnet or of adjacent magnets **b** : a part which consists essentially of coils of wire around a metal core and in which electric current is induced in a generator or in which the input current interacts with a magnetic field to produce torque in a motor **c** : the movable part of an electromagnetic device (as a loudspeaker) **d** : a framework used by a sculptor to support a figure being modeled in a plastic material

¹arm·chair \ˈärm-ˌche(ə)r, -ˌcha(ə)r, ˈärm-ˈ\ *n* : a chair with armrests

²armchair *adj* **1** : remote from direct dealing with problems ⟨~ strategists⟩ **2** : sharing vicariously in another's experiences ⟨an ~ traveler⟩

armed forces *n pl* : the combined military, naval, and air forces of a nation

Ar·me·nian \är-ˈmē-nē-ən, -nyən\ *n* **1** : a member of a people dwelling chiefly in Armenia **2** : the Indo-European language of the Armenians — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table — **Armenian** *adj*

arm·ful \ˈärm-ˌfu̇l\ *n, pl* **armfuls** \-ˌfu̇lz\ *or* **arms·ful** \ˈärmz-ˌfu̇l\ : as much as the arm can hold

arm·hole \ˈärm-ˌhōl\ *n* : an opening for the arm in a garment

ar·mi·ger \ˈär-mi-jər\ *n* [ML, fr. L, armor-bearer, fr. *armiger* bearing arms, fr. *arma* arms + *-ger* -gerous] **1** : SQUIRE **2** : one entitled to bear heraldic arms — **ar·mig·er·al** \är-ˈmij-ə-rəl\ *adj*

ar·mig·er·ous \är-ˈmij-ə-rəs\ *adj* : bearing heraldic arms

ar·mil·la·ry sphere \ˌär-mə-ˌler-ē-, är-ˌmil-ə-rē-\ *n* [F *sphère armillaire,* fr. ML *armilla,* fr. L, bracelet, iron ring, fr. *armus* arm, shoulder; akin to OE *earm* arm] : an old astronomical instrument composed of rings representing the positions of important circles of the celestial sphere

Ar·min·i·an \är-ˈmin-ē-ən\ *adj* : of or relating to Arminius or his doctrines opposing the absolute predestination of strict Calvinism and maintaining the possibility of salvation for all — **Arminian** *n* — **Ar·min·i·an·ism** \-ē-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*

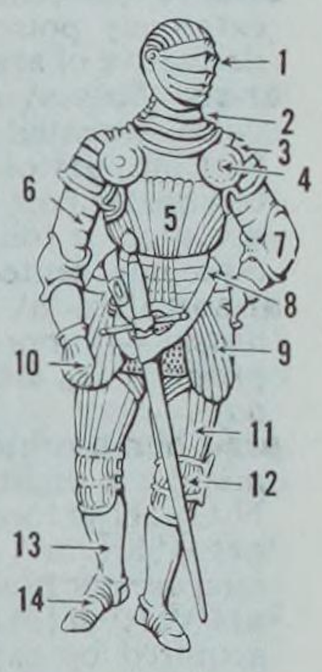
ar·mi·stice \ˈär-mə-stəs\ *n* [F or NL; F, fr. NL *armistitium,* fr. L *arma* + *-stitium* (as in *solstitium* solstice)] : temporary suspension of hostilities by agreement between the opponents : TRUCE

Armistice Day *n* [fr. the armistice terminating World War I on November 11, 1918] : VETERANS DAY — used before the official adoption of *Veterans Day* in 1954

arm·let \ˈärm-lət\ *n* **1** : a band (as of cloth or metal) worn around the upper arm **2** : a small arm (as of the sea)

ar·moire \ärm-ˈwär, ˈär-mər\ *n* [MF, fr. OF *armaire,* fr. L *armarium,* fr. *arma*] : a usu. large cupboard, wardrobe, or clothespress

ar·mor \ˈär-mər\ *n* [ME *armure,* fr. OF, fr. L *armatura* — more at ARMATURE] **1** : defensive covering for the body; *esp* : covering (as of metal) used in combat **2** : a quality or circumstance that affords protection ⟨the ~ of prosperity⟩ **3 a** : a usu. metallic protective covering (as for a ship, fort, airplane, or automobile) **b** : a protective covering (as a diver's suit, the covering of a plant or animal, or a sheathing for wire, cordage, or hose) **4** : armored forces and vehicles (as tanks) — **armor** *vt* — **ar·mored** \-mərd\ *adj* — **ar·mor·less** \-mər-ləs\ *adj*



armor 1: *1* helmet, *2* gorget, *3* shoulder piece, *4* pallette, *5* breastplate, *6* brassard, *7* elbow piece, *8* skirt of tasses, *9* tuille, *10* gauntlet, *11* cuisse, *12* knee piece, *13* jambeau, *14* solleret

¹ar·mor–clad \ˈär-mər-ˌklad\ *adj* : sheathed in or protected by armor

²armor–clad *n* : an armor-clad warship

armored scale *n* : any of numerous scales constituting a family (Diaspididae) and having a firm covering of wax best developed in the female

ar·mor·er \ˈär-mər-ər\ *n* **1** : one that makes armor or arms **2** : one that repairs, assembles, and tests firearms

ar·mo·ri·al \är-ˈmōr-ē-əl, -ˈmȯr-\ *adj* [*armory* (heraldry)] : of, relating to, or bearing heraldic arms — **ar·mo·ri·al·ly** \-ē-ə-lē\ *adv*

Ar·mor·i·can \är-ˈmȯr-i-kən, -ˈmär-\ *or* **Ar·mor·ic** \-ik\ *n* : a native or inhabitant of Armorica; *esp* : BRETON — **Armorican** *or* **Armoric** *adj*

ar·mory \ˈärm-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **ar·mor·ies** **1 a** : a supply of arms for defense or attack **b** : a collection of available resources **2** : a place where arms and military equipment are stored; *esp* : one used for training military reserve personnel **3** : a place where arms are manufactured

ar·mour \ˈär-mər\ *chiefly Brit var of* ARMOR

arm·pit \ˈärm-ˌpit\ *n* : the hollow beneath the junction of the arm and shoulder

arm·rest \-ˌrest\ *n* : a support for the arm

arm–twist·ing \-ˌtwis-tiŋ\ *n* : the use of direct personal pressure in order to achieve a desired end ⟨for all the ~, the . . . vote on the measure was unexpectedly tight —*Newsweek*⟩

arm wrestling *n* : a form of wrestling in which two opponents sit face to face gripping usu. their right hands and setting corresponding elbows firmly on a surface (as a tabletop) in an attempt to force each other's arm down — called also *Indian wrestling*

ar·my \ˈär-mē\ *n, pl* **armies** [ME *armee,* fr. MF, fr. ML *armata* — more at ARMADA] **1 a** : a large organized body of men armed and trained for war esp. on land **b** : a unit capable of independent action and consisting usu. of a headquarters, two or more corps, and auxiliary troops **c** *often cap* : the complete military organization of a nation for land warfare **2** : a great multitude ⟨an ~ of bicycles —Norm Fruchter⟩ **3** : a body of persons organized to advance a cause

army ant *n* : any of various nomadic social ants (subfamily Dorylinae)

ar·my·worm \ˈär-mē-ˌwərm\ *n* : any of numerous moths whose larvae travel in multitudes from field to field destroying grass, grain, and other crops; *esp* : the common armyworm (*Pseudaletia unipuncta*) of the northern U.S.

ar·ni·ca \ˈär-ni-kə\ *n* [NL, genus name] **1** : any of many composite herbs (genus *Arnica*) including some with bright yellow ray flowers **2** : the dried flower heads of an arnica (esp. *Arnica montana*) used esp. in the form of a tincture as a liniment (as for sprains or bruises); *also* : this tincture

ar·oid \ˈa(ə)r-ˌȯid, ˈe(ə)r-\ *adj* [NL *Arum*] : of or relating to the arum family — **aroid** *n*

aroint \ə-ˈrȯint\ *vb imper* [origin unknown] *archaic* : BEGONE ⟨~ thee, witch —Shak.⟩

aro·ma \ə-ˈrō-mə\ *n* [ME *aromat* spice, fr. OF, fr. L *aromat-, aroma,* fr. Gk *arōmat-, arōma*] **1 a** : a distinctive pervasive and usu. pleasant or savory smell; *broadly* : ODOR **b** : the bouquet of a wine **2** : a distinctive quality or atmosphere : FLAVOR ⟨the ~ of enjoyment —Stella D. Gibbons⟩ ***syn*** see SMELL

¹ar·o·mat·ic \ˌar-ə-ˈmat-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or having aroma: **a** : FRAGRANT **b** : having a strong smell **c** : having a distinctive quality **2** : of, relating to, or characterized by the presence of at least one benzene ring — used of cyclic hydrocarbons and their derivatives — **ar·o·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **aro·ma·tic·i·ty** \ˌar-ə-mə-ˈtis-ət-ē, ə-ˌrō-mə-\ *n* — **ar·o·mat·ic·ness** \ˌar-ə-ˈmat-ik-nəs\ *n*

²aromatic *n* **1** : an aromatic plant, drug, or medicine **2** : an aromatic organic compound

aro·ma·tize \ə-ˈrō-mə-ˌtīz\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz·ing** **1** : to make aromatic : FLAVOR **2** : to convert into one or more aromatic compounds — **aro·ma·ti·za·tion** \-ˌrō-mət-ə-ˈzā-shən\ *n*

arose *past of* ARISE

¹around \ə-ˈraůnd\ *adv* [ME, fr. ¹*a-* + *round*] **1 a** : in circumference ⟨a tree five feet ~ ⟩ **b** : in, along, or through a circuit ⟨the road goes ~ by the lake⟩ **2 a** : on all or various sides ⟨papers lying ~ ⟩ **b** : in close from all sides so as to surround **c** : NEARBY **3 a** : here and there in various places **b** : to a particular place **4 a** : in rotation or succession **b** : from beginning to end : THROUGH ⟨mild the year ~ ⟩ **5** : in or to an opposite direction or position **6** : in the neighborhood of : APPROXIMATELY

²around *prep* **1 a** : on all sides of **b** : so as to encircle or enclose ⟨seated ~ the table⟩ **c** : so as to avoid or get past : on or to another side of ⟨went ~ the lake⟩ ⟨got ~ his objections⟩ **d** : NEAR **2** : in all directions outward from **3** : here and there in or throughout ⟨barnstorming ~ the country⟩ **4** : so as to have a center or basis in ⟨a society organized ~ kinship ties⟩
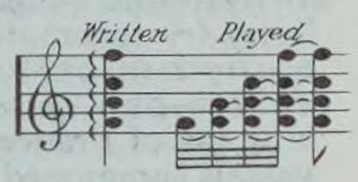
³around *adj* **1** : ABOUT 1 ⟨has been up and ~ for two days⟩ **2** : being in existence, evidence, or circulation ⟨the most intelligent of the artists ~ today —R. M. Coates⟩

around–the–clock *adj* : being in effect, continuing, or lasting 24 hours a day : CONSTANT

arouse \ə-ˈraůz\ *vb* **aroused; arous·ing** [*a-* (as in *arise*) + *rouse*] *vt* **1** : to awaken from sleep **2** : to rouse to action : EXCITE ⟨the book *aroused* debate⟩ ~ *vi* : to awake from sleep : STIR — **arousal** \-ˈraů-zəl\ *n*

ARP *abbr* air-raid precautions

ar·peg·gio \är-ˈpej-(ē-ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-gios** [It, fr. *arpeggiare* to play on the harp, fr. *arpa* harp, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *harpha* harp] **1** : production of the tones of a chord in succession and not simultaneously **2** : a chord played in arpeggio



arpeggio 2

ar·pent \är-ˈpäⁿ\ *n, pl* **arpents** \-ˈpäⁿ(z)\ [MF] **1** : any of various old French units of land area; *esp* : one used in French sections of Canada and the U.S. equal to about 0.85 acre **2** : a unit of length equal to one side of a square arpent

arquebus \ˈär-\ *var of* HARQUEBUS

arr *abbr* **1** arranged **2** arrival; arrive

ar·rack \ˈar-ək, ə-ˈrak\ *n* [Ar *'araq* sweet juice, liquor] : an alcoholic beverage of the Far East or Near East; *esp* : one distilled from the juice of the coconut palm or from a mash of rice and molasses

ar·raign \ə-ˈrān\ *vt* [ME *arreinen,* fr. MF *araisner,* fr. OF, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *raisnier* to speak, fr. (assumed) VL *rationare,* fr. L *ration-, ratio* reason — more at REASON] **1** : to call (a prisoner) before a

court to answer to an indictment : CHARGE **2** : to accuse of wrong, inadequacy, or imperfection — **ar·raign·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

ar·range \ə-'rānj\ *vb* **-ranged; -rang·ing** [ME *arangen*, fr. MF *arangier*, fr. OF, fr. *a-* + *rengier* to set in a row, fr. *reng* row — more at RANK] *vt* **1** : to put into a proper order or into a correct or suitable sequence, relationship, or adjustment ⟨~ flowers in a vase⟩ ⟨~ cards alphabetically⟩ **2** : to make preparations for : PLAN ⟨*arranged* a reception for the visitor⟩ **3** : to bring about an agreement or understanding concerning : SETTLE ⟨~ an exchange of war prisoners⟩ **4 a** : to adapt (a musical composition) by scoring for voices or instruments other than those for which orig. written **b** : ORCHESTRATE ~ *vi* **1** : to bring about an agreement or understanding ⟨*arranged* to have a table at the restaurant⟩ **2** : to make preparations : PLAN ⟨*arranged* for a vacation with his family⟩ ***syn*** **1** see ORDER **2** see NEGOTIATE ***ant*** disarrange, derange — **ar·rang·er** *n*

ar·range·ment \ə-'rānj-mənt\ *n* **1 a** : the act of arranging ⟨the ~ of the details was quickly accomplished⟩ **b** : the state of being arranged : ORDER ⟨everything in neat ~⟩ **2** : something arranged: as **a** : a preliminary measure : PREPARATION ⟨travel ~*s*⟩ **b** : an adaptation of a musical composition by rescoring **c** : an informal agreement or settlement esp. on personal, social, or political matters ⟨~*s* under the new regime⟩ **3** : something made by arranging parts or things together ⟨a floral ~⟩

ar·rant \'ar-ənt\ *adj* [alter. of *errant*] : being notoriously without moderation : EXTREME ⟨we are ~ knaves, all; believe none of us — Shak.⟩ ***syn*** see OUTRIGHT — **ar·rant·ly** *adv*

ar·ras \'ar-əs\ *n, pl* **arras** [ME, fr. *Arras*, France] **1** : a tapestry of Flemish origin used esp. for wall hangings and curtains **2** : a wall hanging or screen of tapestry

[1]ar·ray \ə-'rā\ *vt* [ME *arrayen*, fr. OF *arayer*, fr. (assumed) VL *arredare*, fr. L *ad-* + a base of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *garaiths* arranged — more at READY] **1 a** : to set or place in order : draw up : MARSHAL **b** : to set or set forth in order (as a jury) for the trial of a cause **2** : to dress or decorate esp. in splendid or impressive attire : ADORN ***syn*** see LINE — **ar·ray·er** *n*

[2]array *n* **1 a** : a regular and imposing grouping or arrangement : ORDER **b** : military order ⟨forces in ~⟩ **c** : an orderly listing of jurors impaneled **d** : a group of individuals or kinds that has a definite modal point forming a center of variation **2 a** : CLOTHING, ATTIRE **b** : rich or beautiful apparel : FINERY **3** : a body of soldiers : MILITIA ⟨the baron and his feudal ~⟩ **4** : an imposing group : large number ⟨faced a whole ~ of problems⟩ **5 a** : a number of mathematical elements arranged in rows and columns **b** : a series of statistical data arranged in classes in order of magnitude **6** : an arrangement of computer memory elements (as magnetic cores) in a single plane

ar·rear \ə-'ri(ə)r\ *n* [ME *arrere* behind, backward, fr. MF, fr. (assumed) VL *ad retro* backward, fr. L *ad* to + *retro* backward, behind — more at AT, RETRO-] **1** : the state of being behind in the discharge of obligations — usu. used in pl. ⟨in ~*s* with his payments⟩ **2 a** : an unfinished duty — usu. used in pl. ⟨~*s* of work that have piled up⟩ **b** : an unpaid and overdue debt — usu. used in pl. ⟨paying off the ~*s* of the past several months⟩

ar·rear·age \-ij\ *n* **1** : the condition of being in arrears **2** : something that is in arrears; *esp* : something unpaid and overdue

[1]ar·rest \ə-'rest\ *vt* [ME *aresten*, fr. MF *arester* to rest, arrest, fr. (assumed) VL *arrestare*, fr. L *ad-* + *restare* to remain, rest] **1 a** : to bring to a stop ⟨sickness ~*ed* his activities⟩ **b** : CHECK, SLOW **c** : to make inactive ⟨an ~*ed* tumor⟩ **2** : SEIZE, CAPTURE; *specif* : to take or keep in custody by authority of law **3** : to catch suddenly and engagingly — **ar·rest·er** *or* **ar·res·tor** \-'res-tər\ *n* — **ar·rest·ment** \-'res(t)-mənt\ *n*

[2]arrest *n* **1 a** : the act of stopping **b** : the condition of being stopped **2** : the taking or detaining in custody by authority of law **3** : a device for arresting motion — **under arrest** : in legal custody

ar·res·tant \ə-'res-tənt\ *n* : a substance that causes an insect to stop locomotion and begin to feed

arrest·ee \ə-ˌres-'tē\ *n* : one that is under arrest

ar·rest·ing \ə-'res-tiŋ\ *adj* : catching the attention : STRIKING, IMPRESSIVE — **ar·rest·ing·ly** \-tiŋ-lē\ *adv*

ar·rhyth·mia \ā-'rith-mē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk, lack of rhythm, fr. *arrhythmos* unrhythmical, fr. *a-* + *rhythmos* rhythm] : an alteration in rhythm of the heartbeat either in time or force

ar·rhyth·mic \-mik\ *adj* [Gk *arrhythmos*] : lacking rhythm or regularity ⟨~ locomotor activity⟩ — **ar·rhyth·mi·cal** \-mi-kəl\ *adj* — **ar·rhyth·mi·cal·ly** \-mi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ar·ri·ère–ban \ˌar-ē-ˌe(ə)r-'bän, -'ban\ *n* [F] : a proclamation of a king (as of France) calling his vassals to arms; *also* : the body of vassals summoned

ar·ri·ère–pen·sée \-pän-'sā\ *n* [F, fr. *arrière* in back + *pensée* thought] : mental reservation

ar·ris \'ar-əs\ *n, pl* **arris** *or* **ar·ris·es** [prob. modif. of MF *areste*, lit., fishbone, fr. LL *arista* — more at ARÊTE] : the sharp edge or salient angle formed by the meeting of two surfaces esp. in moldings

ar·riv·al \ə-'rī-vəl\ *n* **1** : the act of arriving **2** : the attainment of an end or state **3** : one that has recently reached a destination

[1]ar·rive \ə-'rīv\ *vi* **ar·rived; ar·riv·ing** [ME *ariven*, fr. OF *ariver*, fr. (assumed) VL *arripare* to come to shore, fr. L *ad-* + *ripa* shore — more at RIVE] **1 a** : to reach a destination **b** : to make an appearance ⟨all the guests have *arrived*⟩ **2 a** *archaic* : HAPPEN **b** : to be near in time : COME ⟨the moment has *arrived*⟩ **3** : to achieve success — **ar·riv·er** *n* — **arrive at** : to reach by effort or thought ⟨have *arrived at* a decision⟩

[2]ar·ri·vé \ˌar-i-'vā\ *n* [F, fr. pp. of *arriver* to arrive, fr. OF *ariver*] : one who has risen rapidly to success, power, or fame

ar·ri·viste \-'vēst\ *n* [F, fr. *arriver*] : one that is a new and uncertain arrival (as in social position or artistic endeavor)

ar·ro·ba \ə-'rō-bə\ *n* [Sp & Pg, fr. Ar *ar-rub'*, lit., the quarter] **1** : an old Spanish unit of weight equal to about 25 pounds used in some Spanish-American countries **2** : an old Portuguese unit of weight equal to about 32 pounds used in Brazil

ar·ro·gance \'ar-ə-gən(t)s\ *n* : a feeling of superiority manifested in an overbearing manner or presumptuous claims

ar·ro·gant \-gənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *arrogant-*, *arrogans*, prp. of *arrogare*] **1** : exaggerating or disposed to exaggerate one's own worth or importance in an overbearing manner ⟨an ~ official⟩ **2** : proceeding from or characterized by arrogance ⟨~ manners⟩ ***syn*** see PROUD ***ant*** meek, unassuming — **ar·ro·gant·ly** *adv*

ar·ro·gate \-ˌgāt\ *vt* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** [L *arrogatus*, pp. of *arrogare*, fr. *ad-* + *rogare* to ask — more at RIGHT] **1 a** : to claim or seize without justification **b** : to make undue claims to having : ASSUME **2** : to claim on behalf of another : ASCRIBE ***syn*** see APPROPRIATE — **ar·ro·ga·tion** \ˌar-ə-'gā-shən\ *n*

ar·ron·disse·ment \ə-'rän-də-smənt, 'ar-ˌōⁿ-(ˌ)dē-'smäⁿ\ *n* [F] **1** : the largest division of a French department **2** : an administrative district of some large French cities

ar·row \'ar-(ˌ)ō, -ə(-w)\ *n* [ME *arwe*, fr. OE; akin to Goth *arhwazna* arrow, L *arcus* bow, arch, arc] **1** : a missile weapon shot from a bow and usu. having a slender shaft, a pointed head, and feathers at the butt **2** : something shaped like an arrow; *esp* : a mark (as on a map or signboard) to indicate direction

ar·row·head \'ar-ō-ˌhed, 'ar-ə-\ *n* **1** : the usu. separate wedge-shaped striking end of an arrow **2** : something resembling an arrowhead **3** : any of a genus (*Sagittaria*) of plants of the water-plantain family with leaves shaped like arrowheads

ar·row·root \-ˌrüt, -ˌrůt\ *n* **1 a** : any of a genus (*Maranta* of the family Marantaceae, the arrowroot family) of tropical American plants with tuberous roots; *esp* : one (*M. arundinacea*) whose roots yield a nutritive starch **b** : any of several plants (as coontie) that yield starch **2** : starch yielded by an arrowroot

ar·row·wood \-ˌwůd\ *n* : any of several shrubs (as several viburnums) having tough pliant shoots formerly used to make arrows

ar·row·worm \-ˌwərm\ *n* : CHAETOGNATH

ar·rowy \'ar-ə-wē\ *adj* **1** : consisting of arrows **2** : resembling or suggesting an arrow; *esp* : swiftly moving

ar·royo \ə-'rȯi-ə, -(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-royos** [Sp] **1** : a watercourse (as a creek or stream) in an arid region **2** : a water-carved gully or channel

ARS *abbr* Agricultural Research Service

arse *var of* ASS

ar·se·nal \'ärs-nəl, -ᵊn-əl\ *n* [It *arsenale*, modif. of Ar *dār ṣinā'ah* house of manufacture] **1 a** : an establishment for the manufacture or storage of arms and military equipment **b** : a collection of weapons **2** : STORE, REPERTORY ⟨the team's ~ of experienced players⟩

ar·se·nate \'ärs-nət, -ᵊn-ət, -ᵊn-ˌāt\ *n* : a salt or ester of an arsenic acid

[1]ar·se·nic \'ärs-nik, -ᵊn-ik\ *n* [ME, yellow orpiment, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *arsenicum*, fr. Gk *arsenikon*, *arrhenikon*, fr. Syr *zarnīg*, of Iranian origin; akin to Av *zaranya* gold, Skt *hari* yellowish — more at YELLOW] **1** : a trivalent and pentavalent solid poisonous element that is commonly metallic steel-gray, crystalline, and brittle — see ELEMENT table **2** : a poisonous trioxide As_2O_3 or As_4O_6 of arsenic used esp. as an insecticide or weed killer — called also *arsenic trioxide*

[2]ar·sen·ic \är-'sen-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing arsenic esp. with a valence of five

ar·sen·i·cal \är-'sen-i-kəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing arsenic ⟨an ~ drug⟩ — **arsenical** *n*

ar·se·nic trisulfide \ˌärs-nik-, -ᵊn-ik-\ *n* : a yellow compound As_2S_3 occurring native as orpiment or prepared artificially and used in fireworks and as a pigment

ar·se·nide \'ärs-ᵊn-ˌīd\ *n* : a binary compound of arsenic with a more positive element

ar·se·ni·ous \är-'sē-nē-əs\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing arsenic esp. when trivalent

ar·se·nite \'ärs-ᵊn-ˌīt\ *n* : a salt or ester of an arsenious acid

ar·se·no·py·rite \ˌärs-ᵊn-ō-'pī(ə)r-ˌrīt\ *n* : a mineral FeAsS consisting of a combined sulfide and arsenide of iron occurring in prismatic orthorhombic crystals or in masses or grains

ar·sine \är-'sēn, 'är-ˌ\ *n* [ISV, fr. *ars*enic] : a colorless flammable extremely poisonous gas AsH_3 with an odor like garlic; *also* : a derivative of arsine

ar·sis \'är-səs\ *n, pl* **ar·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [LL & Gk; LL, raising of the voice, accented part of foot, fr. Gk, upbeat, less important part of foot, lit., act of lifting, fr. *aeirein*, *airein* to lift] **1 a** : the lighter or shorter part of a poetic foot esp. in quantitative verse **b** : the accented or longer part of a poetic foot esp. in accentual verse **2** : the unaccented part of a musical measure — compare THESIS

ar·son \'ärs-ᵊn\ *n* [obs. F, fr. OF, fr. *ars*, pp. of *ardre* to burn, fr. L *ardēre* — *more at* ARDOR] : the malicious or fraudulent burning of property (as a building) — **ar·son·ist** \-əst\ *n* — **ar·son·ous** \-əs\ *adj*

ars·phen·a·mine \ärs-'fen-ə-ˌmēn, -mən\ *n* [ISV *ars*enic + *phenamine*] : a light-yellow toxic hygroscopic powder $C_{12}Cl_2H_{14}As_2N_2O_2.2H_2O$ formerly used in the treatment of spirochetal diseases

[1]art \(')ärt, ərt\ [ME, fr. OE *eart*; akin to ON *est*, *ert* (thou) art, OE *is* is] *archaic pres 2d sing of* BE

[2]art \'ärt\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *art-*, *ars* — more at ARM] **1** : skill acquired by experience, study, or observation ⟨the ~ of making friends⟩ **2 a** : a branch of learning: (1) : one of the humanities (2) *pl* : LIBERAL ARTS **b** *archaic* : LEARNING, SCHOLARSHIP **3** : an occupation requiring knowledge or skill ⟨the ~ of organ building⟩ **4 a** : the conscious use of skill and creative imagination esp. in the production of aesthetic objects; *also* : works so produced **b** (1) : FINE ARTS (2) : one of the fine arts (3) : a graphic art **5 a** *archaic* : a skillful plan **b** : the quality or state of being artful **6** : decorative or illustrative elements in printed matter

syn ART, SKILL, CUNNING, ARTIFICE, CRAFT *shared meaning element* : the faculty of carrying out expertly what is planned or devised

[3]art *abbr* **1** article **2** artificial **3** artillery

-art — see -ARD

art de·co \ˌär(t)-dā-'kō, (')är(t)-'dā-(ˌ)-\ *n, often cap A&D* [F *Art Déco*, fr. *Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs*, an exposition of decorative arts held in Paris, France, in 1925] : a pervasive deco-

rative style of the 1920s and 1930s characterized esp. by bold outlines, streamlined and rectilinear forms, and the use of new materials (as plastic)

artefact *var of* ARTIFACT

ar·tel \är-'tel(-yə)\ *n* [Russ *artel'*, fr. It *artieri*, pl. of *artiere* artisan, fr. *arte* art] : COLLECTIVE FARM

Ar·te·mis \'ärt-ə-məs\ *n* [Gk] : a Greek goddess often portrayed as a virgin huntress and identified as a moon goddess — compare DIANA

ar·te·mi·sia \ˌärt-ə-'mizh-(ē-)ə, -'miz-ē-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, artemisia, fr. Gk] : any of a genus (*Artemisia*) of composite herbs and shrubs with strong-smelling foliage

arteri- *or* **arterio-** *comb form* [MF, fr. LL, fr. Gk *artēri-*, *artērio-*, fr. *artēria* artery] **1** : artery ⟨*arterio*logy⟩ **2** : arterial and ⟨*arterio*venous⟩

[1]ar·te·ri·al \är-'tir-ē-əl\ *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to an artery **b** : relating to or being the bright red blood present in most arteries that has been oxygenated in lungs or gills **2** : of, relating to, or constituting through-traffic facilities — **ar·te·ri·al·ly** \-ē-ə-lē\ *adv*

[2]arterial *n* : a through street or arterial highway

ar·te·ri·al·ize \är-'tir-ē-ə-ˌlīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to transform (venous blood) into arterial blood by oxygenation — **ar·te·ri·al·iza·tion** \-ˌtir-ē-ə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n*

ar·te·rio·gram \är-'tir-ē-ə-ˌgram\ *n* [ISV] : a roentgenogram of an artery made by arteriography

ar·te·ri·og·ra·phy \är-ˌtir-ē-'äg-rə-fē\ *n, pl* **-phies** [ISV] : the roentgenographic visualization of an artery after injection of a special substance — **ar·te·rio·graph·ic** \-ē-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj*

ar·te·ri·ole \är-'tir-ē-ˌōl\ *n* [F or NL; F *artériole*, prob. fr. NL *arteriola*, dim. of L *arteria*] : one of the small terminal twigs of an artery that ends in capillaries — **ar·te·ri·o·lar** \-ˌtir-ē-'ō-ˌlär, -lər\ *adj*

ar·te·rio·scle·ro·sis \är-ˌtir-ē-ō-sklə-'rō-səs\ *n* [NL] : a chronic disease characterized by abnormal thickening and hardening of the arterial walls — **ar·te·rio·scle·rot·ic** \-'rät-ik\ *adj or n*

ar·te·rio·ve·nous \-'vē-nəs\ *adj* [ISV] : of, relating to, or connecting the arteries and veins

ar·ter·i·tis \ˌärt-ə-'rīt-əs\ *n* [NL] : arterial inflammation

ar·tery \'ärt-ə-rē\ *n, pl* **-ter·ies** [ME *arterie*, fr. L *arteria*, fr. Gk *artēria;* akin to Gk *aortē* aorta] **1** : one of the tubular branching muscular- and elastic-walled vessels that carry blood from the heart through the body **2** : a channel (as a river or highway) of transportation or communication; *esp* : the principal channel in a branching system

ar·te·sian well \är-ˌtē-zhən-\ *n* [F *artésien*, lit., of Artois, fr. OF, fr. *Arteis* Artois, France] **1** : a well made by boring into the earth until water is reached which from internal pressure flows up like a fountain **2** : a deep-bored well

art film *n* : a motion picture produced as an artistic effort

art form *n* : a recognized form (as a symphony) or medium (as sculpture) of artistic expression

art·ful \'ärt-fəl\ *adj* **1** : performed with or showing art or skill ⟨an ~ performance on the violin⟩ **2** : ARTIFICIAL ⟨trim walks and ~ bowers —William Wordsworth⟩ **3 a** : using or characterized by art and skill : DEXTEROUS ⟨an ~ prose stylist⟩ **b** : adroit in attaining an end often by insinuating or indirect means : WILY ⟨an ~ cross-examiner⟩ ***syn*** see SLY ***ant*** artless — **art·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **art·ful·ness** *n*

art glass *n* : articles of glass designed primarily for decorative purposes; *esp* : novelty glassware

art–historical *adj* : of or relating to the history of art ⟨~ method⟩

art house *n* : ART THEATER

arthr- *or* **arthro-** *comb form* [L, fr. Gk, fr. *arthron;* akin to Gk *arariskein* to fit — more at ARM] : joint ⟨*arthr*algia⟩ ⟨*arthro*pathy⟩

ar·thral·gia \är-'thral-j(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL] : neuralgic pain in one or more joints — **ar·thral·gic** \-jik\ *adj*

ar·thrit·ic \är-'thrit-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or affected with arthritis **2** : being or showing effects associated with aging ⟨~ anxiety⟩ — **arthritic** *n* — **ar·thrit·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ar·thri·tis \är-'thrīt-əs\ *n, pl* **-thrit·i·des** \-'thrīt-ə-ˌdēz\ [L, fr. Gk, fr. *arthron*] : inflammation of joints due to infectious, metabolic, or constitutional causes

ar·throd·e·sis \är-'thräd-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-e·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *arthr-* + Gk *desis* binding, fr. *dein* to bind] : the surgical immobilization of a joint so that the bones grow solidly together : artificial ankylosis

ar·throp·a·thy \är-'thräp-ə-thē\ *n, pl* **-thies** : a disease of a joint

ar·thro·pod \'är-thrə-ˌpäd\ *n* [NL *Arthropoda*, group name, fr. *arthr-* + Gk *pod-, pous* foot — more at FOOT] : any of a phylum (Arthropoda) of invertebrate animals (as insects, arachnids, and crustaceans) that have a jointed body and limbs, usu. a chitinous shell molted at intervals, and the brain dorsal to the alimentary canal and connected with a ventral chain of ganglia — **arthropod** *adj* — **ar·throp·o·dan** \-əd-ən\ *also* **ar·throp·o·dous** \-əd-əs\ *adj*

ar·thro·sis \är-'thrō-səs\ *n, pl* **-thro·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *arthrōsis* jointing, articulation, fr. *arthroun* to articulate, fr. *arthron*] : an articulation or line of juncture between bones

ar·thro·spore \'är-thrə-ˌspō(ə)r, -ˌspȯ(ə)r\ *n* **1** : a thick-walled vegetative resting cell formed by blue-green algae (as of the genus *Nostoc*) **2** : OIDIUM 1b — **ar·thro·spor·ic** \ˌär-thrə-'spōr-ik, -'spȯr-\ *or* **ar·thro·spo·rous** \-es; är-'thräs-pə-rəs\ *adj*

Ar·thur \'är-thər\ *n* : a possibly historical king of Britain

Ar·thu·ri·an \är-'th(y)u̇r-ē-ən\ *adj* : of or relating to King Arthur and his court

ar·ti·choke \'ärt-ə-ˌchōk\ *n* [It dial. *articiocco*, fr. Ar *al-khurshūf* the artichoke] **1** : a tall composite herb (*Cynara scolymus*) like a thistle with coarse pinnately incised leaves; *also* : its edible flower head which is cooked as a vegetable **2** : JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE

[1]ar·ti·cle \'ärt-i-kəl\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *articulus* joint, division, dim. of *artus* joint; akin to Gk *arariskein* to fit — more at ARM] **1 a** : a distinct often numbered section of a writing **b** : a separate clause **c** : a stipulation in a document (as a contract or a creed) **d** : a nonfictional prose composition usu. forming an independent part of a publication (as a magazine) **2** : an item of business : MATTER **3** : any of a small set of words or affixes (as *a, an,* and *the*) used with nouns to limit or give definiteness to the application **4** : a member of a class of things; *esp* : a piece of goods ⟨~s of value⟩ **5** : a thing of a particular and distinctive kind ⟨the genuine ~⟩

[2]article *vt* **ar·ti·cled; ar·ti·cling** \-k(ə-)liŋ\ : to bind by articles (as of apprenticeship)

ar·tic·u·la·ble \är-'tik-yə-lə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being articulated

ar·tic·u·lar \är-'tik-yə-lər\ *adj* [ME *articuler*, fr. L *articularis*, fr. *articulus*] : of or relating to a joint ⟨~ cartilage⟩

[1]ar·tic·u·late \är-'tik-yə-lət\ *adj* [NL *articulatus*, fr. L *articulus*] **1 a** : divided into syllables or words meaningfully arranged : INTELLIGIBLE **b** : able to speak **c** : expressing oneself readily, clearly, or effectively; *also* : expressed in this manner **2 a** : consisting of segments united by joints : JOINTED ⟨~ animals⟩ **b** : distinctly marked off — **ar·tic·u·late·ly** *adv* — **ar·tic·u·late·ness** *n*

[2]ar·tic·u·late \-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *articulatus*, pp. of *articulare*, fr. *articulus*] *vt* **1 a** : to utter distinctly ⟨*articulating* each note in the musical phrase⟩ **b** : to give clear and effective utterance to ⟨~ one's grievances⟩ **2 a** : to unite by means of a joint : JOINT **b** : to form or fit into a systematic whole ⟨*articulating* a program for all school grades⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to utter articulate sounds **2** : to become united or connected by or as if by a joint — **ar·tic·u·la·tive** \-lət-iv, -ˌlāt-\ *adj* — **ar·tic·u·la·tor** \-ˌlāt-ər\ *n*

ar·tic·u·la·tion \(ˌ)är-ˌtik-yə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the action or manner of jointing or interrelating **b** : the state of being jointed or interrelated **2 a** (1) : a joint or juncture between bones or cartilages in the skeleton of a vertebrate (2) : a movable joint between rigid parts of an animal **b** (1) : a joint between two separable plant parts (as the base of a leafstalk) (2) : a plant stem node or internode **3 a** : the act of giving utterance or expression **b** : the act or manner of articulating sounds **c** : an articulated utterance or sound; *specif* : CONSONANT **4** : OCCLUSION 1b

ar·tic·u·la·to·ry \är-'tik-yə-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : of or relating to articulation

ar·ti·fact \'ärt-ə-ˌfakt\ *n* [L *arte* by skill (abl. of *art-, ars* skill) + *factum*, neut. of *factus*, pp. of *facere* to do — more at ARM, DO] **1 a** : a usu. simple object (as a tool or ornament) showing human workmanship or modification **b** : a product of civilization ⟨an ~ of the jet age⟩ **c** : a product of artistic endeavor **2** : a product (as a structure on a prepared microscope slide) of artificial character due to extraneous (as human) agency — **ar·ti·fac·tu·al** \ˌärt-ə-'fak-chə(-wə)l, -'faksh-wəl\ *adj*

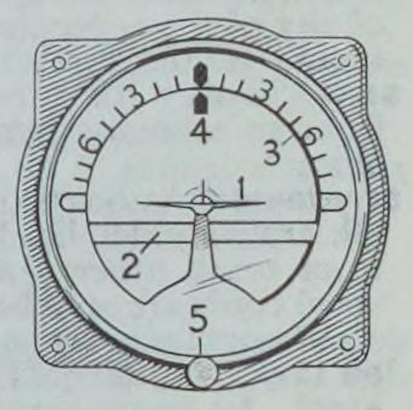
ar·ti·fice \'ärt-ə-fəs\ *n* [MF, fr. L *artificium*, fr. *artific-, artifex* artificer, fr. L *art-, ars* + *facere*] **1 a** : an artful stratagem : TRICK **b** : false or insincere behavior ⟨social ~⟩ **2 a** : an ingenious device or expedient **b** : clever or artful skill : INGENUITY ⟨not a show of ~ . . . but a genuine creative effort —Harry Hervey⟩ ***syn*** see ART, TRICK

ar·ti·fi·cer \är-'tif-ə-sər, 'ärt-ə-fə-sər\ *n* **1** : a skilled or artistic worker or craftsman **2** : one that makes or contrives : DEVISER ⟨had been the ~ of his own fortunes —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩

ar·ti·fi·cial \ˌärt-ə-'fish-əl\ *adj* **1** : humanly contrived often on a natural model : MAN-MADE ⟨an ~ limb⟩ ⟨~ diamonds⟩ **2** : having existence in legal, economic, or political theory **3** *obs* : ARTFUL, CUNNING **4 a** : FEIGNED, ASSUMED **b** : lacking in natural quality : AFFECTED ⟨the ~ smile of one who is not really enjoying himself⟩ **c** : IMITATION, SHAM ⟨~ flavor⟩ **5** : based on differential morphological characters not necessarily indicative of natural relationships — **ar·ti·fi·cial·ly** \-'fish-(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **ar·ti·fi·cial·ness** \-'fish-əl-nəs\ *n*

syn ARTIFICIAL, FACTITIOUS, SYNTHETIC, ERSATZ *shared meaning element* : brought into being not by nature but by human art or effort ***ant*** natural

artificial horizon *n* **1** : HORIZON 1c **2** : an aeronautical instrument based on a gyroscope and designed to furnish a surface constantly perpendicular to the vertical and therefore parallel to the horizon



artificial horizon 2: *1* miniature airplane, *2* horizon bar, *3* degree of bank scale in 10s of degrees, *4* pointer, *5* inactivating knob

artificial insemination *n* : introduction of semen into the uterus or oviduct by other than natural means

ar·ti·fi·ci·al·i·ty \ˌärt-ə-ˌfish-ē-'al-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being artificial **2** : something that is artificial ⟨the *artificialities* of social life⟩

artificial respiration *n* : the rhythmic forcing of air into and out of the lungs of a person whose breathing has stopped

ar·til·ler·ist \är-'til-ə-rəst\ *n* : GUNNER, ARTILLERYMAN

ar·til·lery \är-'til-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ler·ies** [ME *artillerie*, fr. MF] **1** : weapons (as bows, slings, and catapults) for discharging missiles **2** : large caliber crew-served mounted firearms (as guns, howitzers, and rockets) : ORDNANCE **3** : a branch of an army armed with artillery **4** : means of impressing, arguing, or persuading ⟨the ~ of satire⟩

ar·til·lery·man \-(ə-)rē-mən\ *n* : a soldier who is assigned to the artillery

ar·tio·dac·tyl \ˌärt-ē-ō-'dak-tᵊl\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *artios* fitting, even-numbered + *daktylos* finger, toe; akin to Gk *arariskein* to fit — more at ARM] : any of an order (Artiodactyla) of hoofed mammals (as the camel or ox) with an even number of functional toes on each foot — **artiodactyl** *or* **ar·tio·dac·ty·lous** \-tə-ləs\ *adj*

ar·ti·san \'ärt-ə-zən, -sən, *chiefly Brit* ˌärt-ə-'zan\ *n* [MF, fr. OIt *artigiano*, fr. *arte* art, fr. L *art-, ars*] : one (as a carpenter, plumber, or tailor) trained to manual dexterity or skill in a trade

art·ist \'ärt-əst\ *n* **1 a** : one who professes and practices an imaginative art **b** : a person skilled in one of the fine arts **2** : a skilled performer; *specif* : ARTISTE **3 a** *obs* : one skilled or versed in learned arts **b** *archaic* : PHYSICIAN **c** *archaic* : ARTISAN **4** : one who is adept at deception
ar·tiste \är-'tēst\ *n* [F] : a skilled adept public performer; *specif* : a musical or theatrical entertainer
ar·tis·tic \är-'tis-tik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of art or artists ⟨~ subjects⟩ **2** : showing imaginative skill in arrangement or execution ⟨~ photography⟩ — **ar·tis·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
art·ist·ry \'ärt-ə-strē\ *n* **1** : artistic quality of effect or workmanship ⟨the ~ of his novel⟩ **2** : artistic ability ⟨the ~ of the violinist⟩
art·less \'ärt-ləs\ *adj* **1** : lacking art, knowledge, or skill : UNCULTURED **2 a** : made without skill : CRUDE **b** : free from artificiality : NATURAL ⟨~ grace⟩ **3** : free from guile or craft : sincerely simple ***syn*** see NATURAL — **art·less·ly** *adv* — **art·less·ness** *n*
art·mo·bile \'ärt-mō-ˌbēl\ *n* [*art* + auto*mobile*] : a trailer that houses an art collection designed for exhibition on road tours
art nou·veau \ˌär(t)-nü-'vō\ *n, often cap A & N* [F, lit., new art] : a decorative style of late 19th century origin characterized esp. by sinuous lines and foliate forms
art song *n* : a usu. through-composed lyric song with melody and accompaniment
artsy–craftsy \ˌärt-sē-'kraf(t)-sē\ *or* **arty–crafty** \ärt-ē-'kraf-tē\ *adj* [fr. the phrase *arts and crafts*] : ARTY
art theater *n* : a theater that specializes in the presentation of art films
art·work \'ärt-ˌwərk\ *n* **1 a** : an artistic production ⟨an 8-foot metal ~ ⟩ **b** : artistic work ⟨~ being sold on the sidewalk⟩ **2** : ART 6
[1]arty \'ärt-ē\ *adj* **art·i·er; -est** : showily or pretentiously artistic ⟨~ lighting and photography⟩ — **art·i·ly** \'ärt-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **art·i·ness** \'ärt-ē-nəs\ *n*
[2]arty *abbr* artillery
ar·um \'ar-əm, 'er-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, arum, fr. Gk *aron*] : any of a genus (*Arum* of the family Araceae, the arum family) of Old World plants with flowers in a fleshy spathe subtended by a leafy bract; *broadly* : a plant of the arum family
ARV *abbr* American Revised Version
[1]-ary *US usu* ˌer-ē *when an unstressed syllable precedes,* ə-rē *or* rē *when a stressed syllable precedes; Brit usu* ə-rē *or* rē *in all cases*\ *n suffix* [ME *-arie,* fr. OF & L; OF *-aire, -arie,* fr. L *-arius, -aria, -arium,* fr. *-arius,* adj. suffix] **1** : thing belonging to or connected with; *esp* : place of ⟨ov*ary*⟩ **2** : person belonging to, connected with, or engaged in ⟨function*ary*⟩
[2]-ary *adj suffix* [ME *-arie,* fr. MF & L; MF *-aire,* fr. L *-arius*] : of, relating to, or connected with ⟨budget*ary*⟩
[1]Ary·an \'ar-ē-ən, 'er-; 'är-yən\ *adj* [Skt *ārya* noble, belonging to the people speaking an Indo-European dialect who migrated into northern India] **1** : of or relating to the Indo-European family of languages or to their hypothetical prototype **2** : of or relating to speakers of Indo-European languages **3 a** : of or relating to a hypothetical ethnic type illustrated by or descended from early speakers of Indo-European languages **b** : NORDIC **4** : of or relating to Indo-Iranian or its speakers
[2]Aryan *n* **1** : a member of the Indo-European-speaking people early occupying the Iranian plateau or entering India and conquering and amalgamating with the earlier non-Indo-European inhabitants **2 a** : a member of the people speaking the language from which the Indo-European languages are derived **b** : an individual of any of those peoples speaking these languages since prehistoric times : INDO-EUROPEAN **c** : NORDIC **d** : GENTILE
ar·yl \'ar-əl\ *n* [ISV *ar*omatic + *-yl*] : a radical (as phenyl) derived from an aromatic hydrocarbon by the removal of one hydrogen atom
ar·y·te·noid \ˌar-ə-'tē-ˌnȯid, ə-'rit-ᵊn-ˌȯid\ *adj* [NL *arytaenoides,* fr. Gk *arytainoeidēs,* lit., ladle-shaped, fr. *arytaina* ladle] **1** : relating to or being either of two small laryngeal cartilages to which the vocal cords are attached **2** : relating to or being either of a pair of small muscles or an unpaired muscle of the larynx — **arytenoid** *n*
[1]as \əz, (ˌ)az\ *adv* [ME, fr. OE *eallswā* likewise, just as — more at ALSO] **1** : to the same degree or amount : EQUALLY ⟨~ deaf as a post⟩ **2** : for instance ⟨various trees, ~ oak or pine⟩ **3** : when considered in a specified form or relation — usu. used before a preposition or a participle ⟨my opinion ~ distinguished from his⟩
[2]as *conj* **1** : as if ⟨looks ~ he had seen a ghost — S. T. Coleridge⟩ **2** : in or to the same degree in which ⟨deaf ~ a post ⟩ — usu. used as a correlative after an adjective or adverb modified by adverbial *as* or *so* ⟨as cool ~ a cucumber⟩ **3** : in the way or manner that ⟨do ~ I do⟩ **4** : in accordance with what or the way in which ⟨quite good ~ boys go⟩ **5** : WHILE, WHEN ⟨spilled the milk ~ she got up⟩ **6** : regardless of the degree to which : THOUGH ⟨improbable ~ it seems, it's true⟩ **7** : for the reason that ⟨stayed home ~ she had no car⟩ **8** : that the result is : THAT ⟨so clearly guilty ~ to leave no doubt⟩ — **as is** : in the presently existing condition without modification ⟨bought the clock at an auction *as is*⟩ — **as it were** : as if it were so : in a manner of speaking
[3]as *pron* **1** : THAT, WHO, WHICH — used after *same* or *such* ⟨in the same building ~ my brother⟩ ⟨tears such ~ angels weep — John Milton⟩ and chiefly dial. after a substantive not modified by *same* or *such* ⟨that kind of fruit ~ maids call medlars — Shak.⟩ **2** : a fact that ⟨is a foreigner, ~ is evident from his accent⟩
[4]as *prep* **1 a** : LIKE 2 ⟨all rose ~ one man⟩ **b** : LIKE 1a ⟨his face was ~ a mask — Max Beerbohm⟩ **2** : in the capacity, character, condition, or role of ⟨works ~ an editor⟩
[5]as \'as\ *n, pl* **as·ses** \'as-ˌēz, 'as-əz [L] **1** : LIBRA 2a **2 a** : a bronze coin of the ancient Roman republic **b** : a unit of value equivalent to an as coin
[1]As *abbr* altostratus
[2]As *symbol* arsenic
AS *abbr* **1** after sight **2** airspeed **3** Anglo-Saxon **4** antisubmarine
as- — see AD-
ASA *abbr* **1** American Society of Appraisers **2** American Statistical Association
asa·fet·i·da *or* **asa·foe·ti·da** \ˌas-ə-'fit-əd-ē, -'fet-əd-ə\ *n* [ME *asafetida,* fr. ML *asafoetida,* fr. Per *azā* mastic + L *foetida,* fem. of *foetidus* fetid] : the fetid gum resin of various oriental plants (genus *Ferula*) of the carrot family formerly used in medicine as an antispasmodic and in folk medicine as a general prophylactic against disease
Asarh \'ä-ˌsär, ä-'sär\ *n* [Hindi *Asāṛh,* fr. Skt *Āṣāḍha*] : a month of the Hindu year — see MONTH table
asb *abbr* asbestos
as·bes·tos *also* **as·bes·tus** \as-'bes-təs, az-\ *n* [ME *albestron* mineral supposed to be inextinguishable when set on fire, prob. fr. MF, fr. ML *asbeston,* alter. of L *asbestos,* fr. Gk, unslaked lime, fr. *asbestos* inextinguishable, fr. *a-* + *sbennynai* to quench; akin to Lith *gesti* to be extinguished] : a mineral (as amphibole) that readily separates into long flexible fibers suitable for use as a noncombustible, nonconducting, or chemically resistant material
as·bes·to·sis \ˌas-ˌbes-'tō-səs, ˌaz-\ *n, pl* **-to·ses** \-ˌsēz\ : a pneumoconiosis due to asbestos particles
asc- *or* **asco-** *comb form* [NL, fr. *ascus*] : ascus ⟨*asco*carp⟩
ASCAP \'as-ˌkap\ *abbr* American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers
as·ca·ri·a·sis \ˌas-kə-'rī-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-a·ses** \-ˌsēz\ : infestation with or disease caused by ascarids
as·ca·rid \'as-kə-rəd\ *n* [deriv. of LL *ascarid-, ascaris* intestinal worm, fr. Gk *askarid-, askaris;* akin to Gk *skairein* to gambol — more at CARDINAL] : a nematode worm of a family (Ascaridae) including the common roundworm (*Ascaris lumbricoides*) parasitic in the human intestine
as·ca·ris \'as-kə-rəs\ *n, pl* **as·car·i·des** \as-'kar-ə-ˌdēz\ [LL] : ASCARID
ASCE *abbr* American Society of Civil Engineers
as·cend \ə-'send\ *vb* [ME *ascenden,* fr. L *ascendere,* fr. *ad-* + *scandere* to climb — more at SCAN] *vi* **1 a** : to move gradually upward **b** : to slope upward **2 a** : to rise from a lower level or degree **b** : to go back in time or in order of genealogical succession ~ *vt* **1** : to go or move up or toward **2** : to succeed to : OCCUPY — **as·cend·able** *or* **as·cend·ible** \-'sen-də-bəl\ *adj*
syn ASCEND, MOUNT, CLIMB, SCALE *shared meaning element* : to move upward to or toward a summit ***ant*** descend
as·cen·dance *also* **as·cen·dence** \ə-'sen-dən(t)s\ *n* : ASCENDANCY
as·cen·dan·cy *also* **as·cen·den·cy** \ə-'sen-dən-sē\ *n* : governing or controlling influence : DOMINATION ***syn*** see SUPREMACY
[1]as·cen·dant *also* **as·cen·dent** \ə-'sen-dənt\ *n* [ME *ascendent,* fr. ML *ascendent-, ascendens,* fr. L, prp. of *ascendere*] **1** : the point of the ecliptic or degree of the zodiac that rises above the eastern horizon at any moment **2** : a state or position of dominant power or importance ⟨his ideas are now in the ~⟩ **3** : a lineal or collateral relative in the ascending line
[2]ascendant *also* **ascendent** *adj* **1 a** : moving upward : RISING **b** : directed upward ⟨an ~ stem⟩ **2 a** : SUPERIOR **b** : DOMINANT — **as·cen·dant·ly** *adv*
as·cend·er \ə-'sen-dər, 'a-\ *n* : the part of a lowercase letter (as b) that rises above the main body of the letter; *also* : a letter that has such a part
as·cend·ing \ə-'sen-diŋ\ *adj* **1 a** : mounting or sloping upward **b** : rising to a higher level or degree **2** : rising upward usu. from a more or less prostrate base or point of attachment
ascending rhythm *n* : RISING RHYTHM
as·cen·sion \ə-'sen-chən\ *n* [ME, fr. L *ascension-, ascensio,* fr. *ascensus,* pp. of *ascendere*] : the act or process of ascending
as·cen·sion·al \ə-'sench-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* : of or relating to ascension or ascent
Ascension Day *n* : the Thursday 40 days after Easter observed in commemoration of Christ's ascension into Heaven
as·cen·sive \ə-'sen(t)-siv\ *adj* : rising or tending to rise
as·cent \ə-'sent\ *n* [irreg. fr. *ascend*] **1 a** : the act of rising or mounting upward : CLIMB **b** : an upward slope or rising grade : ACCLIVITY **c** : the degree of elevation : INCLINATION, GRADIENT **2** : an advance in social status or reputation : PROGRESS **3** : a going back in time or upward in order of genealogical succession
as·cer·tain \ˌas-ər-'tān\ *vt* [ME *acertainen,* fr. MF *acertainer,* fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *certain*] **1** *archaic* : to make certain, exact, or precise **2** : to find out or learn with certainty ***syn*** see DISCOVER — **as·cer·tain·able** \-'tā-nə-bəl\ *adj* — **as·cer·tain·ment** \-'tān-mənt\ *n*
as·ce·sis \ə-'sē-səs\ *n, pl* **-ce·ses** \-'sē-(ˌ)sēz\ [LL or Gk; LL, fr. Gk *askēsis,* lit., exercise, fr. *askein*] : SELF-DISCIPLINE, ASCETICISM
as·cet·ic \ə-'set-ik\ *also* **as·cet·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* [Gk *askētikos,* lit., laborious, fr. *askētēs* one that exercises, hermit, fr. *askein* to work, exercise] **1** : practicing strict self-denial as a measure of personal and esp. spiritual discipline **2** : austere in appearance, manner, or attitude ***syn*** see SEVERE ***ant*** luxurious, voluptuous — **ascetic** *n* — **as·cet·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **as·cet·i·cism** \-'set-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n*
as·cid·i·an \ə-'sid-ē-ən\ *n* : any of an order (Ascidiacea) of simple or compound tunicates; *broadly* : TUNICATE
as·cid·i·um \ə-'sid-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-cid·ia** \-ē-ə\ [NL, fr. Gk *askidion,* dim. of *askos* wineskin, bladder] : a pitcher-shaped or flask-shaped organ or appendage of a plant
as·ci·tes \ə-'sīt-ēz\ *n, pl* **ascites** [ME *aschytes,* fr. LL *ascites,* fr. Gk *askitēs,* fr. *askos*] : accumulation of serous fluid in the abdomen — **as·cit·ic** \-'sit-ik\ *adj*
as·cle·pi·ad \ə-'sklē-pē-əd, a-, -ˌad\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *asklēpiad-, asklēpias* swallowwort] : MILKWEED
as·co·carp \'as-kə-ˌkärp\ *n* : the mature fruiting body of an ascomycetous fungus; *broadly* : such a body with its enclosed asci, spores, and paraphyses — **as·co·car·pous** \ˌas-kə-'kär-pəs\ *adj*
as·co·go·ni·um \ˌas-kə-'gō-nē-əm\ *n, pl* **-nia** \-nē-ə\ [NL, fr. *asc-* + Gk *gonos* procreation — more at GON-] : the fertile basal often one-celled portion of an archicarp; *broadly* : ARCHICARP
as·co·my·cete \ˌas-kō-'mī-ˌsēt, -ˌmī-'sēt\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *askos* + *mykēt-, mykēs* fungus; akin to L *mucus*] : any of a class (As-

comycetes) of higher fungi (as yeasts or molds) with septate hyphae and spores formed in asci — **as·co·my·ce·tous** \-ˌmī-'sēt-əs\ *adj*

ascor·bate \ə-'skȯr-ˌbāt, -bət\ *n* : a salt of ascorbic acid

ascor·bic acid \ə-ˌskȯr-bik-\ *n* [*a-* + NL *scorbutus* scurvy — more at SCORBUTIC] : VITAMIN C

as·co·spore \'as-kə-ˌspō(ə)r, -ˌspȯ(ə)r\ *n* : one of the spores contained in an ascus — **as·co·spor·ic** \ˌas-kə-'spōr-ik, -'spȯr-\ *or* **as·co·spo·rous** \-'spōr-əs, -'spȯr-; a-'skäs-pə-rəs\ *adj*

as·cot \'as-kət, -ˌkät\ *n* [*Ascot* Heath, racetrack near Ascot, England] : a broad neck scarf that is looped under the chin

as·cribe \ə-'skrīb\ *vt* **as·cribed; as·crib·ing** [ME *ascriven*, fr. MF *ascrivre*, fr. L *ascribere*, fr. *ad-* + *scribere* to write — more at SCRIBE] : to refer to a supposed cause, source, or author — **as·crib·able** \-'skrī-bə-bəl\ *adj*

syn ASCRIBE, ATTRIBUTE, ASSIGN, IMPUTE, REFER, CREDIT *shared meaning element* : to lay something to the account of a person or thing

as·crip·tion \ə-'skrip-shən\ *n* [LL *ascription-*, *ascriptio*, fr. L, written addition, fr. *ascriptus*, pp. of *ascribere*] : the act of ascribing : ATTRIBUTION

as·crip·tive \-'skrip-tiv\ *adj* : relating to or involving ascription

ASCU *abbr* Association of State Colleges and Universities

as·cus \'as-kəs\ *n, pl* **as·ci** \'as-ˌ(k)ī, -ˌkē\ [NL, fr. Gk *askos* wineskin, bladder] : the membranous oval or tubular spore sac of an ascomycete

as·dic \'az-(ˌ)dik\ *n* [*A*nti-*S*ubmarine *D*etection *I*nvestigation *C*ommittee] : SONAR

ASE *abbr* American Stock Exchange

-ase \ˌās, -ˌāz\ *n suffix* [F, fr. *diastase*] : enzyme ⟨prote*ase*⟩

asep·sis \(ˈ)ā-'sep-səs, ə-\ *n* [NL] **1** : the condition of being aseptic **2** : the methods of making or keeping aseptic

asep·tic \-'sep-tik\ *adj* [ISV] **1 a** : preventing infection ⟨~ techniques⟩ **b** : free or freed from pathogenic microorganisms ⟨an ~ operating room⟩ **2 a** : lacking vitality, emotion, or warmth ⟨~ essays⟩ **b** : DETACHED, OBJECTIVE ⟨an ~ view of civilization⟩ **c** : having a cleansing or purifying effect — **asep·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

asex·u·al \(ˈ)ā-'seksh-(ə-)wəl, -'sek-shəl\ *adj* **1** : lacking sex or functional sexual organs **2** : produced without sexual action or differentiation — **asex·u·al·ly** \-seksh-(ə-)wə-lē, -(ə-)lē\ *adv*

asexual generation *n* : a generation that reproduces only by asexual processes — used of organisms exhibiting alternation of generations

asexual reproduction *n* : reproduction (as cell division, spore formation, fission, or budding) without union of individuals or germ cells

as for *prep* : with regard to : CONCERNING ⟨*as for* the others, they'll arrive later⟩

asg *abbr* assigned; assignment

As·gard \'as-ˌgärd, 'az-\ *n* [ON *āsgarthr*] : the home of the Norse gods

asgd *abbr* assigned

asgmt *abbr* assignment

[1]ash \'ash\ *n* [ME *asshe*, fr. OE *æsc*; akin to OHG *ask* ash, L *ornus* wild mountain ash] **1** : any of a genus (*Fraxinus*) of trees of the olive family with pinnate leaves, thin furrowed bark, and gray branchlets **2** : the tough elastic wood of an ash **3** [OE *æsc*, name of the corresponding runic letter] : the ligature *æ* used in Old English to represent a low front vowel

[2]ash *n, often attrib* [ME *asshe*, fr. OE *asce*; akin to OHG *asca* ash, L *aridus* dry — more at ARDOR] **1 a** : the solid residue left when combustible material is thoroughly burned or is oxidized by chemical means **b** : fine particles of mineral matter from a volcanic vent **2** *pl* : RUINS **3** *pl* : the remains of the dead human body after cremation or disintegration **4** : something that symbolizes grief, repentance, or humiliation **5** *pl* : deathly pallor — **ash·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

[3]ash *vt* : to convert into ash

ashamed \ə-'shāmd\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *āscamod*, pp. of *āscamian* to shame, fr. *ā-* (perfective prefix) + *scamian* to shame — more at ABIDE, SHAME] **1 a** : feeling shame, guilt, or disgrace **b** : feeling inferior or unworthy **2** : restrained by anticipation of shame ⟨was ~ to beg⟩ — **asham·ed·ly** \-'shā-məd-lē\ *adv*

Ashan·ti \ə-'shant-ē, -'shänt-\ *n, pl* **Ashanti** *or* **Ashantis** [Ashanti *A[1]san[3]te[1]*] **1** : a West African people of Ghana **2** : the dialect of Akan spoken by the Ashanti people

ash·can \'ash-ˌkan\ *adj, often cap* : of or relating to a group of 20th century American painters who depicted city life realistically ⟨~ school⟩

ash can *n* **1** : a metal receptacle for refuse **2** *slang* : DEPTH CHARGE

[1]ash·en \'ash-ən\ *adj* : of, relating to, or made from the wood of the ash tree

[2]ashen *adj* **1** : consisting of or resembling ashes **2** : of the color of ashes **3** : deadly pale : BLANCHED ⟨his face was ~ with fear⟩

Ash·er \'ash-ər\ *n* [Heb *Āshēr*] : a son of Jacob and the traditional eponymous ancestor of one of the tribes of Israel

Ash·ke·nazi \ˌash-kə-'naz-ē\ *n, pl* **-naz·im** \-'naz-əm\ [Heb *Ashkĕnāzī*] : a member of one of the two great divisions of Jews comprising the eastern European Yiddish-speaking Jews — **Ash·ke·naz·ic** \-'naz-ik\ *adj*

ash·lar \'ash-lər\ *n* [ME *asheler*, fr. MF *aisselier* traverse beam, fr. OF, fr. *ais* board, fr. L *axis*, alter. of *assis*] **1** : hewn or squared stone; *also* : masonry of such stone **2** : a thin squared and dressed stone for facing a wall of rubble or brick

ashore \ə-'shō(ə)r, -'shȯ(ə)r\ *adv* : on or to the shore

ash·ram \'äsh-rəm\ *n* [Skt *āśrama*, fr. *ā* toward + *śrama* religious exercise] **1 a** : a secluded dwelling of a Hindu sage **b** : the group of disciples instructed there **2** : a religious retreat

Ash·to·reth \'ash-tə-ˌreth\ *n* [Heb *'Ashtōreth*] : ASTARTE

ash·tray \'ash-ˌtrā\ *n* : a receptacle for tobacco ashes and for cigar and cigarette butts

Ashur \'ä-ˌshu̇(ə)r\ *n* [Assyrian *Ashūr*] : the chief deity of the Assyrian pantheon

Ash Wednesday *n* : the first day of Lent

ashy \'ash-ē\ *adj* **ash·i·er; -est** **1** : of or relating to ashes **2** : deadly pale

ASI *abbr* airspeed indicator

Asian \'ā-zhən, -shən\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of the continent of Asia or its people — **Asian** *n*

Asian influenza *n* : influenza caused by a mutant strain of the influenza virus

Asi·at·ic \ˌā-z(h)ē-'at-ik\ *adj* : ASIAN — sometimes taken to be offensive — **Asiatic** *n*

Asiatic cholera *n* : an acute infectious epidemic cholera of Asiatic origin caused by a bacterium (*Vibrio comma*)

[1]aside \ə-'sīd\ *adv* **1** : to or toward the side ⟨stepped ~⟩ **2** : out of the way : AWAY **3** : set to one side ⟨jesting ~⟩

[2]aside *prep, obs* : BEYOND, PAST

[3]aside *n* **1** : an utterance meant to be inaudible to someone; *esp* : an actor's speech heard by the audience but supposedly not by other characters on stage **2** : a straying from the theme : DIGRESSION

aside from *prep* **1** : in addition to : BESIDES **2** : except for

as if *conj* **1** : as it would be if ⟨it was *as if* he had lost his last friend⟩ **2** : as one would do if ⟨he ran *as if* ghosts were chasing him⟩ **3** : THAT ⟨it seemed *as if* the day would never end⟩

Asin \'äs-(ˌ)in\ *n* [Hindi *Āsin*, fr. Skt *Āśvina*] : a month of the Hindu year — see MONTH table

as·i·nine \'as-ᵊn-ˌīn\ *adj* [L *asininus*, fr. *asinus* ass] **1** : of, relating to, or resembling an ass **2** : marked by inexcusable failure to exercise intelligence or sound judgment ⟨an ~ excuse⟩ ***syn*** see SIMPLE ***ant*** sensible, judicious — **as·i·nine·ly** *adv* — **as·i·nin·i·ty** \ˌas-ᵊn-'in-ət-ē\ *n*

ask \'ask, 'äsk\ *vb* **asked** \'as(k)t, 'äs(k)t\; **ask·ing** [ME *asken*, fr. OE *āscian*; akin to OHG *eiscōn* to ask, L *aeruscare* to beg] *vt* **1 a** : to call on for an answer **b** : to put a question about **c** : SPEAK, UTTER ⟨~ a question⟩ **2 a** : to make a request of ⟨she ~*ed* her teacher for help⟩ **b** : to make a request for ⟨she ~*ed* help from her teacher⟩ **3** : to call for : REQUIRE **4** : to set as a price ⟨~*ed* $3000 for the car⟩ **5** : INVITE ~ *vi* **1** : to seek information **2** : to make a request ⟨~*ed* for food⟩ **3** : LOOK — often used in the phrase *ask for trouble* — **ask·er** *n*

syn **1** ASK, QUESTION, INTERROGATE, QUERY, INQUIRE *shared meaning element* : to address a person in an attempt to elicit information

2 ASK, REQUEST, SOLICIT *shared meaning element* : to seek to obtain by making one's wants known

askance \ə-'skan(t)s\ *also* **askant** \-'skant\ *adv* [origin unknown] **1** : with a side glance : OBLIQUELY **2** : with disapproval or distrust : SCORNFULLY

as·ke·sis \ə-'skē-səs\ *var of* ASCESIS

askew \ə-'skyü\ *adv or adj* [prob. fr. *a-* + *skew*] : out of line : AWRY ⟨the picture hung ~⟩ — **askew·ness** *n*

ASLA *abbr* American Society of Landscape Architects

[1]aslant \ə-'slant\ *adv or adj* : in a slanting direction : OBLIQUELY

[2]aslant *prep* : over or across in a slanting direction

[1]asleep \ə-'slēp\ *adj* **1** : being in a state of sleep **2** : DEAD **3** : lacking sensation : NUMB **4 a** : INACTIVE, SLUGGISH **b** : not alert : INDIFFERENT

[2]asleep *adv* **1** : into a state of sleep **2** : into the sleep of death **3** : into a state of inactivity, sluggishness, or indifference

as long as *conj* **1** : provided that ⟨can do as they like *as long as* they have a B average⟩ **2** : inasmuch as : SINCE ⟨*as long as* you're going, I'll go too⟩

aslope \ə-'slōp\ *adj or adv* : being in a sloping or slanting position or direction

ASME *abbr* American Society of Mechanical Engineers

aso·cial \(ˈ)ā-'sō-shəl\ *adj* : not social: as **a** : rejecting or lacking the capacity for social interaction ⟨an ~ or reclusive attitude — A. T. Weaver⟩ **b** : ANTISOCIAL ***syn*** see UNSOCIAL ***ant*** social

as of *prep* : ON, AT, FROM ⟨takes effect *as of* July 1⟩

[1]asp \'asp\ *n* [ME] : ASPEN

[2]asp *n* [ME *aspis*, fr. L, fr. Gk] : a small venomous snake of Egypt variously identified as the cerastes or a small African cobra (*Naja haje*)

as·par·a·gine \ə-'spar-ə-ˌjēn\ *n* [F, fr. L *asparagus*] : a white crystalline amino acid $C_4H_8N_2O_3$ that is an amide of aspartic acid and serves as a storage depot for amino groups in many plants

as·par·a·gus \ə-'spar-ə-gəs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, asparagus plant, fr. Gk *asparagos*; akin to Gk *spargan* to swell — more at SPARK] : any of a genus (*Asparagus*) of Old World perennial plants of the lily family having much-branched stems, minute scalelike leaves, and linear cladophylls; *esp* : one (*A. officinalis*) widely cultivated for its edible young shoots

as·par·tate \ə-'spär-ˌtāt\ *n* : a salt or ester of aspartic acid

as·par·tic acid \ə-ˌspärt-ik-\ *n* [ISV, irreg. fr. L *asparagus*] : a crystalline amino acid $C_4H_7NO_4$ found esp. in plants

as·par·to·ki·nase \ə-ˌspärt-ō-'kī-ˌnās, -ˌnāz\ *n* [*aspart*ic acid + *-o-* + *kinase*] : an enzyme that catalyzes the phosphorylation of aspartic acid by ATP

as·pect \'as-ˌpekt\ *n* [ME, fr. L *aspectus*, fr. *aspectus*, pp. of *aspicere* to look at, fr. *ad-* + *specere* to look — more at SPY] **1 a** : the position of planets or stars with respect to one another held by astrologers to influence human affairs; *also* : the apparent position (as conjunction) of a body in the solar system with respect to the sun **b** : a position facing a particular direction : EXPOSURE **c** : the manner of presentation of a plane to a fluid through which it

is moving or to a current **2 a** (1) : appearance to the eye or mind (2) : a particular appearance of countenance: MIEN ⟨a man surly in ~⟩ **b** : a particular status or phase in which something appears or may be regarded ⟨studied every ~ of the question⟩ **3** *archaic* : an act of looking : GAZE **4 a** : the nature of the action of a verb as to its beginning, duration, completion, or repetition and without reference to its position in time **b** : a set of inflected verb forms that indicate aspect ***syn*** see PHASE — **as·pec·tu·al** \a-'spek-chə(-wə)l\ *adj*

aspect ratio *n* : a ratio of one dimension to another: as **a** : the ratio or span to mean chord of an airfoil **b** : the ratio of the width of a television or motion-picture image to its height

as·pen \'as-pən\ *n* [alter of ME *asp*, fr. OE *æspe;* akin to OHG *aspa* aspen, Latvian *apsa*] : any of several poplars (esp. *Populus tremula* of Europe and *P. tremuloides* and *P. grandidentata* of No. America) with leaves that flutter in the lightest wind because of their flattened petioles — **aspen** *adj*

as·per·ges \ə-'spər-(,)jēz\ *n* [L, thou wilt sprinkle, fr. *aspergere*] : a ceremony of sprinkling altar, clergy, and people with holy water

as·per·gil·lo·sis \,as-pər-(,)jil-'ō-səs\ *n, pl* **-lo·ses** \-,sēz\ : infection with or disease caused (as in poultry) by molds (genus *Aspergillus*)

as·per·gil·lum \,as-pər-'jil-əm\ *n, pl* **-la** \-ə\ *or* **-lums** [NL, fr. L *aspergere*] : a brush or small perforated container with a handle that is used for sprinkling holy water in a liturgical service

as·per·gil·lus \-'jil-əs\ *n, pl* **-gil·li** \-'jil-,ī\ [NL, genus name, fr. *aspergillum*] : any of a genus (*Aspergillus*) of ascomycetous fungi with branched radiate sporophores including many common molds

as·per·i·ty \a-'sper-ət-ē, ə-\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *asprete*, fr. OF *aspreté*, fr. *aspre* rough, fr. L *asper*] **1** : RIGOR, SEVERITY **2 a** : roughness of surface : UNEVENNESS **b** : roughness of sound **3** : roughness of manner or of temper : HARSHNESS ***syn*** see ACRIMONY ***ant*** amenity

as·perse \ə-'spərs, a-\ *vt* **as·persed; as·pers·ing** [L *aspersus*, pp. of *aspergere*, fr. *ad-* + *spargere* to scatter — more at SPARK] **1** : SPRINKLE; *esp* : to sprinkle with holy water **2** : to attack with evil reports or false or injurious charges ***syn*** see MALIGN

as·per·sion \ə-'spər-zhən, -shən\ *n* **1** : a sprinkling with water esp. in religious ceremonies **2 a** : the act of calumniating : DEFAMATION **b** : a calumnious expression ⟨he cast ~*s* on her integrity⟩ ***syn*** see ANIMADVERSION

as·phalt \'as-,fȯlt\ *or* **as·phal·tum** \as-'fȯl-təm\ *n* [ME *aspalt*, fr. LL *aspaltus*, fr. Gk *asphaltos*] **1** : a brown to black bituminous substance that is found in natural beds and is also obtained as a residue in petroleum refining and that consists chiefly of hydrocarbons **2** : an asphaltic composition used for pavements and as a waterproof cement — **as·phal·tic** \as-'fȯl-tik\ *adj*

as·phalt·ite \'as-,fȯl-,tīt\ *n* : a native asphalt occurring in vein deposits below the surface of the ground

asphalt jungle *n* : a big city or a specified part of a big city

aspher·ic \(')ā-'sfi(ə)r-ik, -'sfer-\ *or* **aspher·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** : departing slightly from the spherical form ⟨~ optical surface⟩ **2** : free from spherical aberration ⟨an ~ lens⟩

as·pho·del \'as-fə-,del\ *n* [L *asphodelus*, fr. Gk *asphodelos*] : any of various Old World usu. perennial herbs (esp. genera *Asphodelus* and *Asphodeline*) of the lily family with flowers in long erect racemes

as·phyx·ia \as-'fik-sē-ə, əs-\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk, stopping of the pulse, fr. *a-* + *sphyzein* to throb] : a lack of oxygen or excess of carbon dioxide in the body that is usu. caused by interruption of breathing and that causes unconsciousness

as·phyx·i·ate \-sē-,āt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** *vt* : to cause asphyxia in; *also* : to kill or make unconscious through want of adequate oxygen, presence of noxious agents, or other obstruction to normal breathing ~ *vi* : to become asphyxiated — **as·phyx·i·a·tion** \-,fik-sē-'ā-shən\ *n* — **as·phyx·i·a·tor** \-'fik-sē-,āt-ər\ *n*

[1]as·pic \'as-pik\ *n* [MF, alter. of *aspe*, fr. L *aspis*] *obs* : [2]ASP

[2]aspic *n* [F, lit., asp] : a savory jelly (as of fish or meat stock) used cold to garnish meat or fish or to make a mold of meat, fish, or vegetables

as·pi·dis·tra \,as-pə-'dis-trə\ *n* [NL, irreg. fr. Gk *aspid-*, *aspis* shield] : an Asiatic plant (*Aspidistra lurida*) of the lily family that has large basal leaves and is often grown as a foliage plant

[1]as·pi·rant \'as-p(ə-)rənt, ə-'spī-rənt\ *n* : one who aspires ⟨presidential ~*s*⟩

[2]aspirant *adj* : seeking to attain a desired position or status

[1]as·pi·rate \'as-pə-,rāt\ *vt* **-rat·ed; -rat·ing** [L *aspiratus*, pp. of *aspirare*] **1** : to pronounce (a vowel, a consonant, or a word) with an accompanying *h*-sound **2 a** : to draw by suction **b** : to remove (as blood) by aspiration

[2]as·pi·rate \'as-p(ə-)rət\ *n* **1** : an independent sound \h\ or a character (as the letter *h*) representing it **2** : a consonant having aspiration as its final component ⟨in English the *p* of *pit* represents an ~⟩ **3** : material removed by aspiration

as·pi·ra·tion \,as-pə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : the pronunciation or addition of an aspirate; *also* : the aspirate or its symbol **2** : a drawing of something in, out, up, or through by or as if by suction: as **a** : the act of breathing and esp. of breathing in **b** : the withdrawal of fluid from the body **c** : the taking of foreign matter into the lungs with the respiratory current **3 a** : a strong desire to achieve something high or great **b** : an object of such desire ***syn*** see AMBITION

as·pi·ra·tor \'as-pə-,rāt-ər\ *n* : an apparatus for producing suction or moving or collecting materials by suction; *esp* : a hollow tubular instrument connected with a partial vacuum and used to remove fluid or tissue or foreign bodies from the body

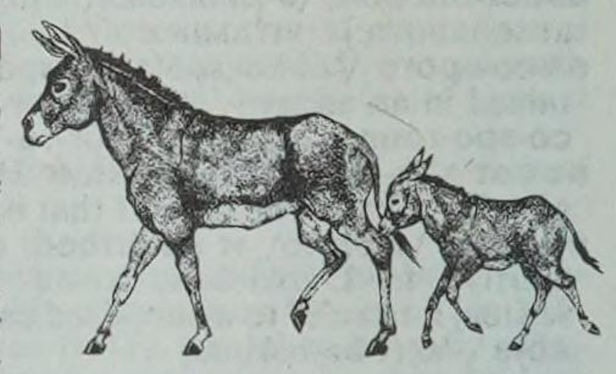
as·pire \ə-'spī(ə)r\ *vi* **as·pired; as·pir·ing** [ME *aspiren*, fr. MF or L; MF *aspirer*, fr. L *aspirare*, lit., to breathe upon, fr. *ad-* + *spirare* to breathe — more at SPIRIT] **1** : to seek to attain or accomplish a particular goal ⟨*aspired* to a career in medicine⟩ **2** : ASCEND, SOAR — **as·pir·er** *n*

as·pi·rin \'as-p(ə-)rən\ *n, pl* **aspirin** *or* **aspirins** [ISV, fr. *ac*etyl + *spir*aeic acid (former name of salicylic acid), fr. NL *Spiraea*, genus of shrubs — more at SPIREA] **1** : a white crystalline derivative $C_9H_8O_4$ of salicylic acid used for relief of pain and fever **2** : a tablet of aspirin

ASR *abbr* **1** airport surveillance radar **2** air-sea rescue

as regards *or* **as respects** *prep* : in regard to : with respect to

[1]ass \'as\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *assa*, perh. fr. OIr *asan*, fr. L *asinus*] **1** : any of several hardy gregarious mammals (genus *Equus*) that are smaller than the horse, have long ears, and include the donkey **2** : a stupid, obstinate, or perverse person



asses 1

[2]ass \'as\ *or* **arse** \'as, 'ärs\ *n* [ME *ars, ers*, fr. OE *ærs, eears;* akin to OHG & ON *ars* buttocks, Gk *orrhos*, Arm *or*, Hitt *arraš*, OIr *err* tail] **1 a** : BUTTOCKS — often considered vulgar **b** : ANUS — often considered vulgar **2** : SEXUAL INTERCOURSE — usu. considered vulgar

as·sa·fet·i·da *or* **as·sa·foe·ti·da** *var of* ASAFETIDA

as·sai \ä-'sī\ *adv* [It, fr. (assumed) VL *ad satis* enough — more at ASSET] : VERY — used with tempo direction in music ⟨allegro ~⟩

as·sail \ə-'sā(ə)l\ *vt* [ME *assailen*, fr. OF *asaillir*, fr. (assumed) VL *assalire*, alter. of L *assilire* to leap upon, fr. *ad-* + *salire* to leap — more at SALLY] : to attack violently with blows or words ***syn*** see ATTACK — **as·sail·able** \-'sā-lə-bəl\ *adj* — **as·sail·ant** \-'sā-lənt\ *n*

As·sam·ese \,as-ə-'mēz, -'mēs\ *n, pl* **Assamese** **1** : a native or inhabitant of Assam, India **2** : the Indic language of Assam

as·sas·sin \ə-'sas-ᵊn\ *n* [ML *assassinus*, fr. Ar *ḥashshāshīn*, pl. of *ḥashshāsh* one who smokes or chews hashish] **1** *cap* : one of a secret order of Muslims that at the time of the Crusades terrorized Christians and other enemies by secret murder committed under the influence of hashish **2** : MURDERER; *esp* : one that murders a politically important person either for hire or from fanatical motives

as·sas·si·nate \ə-'sas-ᵊn-,āt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** **1** : to murder by sudden or secret attack usu. for impersonal reasons ⟨~ a senator⟩ **2** : to injure or destroy unexpectedly and treacherously ***syn*** see KILL — **as·sas·si·na·tion** \-,sas-ᵊn-'ā-shən\ *n* — **as·sas·si·na·tor** \-'sas-ᵊn-,āt-ər\ *n*

assassin bug *n* : any of a family (Reduviidae) of bugs that are usu. predatory on insects though some suck the blood of mammals : CONENOSE

[1]as·sault \ə-'sȯlt\ *n* [ME *assaut*, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *assaltus*, fr. *assaltus*, pp. of *assalire*] **1** : a violent physical or verbal attack **2 a** : an apparently violent attempt or a willful offer with force or violence to do hurt to another without the actual doing of the hurt threatened (as by lifting the fist in a threatening manner) — compare BATTERY 1b **b** : RAPE

[2]assault *vt* **1** : to make an assault on **2** : RAPE ~ *vi* : to make an assault ***syn*** see ATTACK — **as·sault·er** *n* — **as·saul·tive** \-'sȯl-tiv\ *adj* — **as·saul·tive·ly** *adv* — **as·saul·tive·ness** *n*

assault boat *n* : a small portable boat used in an amphibious military attack or in land warfare for crossing rivers or lakes

[1]as·say \'as-,ā, a-'sā\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *essai, assai* test, effort — more at ESSAY] **1** *archaic* : TRIAL, ATTEMPT **2** : examination and determination as to characteristics (as weight, measure, or quality) **3** : analysis (as of an ore or drug) to determine the presence, absence, or quantity of one or more components **4** : a substance to be assayed; *also* : the tabulated result of assaying

[2]as·say \a-'sā, 'as-,ā\ *vt* **1** : TRY, ATTEMPT **2 a** : to analyze (as an ore) for one or more valuable components **b** : to judge the worth of : ESTIMATE ~ *vi* : to prove up in an assay — **as·say·er** *n*

as·se·gai *or* **as·sa·gai** \'as-i-,gī\ *n* [deriv. of Ar *az-zaghāya* the assegai, fr. *al-* the + *zaghāya* assegai] : a slender hardwood spear or light javelin usu. tipped with iron and used in southern Africa

as·sem·blage \ə-'sem-blij, *for 3 also* ,as-,äm-'bläzh\ *n* **1** : a collection of persons or things : GATHERING **2** : the act of assembling : the state of being assembled **3 a** : an artistic composition made from scraps, junk, and odds and ends (as of paper, cloth, wood, stone, or metal) **b** : the art of making assemblages

as·sem·blag·ist \-blij-əst, -'bläzh-əst\ *n* : an artist who specializes in assemblages

as·sem·ble \ə-'sem-bəl\ *vb* **as·sem·bled; as·sem·bling** \-b(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *assemblen*, fr. OF *assembler*, fr. (assumed) VL *assimulare*, fr. L *ad-* + *simul* together — more at SAME] *vt* **1** : to bring together (as in a particular place or for a particular purpose) **2** : to fit together the parts of ~ *vi* : to meet together : CONVENE ***syn*** see GATHER

as·sem·bler \-b(ə-)lər\ *n* **1** : one that assembles **2** : a computer program that automatically converts instructions written in a symbolic code into the equivalent machine code

as·sem·bly \ə-'sem-blē\ *n, pl* **-blies** [ME *assemblee*, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *assembler*] **1** : a company of persons gathered for deliberation and legislation, worship, or entertainment **2** *cap* : a legislative body; *specif* : the lower house of a legislature **3** : ASSEMBLAGE 1, 2 **4** : a signal given by drum, bugle, trumpet, or all field music for troops to assemble or fall in **5 a** : the fitting together of manufactured parts into a complete machine, structure, or unit of a machine **b** : a collection of parts so assembled **6** : the translation of symbolic code to machine code by an assembler

assembly language *n* : a symbolic language for programming a computer that is a close approximation of machine language

assembly line *n* **1** : an arrangement of machines, equipment, and workers in which work passes from operation to operation in direct line until the product is assembled **2** : a process for turning out a finished product in a mechanically efficient manner ⟨academic *assembly lines*⟩

as·sem·bly·man \ə-'sem-blē-mən\ *n* : a member of an assembly

Assembly of God : a congregation belonging to a Pentecostal body founded in the U.S. in 1914

as·sem·bly·wom·an \-,wům-ən\ *n* : a female member of an assembly

[1]as·sent \ə-'sent\ *vi* [ME *assenten*, fr. OF *assenter*, fr. L *assentari*, fr. *assentire*, fr. *ad-* + *sentire* to feel — more at SENSE] : to agree to something esp. after thoughtful consideration : CONCUR — **as·sen·tor** *or* **as·sent·er** \-'sent-ər\ *n*
syn ASSENT, CONSENT, ACCEDE, ACQUIESCE, AGREE, SUBSCRIBE *shared meaning element* : to concur with what has been proposed ***ant*** dissent

[2]assent *n* : an act of assenting : ACQUIESCENCE, AGREEMENT

as·sen·ta·tion \ˌas-ᵊn-'tā-shən, ˌas-ˌen-\ *n* : ready assent esp. when insincere or obsequious

as·sert \ə-'sərt\ *vt* [L *assertus*, pp. of *asserere*, fr. *ad-* + *serere* to join — more at SERIES] **1** : to state or declare positively and often forcefully or aggressively **2 a** : to demonstrate the existence of ⟨~ his manhood —James Joyce⟩ **b** : POSIT, POSTULATE
syn **1** ASSERT, DECLARE, AFFIRM, PROTEST, AVOW *shared meaning element* : to state or put forward positively usu. in anticipation of or in the face of denial or objection ***ant*** deny, controvert
2 see MAINTAIN
— **assert oneself** : to compel recognition esp. of one's rights

as·ser·tion \ə-'sər-shən\ *n* : the act of asserting; *also* : DECLARATION, AFFIRMATION

as·ser·tive \ə-'sərt-iv\ *adj* : disposed to or characterized by bold or confident assertion ***syn*** see AGGRESSIVE ***ant*** retiring, acquiescent — **as·ser·tive·ly** *adv* — **as·ser·tive·ness** *n*

asses *pl of* AS *or of* ASS

as·sess \ə-'ses\ *vt* [ME *assessen*, prob. fr. ML *assessus*, pp. of *assidēre*, fr. L, to sit beside, assist in the office of a judge — more at ASSIZE] **1** : to determine the rate or amount of (as a tax) **2 a** : to impose (as a tax) according to an established rate **b** : to subject to a tax, charge, or levy **3** : to make an official valuation of (property) for the purposes of taxation **4** : to determine the importance, size, or value of ***syn*** see ESTIMATE — **as·sess·able** \-'ses-ə-bəl\ *adj*

as·sess·ment \ə-'ses-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act or an instance of assessing : APPRAISAL **2** : the amount assessed

as·ses·sor \ə-'ses-ər\ *n* **1** : an official who assists a judge or magistrate **2** : an official who assesses property for taxation

as·set \'as-ˌet\ *n* [back-formation fr. *assets*, sing., sufficient property to pay debts and legacies, fr. AF *asetz*, fr. OF *assez* enough, fr. (assumed) VL *ad satis*, fr. L *ad* to + *satis* enough — more at AT, SAD] **1** *pl* **a** : the property of a deceased person subject by law to the payment of his debts and legacies **b** : the entire property of all sorts of a person, association, corporation, or estate applicable or subject to the payment of his or its debts **2** : ADVANTAGE, RESOURCE ⟨his wit is his chief ~⟩ **3** *pl* : the items on a balance sheet showing the book value of property owned

as·sev·er·ate \ə-'sev-ə-ˌrāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *asseveratus*, pp. of *asseverare*, fr. *ad-* + *severus* severe] : to affirm or aver positively or earnestly — **as·sev·er·a·tion** \-ˌsev-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* — **as·sev·er·a·tive** \-'sev-ə-ˌrāt-iv\ *adj*

as·si·du·ity \ˌas-ə-'d(y)ü-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ities** **1** : the quality or state of being assiduous : DILIGENCE **2** : solicitous or obsequious attention to a person

as·sid·u·ous \ə-'sij-(ə-)wəs\ *adj* [L *assiduus*, fr. *assidēre*] : marked by careful unremitting attention or persistent application ⟨~ patrons of the opera⟩ ***syn*** see BUSY ***ant*** desultory — **as·sid·u·ous·ly** *adv* — **as·sid·u·ous·ness** *n*

[1]as·sign \ə-'sīn\ *vt* [ME *assignen*, fr. OF *assigner*, fr. L *assignare*, fr. *ad-* + *signare* to mark, fr. *signum* mark, sign] **1** : to transfer (property) to another esp. in trust or for the benefit of creditors **2 a** : to appoint to a post or duty **b** : PRESCRIBE ⟨~ the lesson⟩ **3** : to fix authoritatively : SPECIFY ⟨~ a limit⟩ **4** : to ascribe with assurance esp. as motive or reason ***syn*** see ALLOT, ASCRIBE — **as·sign·abil·i·ty** \-ˌsī-nə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **as·sign·able** \-'sī-nə-bəl\ *adj* — **as·sign·er** \ə-'sī-nər\ *or* **as·sign·or** \ˌas-ə-'nȯ(ə)r, ˌas-ˌī-, ə-ˌsī-\ *n*

[2]assign *n* : ASSIGNEE

as·si·gnat \ˌas-(ˌ)ēn-'yä, 'as-ig-ˌnat\ *n* [F, fr. L *assignatus*, pp. of *assignare*] : a bill issued as currency by the French Revolutionary government (1790–95) on the security of expropriated lands

as·sig·na·tion \ˌas-ig-'nā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of assigning or the assignment made; *esp* : ALLOTMENT **2** : TRYST ⟨returned from an ~ with his mistress —W. B. Yeats⟩ — **as·sig·na·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

assigned risk *n* : a poor risk (as an accident-prone motorist) that insurance companies would normally reject but are forced to insure by state law

as·sign·ee \ˌas-ə-'nē, ˌas-ˌī-, ə-ˌsī-\ *n* **1** : a person to whom an assignment is made **2** : a person appointed to act for another **3** : a person to whom a right or property is legally transferred

as·sign·ment \ə-'sīn-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of assigning **2 a** : a position, post, or office to which one is assigned **b** : a specified task or amount of work assigned or undertaken as if assigned by authority **3** : the transfer of property; *esp* : the transfer of property to be held in trust or to be used for the benefit of creditors ***syn*** see TASK

as·sim·i·la·ble \ə-'sim-ə-lə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being assimilated — **as·sim·i·la·bil·i·ty** \-ˌsim-ə-lə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*

[1]as·sim·i·late \ə-'sim-ə-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [ML *assimilatus*, pp. of *assimilare*, fr. L *assimulare* to make similar, fr. *ad-* + *simulare* to make similar, simulate] *vt* **1 a** : to take in and appropriate as nourishment : absorb into the system **b** : to take into the mind and thoroughly comprehend **2 a** : to make similar **b** : to alter by assimilation **c** : to absorb into the cultural tradition of a population or group ⟨the community *assimilated* many immigrants⟩ **3** : COMPARE, LIKEN ~ *vi* : to become assimilated ***syn*** see ABSORB — **as·sim·i·la·tor** \-ˌlāt-ər\ *n*

[2]as·sim·i·late \-lət, -ˌlāt\ *n* : something that is assimilated

as·sim·i·la·tion \ə-ˌsim-ə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : an act, process, or instance of assimilating **b** : the state of being assimilated **2** : the incorporation or conversion of nutrients into protoplasm that in animals follows digestion and absorption and in higher plants involves both photosynthesis and root absorption **3** : change of a sound in speech so that it becomes identical with or similar to a neighboring sound ⟨in the word *cupboard* the \p\ sound of the word *cup* has undergone complete ~⟩ ***syn*** see RECOGNITION

as·sim·i·la·tion·ism \-shə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* : a policy of assimilating differing racial or cultural groups — **as·sim·i·la·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n or adj*

as·sim·i·la·tive \ə-'sim-ə-ˌlāt-iv, -lət-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or causing assimilation

as·sim·i·la·to·ry \ə-'sim-ə-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : ASSIMILATIVE

[1]as·sist \ə-'sist\ *vb* [MF or L; MF *assister* to help, stand by, fr. L *assistere*, fr. *ad-* + *sistere* to cause to stand; akin to L *stare* to stand — more at STAND] *vi* **1** : to give support or aid **2** : to be present as a spectator ~ *vt* : to give usu. supplementary support or aid to ⟨~ a lame man up the stairs⟩ ***syn*** see HELP ***ant*** hamper, impede

[2]assist *n* **1** : an act of assistance : AID **2** : the action of a player who by passing a ball or puck enables a teammate to make a put-out or score a goal **3** : a mechanical device that provides assistance

as·sis·tance \ə-'sis-tən(t)s\ *n* : the act of assisting or the help supplied : AID ⟨financial and technical ~⟩

as·sis·tant \-tənt\ *n* : one who assists : HELPER; *also* : an auxiliary device or substance — **assistant** *adj*

assistant professor *n* : a member of a college or university faculty who ranks above an instructor and below an associate professor — **assistant professorship** *n*

as·sis·tant·ship \ə-'sis-tən(t)-ˌship\ *n* : an appointment awarded on an annual basis to a qualified graduate student that requires part-time teaching, research, or residence hall duties and carries a stipend

as·size \ə-'sīz\ *n* [ME *assise*, fr. OF, session, settlement, fr. *asseoir* to seat, fr. (assumed) VL *assedēre*, fr. L *assidēre* to sit beside, assist in the office of a judge, fr. *ad-* + *sedēre* to sit — more at SIT] **1** : an enactment made by a legislative assembly : ORDINANCE **2 a** : a statute regulating weights and measures of articles sold in the market **b** : the regulation of the price of bread or ale by the price of grain **3** : a fixed or customary standard **4 a** : a judicial inquest **b** : an action to be decided by such an inquest, the writ for instituting it, or the verdict or finding rendered by the jury **5 a** : the former periodical sessions of the superior courts in English counties for trial of civil and criminal cases — usu. used in pl. **b** : the time or place of holding such a court, the court itself, or a session of it — usu. used in pl.

assn *abbr* association

assoc *also* **asso** *abbr* **1** associate **2** association

as·so·cia·ble \ə-'sō-sh(ē-)ə-bəl, -sē-ə-\ *adj* : capable of being associated, joined, or connected in thought

[1]as·so·ci·ate \ə-'sō-s(h)ē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [ME *associat* associated, fr. L *associatus*, pp. of *associare* to unite, fr. *ad-* + *sociare* to join, fr. *socius* companion — more at SOCIAL] *vt* **1** : to join as a partner, friend, or companion **2** *obs* : to keep company with : ATTEND **3** : to join or connect together : COMBINE; *specif* : to subject to chemical association **4** : to bring together in any of various ways (as in memory or imagination) ~ *vi* **1** : to come together as partners, friends, or companions **2** : to combine or join with other parts : UNITE ***syn*** see JOIN

[2]as·so·ciate \ə-'sō-s(h)ē-ət, -shət, -s(h)ē-ˌāt\ *adj* **1** : closely connected (as in function or office) with another **2** : closely related esp. in the mind **3** : having secondary or subordinate status ⟨~ membership in a society⟩

[3]as·so·ciate *like* [2]\ *n* **1** : a fellow worker : PARTNER, COLLEAGUE **2** : COMPANION, COMRADE **3** *often cap* : a degree conferred esp. by a junior college ⟨~ in arts⟩ — **as·so·ciate·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

associate professor *n* : a member of a college or university faculty who ranks above an assistant professor and below a professor — **associate professorship** *n*

as·so·ci·a·tion \ə-ˌsō-sē-'ā-shən, -shē-\ *n* **1 a** : the act of associating **b** : the state of being associated : PARTNERSHIP, COMBINATION **2** : an organization of persons having a common interest : SOCIETY **3** : something linked in memory or imagination with a thing or person **4** : the process of forming mental connections or bonds between sensations, ideas, or memories **5** : the formation of polymers by linkage through hydrogen bonds or of loosely bound chemical complexes **6** : a major unit in ecological community organization characterized by essential uniformity and usu. by two or more dominant species — **as·so·ci·a·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

association football *n* : SOCCER

as·so·cia·tive \ə-'sō-s(h)ē-ˌāt-iv, -shət-iv\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to association esp. of ideas or images **2** : dependent on or acquired by association or learning **3** : combining elements such that when the order of the elements is preserved the result is independent of the grouping ⟨addition is ~ since (a + b) + c = a + (b + c)⟩ — **as·so·cia·tive·ly** *adv* — **as·so·cia·tiv·i·ty** \-ˌsō-s(h)ē-ə-'tiv-ət-ē, -shə-'tiv-\ *n*

as·soil \ə-'sȯi(ə)l\ *vt* [ME *assoilen*, fr. OF *assoldre*, fr. L *absolvere* to absolve] **1** *archaic* : ABSOLVE, PARDON **2** *archaic* : ACQUIT, CLEAR **3** *archaic* : EXPIATE — **as·soil·ment** \-mənt\ *n, archaic*

as·so·nance \'as-ə-nən(t)s\ *n* [F, fr. L *assonare* to answer with the same sound, fr. *ad-* + *sonare* to sound — more at SOUND] **1** : resemblance of sound in words or syllables **2 a** : relatively close juxtaposition of similar sounds esp. of vowels **b** : repetition of vowels without repetition of consonants (as in *stony* and *holy*) used as an alternative to rhyme in verse — **as·so·nant** \-nənt\ *adj or n*

as soon as *conj* : immediately at or just after the time that

as·sort \ə-'sȯ(ə)rt\ *vb* [MF *assortir*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *sorte* sort] *vt* **1** : to distribute into groups of a like kind : CLASSIFY **2** : to supply with an assortment or variety (as of goods) ~ *vi* **1** : to agree

in kind : HARMONIZE **2** : to keep company : ASSOCIATE — **as·sor·ta·tive** \-'sȯrt-ət-iv\ *adj* — **as·sort·er** *n*

as·sort·ed \-'sȯrt-əd\ *adj* **1** : consisting of various kinds **2** : suited by nature, character, or design : MATCHED ⟨an ill-*assorted* pair⟩

as·sort·ment \-'sȯ(ə)rt-mənt\ *n* **1 a** : the act of assorting **b** : the state of being assorted **2** : a collection of assorted things or persons

ASSR *abbr* Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic

asst *abbr* assistant

asstd *abbr* **1** assented **2** assorted

as·suage \ə-'swāj\ *vt* **as·suaged; as·suag·ing** [ME *aswagen*, fr. OF *assouagier*, fr. (assumed) VL *assuaviare*, fr. L *ad-* + *suavis* sweet — more at SWEET] **1** : to lessen the intensity of (something that pains or distresses) : EASE **2** : PACIFY, QUIET **3** : to put an end to by satisfying : APPEASE, QUENCH ⟨he *assuaged* his hunger with a sandwich⟩ ***syn*** see RELIEVE ***ant*** exacerbate, intensify — **as·suage·ment** \-'swāj-mənt\ *n*

as·sua·sive \ə-'swā-siv, -ziv\ *adj* : having a pleasantly soothing quality or effect : CALMING

as·sume \ə-'süm\ *vt* **as·sumed; as·sum·ing** [ME *assumen*, fr. L *assumere*, fr. *ad-* + *sumere* to take — more at CONSUME] **1 a** : to take up or in : RECEIVE **b** : to take into partnership, employment, or use **2 a** : to take to or upon oneself : UNDERTAKE **b** : to put on (clothing) : DON **3** : SEIZE, USURP **4** : to pretend to have or be : FEIGN ⟨*assumed* an air of confidence in spite of her dismay⟩ **5** : to take as granted or true : SUPPOSE **6** : to take over (the debts of another) as one's own — **as·sum·abil·i·ty** \-ˌsü-mə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **as·sum·able** \-'sü-mə-bəl\ *adj* — **as·sum·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

syn ASSUME, AFFECT, PRETEND, SIMULATE, FEIGN, COUNTERFEIT, SHAM *shared meaning element* : to put on a false or deceptive appearance

as·sum·ing *adj* : PRETENTIOUS, PRESUMPTUOUS

as·sump·sit \ə-'səm(p)-sət\ *n* [NL, he undertook, fr. *assumere* to undertake, fr. L] **1 a** : a common-law action alleging damage from a breach of agreement **b** : an action to recover damages for breach of contract or promise **2** : a promise or contract not under seal on which an action of assumpsit may be brought

as·sump·tion \ə-'səm(p)-shən\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *assumption-*, *assumptio*, fr. L, taking up, fr. *assumptus*, pp. of *assumere*] **1 a** : the taking up of a person into heaven **b** *cap* : August 15 observed in commemoration of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary **2** : a taking to or upon oneself ⟨a delay in the ~ of his new position⟩ **3** : the act of laying claim to or taking possession of ⟨the ~ of power⟩ **4** : ARROGANCE, PRETENSION **5 a** : the supposition that something is true **b** : a fact or statement (as a proposition, axiom, postulate, or notion) taken for granted **6** : the taking over of another's debts

as·sump·tive \ə-'səm(p)-tiv\ *adj* **1** : taken as one's own **2** : taken for granted ⟨~ beliefs⟩ **3** : making undue claims : ASSUMING ⟨an ~ person⟩

as·sur·ance \ə-'shůr-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act or action of assuring: as **a** : PLEDGE, GUARANTEE **b** : the act of conveying real property; *also* : the instrument by which it is conveyed **c** *chiefly Brit* : INSURANCE **2** : the state of being assured: as **a** : a being sure and safe : SECURITY **b** : a being certain in the mind : freedom from doubt ⟨the puritan's ~ of salvation⟩ **c** : confidence of mind or manner : easy freedom from self-doubt or uncertainty; *also* : excessive self-confidence : BRASHNESS, PRESUMPTION **3** : something that inspires or tends to inspire confidence ⟨gave repeated ~*s* of his goodwill⟩ ***syn*** **1** see CERTAINTY ***ant*** mistrust, dubiousness **2** see CONFIDENCE ***ant*** diffidence

as·sure \ə-'shů(ə)r\ *vt* **as·sured; as·sur·ing** [ME *assuren*, fr. MF *assurer*, fr. ML *assecurare*, fr. L *ad-* + *securus* secure] **1** : to make safe (as from risks or against overthrow) : INSURE **2** : to give confidence to : REASSURE **3** : to make sure or certain : CONVINCE **4** : to inform positively ⟨*assured* her of his fidelity⟩ **5** : to make certain the coming or attainment of : GUARANTEE ⟨worked hard to ~ accuracy⟩ ***syn*** see ENSURE

[1]as·sured \ə-'shů(ə)rd\ *adj* **1** : characterized by certainty or security : GUARANTEED ⟨an ~ market⟩ **2 a** : characterized by self-confidence ⟨an ~ dancer⟩ **b** : characterized by smug self-satisfaction : COMPLACENT **3** : satisfied as to the certainty or truth of a matter : CONVINCED — **as·sured·ly** \-'shůr-əd-lē, -'shů(ə)rd-\ *adv* — **as·sured·ness** \-'shůr-əd-nəs, -'shů(ə)rd-\ *n*

[2]assured *n, pl* **assured** *or* **assureds** : INSURED

as·sur·er \ə-'shůr-ər\ *or* **as·sur·or** \ə-'shůr-ər, ə-ˌshůr-'ȯ(ə)r\ *n* : one that assures : INSURER

as·sur·gent \ə-'sər-jənt\ *adj* [L *assurgent-*, *assurgens*, prp. of *assurgere* to rise, fr. *ad-* + *surgere* to rise — more at SURGE] : moving upward : RISING; *esp* : ASCENDANT 1b

assy *abbr* assembly

Assyr *abbr* Assyrian

As·syr·i·an \ə-'sir-ē-ən\ *n* **1** : a member of an ancient Semitic race forming the Assyrian nation **2** : the Semitic language of the Assyrians — **Assyrian** *adj*

As·syr·i·ol·o·gist \ə-ˌsir-ē-'äl-ə-jəst\ *n* : a specialist in Assyriology

As·syr·i·ol·o·gy \-jē\ *n* : the science or study of the history, language, and antiquities of ancient Assyria and Babylonia — **As·syr·i·o·log·i·cal** \-ˌsir-ē-ə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj*

-ast \ˌast, əst\ *n suffix* [ME, fr. L *-astes*, fr. Gk *-astēs*, fr. verbs in *-azein*] : one connected with ⟨ecdysi*ast*⟩

astar·board \ə-'stär-bərd\ *adv* : toward or on the starboard side of a ship ⟨put the helm hard ~⟩

As·tar·te \ə-'stärt-ē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Astartē*] : the Phoenician goddess of fertility and of sexual love

astat·ic \(')ā-'stat-ik\ *adj* **1** : not static : not stable or steady **2** : having little or no tendency to take a fixed or definite position or direction — **astat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **astat·i·cism** \-'stat-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n*

as·ta·tine \'as-tə-ˌtēn\ *n* [Gk *astatos* unsteady, fr. *a-* + *statos* standing, fr. *histanai* to cause to stand — more at STAND] : a radioactive halogen element discovered by bombarding bismuth with helium nuclei and also formed by radioactive decay — see ELEMENT table

as·ter \'as-tər\ *n* **1** [NL, genus name, fr. L, aster, fr. Gk *aster-*, *astēr* star, aster — more at STAR] : any of various chiefly fall-blooming leafy-stemmed composite herbs (*Aster* and closely related genera) with often showy heads containing tubular flowers or both tubular and ray flowers — compare CHINA ASTER **2** [NL, fr. Gk *aster-*, *astēr*] : a system of gelated cytoplasmic rays typically arranged radially about a centrosome at either end of the mitotic spindle and sometimes persisting between mitoses

-as·ter \ˌas-tər, 'as-\ *n suffix* [ME, fr. L, suffix denoting partial resemblance] : one that is inferior, worthless, or not genuine ⟨criti*caster*⟩

as·te·ria \a-'stir-ē-ə\ *n* [L, a precious stone, fr. Gk, fem. of *asterios* starry, fr. *aster-*, *astēr*] : a gem stone cut to show asterism

as·te·ri·at·ed \-ē-ˌāt-əd\ *adj* [Gk *asterios*] : exhibiting asterism ⟨~ sapphire⟩

[1]as·ter·isk \'as-tə-ˌrisk\ *n* [LL *asteriscus*, fr. Gk *asteriskos*, lit., little star, dim. of *aster-*, *astēr*] : the character * used in printing or writing as a reference mark, as an indication of the omission of letters or words, or to denote a hypothetical or nonoccurring linguistic form — **as·ter·isk·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

[2]asterisk *vt* : to mark with an asterisk : STAR

as·ter·ism \'as-tə-ˌriz-əm\ *n* [Gk *asterismos*, fr. *asterizein* to arrange in constellations, fr. *aster-*, *astēr*] **1 a** : CONSTELLATION **b** : a small group of stars **2** : a star-shaped figure exhibited by some crystals by reflected light (as in a star sapphire) or by transmitted light (as in some mica) **3** : three asterisks arranged in the form of a pyramid (as ⁂ or ⁂) esp. in order to direct attention to a following passage

astern \ə-'stərn\ *adv or adj* **1** : behind a ship **2** : at or toward the stern of a ship **3** : STERNFOREMOST, BACKWARD

[1]as·ter·oid \'as-tə-ˌrȯid\ *n* [Gk *asteroeidēs* starlike, fr. *aster-*, *astēr*] **1** : one of thousands of small planets between Mars and Jupiter with diameters from a fraction of a mile to nearly 500 miles **2** : STARFISH — **aster·oi·dal** \ˌas-tə-'rȯid-ᵊl\ *adj*

[2]asteroid *adj* **1** : resembling a star **2** : of or resembling a starfish

as·the·nia \as-'thē-nē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *astheneia*, fr. *asthenēs* weak, fr. *a-* + *sthenos* strength] : lack or loss of strength : DEBILITY

as·then·ic \as-'then-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or exhibiting asthenia : WEAK **2** : characterized by slender build and slight muscular development : ECTOMORPHIC

as·theno·sphere \as-'then-ə-ˌsfi(ə)r\ *n* [Gk *asthenēs* weak + E *-o-* + *sphere*] : a hypothetical zone of the earth which lies beneath the lithosphere and within which the material is believed to yield readily to persistent stresses

asth·ma \'az-mə\ *n* [ME *asma*, fr. ML, modif. of Gk *asthma*] : a condition often of allergic origin that is marked by continuous or paroxysmal labored breathing accompanied by wheezing, by a sense of constriction in the chest, and often by attacks of coughing or gasping — **asth·mat·ic** \az-'mat-ik\ *adj or n* — **asth·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

as though *conj* : as if

as·tig·mat·ic \ˌas-tig-'mat-ik\ *adj* [*a-* + Gk *stigmat-*, *stigma* mark — more at STIGMA] **1** : affected with, relating to, or correcting astigmatism **2** : showing incapacity for observation or discrimination ⟨an ~ fanaticism, a disregard for the facts—*N. Y. Herald Tribune*⟩ — **as·tig·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

astig·ma·tism \ə-'stig-mə-ˌtiz-əm\ *n* **1** : a defect of an optical system (as a lens) in consequence of which rays from a point fail to meet in a focal point resulting in a blurred and imperfect image **2** : a defect of vision due to astigmatism of the refractive system of the eye and esp. to corneal irregularity **3** : distorted understanding suggestive of the blurred vision of an astigmatic person

astir \ə-'stər\ *adj* **1** : exhibiting activity **2** : being out of bed : UP

ASTM *abbr* American Society for Testing and Materials

as to *prep* **1** : with regard or reference to : as for : ABOUT ⟨at a loss *as to* how to explain the mistake⟩ **2** : according to : BY ⟨graded *as to* size and color⟩

as·ton·ied \ə-'stän-ēd\ *adj* [ME, fr. pp. of *astonien*] **1** *archaic* : deprived briefly of the power to act : DAZED **2** *archaic* : filled with consternation or dismay

as·ton·ish \ə-'stän-ish\ *vt* [prob. fr. earlier *astony* (fr. ME *astonen*, *astonien*, fr. OF *estoner*, fr. — assumed — VL *extonare*, fr. L *ex-* + *tonare* to thunder) + *-ish* (as in *abolish*) — more at THUNDER] **1** *obs* : to strike with sudden fear **2** : to strike with sudden wonder or surprise ***syn*** see SURPRISE

as·ton·ish·ing \-iŋ\ *adj* : causing astonishment : SURPRISING — **as·ton·ish·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

as·ton·ish·ment \ə-'stän-ish-mənt\ *n* **1 a** : the state of being astonished **b** : CONSTERNATION **c** : AMAZEMENT **2** : a cause of amazement or wonder

[1]as·tound \ə-'staůnd\ *adj* [ME *astoned*, fr. pp. of *astonen*] *archaic* : overwhelmed with astonishment or amazement : ASTOUNDED

[2]astound *vt* : to fill with bewilderment and wonder ***syn*** see SURPRISE

as·tound·ing \ə-'staůn-diŋ\ *adj* : causing astonishment or amazement — **as·tound·ing·ly** \-diŋ-lē\ *adv*

ASTP *abbr* army specialized training program

astr- *or* **astro-** *comb form* [ME *astro-*, fr. OF, fr. L *astr-*, *astro-*, fr. Gk, fr. *astron* — more at STAR] **1** : star : heavens : outer space : astronomical ⟨*astro*physics⟩ **2** : aster of a cell ⟨*astro*sphere⟩

[1]astrad·dle \ə-'strad-ᵊl\ *adv* : on or above and extending onto both sides : ASTRIDE

[2]astraddle *prep* : with one leg on each side of : ASTRIDE

as·tra·gal \'as-tri-gəl\ *n* [L *astragalus*, fr. Gk *astragalos* anklebone, molding] **1** : a narrow half-round molding **2** : a projecting strip on the edge of a folding door

as·trag·a·lus \ə-'strag-ə-ləs\ *n, pl* **-li** \-ˌlī, -ˌlē\ [NL, fr. Gk *astragalos*] **1** : one of the proximal bones of the tarsus of the higher vertebrates — compare TALUS 1 **2** : ASTRAGAL

as·tra·khan *or* **as·tra·chan** \'as-trə-kən, -ˌkan\ *n, often cap* [*Astrakhan*, U.S.S.R.] **1** : karakul of Russian origin **2** : a cloth with a usu. wool, curled, and looped pile resembling karakul

as·tral \'as-trəl\ *adj* [LL *astralis*, fr. L *astrum* star, fr. Gk *astron* — more at STAR] **1 a** : of or relating to the stars **b** : consisting of stars : STARRY **2** : of or relating to a mitotic aster **3** : of or consisting of a supersensible substance held in theosophy to be next above the tangible world in refinement **4 a** : VISIONARY **b** : elevated in station or position : EXALTED — **as·tral·ly** \-trə-lē\ *adv*

astray \ə-'strā\ *adv or adj* [ME, fr. MF *estraié* wandering, fr. *estraier* to stray — more at STRAY] **1** : off the right path or route : STRAYING **2** : in error : away from a proper or desirable course or development

[1]astride \ə-'strīd\ *adv* **1** : with one leg on each side ⟨rode her horse ~⟩ **2** : with the legs stretched wide apart ⟨standing ~ with arms folded⟩

[2]astride *prep* **1** : on or above and with one leg on each side of **2** : placed or lying on both sides of **3** : extending over or across : SPANNING, BRIDGING

[1]as·trin·gent \ə-'strin-jənt\ *adj* [prob. fr. MF, fr. L *astringent-, astringens*, prp. of *astringere* to bind fast, fr. *ad-* + *stringere* to bind tight — more at STRAIN] **1** : able to draw together the soft organic tissues : STYPTIC, PUCKERY ⟨~ lotions⟩ ⟨an ~ fruit⟩ **2** : suggestive of an astringent effect upon tissue : rigidly severe : AUSTERE ⟨dry ~ comments⟩; *also* : TONIC — **as·trin·gen·cy** \-jən-sē\ *n* — **as·trin·gent·ly** *adv*

[2]astringent *n* : an astringent agent or substance

as·tro·bi·ol·o·gy \ˌas-trō-(ˌ)bī-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* : EXOBIOLOGY — **as·tro·bi·o·log·i·cal** \-ˌbī-ə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **as·tro·bi·ol·o·gist** \-(ˌ)bī-'äl-ə-jəst\ *n*

as·tro·cyte \'as-trə-ˌsīt\ *n* [ISV] : a star-shaped cell (as of the neuroglia) — **as·tro·cyt·ic** \ˌas-trə-'sit-ik\ *adj*

as·tro·cy·to·ma \ˌas-trə-sī-'tō-mə\ *n, pl* **-mas** *or* **-ma·ta** \-mət-ə\ [NL] : a nerve-tissue tumor composed of astrocytes

as·tro·dome \'as-trə-ˌdōm\ *n* [ISV] : a transparent dome in the upper surface of an airplane from within which the navigator makes celestial observations

astrol *abbr* astrology

as·tro·labe \'as-trə-ˌlāb\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & ML; MF, fr. ML *astrolabium*, fr. LGk *astrolabion*, dim. of Gk *astrolabos*, fr. *astr-* + *lambanein* to take — more at LATCH] : a compact instrument used to observe the position of celestial bodies before the invention of the sextant



astrolabe

as·trol·o·ger \ə-'sträl-ə-jər\ *n* : one who practices astrology

as·trol·o·gy \ə-'sträl-ə-jē\ *n* [ME *astrologie*, fr. MF, fr. L *astrologia*, fr. Gk, fr. *astr-* + *-logia* -logy] **1** *obs* : ASTRONOMY **2** : the divination of the supposed influences of the stars and planets on human affairs and terrestrial events by their positions and aspects — **as·tro·log·i·cal** \ˌas-trə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **as·tro·log·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

astron *abbr* astronomer; astronomy

as·tro·naut \'as-trə-ˌnȯt, -ˌnät\ *n* [*astr-* + *-naut* (as in *aeronaut*)] : a person who travels beyond the earth's atmosphere; *also* : a trainee for spaceflight

as·tro·nau·tics \ˌas-trə-'nȯt-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1** : the science of the construction and operation of vehicles for travel in space beyond the earth's atmosphere **2** : navigation in space beyond the earth's atmosphere — **as·tro·nau·tic** \-ik\ *or* **as·tro·nau·ti·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **as·tro·nau·ti·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

as·tro·nav·i·ga·tion \ˌas-trō-ˌnav-ə-'gā-shən\ *n* : CELESTIAL NAVIGATION

as·tron·o·mer \ə-'strän-ə-mər\ *n* : one who is skilled in astronomy or who makes observations of celestial phenomena

as·tro·nom·i·cal \ˌas-trə-'näm-i-kəl\ *or* **as·tro·nom·ic** \-ik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to astronomy **2** : enormously or inconceivably large ⟨~ numbers⟩ — **as·tro·nom·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

astronomical unit *n* : a unit of length used in astronomy equal to the mean distance of the earth from the sun or about 93 million miles

as·tron·o·my \ə-'strän-ə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** [ME *astronomie*, fr. OF, fr. L *astronomia*, fr. Gk, fr. *astr-* + *-nomia* -nomy] **1** : the science of the celestial bodies and of their magnitudes, motions, and constitution **2** : a treatise on astronomy

as·tro·pho·tog·ra·phy \ˌas-(ˌ)trō-fə-'täg-rə-fē\ *n* [ISV] : photography as used in astronomical investigations

as·tro·phys·ics \ˌas-trə-'fiz-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [ISV] : a branch of astronomy dealing with the physical and chemical constitution of the celestial bodies — **as·tro·phys·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **as·tro·phys·i·cist** \-'fiz-(ə-)səst\ *n*

as·tro·sphere \'as-trə-ˌsfi(ə)r\ *n* [ISV] : an aster exclusive of the centrosome

as·tute \ə-'st(y)üt, a-\ *adj* [L *astutus*, fr. *astus* craft] : exhibiting combined shrewdness and perspicacity often to the point of being artful or crafty ⟨an ~ observer⟩ ⟨an ~ appeal to the weakness of his victim⟩ ***syn*** see SHREWD ***ant*** gullible — **as·tute·ly** *adv* — **as·tute·ness** *n*

As·ty·a·nax \ə-'stī-ə-ˌnaks\ *n* [Gk] : a son of Hector and Andromache hurled by the Greeks from the walls of Troy

asun·der \ə-'sən-dər\ *adv or adj* **1** : into parts ⟨torn ~⟩ **2** : apart from each other in position ⟨wide ~⟩

ASV *abbr* American Standard Version

aswarm \ə-'swȯ(ə)rm\ *adj* : filled to overflowing : SWARMING ⟨streets ~ with people⟩

aswirl \ə-'swər(-ə)l\ *adj* : moving with a whirling motion

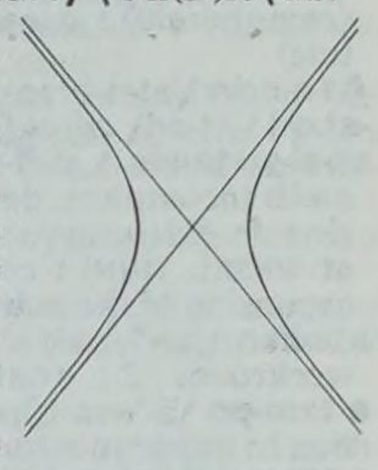
aswoon \ə-'swün\ *adj* : being in a swoon : DAZED

asy·lum \ə-'sī-ləm\ *n* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk *asylon*, neut. of *asylos* inviolable, fr. *a-* + *sylon* right of seizure] **1** : an inviolable place of refuge and protection giving shelter to criminals and debtors : SANCTUARY **2** : a place of retreat and security : SHELTER **3 a** : the protection or inviolability afforded by an asylum : REFUGE **b** : protection from arrest and extradition given esp. to political refugees by a nation or by an embassy or other agency enjoying diplomatic immunity **4** : an institution for the relief or care of the destitute or afflicted and esp. the insane

asym·met·ric \ˌā-sə-'me-trik\ *or* **asym·met·ri·cal** \-tri-kəl\ *adj* [Gk *asymmetria* lack of proportion, fr. *asymmetros* ill-proportioned, fr. *a-* + *symmetros* symmetrical — more at SYMMETRY] **1** : not symmetrical **2** : characterized by being bonded to different atoms or groups — **asym·met·ri·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **asym·me·try** \(ˈ)ā-'sim-ə-trē\ *n*

asymp·tom·at·ic \ˌā-ˌsim(p)-tə-'mat-ik\ *adj* : presenting no subjective evidence of disease — **asymp·tom·at·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

as·ymp·tote \'as-əm(p)-ˌtōt\ *n* [prob. fr. (assumed) NL *asymptotus*, fr. Gk *asymptōtos*, fr. *asymptōtos* not meeting, fr. *a-* + *sympiptein* to meet — more at SYMPTOM] : a straight line associated with a curve such that as a point moves along an infinite branch of the curve the distance from the point to the line approaches zero and the slope of the curve at the point approaches the slope of the line — **as·ymp·tot·ic** \ˌas-əm(p)-'tät-ik\ *adj* — **as·ymp·tot·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*



asymptotes to the hyperbola

asyn·ap·sis \ˌā-sə-'nap-səs\ *n, pl* **-ap·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL [2]*a-* + *synapsis*] : failure of pairing of homologous chromosomes in meiosis

asyn·chro·nous \-krə-nəs\ *adj* : not synchronous — **asyn·chro·nous·ly** *adv*

asyn·chro·ny \-krə-nē\ *or* **asyn·chro·nism** \(ˈ)ā-'siŋ-krə-ˌniz-əm, -'sin-\ *n* : the quality or state of being asynchronous : absence or lack of concurrence in time

as·yn·det·ic \ˌas-ᵊn-'det-ik\ *adj* : marked by asyndeton — **as·yn·det·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

asyn·de·ton \ə-'sin-də-ˌtän, (ˈ) ā-'sin-\ *n, pl* **-tons** *or* **-ta** \-dət-ə\ [LL, fr. Gk, fr. neut. of *asyndetos* unconnected, fr. *a-* + *syndetos* bound together, fr. *syndein* to bind together, fr. *syn-* + *dein* to bind — more at DIADEM] : omission of the conjunctions that ordinarily join coordinate words or clauses (as in "I came, I saw, I conquered")

[1]at \ət, (ˈ)at\ *prep* [ME, fr. OE *æt;* akin to OHG *az* at, L *ad*] **1** — used as a function word to indicate presence or occurrence in, on, or near ⟨staying ~ a hotel⟩ ⟨~ a party⟩ ⟨sick ~ heart⟩ **2** — used as a function word to indicate the goal of an indicated or implied action or motion ⟨aim ~ the target⟩ ⟨laugh ~ him⟩ ⟨creditors are ~ him again⟩ **3** — used as a function word to indicate that with which one is occupied or employed ⟨~ work⟩ ⟨~ the controls⟩ ⟨an expert ~ chess⟩ **4** — used as a function word to indicate situation in an active or passive state or condition ⟨a criminal ~ liberty⟩ ⟨~ rest⟩ **5** — used as a function word to indicate the means, cause, or manner ⟨sold ~ auction⟩ ⟨laughed ~ his joke⟩ ⟨act ~ your own discretion⟩ **6 a** — used as a function word to indicate the rate, degree, or position in a scale or series ⟨the temperature ~ 90⟩ ⟨~ first⟩ **b** — used as a function word to indicate age or position in time ⟨will retire ~ 65⟩

[2]at \'ät\ *n, pl* **at** [Siamese] — see *kip* at MONEY table

[3]at *abbr* **1** airtight **2** atomic

At *symbol* astatine

AT *abbr* **1** air temperature **2** ampere-turn

at- — see AD-

At·a·brine \'at-ə-brən, -ˌbrēn\ *trademark* — used for quinacrine

At·a·lan·ta \ˌat-ᵊl-'ant-ə\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Atalantē*] : a Greek maiden of mythology who challenged each of her suitors to a footrace and was eventually married to Hippomenes who defeated her by dropping on the course three golden apples which she stopped to pick up

at all \ət-'ȯl, ə-'tȯl, at-'ȯl\ *adv* : in any way or respect : to the least extent or degree : under any circumstances ⟨doesn't smoke *at all*⟩

at·a·man \ˌat-ə-'man\ *n* [Russ] : HETMAN

at·a·mas·co lily \ˌat-ə-'mas-(ˌ)kō-\ *n* [*attamusco*, lit., it is red (in some Algonquian language of Virginia)] : any of a genus (*Zephyranthes*) of American bulbous herbs of the amaryllis family with pink, white, or yellowish flowers

at·a·rac·tic \ˌat-ə-'rak-tik\ *or* **at·a·rax·ic** \-'rak-sik\ *n* [*ataractic* fr. Gk *ataraktos* calm, fr. *a-* + *tarassein* to disturb; *ataraxic* fr. Gk *ataraxia* calmness, fr. *a-* + *tarassein* — more at DREG] : a tranquilizer drug — **ataractic** *or* **ataraxic** *adj*

at·a·vism \'at-ə-ˌviz-əm\ *n* [F *atavisme*, fr. L *atavus* ancestor] **1** : recurrence in an organism or in any of its parts of a form typical of ancestors more remote than the parents usu. due to genetic recombination **2** : an individual or character manifesting atavism : THROWBACK — **at·a·vist** \-vəst\ *n* — **at·a·vis·tic** \ˌat-ə-'vis-tik\ *adj* — **at·a·vis·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

atax·ia \ə-'tak-sē-ə, (ˈ)ā-\ *n* [Gk, fr. *a-* + *tassein* to put in order — more at TACTICS] **1** : lack of order : CONFUSION **2** : an inability to coordinate voluntary muscular movements that is symptomatic of some nervous disorders — **atax·ic** \-sik\ *adj*

at bat \ət-'bat\ *n* : an official time at bat charged to a baseball batter except when he gets a base on balls or a sacrifice hit, is hit by a pitched ball, or is interfered with by the catcher ⟨three hits in five *at bats*⟩

[1]ate *past of* EAT

[2]ate \'ät-ē, 'āt-; 'ä-ˌtā, 'ā-ˌtē\ *n* [Gk *atē*] : blind impulse, reckless ambition, or excessive folly that drives men to ruin

[1]-ate \ət, ˌāt\ *n suffix* [ME *-at*, fr. OF, fr. L *-atus, -atum*, masc. & neut. of *-atus*, pp. ending] **1** : one acted upon (in a specified way) ⟨distill*ate*⟩ **2** [NL *-atum*, fr. L] : chemical compound or complex anion derived from a (specified) compound or element ⟨phenol*ate*⟩

⟨ferrate⟩; *esp* : salt or ester of an acid with a name ending in *-ic* and not beginning with *hydro-* ⟨borate⟩

²-ate *n suffix* [ME *-at*, fr. OF, fr. L *-atus*, fr. *-atus*, pp. ending] : office : function : rank : group of persons holding a (specified) office or rank or having a (specified) function ⟨vicarate⟩

³-ate *adj suffix* [ME *-at*, fr. L *-atus*, fr. pp. ending of 1st conj. verbs, fr. *-a-*, stem vowel of 1st conj. + *-tus*, pp. suffix — more at -ED] : marked by having ⟨craniate⟩

⁴-ate \ˌāt\ *vb suffix* [ME *-aten*, fr. L *-atus*, pp. ending] : act on (in a specified way) ⟨insulate⟩ : cause to be modified or affected by ⟨camphorate⟩ : cause to become ⟨activate⟩ : furnish with ⟨capacitate⟩

At·e·brin \ˈat-ə-brən\ *trademark* — used for quinacrine

-at·ed \ˌāt-əd\ *adj suffix* : ³-ATE ⟨loculated⟩

at·el·ec·ta·sis \ˌat-ᵊl-ˈek-tə-səs\ *n, pl* **-ta·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *atelēs* incomplete, defective (fr. *a-* ²a- + *telos* end) + *ektasis* extension, fr. *ekteinein* to stretch out, fr. *ex-* + *teinein* to stretch — more at WHEEL, THIN] : collapse of the expanded lung; *also* : defective expansion of the pulmonary alveoli at birth

ate·lier \ˌat-ᵊl-ˈyā\ *n* [F] **1** : an artist's or designer's studio or workroom **2** : WORKSHOP

a tem·po \ä-ˈtem-(ˌ)pō\ *adv or adj* [It] : in time — used as a direction in music to return to the original rate of speed

a ter·go \ä-ˈte(ə)r-(ˌ)gō\ *adv* [L] : from behind

Ate·ri·an \ə-ˈtir-ē-ən\ *adj* [F *atérien*, fr. Bir el-*Ater* (Constantine), Algeria] : of or relating to a Paleolithic culture of northern Africa characterized by Mousterian features, tanged arrow points, and leaf-shaped spearheads

Ath·a·na·sian \ˌath-ə-ˈnā-zhən, -ˈnā-shən\ *adj* : of or relating to Athanasius or his advocacy of the homoousian doctrine against Arianism

Athanasian Creed *n* : a Christian creed originating in Europe about A.D. 400 and relating esp. to the Trinity and Incarnation

Ath·a·pas·kan *or* **Ath·a·pas·can** \ˌath-ə-ˈpas-kən\ *or* **Ath·a·bas·can** *or* **Ath·a·bas·kan** \-ˈbas-\ *n* [Cree *Athap-askaw*, an Athapaskan people, lit., grass or reeds here and there] **1** : a language stock of the Na-dene group in No. America **2** : a member of a people speaking an Athapaskan language

athe·ism \ˈā-thē-ˌiz-əm\ *n* [MF *athéisme*, fr. *athée* atheist, fr. Gk *atheos* godless, fr. *a-* + *theos* god] **1 a** : a disbelief in the existence of deity **b** : the doctrine that there is no deity **2** : UNGODLINESS, WICKEDNESS

athe·ist \ˈā-thē-əst\ *n* : one who denies the existence of God — **athe·is·tic** \ˌā-thē-ˈis-tik\ *or* **athe·is·ti·cal** \ˌā-thē-ˈis-ti-kəl\ *adj* — **athe·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

syn ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC, DEIST, FREETHINKER, UNBELIEVER, INFIDEL *shared meaning element* : one who does not take an orthodox religious position ***ant*** theist

ath·e·ling \ˈath-ə-liŋ, ˈath-\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *æthelıng*, fr. *æthelu* nobility, akin to OHG *adal* nobility] : an Anglo-Saxon prince or nobleman; *esp* : the heir apparent or a prince of the royal family

ath·e·nae·um *or* **ath·e·ne·um** \ˌath-ə-ˈnē-əm\ *n* [L *Athenaeum*, a school in ancient Rome for the study of arts, fr. Gk *Athēnaion*, a temple of Athena, fr. *Athēnē*] **1** : a literary or scientific association **2** : a building or room in which books, periodicals, and newspapers are kept for use

Athe·ne \ə-ˈthē-nē\ *or* **Athe·na** \-nə\ *n* [Gk *Athēnē* & L *Athena*, fr. Gk *Athēnē*] : the Greek goddess of wisdom — compare MINERVA

ath·ero·gen·e·sis \ˌath-ə-rō-ˈjen-ə-səs\ *n* : the production of atheroma

ath·ero·gen·ic \-ˈjen-ik\ *adj* [*atheroma* + *-genic*] : relating to or producing degenerative changes in arterial walls ⟨~ diet⟩

ath·er·o·ma \ˌath-ə-ˈrō-mə\ *n* [NL *atheromat-*, *atheroma*, fr. L, a tumor containing matter resembling gruel, fr. Gk *athērōma*, fr. *athēra* gruel] : fatty degeneration of the inner coat of the arteries — **ath·er·o·ma·to·sis** \-ˌrō-mə-ˈtō-səs\ *n* — **ath·er·o·ma·tous** \-ˈrō-mət-əs\ *adj*

ath·ero·scle·ro·sis \ˌath-ə-rō-sklə-ˈrō-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. *atheroma* + *sclerosis*] : an arteriosclerosis characterized by the deposition of fatty substances in and fibrosis of the inner layer of the arteries — **ath·ero·scle·rot·ic** \-sklə-ˈrät-ik\ *adj* — **ath·ero·scle·rot·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

athirst \ə-ˈthərst\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *ofthyrst*, pp. of *ofthyrstan* to suffer from thirst, fr. *of* off, from + *thyrstan* to thirst — more at OF] **1** *archaic* : THIRSTY **2** : having a strong eager desire ⟨I that for ever feel ~ for glory —John Keats⟩ ***syn*** see EAGER

ath·lete \ˈath-ˌlēt\ *n* [ME, fr. L *athleta*, fr. Gk *athlētēs*, fr. *athlein* to contend for a prize, fr. *athlon* prize, contest] : one who is trained or skilled in exercises, sports, or games requiring physical strength, agility, or stamina

athlete's foot *n* : ringworm of the feet

ath·let·ic \ath-ˈlet-ik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to athletes or athletics **2** : characteristic of an athlete; *esp* : VIGOROUS, ACTIVE **3** : characterized by heavy frame, large chest, and powerful muscular development : MESOMORPHIC **4** : used by athletes — **ath·let·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **ath·let·i·cism** \-ˈlet-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n*

ath·let·ics \ath-ˈlet-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1 a** : exercises, sports, or games engaged in by athletes **b** *Brit* : track-and-field sports **2** : the practice or principles of athletic activities

athletic supporter *n* : a supporter for the genitals worn by men participating in sports or strenuous activities

ath·o·dyd \ˈath-ə-ˌdid\ *n* [*a*ero-*th*ermo*dy*namic *d*uct] : a jet engine (as a ramjet engine) consisting essentially of a continuous duct of varying diameter which admits air at the forward end, adds heat to it by the combustion of fuel, and discharges it from the after end

at home \ət-ˈhōm\ *n* : a reception given at one's home

-athon \ə-ˌthän\ *n comb form* [*marathon*] : contest of endurance ⟨talkathon⟩

ath·ro·cyte \ˈath-rə-ˌsīt\ *n* [Gk *athroos* together, collected + ISV *-cyte*] : a cell capable of picking up foreign material and storing it in granular form in its cytoplasm — **ath·ro·cy·to·sis** \ˌath-rə-sī-ˈtō-səs\ *n*

¹athwart \ə-ˈthwȯ(ə)rt, *naut often* -ˈthȯ(ə)rt\ *adv* **1** : across esp. in an oblique direction **2** : in opposition to the right or expected course ⟨and quite ~ goes all decorum —Shak.⟩

²athwart *prep* **1** : ACROSS ⟨a row of stepping-stones set ~ the creek —Eden Phillpotts⟩ **2** : in opposition to ⟨a procedure directly ~ the New England prejudices —R. G. Cole⟩

athwart·ship \-ˌship\ *adj* : being across the ship from side to side ⟨~ and longitudinal framing⟩

athwart·ships \-ˌships\ *adv* : across the ship from side to side

atilt \ə-ˈtilt\ *adv or adj* **1** : in a tilted position **2** : with lance in hand ⟨run ~ at death—Shak.⟩

atin·gle \ə-ˈtiŋ-gəl\ *adj* : tingling esp. with excitement or exhilaration

-a·tion \ˈā-shən\ *n suffix* [ME *-acioun*, fr. OF *-ation*, fr. L *-ation-*, *-atio*, fr. *-atus* -ate + *-ion-*, *-io* -ion] : action or process ⟨flirtation⟩ : something connected with an action or process ⟨discoloration⟩

-a·tive \ˌāt-iv, ət-\ *adj suffix* [ME, fr. MF *-atif*, fr. L *-ativus*, fr. *-atus* + *-ivus* -ive] : of, relating to, or connected with ⟨authoritative⟩ : tending to ⟨talkative⟩

At·ka mackerel \ˌat-kə-, ˌät-\ *n* [*Atka* Island, Alaska] : a greenling (*Pleurogrammus monopterygius*) of Alaska and adjacent regions valued as a food fish

Atl *abbr* Atlantic

¹At·lan·te·an \ˌat-ˌlan-ˈtē-ən, ət-ˈlant-ē-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or resembling Atlas : STRONG

²Atlantean *adj* : of or relating to Atlantis

At·lan·tic \ət-ˈlant-ik, at-\ *adj* **1 a** : of, relating to, or found in, on, or near the Atlantic ocean **b** : of, relating to, or found on or near the east coast of the U.S. **2** : of or relating to the nations that border the Atlantic ocean ⟨the ~ community⟩

Atlantic croaker *n* : a small but important food fish (*Micropogan undulatus*) of the Gulf coast and the Atlantic coast south of Cape Cod — called also *hardhead*

At·lan·ti·cism \-ˈlant-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n* [*Atlantic* (*ocean*)] : a policy of military cooperation between European and No. American powers — **At·lan·ti·cist** \-səst\ *n*

Atlantic time *n* [*Atlantic* (*ocean*)] : the time of the 4th time zone west of Greenwich that includes the Canadian Maritime Provinces, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands — called also *Atlantic standard time*

At·lan·tis \ət-ˈlant-əs, at-\ *n* : a fabled island that was traditionally placed west of the Strait of Gibraltar and that was swallowed up by the sea

at·las \ˈat-ləs\ *n* [L *Atlant-*, *Atlas*, fr. Gk] **1** *cap* : a Titan who for his part in the Titans' revolt against the gods was obliged to support the heavens with his head and hands **2** *cap* : one who bears a heavy burden **3 a** : a bound collection of maps **b** : a bound collection of tables, charts, or plates **4** : the first vertebra of the neck **5** *pl usu* **at·lan·tes** \ət-ˈlant-(ˌ)ēz, at-\ : a figure or half figure of a man used as a column to support an entablature

at·latl \ˈät-ˌlät-ᵊl\ *n* [of Uto-Aztecan origin; akin to Nahuatl *atlatl* atlatl] : a device for throwing a spear or dart that consists of a rod or board with a projection (as a hook or thong) at the rear end to hold the weapon in place until released

At·li \ˈät-lē\ *n* [ON] : a king of the Huns figuring in Germanic legend and corresponding to the historical Attila

atm *abbr* atmosphere; atmospheric

at·man \ˈät-mən\ *n, often cap* [Skt *ātman*, lit., breath, soul; akin to OHG *ātum* breath] **1** *Hinduism* : the innermost essence of each individual **2** *Hinduism* : the supreme universal self : BRAHMA 1

at·mom·e·ter \at-ˈmäm-ət-ər\ *n* [Gk *atmos* + E *-meter*] : an instrument for measuring the evaporating capacity of the air

at·mo·sphere \ˈat-mə-ˌsfi(ə)r\ *n* [NL *atmosphaera*, fr. Gk *atmos* vapor + L *sphaera* sphere; akin to Gk *aēnai* to blow — more at WIND] **1 a** : a gaseous mass enveloping a celestial body (as a planet) **b** : the whole mass of air surrounding the earth **2** : the air of a locality **3** : a surrounding influence or environment ⟨an ~ of mutual trust⟩ **4** : a unit of pressure equal to the pressure of the air at sea level or approximately 14.7 pounds to the square inch **5 a** : the overall aesthetic effect of a work of art **b** : a dominant aesthetic or emotional effect or appeal — **at·mo·sphered** \-ˌsfi(ə)rd\ *adj*

at·mo·spher·ic \ˌat-mə-ˈsfi(ə)r-ik, -ˈsfer-\ *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to the atmosphere **b** : resembling the atmosphere : AIRY **c** : occurring in or actuated by the atmosphere **2** : having, marked by, or contributing aesthetic or emotional atmosphere — **at·mo·spher·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

at·mo·spher·ics \-iks\ *n pl* : audible disturbances produced in radio receiving apparatus by atmospheric electrical phenomena (as lightning); *also* : the electrical phenomena causing these disturbances

atmospheric tide *n* : TIDE 2a(5)

at·mo·sphe·ri·um \ˌat-mə-ˈsfir-ē-əm\ *n* [*atmosphere* + *-ium* (as in *planetarium*)] : an optical device for projecting images of meteorological phenomena (as clouds) on the inside of a dome; *also* : a room housing this device

at no *abbr* atomic number

atoll \ˈa-ˌtȯl, -ˌtäl, -ˌtōl, ˈā-\ *n* [*atolu*, native name in the Maldive islands] : a coral island consisting of a reef surrounding a lagoon



atoll

at·om \ˈat-əm\ *n* [ME, fr. L *atomus*, fr. Gk *atomos*, fr. *atomos* indivisible, fr. *a-* + *temnein* to cut — more at TOME] **1** : one of the

minute indivisible particles of which according to ancient materialism the universe is composed **2** : a tiny particle : BIT **3 a** : the smallest particle of an element that can exist either alone or in combination **b** : a group of such particles constituting the smallest quantity of a radical **4** : the atom considered as a source of vast potential energy

atom bomb *n* **1** : a bomb whose violent explosive power is due to the sudden release of atomic energy resulting from the splitting of nuclei of a heavy chemical element (as plutonium or uranium) by neutrons in a very rapid chain reaction — called also *atomic bomb, fission bomb* **2** : a bomb whose explosive power is due to the release of atomic energy — **atom–bomb** *vt*

atom·ic \ə-'täm-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or concerned with atoms, atomic energy, or atomic bombs **2** : MINUTE **3** *of a chemical element* : existing in the state of separate atoms — **atom·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

atomic clock *n* : a precision clock that depends for its operation on an electrical oscillator regulated by the natural vibration frequencies of an atomic system (as a beam of cesium atoms)

atomic cocktail *n* : a radioactive substance (as iodide of sodium) dissolved in water and administered orally to patients with cancer

atomic energy *n* : energy that can be liberated by changes in the nucleus of an atom (as by fission of a heavy nucleus or fusion of light nuclei into heavier ones with accompanying loss of mass)

at·o·mic·i·ty \ˌat-ə-'mis-ət-ē\ *n* **1 a** : VALENCE **b** : the number of atoms in the molecule of an element **c** : the number of replaceable atoms or groups in the molecule of a compound **2** : the state of consisting of atoms

atomic mass *n* : the mass of any species of atom usu. expressed in atomic mass units

atomic mass unit *n* : a unit of mass for expressing masses of atoms, molecules, or nuclear particles equal to $^1/_{12}$ of the atomic mass of the most abundant carbon isotope $_6C^{12}$

atomic number *n* : an experimentally determined number characteristic of a chemical element that represents the number of protons in the nucleus which in a neutral atom equals the number of electrons outside the nucleus and that determines the place of the element in the periodic table — see ELEMENT table

atomic pile *n* : REACTOR 3b — called also *atomic reactor*

atom·ics \ə-'täm-iks\ *n pl but sing in constr* : the science of atoms esp. when involving atomic energy

atomic theory *n* **1** : a theory of the nature of matter: all material substances are composed of minute particles or atoms of a comparatively small number of kinds and all the atoms of the same kind are uniform in size, weight, and other properties — called also *atomic hypothesis* **2** : any of several theories of the structure of the atom; *esp* : one based on experimentation and theoretical considerations holding that the atom is composed essentially of a small positively charged comparatively heavy nucleus surrounded by a comparatively large arrangement of electrons

atomic weight *n* : the average relative weight of an element referred to some element taken as a standard with oxygen of atomic weight 16 or usu. with carbon of atomic weight 12 being taken as a basis — see ELEMENT table

at·om·ism \'at-ə-ˌmiz-əm\ *n* : a doctrine that the universe is composed of simple indivisible minute particles — **at·om·ist** \-məst\ *n*

at·om·is·tic \ˌat-ə-'mis-tik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to atoms or atomism **2** : composed of many simple elements; *also* : divided into unconnected or antagonistic fragments ⟨an ~ society⟩ — **at·om·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

at·om·is·tics \-tiks\ *n pl but sing in constr* : a science dealing with the atom or with the use of atomic energy

at·om·ize \'at-ə-ˌmīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to reduce to minute particles or to a fine spray **2** : to treat as made up of many discrete units **3** : to subject to atomic bombing — **at·om·iza·tion** \ˌat-ə-mə-'zā-shən\ *n*

at·om·iz·er \'at-ə-ˌmī-zər\ *n* : an instrument for atomizing usu. a perfume, disinfectant, or medicament

atom smasher *n* : ACCELERATOR d

at·o·my \'at-ə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** [irreg. fr. L *atomi*, pl. of *atomus* atom] : a tiny particle : ATOM, MITE

aton·al \(ˈ)ā-'tōn-ᵊl, (ˈ)a-\ *adj* : marked by avoidance of traditional musical tonality; *esp* : organized without reference to key or tonal center and using the tones of the chromatic scale impartially — **aton·al·ism** \-ᵊl-ˌiz-əm\ *n* — **aton·al·ist** \-ᵊl-əst\ *n* — **aton·al·is·tic** \ˌā-ˌtōn-ᵊl-'is-tik, ˌa-\ *adj* — **ato·nal·i·ty** \ˌā-tō-'nal-ət-ē, ˌa-\ *n* — **aton·al·ly** \(ˈ)ā-'tōn-ᵊl-ē, (ˈ)a-\ *adv*

atone \ə-'tōn\ *vb* **atoned; aton·ing** [ME *atonen* to become reconciled, fr. *at on* in harmony, fr. *at* + *on* one] *vt* **1** *obs* : RECONCILE **2** : to supply satisfaction for : EXPIATE ~ *vi* : to make amends

atone·ment \ə-'tōn-mənt\ *n* **1** *obs* : RECONCILIATION **2** : the reconciliation of God and man through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ **3** : reparation for an offense or injury : SATISFACTION ⟨made ~ for his cruelty⟩ **4** *Christian Science* : the exemplifying of man's oneness with God

aton·ic \(ˈ)ā-'tän-ik, (ˈ)a-\ *adj* **1** : characterized by atony **2** : uttered without accent or stress — **ato·nic·i·ty** \ˌā-tō-'nis-ət-ē, ˌat-ə-'nis-\ *n*

at·o·ny \'at-ᵊn-ē\ *n* [LL *atonia*, fr. Gk, fr. *atonos* without tone, fr. *a-* + *tonos* tone] : lack of physiological tone esp. of a contractile organ

¹atop \ə-'täp\ *prep* : on top of

²atop *adv or adj* : on, to, or at the top

at·o·py \'at-ə-pē\ *n* [Gk *atopia* uncommonness, fr. *atopos* out of the way, uncommon, fr. *a-* + *topos* place — more at TOPIC] : a probably hereditary allergy characterized by symptoms (as asthma, hay fever, or hives) produced upon exposure to the exciting antigen without inoculation — **atop·ic** \(ˈ)ā-'täp-ik, -'tō-pik\ *adj*

-a·tor *n suffix* [ME *-atour*, fr. OF & L; OF, fr. L *-ator*, fr. *-atus* -ate + *-or*] : one that does ⟨totalizator⟩

ATP \ˌā-ˌtē-'pē, ā-'tē-ˌpē\ *n* [adenosine *tri*phosphate] : an adenosine ester derivative $C_{10}H_{16}N_5O_{13}P_3$ that supplies energy for many biochemical cellular processes by undergoing enzymatic hydrolysis esp. to ADP — called also *adenosine triphosphate*

ATPase \ˌā-ˌtē-'pē-ˌās, -ˌāz\ *n* : an enzyme that hydrolyzes ATP; *esp* : one that hydrolyzes ATP to ADP and inorganic phosphate

at·ra·bil·ious \ˌa-trə-'bil-yəs\ *adj* [L *atra bilis* black bile] **1** : given to or marked by melancholy : GLOOMY **2** : ILL-NATURED, PEEVISH — **at·ra·bil·ious·ness** *n*

at·ra·zine \'a-trə-ˌzēn\ *n* [ISV *atr-* (prob. fr. L *atr-, ater* black, dark) + tri*azine*] : a photosynthesis-inhibiting persistent herbicide $C_8H_{14}ClN_5$ used esp. to kill annual weeds and quack grass

atrem·ble \ə-'trem-bəl\ *adj* : shaking involuntarily : TREMBLING ⟨he was white as death and all ~ —Robert Coover⟩

atre·sia \ə-'trē-zhə\ *n* [NL, fr. ²*a-* + Gk *trēsis* perforation, fr. *tetrainein* to pierce — more at THROW] **1** : absence or closure of a natural passage of the body **2** : involution of a part (as an ovarian follicle)

Atreus \'ā-ˌtrüs, -trē-əs\ *n* [Gk] : a king of Mycenae who was the father of Agamemnon and Menelaus

atrio·ven·tric·u·lar \ˌā-trē-ō-ven-'trik-yə-lər, -vən-\ *adj* [NL *atrium* + E *ventricular*] : of, relating to, or located between an atrium and ventricle of the heart

atrip \ə-'trip\ *adj, of an anchor* : AWEIGH

atri·um \'ā-trē-əm\ *n, pl* **atria** \-trē-ə\ *also* **atri·ums** [L] **1** : the central hall of a Roman house **2** [NL, fr. L] : an anatomical cavity or passage; *esp* : the main chamber of an auricle of the heart or the entire auricle **3** : a rectangularly shaped open patio around which a house is built — **atri·al** \-trē-əl\ *adj*

atro·cious \ə-'trō-shəs\ *adj* [L *atroc-, atrox* gloomy, atrocious, fr. *atr-, ater* black + *-oc-, -ox* (akin to Gk *ōps* eye) — more at EYE] **1** : extremely wicked, brutal, or cruel : BARBARIC **2** : APPALLING, HORRIFYING ⟨the ~ weapons of modern war⟩ **3 a** : utterly revolting : ABOMINABLE ⟨~ working conditions⟩ **b** : of very poor quality ⟨~ handwriting⟩ ***syn*** see OUTRAGEOUS — **atro·cious·ly** *adv* — **atro·cious·ness** *n*

atroc·i·ty \ə-'träs-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being atrocious **2** : an atrocious act, object, or situation

¹at·ro·phy \'a-trə-fē\ *n, pl* **-phies** [LL *atrophia*, fr. Gk, fr. *atrophos* ill fed, fr. *a-* + *trephein* to nourish; akin to Gk *thrombos* clot, curd] **1** : decrease in size or wasting away of a body part or tissue; *also* : arrested development or loss of a part or organ incidental to the normal development or life of an animal or plant **2** : a wasting away or progressive decline : DEGENERATION ⟨the ~ of freedom⟩ — **atro·phic** \(ˈ)ā-'trō-fik\ *adj*

²atrophy \'a-trə-fē, -ˌfī\ *vb* **-phied; -phy·ing** *vi* : to undergo atrophy ~ *vt* : to cause to undergo atrophy

at·ro·pine \'a-trə-ˌpēn\ *n* [G *atropin*, fr. NL *Atropa*, genus name of belladonna, fr. Gk *Atropos*] : a racemic mixture of hyoscyamine extracted from belladonna and related plants used esp. to relieve spasms and to dilate the pupil of the eye

att *abbr* **1** attached **2** attention **3** attorney

at·tach \ə-'tach\ *vb* [ME *attachen*, fr. MF *attacher*, fr. OF *estachier*, fr. *estache* stake, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *staca* stake] *vt* **1** : to take by legal authority esp. under a writ ⟨the court's sheriffs ~*ed* his property⟩ **2** : to bring (oneself) into an association **3** : to bind by personal ties (as of affection or sympathy) ⟨was strongly ~*ed* to his family⟩ **4** : to make fast (as by tying or gluing) ⟨~ a label to a package⟩ **5** : ASCRIBE, ATTRIBUTE ⟨~*ed* great importance to public opinion polls⟩ ~ *vi* : to become attached : ADHERE ***syn*** see FASTEN ***ant*** detach — **at·tach·able** \-'tach-ə-bəl\ *adj*

at·ta·ché \ˌat-ə-'shā, ˌa-ˌta-, ə-ˌta-\ *n* [F, pp. of *attacher*] **1** : a technical expert on the diplomatic staff of his country at a foreign capital ⟨a military ~⟩ **2** : ATTACHÉ CASE

at·ta·ché case \ə-'tash-(ˌ)ā-ˌ ; ˌat-ə-'shā-ˌ , ˌa-ˌta-\ *n* : a small thin suitcase used esp. for carrying business papers

at·tached \ə-'tacht\ *adj* : permanently fixed when adult ⟨~ barnacles⟩

at·tach·ment \ə-'tach-mənt\ *n* **1** : a seizure by legal process; *also* : the writ or precept commanding such seizure **2 a** : the state of being personally attached : FIDELITY ⟨~ to a cause⟩ **b** : affectionate regard ⟨a deep ~ to natural beauty⟩ **3** : a device attached to a machine or implement **4** : the physical connection by which one thing is attached to another **5** : the process of physically attaching

¹at·tack \ə-'tak\ *vb* [MF *attaquer*, fr. (assumed) OIt *estaccare* to attach, fr. *stacca* stake, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *staca*] *vt* **1** : to set upon forcefully **2** : to threaten (a piece in chess) with immediate capture **3** : to assail with unfriendly or bitter words **4** : to begin to affect or to act on injuriously **5** : to set to work on ~ *vi* : to make an attack

syn ATTACK, ASSAIL, ASSAULT, BOMBARD, STORM *shared meaning element* : to make an onslaught on

²attack *n* **1** : the act of attacking : ASSAULT **2** : a belligerent or antagonistic action **3** : the beginning of destructive action (as by a chemical agent) **4** : the setting to work on some undertaking ⟨made a new ~ on the problem⟩ **5** : the act or manner of beginning a musical tone or phrase **6** : a fit of sickness; *esp* : an active episode of a chronic or recurrent disease **7 a** : an offensive or scoring action ⟨won the game with an eight-hit ~⟩ **b** : offensive players or the positions taken up by them

at·tack·man \-ˌman\ *n* : a player (as in lacrosse) assigned to an offensive zone or position

at·tain \ə-'tān\ *vb* [ME *atteynen*, fr. OF *ataindre*, fr. (assumed) VL *attangere*, fr. L *attingere*, fr. *ad-* + *tangere* to touch — more at TANGENT] *vt* **1** : to reach as an end : GAIN, ACHIEVE ⟨~ a goal⟩ ⟨struggled to ~ a natural effect⟩ **2** : to come into possession of : OBTAIN ⟨he ~*ed* preferment over his fellows⟩ **3** : to come to as

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the end of a progression or course of movement ⟨they ~ed the top of the hill⟩ ⟨~ a ripe old age⟩ ~ *vi* : to come or arrive by motion, growth, or effort ***syn*** see REACH — **at·tain·abil·i·ty** \-ˌtā-nə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n* — **at·tain·able** \-ˈtā-nə-bəl\ *adj* — **at·tain·able·ness** *n*

at·tain·der \ə-ˈtān-dər\ *n* [ME *attaynder*, fr. MF *ataindre* to accuse, attain] **1** : extinction of the civil rights and capacities of a person upon sentence of death or outlawry usu. after a conviction of treason **2** *obs* : DISHONOR

at·tain·ment \ə-ˈtān-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of attaining : the condition of being attained **2** : something attained : ACCOMPLISHMENT ⟨scientific ~s⟩

¹at·taint \ə-ˈtānt\ *vt* [ME *attaynten*, fr. MF *ataint*, pp. of *ataindre*] **1** : to affect by attainder **2** **a** *obs* : INFECT, CORRUPT **b** *archaic* : TAINT, SULLY **3** *archaic* : ACCUSE

²attaint *n*, *obs* : a stain upon honor or purity : DISGRACE

at·tar \ˈat-ər, ˈa-ˌtär\ *n* [Per *'atir* perfumed, fr. Ar, fr. *'itr* perfume] : a fragrant essential oil (as from rose petals); *also* : FRAGRANCE

¹at·tempt \ə-ˈtem(p)t\ *vt* [L *attemptare*, fr. *ad-* + *temptare* to touch, try — more at TEMPT] **1** : to make an effort to do, accomplish, solve, or effect ⟨~*ed* to swim the swollen river⟩ **2** *archaic* : TEMPT **3** *archaic* : to try to subdue : ATTACK — **at·tempt·able** \-ˈtem(p)-tə-bəl\ *adj*

syn ATTEMPT, TRY, ENDEAVOR, ESSAY, STRIVE, STRUGGLE *shared meaning element* : to make an effort to do or accomplish ***ant*** succeed

²attempt *n* **1** : the act or an instance of attempting; *esp* : an unsuccessful effort **2** *archaic* : ATTACK, ASSAULT

at·tend \ə-ˈtend\ *vb* [ME *attenden*, fr. OF *atendre*, fr. L *attendere*, lit., to stretch to, fr. *ad-* + *tendere* to stretch — more at THIN] *vt* **1** *archaic* : to give heed to **2** : to look after : take charge of **3** *archaic* **a** : to wait for **b** : to be in store for **4** **a** : to go or stay with as a companion, nurse, or servant **b** : to visit professionally as a physician **5** : to be present with : ACCOMPANY **6** : to be present at ~ *vi* **1** : to apply oneself ⟨~ to your work⟩ **2** : to apply the mind or pay attention : HEED **3** : to be ready for service ⟨ministers who ~ upon the king⟩ **4** *obs* : WAIT, STAY **5** : to take charge : SEE ⟨I'll ~ to that⟩ ***syn*** see TEND, ACCOMPANY — **at·tend·er** *n*

at·ten·dance \ə-ˈten-dən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act or fact of attending ⟨a physician in ~⟩ **2** **a** : the persons or number of persons attending ⟨daily ~ at the fair dwindled⟩ **b** : the number of times a person attends

¹at·ten·dant \ə-ˈten-dənt\ *adj* : accompanying or following as a consequence ⟨problems ~ upon pollution⟩

²attendant *n* **1** : one who attends another to perform a service; *esp* : an employee who waits on customers ⟨a parking-lot ~⟩ **2** : something that accompanies : CONCOMITANT **3** : ATTENDEE

at·tend·ee \ə-ˌten-ˈdē, ˌa-\ *n* : one who is present on a given occasion or at a given place : ATTENDER ⟨~s at a convention⟩

at·tend·ing \ə-ˈten-diŋ\ *adj* : serving as a physician on the staff of a teaching hospital ⟨~ surgeon⟩

at·ten·tion \ə-ˈten-chən\ *n* [ME *attencioun*, fr. L *attention-*, *attentio*, fr. *attentus*, pp. of *attendere*] **1** **a** : the act or state of attending esp. through applying the mind to an object of sense or thought **b** : a condition of readiness for such attention involving esp. a selective narrowing or focusing of consciousness and receptivity **2** : OBSERVATION, NOTICE; *esp* : consideration with a view to action ⟨a problem requiring prompt ~⟩ **3** **a** : an act of civility or courtesy esp. in courtship **b** : sympathetic consideration of the needs and wants of others : ATTENTIVENESS **4** : a position assumed by a soldier with heels together, body erect, arms at the sides, and eyes to the front — often used as a command — **at·ten·tion·al** \-ˈtench-nəl, -ˈten-chən-ᵊl\ *adj*

attention line *n* : a line usu. placed above the salutation in a business letter directing the letter to one specified

attention span *n* : the length of time during which an individual is able to concentrate

at·ten·tive \ə-ˈtent-iv\ *adj* **1** : MINDFUL, OBSERVANT ⟨~ to what he is doing⟩ **2** : heedful of the comfort of others : SOLICITOUS **3** : offering attentions in or as if in the role of a suitor ***syn*** see THOUGHTFUL ***ant*** inattentive, neglectful — **at·ten·tive·ly** *adv* — **at·ten·tive·ness** *n*

¹at·ten·u·ate \ə-ˈten-yə-ˌwāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *attenuatus*, pp. of *attenuare* to make thin, fr. *ad-* + *tenuis* thin — more at THIN] *vt* **1** : to make thin or slender **2** : to lessen the amount, force, or value of : WEAKEN **3** : to reduce the severity, virulence, or vitality of **4** : to make thin in consistency : RAREFY ~ *vi* : to become thin, fine, or less — **at·ten·u·a·tion** \-ˌten-yə-ˈwā-shən\ *n*

²at·ten·u·ate \ə-ˈten-yə-wət\ *adj* **1** : attenuated esp. in thickness, density, or force **2** : tapering gradually usu. to a long slender point ⟨~ leaves⟩

at·ten·u·a·tor \-yə-ˌwāt-ər\ *n* : a device for attenuating; *esp* : one for reducing the amplitude of an electrical signal without appreciable distortion

at·test \ə-ˈtest\ *vb* [MF *attester*, fr. L *attestari*, fr. *ad-* + *testis* witness — more at TESTAMENT] *vt* **1** **a** : to affirm to be true or genuine; *specif* : to authenticate by signing as a witness **b** : to authenticate officially **2** : to establish or verify the usage of **3** : to be proof of : MANIFEST ⟨the ruins of the city ~ its ancient magnificence⟩ **4** : to put on oath ~ *vi* : to bear witness : TESTIFY ⟨~ to the truth of the statement⟩ — **at·tes·ta·tion** \ˌa-ˌtes-ˈtā-shən, ˌat-ə-ˈstā-\ *n* — **at·test·er** \ə-ˈtes-tər\ *n*

at·tic \ˈat-ik\ *n* [F *attique*, fr. *attique* of Attica, fr. L *Atticus*] **1** : a low story or wall above the main order of a facade in the classical styles **2** : a room behind an attic **3** : a room or a space immediately below the roof of a building : GARRET

¹At·tic \ˈat-ik\ *adj* [L *Atticus*, fr. Gk *Attikos*, fr. *Attikē* Attica, Greece] **1** : Athenian **2** : marked by simplicity, purity, and refinement ⟨an ~ prose style⟩

²Attic *n* : a dialect of ancient Greek orig. used in Attica and later the literary language of the Greek-speaking world

at·ti·cism \ˈat-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n*, *often cap* **1** : a characteristic feature of Attic Greek occurring in another language or dialect **2** : a witty or well-turned phrase

¹at·tire \ə-ˈtī(ə)r\ *vt* **-tired; -tir·ing** [ME *attiren*, fr. OF *atirier*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *tire* order, rank, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *tīr* glory; akin to L *deus* god — more at DEITY] : to put garments on : DRESS, ARRAY; *esp* : to clothe in fancy or rich garments

²attire *n* **1** : DRESS, CLOTHES; *esp* : splendid or decorative clothing **2** : the antlers or antlers and scalp of a stag or buck

at·ti·tude \ˈat-ə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* [F, fr. It *attitudine*, fr. *attitudine* aptitude, fr. LL *aptitudin-*, *aptitudo* fitness — more at APTITUDE] **1** : the arrangement of the parts of a body or figure : POSTURE **2** **a** : a mental position with regard to a fact or state **b** : a feeling or emotion toward a fact or state **3** : a position assumed for a specific purpose ⟨a threatening ~⟩ **4** : a ballet position similar to the arabesque in which the raised leg is bent at the knee **5** : the position of an aircraft or spacecraft determined by the relationship between its axes and a reference datum (as the horizon or a particular star) **6** : an organismic state of readiness to respond in a characteristic way to a stimulus (as an object, concept, or situation) ***syn*** see POSITION

at·ti·tu·di·nal \ˌat-ə-ˈt(y)üd-nəl, -ᵊn-əl\ *adj* [*attitude* + *-inal* (as in *aptitudinal*, fr. L *aptitudin-*, *aptitudo*)] : relating to, based on, or expressive of personal attitudes or feelings ⟨~ judgment⟩

at·ti·tu·di·nize \ˌat-ə-ˈt(y)üd-ᵊn-ˌīz\ *vi* **-nized; -niz·ing** : to assume an affected mental attitude : POSE

attn *abbr* attention

at·to- \ˈat-(ˌ)ō\ *comb form* [ISV, fr. Dan or Norw *atten* eighteen, fr. ON *āttjān*; akin to OE *eahtatīene* eighteen] : one quintillionth (10^{-18}) part of ⟨*atto*gram⟩

at·torn \ə-ˈtərn\ *vi* [ME *attournen*, fr. MF *atorner*, fr. OF, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *torner* to turn] : to agree to become tenant to a new owner or landlord of the same property — **at·torn·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

at·tor·ney \ə-ˈtər-nē\ *n*, *pl* **-neys** [ME *attourney*, fr. MF *atorné*, pp. of *atorner*] : one who is legally appointed by another to transact business for him; *specif* : a legal agent qualified to act for suitors and defendants in legal proceedings — **at·tor·ney·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

attorney–at–law *n*, *pl* **attorneys–at–law** : a practitioner in a court of law who is legally qualified to prosecute and defend actions in such court on the retainer of clients

attorney general *n*, *pl* **attorneys general** *or* **attorney generals** : the chief law officer of a nation or state who represents the government in litigation and serves as its principal legal adviser

at·tract \ə-ˈtrakt\ *vb* [ME *attracten*, fr. L *attractus*, pp. of *attrahere*, fr. *ad-* + *trahere* to draw — more at DRAW] *vt* : to cause to approach or adhere: as **a** : to pull to or toward oneself or itself ⟨a magnet ~s iron⟩ **b** : to draw by appeal to natural or excited interest, emotion, or aesthetic sense : ENTICE ⟨~ attention⟩ ~ *vi* : to exercise attraction — **at·tract·able** \-ˈtrak-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **at·trac·tor** \-ˈtrak-tər\ *n*

syn ATTRACT, ALLURE, CHARM, CAPTIVATE, FASCINATE, BEWITCH, ENCHANT *shared meaning element* : to draw another by exerting a compelling influence ***ant*** repel

at·trac·tant \ə-ˈtrak-tənt\ *n* : something that attracts; *esp* : a substance (as a pheromone) that attracts insects or other animals

at·trac·tion \ə-ˈtrak-shən\ *n* **1** **a** : the act, process, or power of attracting **b** : personal charm **2** : the action or power of drawing forth a response : an attractive quality **3** : a force acting mutually between particles of matter, tending to draw them together, and resisting their separation **4** : something that attracts or is intended to attract people by appealing to their desires and tastes ⟨~s at the local theater⟩

syn ATTRACTION, AFFINITY, SYMPATHY *shared meaning element* : the relationship existing between persons or things that are naturally or involuntarily drawn together

at·trac·tive \ə-ˈtrak-tiv\ *adj* **1** : having or relating to the power to attract ⟨~ forces between molecules⟩ ⟨an ~ offer⟩ **2** : arousing interest or pleasure : CHARMING ⟨an ~ smile⟩ — **at·trac·tive·ly** *adv* — **at·trac·tive·ness** *n* — **at·trac·tiv·i·ty** \ə-ˌtrak-ˈtiv-ət-ē, ˌa-ˌtrak-\ *n*

attrib *abbr* attributive; attributively

¹at·tri·bute \ˈa-trə-ˌbyüt\ *n* [ME, fr. L *attributus*, pp. of *attribuere* to attribute, fr. *ad-* + *tribuere* to bestow — more at TRIBUTE] **1** : an inherent characteristic; *also* : an accidental quality **2** : an object closely associated with or belonging to a specific person, thing, or office ⟨a scepter is the ~ of power⟩; *esp* : such an object used for identification in painting or sculpture **3** : a word ascribing a quality; *esp* : ADJECTIVE

²at·trib·ute \ə-ˈtrib-yət\ *vt* **-ut·ed; -ut·ing** **1** : to explain by indicating a cause ⟨*attributed* his success to his coach⟩ **2** **a** : to regard as a characteristic of a person or thing **b** : to reckon as made or originated in an indicated fashion ⟨*attributed* the invention to a Russian⟩ **c** : CLASSIFY, DESIGNATE ***syn*** see ASCRIBE — **at·trib·ut·able** \-yət-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **at·trib·ut·er** *n*

at·tri·bu·tion \ˌa-trə-ˈbyü-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of attributing; *esp* : the ascribing of a work (as of literature or art) to a particular author or artist **2** : an ascribed quality, character, or right — **at·tri·bu·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

at·trib·u·tive \ə-ˈtrib-yət-iv\ *adj* **1** : relating to or of the nature of an attribute : ATTRIBUTING **2** : joined directly to a modified noun without a linking verb ⟨*city* in *city streets* is an ~ noun⟩ — **attributive** *n* — **at·trib·u·tive·ly** *adv*

at·trit·ed \ə-ˈtrīt-əd\ *adj* : worn by attrition

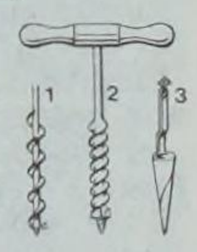
at·tri·tion \ə-ˈtrish-ən\ *n* [L *attrition-*, *attritio*, fr. *attritus*, pp. of *atterere* to rub against, fr. *ad-* + *terere* to rub — more at THROW] **1** [ME *attricioun*, fr. (assumed) ML *attrition-*, *attritio*, fr. L] : sorrow for one's sins that arises from a motive other than that of the love of God **2** : the act of rubbing together : FRICTION; *also* : the act of wearing or grinding down by friction **3** : the act of weakening or exhausting by constant harassment or abuse **4** : a reduction (as in personnel) chiefly as a result of resignation, retirement, or death — **at·tri·tion·al** \-ˈtrish-nəl, -ˈtrish-ən-ᵊl\ *adj*

at·tune \ə-ˈt(y)ün\ *vt* : to bring into harmony : TUNE — **at·tune·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

atty *abbr* attorney

atty gen *abbr* attorney general

atwit·ter \ə-'twit-ər\ *adj* : nervously concerned : EXCITED ⟨gossips ~ with speculation —*Time*⟩
at wt *abbr* atomic weight
atyp·i·cal \(')ā-'tip-i-kəl\ *adj* : not typical : IRREGULAR, UNUSUAL — **atyp·i·cal·i·ty** \ˌā-ˌtip-ə-'kal-ət-ē\ *n* — **atyp·i·cal·ly** \(')ā-'tip-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
Au *symbol* [L *aurum*] gold
AU *abbr* angstrom unit
au·bade \ō-'bäd\ *n* [F, fr. (assumed) OProv *aubada*, fr. OProv *alba, auba* dawn, fr. (assumed) VL *alba*, fr. L, fem. of *albus* white] **1** : a song or poem greeting the dawn **2 a** : a morning love song **b** : a song or poem of lovers parting at dawn **3** : morning music — compare NOCTURNE
¹au·burn \'ȯ-bərn\ *adj* [ME *auborne* blond, fr. MF, fr. ML *alburnus* whitish, fr. L *albus*] **1** : of the color auburn **2** : of a reddish brown color
²auburn *n* : a moderate brown
Au·bus·son \ˌō-bə-'sōⁿ\ *n* [*Aubusson*, France] **1** : a figured scenic tapestry used for wall hangings and upholstery **2** : a rug woven to resemble Aubusson tapestry
AUC \ˌā-(ˌ)yü-'sē\ *abbr* [L *ab urbe condita*] from the year of the founding of the city (of Rome)
au cou·rant \ˌō-kü-'räⁿ\ *adj* [F, lit., in the current] **1** : fully informed : UP-TO-DATE **2** : fully familiar : CONVERSANT
¹auc·tion \'ȯk-shən\ *n* [L *auction-, auctio*, lit., increase, fr. *auctus*, pp. of *augēre* to increase — more at EKE] **1** : a public sale of property to the highest bidder **2** : the act or process of bidding in some card games
²auction *vt* **auc·tioned; auc·tion·ing** \-sh(ə-)niŋ\ : to sell at auction ⟨~*ed* off his library⟩
auction bridge *n* : a bridge game differing from contract bridge in that tricks made in excess of the contract are scored toward game
auc·tion·eer \ˌȯk-shə-'ni(ə)r\ *n* : an agent who sells goods at auction — **auctioneer** *vt*
auc·to·ri·al \ȯk-'tōr-ē-əl, -'tȯr-\ *adj* [L *auctor* author — more at AUTHOR] : of or relating to an author
aud *abbr* audit; auditor
au·da·cious \ȯ-'dā-shəs\ *adj* [MF *audacieux*, fr. *audace* boldness, fr. L *audacia*, fr. *audac-, audax* bold, fr. *audēre* to dare, fr. *avidus* eager — more at AVID] **1 a** : intrepidly daring : ADVENTUROUS ⟨an ~ mountain climber⟩ **b** : recklessly bold : RASH **2** : contemptuous of law, religion, or decorum : INSOLENT **3** : marked by originality and verve ⟨a bright ~ comedy about love⟩ — **au·da·cious·ly** *adv* — **au·da·cious·ness** *n*
au·dac·i·ty \ȯ-'das-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *audacite*, fr. L *audac-, audax*] **1** : the quality or state of being audacious: **a** : intrepid boldness **b** : bold or arrogant disregard of normal restraints **2** : an audacious act — usu. used in pl. ***syn*** see TEMERITY ***ant*** circumspection
¹au·di·ble \'ȯd-ə-bəl\ *adj* [LL *audibilis*, fr. L *audire* to hear; akin to Gk *aisthanesthai* to perceive, Skt *āvis* evidently] : heard or capable of being heard — **au·di·bil·i·ty** \ˌȯd-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **au·di·bly** \'ȯd-ə-blē\ *adv*
²audible *n* : AUTOMATIC 2
au·di·ence \'ȯd-ē-ən(t)s, 'äd-\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *audientia*, fr. *audient-, audiens*, prp. of *audire*] **1** : the act or state of hearing **2 a** : a formal hearing or interview ⟨an ~ with the pope⟩ **b** : an opportunity of being heard ⟨he would succeed if he were once given ~⟩ **3 a** : a group of listeners or spectators **b** : the reading public **4** : FOLLOWING
au·di·ent \-ənt\ *n* [L *audient-, audiens*, prp.] : one that hears
au·dile \'ȯ-ˌdīl\ *n* [L *audire* to hear] : a person whose mental imagery is auditory rather than visual or motor — **audile** *adj*
aud·ing \'ȯd-iŋ\ *n* [L *aud*ire + E *-ing*] : the process of hearing, recognizing, and interpreting a spoken language
¹au·dio \'ȯd-ē-ˌō\ *adj* [*audio-*] **1** : of or relating to acoustic, mechanical, or electrical frequencies corresponding to normally audible sound waves which are of frequencies approximately from 15 to 20,000 cycles per second **2 a** : of or relating to sound or its reproduction and esp. high-fidelity reproduction **b** : relating to or used in the transmission or reception of sound — compare VIDEO
²audio *n* **1** : the transmission, reception, or reproduction of sound **2** : the section of television or motion picture equipment that deals with sound **3** : an audio signal; *broadly* : SOUND
audio- *comb form* [L *audire* to hear] **1** : hearing ⟨*audio*meter⟩ **2** : sound ⟨*audio*phile⟩ **3** : auditory and ⟨*audio*visual⟩
au·dio·gen·ic \ˌȯd-ē-ō-'jen-ik\ *adj* : produced by frequencies corresponding to sound waves — used esp. of epileptoid responses ⟨~ seizures⟩
au·dio–lin·gual \ˌȯd-ē-ō-'liŋ-g(yə-)wəl\ *adj* : involving a drill routine of listening and speaking in language learning
au·di·ol·o·gy \ˌȯd-ē-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* : a branch of science dealing with hearing; *specif* : therapy of individuals having impaired hearing — **au·di·o·log·i·cal** \-ē-ə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **au·di·ol·o·gist** \-ē-'äl-ə-jəst\ *n*
au·di·om·e·ter \ˌȯd-ē-'äm-ət-ər\ *n* : an instrument used in measuring the acuity of hearing — **au·dio·met·ric** \-ē-ō-'me-trik\ *adj* — **au·di·om·e·try** \-ē-'äm-ə-trē\ *n*
au·dio·phile \'ȯd-ē-ō-ˌfīl\ *n* : one who is enthusiastic about sound reproduction and esp. music from high-fidelity broadcasts or recordings
au·dio·tape \ˌȯd-ē-ō-'tāp\ *n* : a tape recording of sound
au·dio·vi·su·al \ˌȯd-ē-(ˌ)ō-'vizh(-ə)-wəl, -'vizh-əl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to both hearing and sight **2** : designed to aid in learning or teaching by making use of both hearing and sight ⟨an extensive ~ department of films and recordings⟩
au·dio·vi·su·als \-wəlz, -əlz\ *n pl* : instructional materials (as filmstrips accompanied by recordings) that make use of both sight and sound
¹au·dit \'ȯd-ət\ *n* [ME, fr. L *auditus* act of hearing, fr. *auditus*, pp.] **1 a** : a formal or official examination and verification of an account book **b** : a methodical examination and review **2** : the final report of an examination of books of account by auditors — **au·dit·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj*
²audit *vt* **1** : to examine with intent to verify ⟨~ the account books⟩ **2** : to attend (a course) without working for or expecting to receive formal credit
¹au·di·tion \ȯ-'dish-ən\ *n* [MF or L; MF, fr. L *audition-, auditio*, fr. *auditus*, pp. of *audire*] **1** : the power or sense of hearing **2** : the act of hearing; *esp* : a critical hearing ⟨an ~ of new recordings⟩ **3** : a trial performance to appraise an entertainer's merits
²audition *vb* **au·di·tioned; au·di·tion·ing** \-'dish-(ə-)niŋ\ *vt* : to test in an audition ~ *vi* : to give a trial performance
au·di·tive \'ȯd-ət-iv\ *adj* : AUDITORY
au·di·tor \'ȯd-ət-ər\ *n* **1** : one that hears or listens; *esp* : one that is a member of an audience **2** : one authorized to examine and verify accounts **3** : one that audits a course of study **4** : one that hears (as a court case) in the capacity of judge
au·di·to·ri·um \ˌȯd-ə-'tōr-ē-əm, -'tȯr-\ *n* **1** : the part of a public building where an audience sits **2** : a room, hall, or building used for public gatherings
¹au·di·to·ry \'ȯd-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *n* [ME *auditorie*, fr. L *auditorium* auditorium] **1** *archaic* : AUDIENCE **2** *archaic* : AUDITORIUM
²au·di·to·ry *adj* [LL *auditorius*] : of, relating to, or experienced through hearing
auditory nerve *n* : either of the 8th pair of cranial nerves connecting the inner ear with the brain and transmitting impulses concerned with hearing and balance — see EAR illustration
au fait \ō-'fā\ *adj* [F, lit., to the point] **1** : fully competent : CAPABLE **2** : fully informed : FAMILIAR **3** : socially correct
Auf·klä·rung \'auf-ˌklā-rəŋ, -ˌkler-əŋ\ *n* [G] : ENLIGHTENMENT 2
au fond \ō-fōⁿ\ *adv* [F] : at bottom : FUNDAMENTALLY
auf Wie·der·seh·en \auf-'vēd-ər-ˌzā(-ə)n\ *interj* [G, lit., till seeing again] — used to express farewell
aug *abbr* augmentative
Aug *abbr* August
Au·ge·an \ȯ-'jē-ən\ *adj* [L *Augeas*, king of Elis, fr. Gk *Augeias*; fr. the legend that his stable, left neglected for 30 years, was finally cleaned by Hercules] : extremely formidable or difficult and occas. distasteful ⟨an ~ task⟩
Augean stable *n* : a condition or place marked by great accumulation of filth or corruption — usu. used in pl. ⟨every government should attend to cleaning its own *Augean stables*⟩
au·gend \'ȯ-ˌjend\ *n* [L *augendus*, gerundive of *augēre* to increase — more at EKE] : a quantity to which an addend is added
au·ger \'ȯ-gər\ *n* [ME, alter. (resulting from incorrect division of *a nauger*) of *nauger*, fr. OE *nafogār*; akin to OHG *nabugēr* auger; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc≈NGmc compound whose constituents are represented by OE *nafu*, nave and *gār* spear — more at GORE] **1** : a tool for boring holes in wood consisting of a shank with a crosswise handle for turning, a central tapered screw, and a pair of cutting lips **2** : any of various instruments or devices made like an auger and used for boring (as in soil), forcing (as through a meat grinder), or for moving material (as in a snow thrower)



augers 1: *1, 2* screw, *3* tapering pod

¹aught \'ȯt, 'ät\ *pron* [ME, fr. OE *āwiht*, fr. *ā* ever + *wiht* creature, thing — more at AYE, WIGHT] **1** *archaic* : ANYTHING **2** : ALL ⟨for ~ I care⟩
²aught *adv, archaic* : at all
³aught *n* [alter. (resulting from incorrect division of *a naught*) of *naught*] **1** : ZERO, CIPHER **2** *archaic* : NONENTITY, NOTHING
au·gite \'ȯ-ˌjīt\ *n* [L *augites*, a precious stone, fr. Gk *augitēs*] **1** : a mineral consisting of an aluminous usu. black or dark green pyroxene that is found in igneous rocks **2** : PYROXENE — **au·git·ic** \ȯ-'jit-ik\ *adj*
¹aug·ment \ȯg-'ment\ *vb* [ME *augmenten*, fr. MF *augmenter*, fr. LL *augmentare*, fr. *augmentum* increase, fr. *augēre* to increase — more at EKE] *vi* : to become augmented ~ *vt* **1** : to make (something well or adequately developed) greater, more numerous, larger, or more intense **2** : to add an augment to ***syn*** see INCREASE ***ant*** abate — **aug·ment·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **aug·ment·er** *or* **aug·men·tor** \-'ment-ər\ *n*
²aug·ment \'ȯg-ˌment\ *n* : a vowel prefixed or a lengthening of the initial vowel to mark past time esp. in Greek and Sanskrit verbs
aug·men·ta·tion \ˌȯg-mən-'tā-shən, -ˌmen-\ *n* **1 a** : the act or process of augmenting **b** : the state of being augmented **2** : something that augments : ADDITION
¹aug·men·ta·tive \ȯg-'ment-ət-iv\ *adj* **1** : able to augment **2** : indicating large size and sometimes awkwardness or unattractiveness — used of words and affixes; compare DIMINUTIVE
²augmentative *n* : an augmentative word or affix
aug·ment·ed \ȯg-'ment-əd\ *adj, of a musical interval* : made one half step greater than major or perfect ⟨an ~ fifth⟩
augmented matrix *n* : a matrix whose elements are the coefficients of a set of simultaneous linear equations with the constant terms of the equations entered in an added column
au gra·tin \ō-'grat-ᵊn, ȯ-, -'grät-\ *adj* [F, lit., with the burnt scrapings from the pan] : covered with bread crumbs, butter, and cheese and then browned
¹au·gur \'ȯ-gər\ *n* [L; prob. akin to L *augēre*] **1** : an official diviner of ancient Rome **2** : one held to foretell events by omens
²augur *vt* **1** : to foretell esp. from omens **2** : to give promise of : PRESAGE ⟨higher pay ~*s* a better future⟩ ~ *vi* : to predict the future esp. from omens
au·gu·ry \'ȯ-gyə-rē, -gə-\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1** : divination from omens or portents or from chance events (as the fall of lots) **2** : OMEN, PORTENT

au·gust \ȯ-'gəst\ *adj* [L *augustus;* akin to L *augēre* to increase] : marked by majestic dignity or grandeur — **au·gust·ly** *adv* — **au·gust·ness** \-'gəs(t)-nəs\ *n*

Au·gust \'ȯ-gəst\ *n* [ME, fr. OE, fr. L *Augustus,* fr. *Augustus* Caesar] : the 8th month of the Gregorian calendar

Au·gus·tan \ȯ-'gəs-tən, ə-\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of Augustus Caesar or his age **2** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the neoclassical period in England — **Augustan** *n*

[1]Au·gus·tin·i·an \ˌȯ-gə-'stin-ē-ən\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to St. Augustine or his doctrines **2** : of or relating to any of several orders under a rule ascribed to St. Augustine — **Au·gus·tin·i·an·ism** \-ē-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*

[2]Augustinian *n* **1** : a follower of St. Augustine **2** : a member of an Augustinian order; *specif* : a friar of the Hermits of St. Augustine founded in 1256 and devoted to educational, missionary, and parish work

au jus \ō-'zhü(s), -'jüs; ō-zhüˑ\ *adj* [F, lit., with juice] : served in the juice obtained from roasting

auk \'ȯk\ *n* [Norw or Icel *alk, alka,* fr. ON *ālka;* akin to L *olor* swan] : any of several black and white short-necked diving seabirds (family Alcidae) that breed in colder parts of the northern hemisphere



great auk

auk·let \'ȯ-klət\ *n* : any of several small auks of the No. Pacific coasts

auld \'ȯl(d), 'äl(d)\ *adj, chiefly Scot* : OLD

auld lang syne \ˌōl-ˌ(d)aŋ-'zīn, ˌōl-ˌ(d)laŋ-, ˌȯl-\ *n* [Sc, lit., old long ago] : the good old times

au na·tu·rel \ˌō-ˌnat-ə-'rel\ *adj* [F] **1 a** : being in natural style or condition **b** : NUDE **2** : cooked plainly

aunt \'ant, 'änt\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *ante,* fr. L *amita;* akin to OHG *amma* mother, nurse, Gk *amma* nurse] **1** : the sister of one's father or mother **2** : the wife of one's uncle — **aunt·hood** \-ˌhůd\ *n* — **aunt·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj* — **aunt·ly** *adj*

Aunt Sal·ly \-'sal-ē\ *n, pl* **Aunt Sallies** [*Aunt Sally,* name given to an effigy of a woman smoking a pipe set up as an amusement attraction at English fairs for patrons to throw missiles at] **1** *Brit* : STRAW MAN 1 **2** *Brit* : one that is set up to invite attack or criticism : TARGET

au pair girl \'ō-'pa(ə)r-, -'pe(ə)r-\ *n* [F *au pair,* on even terms] : a foreign girl living in England who does domestic work for a family in return for room and board and the opportunity to learn the English language — called also *au pair*

aur- *or* **auri-** *comb form* [L, fr. *auris* — more at EAR] **1** : ear ⟨*aur*al⟩ ⟨*auri*scope⟩ **2** : aural and ⟨*auri*nasal⟩

au·ra \'ȯr-ə\ *n* [ME, fr. L, air, breeze, fr. Gk; akin to Gk *aēr* air] **1 a** : a subtle sensory stimulus (as an aroma) **b** : a distinctive atmosphere surrounding a given source ⟨the place had an ~ of mystery⟩ **2** : a luminous radiation : NIMBUS **3** : a subjective sensation (as of lights) experienced before an attack of some nervous disorders

au·ral \'ȯr-əl\ *adj* : of or relating to the ear or to the sense of hearing — **au·ral·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*

aurar *pl of* EYRIR

au·re·ate \'ȯr-ē-ət\ *adj* [ME *aureat,* fr. ML *aureatus* decorated with gold, fr. L *aureus* golden — more at ORIOLE] **1** : of a golden color or brilliance **2** : marked by grandiloquent and rhetorical style

au·re·ole \'ȯr-ē-ˌōl\ *or* **au·re·o·la** \ȯ-'rē-ə-lə\ *n* [ME *aureole* heavenly crown worn by saints, fr. ML *aureola,* fr. L, fem. of *aureolus* golden — more at ORIOLE] **1** : a radiant light around the head or body of a representation of a sacred personage **2** : RADIANCE, AURA ⟨had about him an ~ of youth and health⟩ **3** : the luminous area surrounding the sun or other bright light when seen through thin cloud or mist : CORONA **4** : a ring-shaped zone around an igneous intrusion — **aureole** *vt*

Au·reo·my·cin \ˌȯr-ē-ō-'mīs-ᵊn\ *trademark* — used for chlortetracycline

au re·voir \ˌōr-əv-'wär, ˌȯr-\ *n* [F, lit., till seeing again] : GOOD-BYE — often used interjectionally

au·ric \'ȯr-ik\ *adj* [L *aurum* gold — more at ORIOLE] : of, relating to, or derived from gold esp. when trivalent

au·ri·cle \'ȯr-i-kəl\ *n* [L *auricula,* fr. dim. of *auris* ear] **1 a** : PINNA 2b **b** : the chamber or either of the chambers of the heart that receives blood from the veins and forces it into the ventricle or ventricles — see HEART illustration **2** : an angular or ear-shaped anatomic lobe or process

au·ric·u·la \ȯ-'rik-yə-lə\ *n* [NL, fr. L, external ear] **1** : a yellow-flowered Alpine primrose (*Primula auricula*) **2** : AURICLE

au·ric·u·lar \ȯ-'rik-yə-lər\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or using the ear or the sense of hearing **2** : told privately ⟨an ~ confession⟩ **3** : understood or recognized by the sense of hearing **4** : of or relating to an auricle or auricula

au·ric·u·late \ȯ-'rik-yə-lət\ *adj* : having ears or auricles

au·ric·u·lo·ven·tric·u·lar \ȯ-ˌrik-yə-(')lō-ven-'trik-yə-lər, -vən-\ *adj* : ATRIOVENTRICULAR

au·rif·er·ous \ȯ-'rif-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* [L *aurifer,* fr. *aurum* + *-fer* -ferous] : gold-bearing

Au·ri·ga \ȯ-'rī-gə\ *n* [L (gen. *Aurigae*), lit., charioteer] : a constellation between Perseus and Gemini

Au·ri·gna·cian \ˌȯr-ēn-'yā-shən\ *adj* [F *aurignacien,* fr. *Aurignac,* France] : of or relating to an Upper Paleolithic culture marked by finely made artifacts of stone and bone, paintings, and engravings

au·rochs \'aů(ə)r-ˌäks, 'ȯ(ə)r-\ *n, pl* **aurochs** [G, fr. OHG *ūrohso,* fr. *ūro* aurochs + *ohso* ox; akin to OE *ūr* aurochs — more at OX] **1** : URUS **2** : WISENT

au·ro·ra \ə-'rōr-ə, ȯ-, -'rȯr-\ *n, pl* **auroras** *or* **au·ro·rae** \-(ˌ)ē\ [L — more at EAST] **1** *cap* : the Roman goddess of dawn — compare EOS **2** : DAWN **3 a** : AURORA BOREALIS **b** : AURORA AUSTRALIS — **au·ro·ral** \-əl\ *adj* — **au·ro·re·an** \-ē-ən\ *adj*

aurora aus·tra·lis \-ȯ-'strā-ləs, -ä-'strā-\ *n* [NL, lit., southern aurora] : a phenomenon in the southern hemisphere corresponding to the aurora borealis in the northern hemisphere

aurora bo·re·al·is \-ˌbōr-ē-'al-əs, -ˌbȯr-\ *n* [NL, lit., northern dawn] : a luminous phenomenon that consists of streamers or arches of light in the sky at night, is held to be of electrical origin, and appears to best advantage in the arctic regions

au·rous \'ȯr-əs\ *adj* [ISV, fr. L *aurum* gold — more at ORIOLE] : of, relating to, or containing gold esp. when univalent

AUS *abbr* Army of the United States

aus·cul·tate \'ȯ-skəl-ˌtāt\ *vt* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [back-formation fr. *auscultation*] : to examine by auscultation — **aus·cul·ta·to·ry** \ȯ-'skəl-tə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

aus·cul·ta·tion \ˌȯ-skəl-'tā-shən\ *n* [L *auscultation-, auscultatio* act of listening, fr. *auscultatus,* pp. of *auscultare* to listen; akin to L *auris* ear — more at EAR] : the act of listening to sounds arising within organs (as the lungs) as an aid to diagnosis and treatment

aus·land·er \'aů-ˌslen-dər, -ˌslan-\ *n* [G *ausländer,* lit., outlander] : OUTSIDER, FOREIGNER

aus·pi·cate \'ȯ-spə-ˌkāt\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *auspicatus,* pp. of *auspicari* to take auspices, fr. *auspic-, auspex*] : to initiate or enter upon esp. under circumstances or with a procedure (as drinking a toast) calculated to ensure good luck

aus·pice \'ȯ-spəs\ *n, pl* **aus·pic·es** \-spə-səz, -ˌsēz\ [L *auspicium,* fr. *auspic-, auspex* diviner by birds, fr. *avis* bird + *specere* to look, look at — more at AVIARY, SPY] **1** : observation by an augur esp. of the flight and feeding of birds to discover omens **2** : a prophetic sign; *esp* : a favorable sign **3** *pl* : kindly patronage and guidance

aus·pi·cious \ȯ-'spish-əs\ *adj* **1** : affording a favorable auspice : PROPITIOUS ⟨made an ~ beginning by getting an A⟩ **2** : attended by good auspices : PROSPEROUS ⟨an ~ year⟩ ***syn*** see FAVORABLE ***ant*** inauspicious, ill-omened — **aus·pi·cious·ly** *adv* — **aus·pi·cious·ness** *n*

Aus·sie \'ȯ-sē, 'äs-ē\ *n* [*Aus*tralian + *-ie*] : a native or inhabitant of Australia

aus·ten·ite \'ȯs-tə-ˌnīt, 'äs-\ *n* [F, fr. Sir W. C. Roberts-*Austen*†1902 E metallurgist] : a solid solution in iron of carbon and sometimes other solutes that occurs as a constituent of steel under certain conditions — **aus·ten·it·ic** \ˌȯs-tə-'nit-ik, ˌäs-\ *adj*

aus·tere \ȯ-'sti(ə)r\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *austerus,* fr. Gk *austēros* harsh, severe; akin to Gk *hauos* dry — more at SERE] **1 a** : stern and forbidding in appearance and manner ⟨~ Puritan colonists⟩ **b** : SOMBER, GRAVE ⟨dressed all in ~ black for the funeral⟩ **2** : rigidly abstemious : ASCETIC ⟨an ~ old hermit living on berries and roots⟩ **3** : UNADORNED, SIMPLE ⟨an ~ chair with a straight back⟩ ***syn*** see SEVERE ***ant*** ardent (*as of persons*), exuberant (*as of style*) — **aus·tere·ly** *adv* — **aus·tere·ness** *n*

aus·ter·i·ty \ȯ-'ster-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being austere **2 a** : an austere act, manner, or attitude **b** : an ascetic practice **3** : enforced or extreme economy

[1]Austr- *or* **Austro-** *comb form* [ME *austr-,* fr. L, fr. *Austr-, Auster* south wind; akin to L *aurora* dawn — more at EAST] **1** : south : southern ⟨*Austro*asiatic⟩ **2** : Australian and ⟨*Austro*-Malayan⟩

[2]Austr- *or* **Austro-** *comb form* [prob. fr. NL, fr. *Austria*] : Austrian and ⟨*Austro*-Hungarian⟩

aus·tral \'ȯs-trəl, 'äs-\ *adj* **1** : SOUTHERN **2** *cap* : AUSTRALIAN

Aus·tra·lia Day \ȯ-'strāl-yə-, ä-\ *n* : a national holiday in Australia observed in commemoration of the landing of the British at Sydney Cove in 1788 and observed on Jan. 26 if a Monday and otherwise on the next Monday

[1]Aus·tra·lian \ȯ-'strāl-yən, ä-\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of the Australian commonwealth **2** : the speech of the aboriginal inhabitants of Australia

[2]Australian *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the continent or commonwealth of Australia, its inhabitants, or the languages spoken there **2** : of, relating to, or being a biogeographic region that comprises Australia and the islands north of it from the Celebes eastward, Tasmania, New Zealand, and Polynesia

Australian ballot *n* : an official ballot printed at public expense on which the names of all the nominated candidates and proposals appear and which is distributed only at the polling place and marked in secret

Australian pine *n* : any of several casuarinas (esp. *Casuarina equisetifolia*) now widely grown as ornamentals in warm regions (as Florida)

Australian Rules football *n* : a game resembling rugby that is played between two teams of 18 players on a field 180–190 yards long that has four goalposts at each end

Australian terrier *n* : a small rather short-legged usu. grayish wirehaired terrier of Australian origin

Aus·tra·loid \'ȯs-trə-ˌlȯid, 'äs-\ *adj* [*Australia* + E *-oid*] : of or relating to an ethnic group including the Australian aborigines and other peoples of southern Asia and Pacific islands sometimes including the Ainu — **Australoid** *n*

aus·tra·lo·pith·e·cine \ȯ-ˌstrā-lō-'pith-ə-ˌsīn, ä-; ˌȯs-trə-, ˌäs-\ *adj* [deriv. of L *australis* southern (fr. *Austr-, Auster*) + Gk *pithēkos* ape — more at PITHECANTHROPUS] : of or relating to extinct southern African hominids (esp. genus *Australopithecus*) with near-human dentition and a relatively small brain — **australopithecine** *n*

Aus·tral·orp \'ȯs-trə-ˌlȯ(ə)rp, 'äs-\ *n* [*Australian* + *Orpington*] : a usu. black domestic fowl developed in Australia and valued for egg production

Aus·tro·asi·at·ic \'ȯs-(ˌ)trō-ˌā-z(h)ē-'at-ik, 'äs- *also* -ˌā-shē-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or constituting a family of languages once widespread over northeastern India and Indochina

Aus·tro·ne·sian \ˌȯs-trə-'nē-zhən, ˌäs-, -shən\ *adj* [*Austronesia,* islands of the southern Pacific] : of, relating to, or constituting a family of agglutinative languages spoken in the area extending from Madagascar eastward through the Malay peninsula and archipelago to Hawaii and Easter Island and including practically all the native languages of the Pacific Islands with the exception of the Australian, Papuan, and Negrito languages

aut- *or* **auto-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *autos* same, -self, self] **1** : self : same one ⟨*aut*ism⟩ ⟨*auto*biography⟩ **2** : automatic : self-acting : self-regulating ⟨*auto*dyne⟩

au·ta·coid \'ȯt-ə-ˌkȯid\ *n* [*aut-* + Gk *akos* remedy; akin to OIr *hīcc* healing] : a specific organic substance (as a hormone) forming in

one part of the body, moving in the body fluid or the sap, and modifying the activity of the cells of another part — **au·ta·coi·dal** \ˌȯt-ə-ˈkȯid-ᵊl\ *adj*

au·tar·chic \ȯ-ˈtär-kik\ *adj* : AUTARKIC — **au·tar·chi·cal** \-ki-kəl\ *adj*

¹au·tar·chy \ˈȯ-ˌtär-kē\ *n, pl* **-chies** [Gk *autarchia*, fr. *aut-* + *-archia* -archy] **1** : absolute sovereignty **2** : absolute or autocratic rule

²autarchy *n* [by alter.] : AUTARKY

au·tar·kic \ȯ-ˈtär-kik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or marked by autarky — **au·tar·ki·cal** \-ki-kəl\ *adj*

au·tar·ky \ˈȯ-ˌtär-kē\ *n* [G *autarkie*, fr. Gk *autarkeia*, fr. *autarkēs* self-sufficient, fr. *aut-* + *arkein* to defend, suffice — more at ARK] **1** : SELF-SUFFICIENCY, INDEPENDENCE; *specif* : national economic self-sufficiency and independence **2** : a policy of establishing a self-sufficient and independent national economy

aut·ecol·o·gy \ˌȯt-i-ˈkäl-ə-jē, ˌȯt-ē-\ *n* [ISV] : ecology dealing with individual organisms or individual kinds of organisms — **aut·eco·log·i·cal** \ˌȯt-ˌē-kə-ˈläj-i-kəl, -ˌek-ə-\ *adj*

au·teur theory \ō-ˈtər-\ *n* [part trans. of F *politique des auteurs*, fr. *auteur* author; fr. the view that directors are the true authors of a film] : a theory in motion-picture criticism that views the director as the primary creative force in a motion picture

auth *abbr* **1** authentic **2** author **3** authorized

au·then·tic \ə-ˈthent-ik, ȯ-\ *adj* [ME *autentik*, fr. MF *autentique*, fr. LL *authenticus*, fr. Gk *authentikos*, fr. *authentēs* perpetrator, master, fr. *aut-* + *-hentēs* (akin to Gk *anyein* to accomplish, Skt *sanoti* he gains)] **1** *obs* : AUTHORITATIVE **2** : worthy of acceptance or belief as conforming to fact or reality : TRUSTWORTHY **3 a** : not imaginary, false, or imitation ⟨one of the few remaining ~ colonial buildings⟩ **b** : conforming to an original so as to reproduce essential features ⟨an ~ reproduction of a colonial farmhouse⟩ **4 a** *of a church mode* : ranging upward from the keynote — compare PLAGAL 1 **b** *of a cadence* : progressing from the dominant chord to the tonic — compare PLAGAL 2 — **au·then·ti·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **au·then·tic·i·ty** \ˌȯ-ˌthen-ˈtis-ət-ē, -thən-\ *n*

syn AUTHENTIC, GENUINE, VERITABLE, BONA FIDE *shared meaning element* : being actually and precisely what is claimed. AUTHENTIC stresses fidelity to actuality and fact and may imply authority or trustworthiness in determining this relationship ⟨confirmed both by legend and *authentic* record —J. A. Froude⟩ GENUINE implies accordance with an original or type without counterfeiting, admixture, or adulteration ⟨*genuine* maple syrup⟩ or it may stress sincerity or the absence of factitiousness ⟨*genuine* piety⟩ VERITABLE implies a correspondence with truth and typically conveys a suggestion of affirmation ⟨though Christ be the *veritable* Son of God — A. T. Quiller-Couch⟩ or in figurative or hyperbolic contexts asserts the justice of the designation ⟨he is a *veritable* fool⟩ BONA FIDE, often interchangeable with *authentic* or *genuine*, can distinctively apply when good faith or sincerity is in question ⟨a *bona fide* sale of securities⟩ ***ant*** spurious

au·then·ti·cate \ə-ˈthent-i-ˌkāt, ȯ-\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** : to prove or serve to prove the authenticity of ***syn*** see CONFIRM ***ant*** impugn — **au·then·ti·ca·tion** \-ˌthent-i-ˈkā-shən\ *n* — **au·then·ti·ca·tor** \-ˈthent-i-ˌkāt-ər\ *n*

au·thor \ˈȯ-thər\ *n* [ME *auctour*, fr. ONF, fr. L *auctor* promoter, originator, author, fr. *auctus*, pp. of *augēre* to increase — more at EKE] **1** : the writer of a literary work (as a book) **2 a** : one that originates or gives existence : SOURCE ⟨trying to track down the ~ of the rumor⟩ ⟨the ~ of a theory⟩ **b** *cap* : GOD 1 ***syn*** see MAKER — **au·thor·ess** \ˈȯ-th(ə-)rəs\ *n* — **au·tho·ri·al** \ȯ-ˈthōr-ē-əl, -ˈthȯr-\ *adj*

au·thor·i·tar·i·an \ȯ-ˌthär-ə-ˈter-ē-ən, ə-, -ˌthȯr-\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or favoring blind submission to authority ⟨had ~ parents⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or favoring a concentration of power in a leader or an elite not constitutionally responsible to the people — **au·thoritarian** *n* — **au·thor·i·tar·i·an·ism** \-ē-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*

au·thor·i·ta·tive \ə-ˈthär-ə-ˌtāt-iv, ȯ-, -ˈthȯr-\ *adj* **1 a** : having or proceeding from authority : OFFICIAL ⟨~ church doctrine⟩ **b** : entitled to credit or acceptance : CONCLUSIVE ⟨a most ~ literary critique⟩ **2** : DICTATORIAL, PEREMPTORY — **au·thor·i·ta·tive·ly** *adv* — **au·thor·i·ta·tive·ness** *n*

au·thor·i·ty \ə-ˈthär-ət-ē, ȯ-, -ˈthȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *auctorite*, fr. OF *auctorité*, fr. L *auctoritat-, auctoritas* opinion, decision, power, fr. *auctor*] **1 a** (1) : a citation (as from a book or file) used in defense or support (2) : the source from which the citation is drawn **b** (1) : a conclusive statement or set of statements (as an official decision of a court) (2) : a decision taken as a precedent (3) : TESTIMONY **c** : an individual cited or appealed to as an expert **2 a** : power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior **b** : freedom granted by one in authority : RIGHT **3 a** : persons in command; *specif* : GOVERNMENT **b** : a governmental agency or corporation to administer a revenue-producing public enterprise ⟨the transit ~⟩ **4 a** : GROUNDS, WARRANT ⟨had excellent ~ for his strange actions⟩ **b** : convincing force : WEIGHT ⟨his strong tenor lent ~ to the performance⟩ ***syn*** see INFLUENCE

au·tho·ri·za·tion \ˌȯ-th(ə-)rə-ˈzā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of authorizing **2** : an instrument that authorizes : SANCTION

au·tho·rize \ˈȯ-thə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-rized; -riz·ing** **1** : to invest esp. with legal authority : EMPOWER ⟨*authorized* to act for her husband⟩ **2** : to establish by or as if by authority : SANCTION ⟨a custom *authorized* by time⟩ **3** *archaic* : to furnish a ground for : JUSTIFY — **au·tho·riz·er** *n*

Authorized Version *n* : a revision of the English Bishops' Bible carried out under James I, published in 1611, and widely used by Protestants

au·thor·ship \ˈȯ-thər-ˌship\ *n* **1** : the profession of writing **2 a** : the origin of a literary production **b** : the state or act of creating or causing

au·tism \ˈȯ-ˌtiz-əm\ *n* : absorption in self-centered subjective mental activity (as daydreams, fantasies, delusions, and hallucinations) esp. when accompanied by marked withdrawal from reality — **au·tis·tic** \ȯ-ˈtis-tik\ *adj*

¹au·to \ˈȯt-(ˌ)ō, ˈät-\ *n, pl* **autos** : AUTOMOBILE

²auto *abbr* automatic

¹auto- — see AUT-

²auto- *comb form* [¹*automobile*] : self-propelling : automotive ⟨*auto*truck⟩

au·to·an·ti·body \ˌȯt-(ˌ)ō-ˈant-i-ˌbäd-ē\ *n* : an antibody against one of the constituents of the tissues of the individual that produces it

au·to·bahn \ˈȯt-ō-ˌbän, ˈaůt-\ *n* [G, fr. *auto* + *bahn* road] : a German expressway

au·to·bio·graph·i·cal \ˌȯt-ə-ˌbī-ə-ˈgraf-i-kəl\ *also* **au·to·bio·graph·ic** \-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or of the nature of an autobiography — **au·to·bio·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

au·to·bi·og·ra·phy \ˌȯt-ə-bī-ˈäg-rə-fē, -bē-\ *n* : the biography of a person narrated by himself — **au·to·bi·og·ra·pher** \-fər\ *n*

au·to·bus \ˈȯt-ō-ˌbəs\ *n* [*auto* + *bus*] : OMNIBUS 1

au·to·cade \ˈȯt-ō-ˌkād\ *n* : MOTORCADE

au·to·ca·tal·y·sis \ˌȯt-ō-kə-ˈtal-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-y·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL] : catalysis of a reaction by one of its products — **au·to·cat·a·lyt·ic** \-ˌkat-ᵊl-ˈit-ik\ *adj*

au·to·ceph·a·lous \ˌȯt-ō-ˈsef-ə-ləs\ *adj* [LGk *autokephalos*, fr. Gk *aut-* + *kephalē* head — more at CEPHALIC] : being independent of external and esp. patriarchal authority — used esp. of Eastern national churches

au·toch·thon \ȯ-ˈtäk-thən\ *n, pl* **-thons** *or* **-tho·nes** \-thə-ˌnēz\ [Gk *autochthōn*, fr. *aut-* + *chthōn* earth — more at HUMBLE] **1 a** : one held to have sprung from the ground he inhabits **b** : ABORIGINE, NATIVE **2** : something that is autochthonous; *esp* : an indigenous plant or animal — **au·toch·tho·nism** \-thə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*

au·toch·tho·nous \ȯ-ˈtäk-thə-nəs\ *adj* : INDIGENOUS, NATIVE — **au·toch·tho·nous·ly** *adv* — **au·toch·tho·ny** \-nē\ *n*

¹au·to·clave \ˈȯt-ō-ˌklāv\ *n* [F, fr. *aut-* + L *clavis* key — more at CLAVICLE] : an apparatus (as for sterilizing) using superheated steam under pressure

²autoclave *vt* **-claved; -clav·ing** : to subject to the action of an autoclave

au·toc·ra·cy \ȯ-ˈtäk-rə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : government in which one person possesses unlimited power **2** : the authority or rule of an autocrat **3** : a community or state governed by autocracy

au·to·crat \ˈȯt-ə-ˌkrat\ *n* [F *autocrate*, fr. Gk *autokratēs* ruling by oneself, absolute, fr. *aut-* + *-kratēs* ruling — more at -CRAT] **1** : a person (as a monarch) ruling with unlimited authority **2** : one who has undisputed influence or power

au·to·crat·ic \ˌȯt-ə-ˈkrat-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or being an autocracy : ABSOLUTE ⟨an ~ government⟩ **2** : characteristic of or resembling an autocrat : DESPOTIC ⟨an ~ ruler⟩ — **au·to·crat·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **au·to·crat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

au·to·cross \ˈȯt-ō-ˌkrȯs, ˈät-\ *n* [*auto*] : an automobile gymkhana

au·to–da–fé \ˌaůt-ō-də-ˈfā, ˌȯt-\ *n, pl* **au·tos–da–fé** \-ōz-də-\ [Pg *auto da fé*, lit., act of the faith] : the ceremony accompanying the pronouncement of judgment by the Inquisition and followed by the execution of sentence by the secular authorities; *broadly* : the burning of a heretic

au·to·di·dact \ˌȯt-ō-ˈdī-ˌdakt, -dī-ˈ, -də-ˈ\ *n* [Gk *autodidaktos* self-taught, fr. *aut-* + *didaktos* taught, fr. *didaskein* to teach — more at DOCILE] : a self-taught person — **au·to·di·dac·tic** \-dī-ˈdak-tik, -də-\ *adj*

au·to·dyne \ˈȯt-ə-ˌdīn\ *n* [ISV *aut-* + hetero*dyne*] : a heterodyne in which the auxiliary current is generated in the device used for rectification

au·toe·cious \ȯ-ˈtē-shəs\ *adj* [*aut-* + Gk *oikia* house — more at VICINITY] : passing through all life stages on the same host ⟨~ rusts⟩ — **au·toe·cious·ly** *adv* — **au·toe·cism** \-ˈtē-ˌsiz-əm\ *n*

au·to·er·o·tism \ˌȯt-ō-ˈer-ə-ˌtiz-əm\ *or* **au·to·erot·i·cism** \-i-ˈrät-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n* **1** : sexual gratification obtained solely through one's own organism **2** : sexual feeling arising without known external stimulation — **au·to·erot·ic** \-i-ˈrät-ik\ *adj* — **au·to·erot·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

au·tog·a·my \ȯ-ˈtäg-ə-mē\ *n* [ISV] : SELF-FERTILIZATION: as **a** : pollination of a flower by its own pollen **b** : conjugation of two sister cells or sister nuclei of protozoans or fungi — **au·tog·a·mous** \-məs\ *adj*

au·to·gen·e·sis \ˌȯt-ō-ˈjen-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] : ABIOGENESIS — **au·to·ge·net·ic** \-jə-ˈnet-ik\ *adj* — **au·to·ge·net·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

au·tog·e·nous \ȯ-ˈtäj-ə-nəs\ *or* **au·to·gen·ic** \ˌȯt-ə-ˈjen-ik\ *adj* [Gk *autogenēs*, fr. *aut-* + *-genēs* born, produced — more at -GEN] **1** : produced independently of external influence or aid : ENDOGENOUS **2** : originating or derived from sources within the same individual ⟨an ~ graft⟩ ⟨~ vaccine⟩ **3** : not requiring a meal of blood to produce eggs ⟨~ mosquitoes⟩ — **au·tog·e·nous·ly** *adv*

au·to·gi·ro *also* **au·to·gy·ro** \ˌȯt-ō-ˈjī(ə)r-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-ros** [fr. *Autogiro*, a trademark] : a rotary-wing aircraft that employs a propeller for forward motion and a freely rotating rotor for lift

au·to·graft \ˈȯt-ō-ˌgraft\ *n* : a tissue or organ that is transplanted from one part to another part of the same body — **autograft** *vt*

¹au·to·graph \ˈȯt-ə-ˌgraf\ *n* [LL *autographum*, fr. L, neut. of *autographus* written with one's own hand, fr. Gk *autographos*, fr. *aut-* + *-graphos* written — more at -GRAPH] **1** : something written or made with one's own hand: **a** : an original manuscript or work of art **b** : a person's handwritten signature **2** : a representation or trace of an object produced in a photographic emulsion by the mechanical, electrical, chemical, or radiation effects of the object itself — **au·tog·ra·phy** \ȯ-ˈtäg-rə-fē\ *n*

²autograph *vt* **1** : to write with one's own hand **2** : to write one's signature in or on

au·to·graph·ic \ˌȯt-ə-ˈgraf-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or constituting an autograph **2 a** *of an instrument* : SELF-RECORDING **b** *of a*

record : recorded by a self-recording instrument — **au·to·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
Au·to·harp \'ȯt-ō-ˌhärp\ *trademark* — used for a zither with button-controlled dampers for selected strings
au·to·hyp·no·sis \ˌȯt-ō-hip-'nō-səs\ *n* [NL] : self-induced and usu. automatic hypnosis — **au·to·hyp·not·ic** \-'nät-ik\ *adj*
au·to·im·mune \-im-'yün\ *adj* : of, relating to, or caused by autoantibodies ⟨~ diseases⟩ — **au·to·im·mu·ni·ty** \-'yü-nət-ē\ *n* — **au·to·im·mu·ni·za·tion** \-ˌim-yə-nə-'zā-shən *also* -im-ˌyü-\ *n*
au·to·in·fec·tion \-in-'fek-shən\ *n* [ISV] : reinfection with larvae produced by parasitic worms already in the body
au·to·in·oc·u·la·tion \ˌȯt-ō-in-ˌäk-yə-'lā-shən\ *n* [ISV] **1** : inoculation with vaccine prepared from material from one's own body **2** : spread of infection from one part to other parts of the same body
au·to·in·tox·i·ca·tion \-in-ˌtäk-sə-'kā-shən\ *n* [ISV] : a state of being poisoned by toxic substances produced within the body
au·to·load·ing \ˌȯt-ō-'lōd-iŋ\ *adj* : SEMIAUTOMATIC b
au·tol·o·gous \ȯ-'täl-ə-gəs\ *adj* [*aut-* + *-ologous* (as in *homologous*)] : derived from the same individual
au·tol·y·sate \ȯ-'täl-ə-ˌsāt, -ˌzāt\ *n* : a product of autolysis
au·tol·y·sin \-ə-sən\ *n* : a substance that produces autolysis
au·tol·y·sis \-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] : breakdown of all or part of a cell or tissue by self-produced enzymes — **au·to·lyt·ic** \ˌȯt-ᵊl-'it-ik\ *adj*
au·to·mak·er \'ȯt-ō-ˌmā-kər, 'ät-\ *n* : a manufacturer of automobiles
au·to·ma·nip·u·la·tion \ˌȯt-ō-mə-ˌnip-yə-'lā-shən\ *n* : physical stimulation of the genital organs by oneself — **au·to·ma·nip·u·la·tive** \-'nip-yə-ˌlāt-iv\ *adj*
Au·to·mat \'ȯt-ə-ˌmat\ *service mark* — used for a cafeteria in which food is obtained esp. from coin-operated compartments
au·to·mate \'ȯt-ə-ˌmāt\ *vb* **-mat·ed; -mat·ing** [back-formation fr. *automation*] *vt* **1** : to operate by automation **2** : to convert to largely automatic operation : AUTOMATIZE ~ *vi* : to undergo automation — **au·to·mat·able** \-ˌmāt-ə-bəl\ *adj*
[1]au·to·mat·ic \ˌȯt-ə-'mat-ik\ *adj* [Gk *automatos* self-acting, fr. *aut-* + *-matos* (akin to L *ment-, mens* mind) — more at MIND] **1 a** : largely or wholly involuntary; *esp* : REFLEX 5 ⟨~ blinking of the eyelids⟩ **b** : acting or done spontaneously or unconsciously **c** : resembling an automaton : MECHANICAL ⟨knew the lesson so well that her answers were ~⟩ **2** : having a self-acting or self-regulating mechanism **3** *of a firearm* : using either gas pressure or force of recoil and mechanical spring action for repeatedly ejecting the empty cartridge shell, introducing a new cartridge, and firing it ***syn*** see SPONTANEOUS — **au·to·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **au·to·ma·tic·i·ty** \-mə-'tis-ət-ē, -ma-\ *n*
[2]automatic *n* **1** : a machine or apparatus that operates automatically: as **a** : an automatic firearm **b** : an automatic gear-shifting mechanism **2** : a substitute offensive or defensive play called at the line of scrimmage in football — called also *audible*
automatic pilot *n* : a device for automatically steering ships, aircraft, and spacecraft — called also *autopilot*
automatic writing *n* : writing performed without conscious intention and sometimes without awareness as if of telepathic or spiritualistic origin
au·to·ma·tion \ˌȯt-ə-'mā-shən\ *n* [*[1]automatic*] **1** : the technique of making an apparatus, a process, or a system operate automatically **2** : the state of being operated automatically **3** : automatically controlled operation of an apparatus, process, or system by mechanical or electronic devices that take the place of human organs of observation, effort, and decision
au·tom·a·tism \ȯ-'täm-ə-ˌtiz-əm\ *n* [F *automatisme*, fr. *automate* automaton, fr. L *automaton*] **1 a** : the quality or state of being automatic **b** : an automatic action **2** : a theory that views the body as a machine and consciousness as a noncontrolling adjunct of the body **3** : the power or fact of moving independently of external stimuli or under the influence of external stimuli but independent of conscious control **4** : suspension of the conscious mind to release subconscious images — **au·tom·a·tist** \-'täm-ət-əst\ *n*
au·tom·a·ti·za·tion \ȯ-ˌtäm-ət-ə-'zā-shən\ *n* : AUTOMATION
au·tom·a·tize \ȯ-'täm-ə-ˌtīz\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz·ing** [*[1]automatic*] : to make automatic
au·tom·a·ton \ȯ-'täm-ət-ən, -ə-ˌtän\ *n, pl* **-atons** *or* **-a·ta** \-ət-ə, -ə-ˌtä\ [L, fr. Gk, neut. of *automatos*] **1** : a mechanism that is relatively self-operating; *esp* : ROBOT **2** : a machine or control mechanism designed to follow automatically a predetermined sequence of operations or respond to encoded instructions **3** : an individual who acts in a mechanical fashion
[1]au·to·mo·bile \ˌȯt-ə-mō-'bē(ə)l, 'ȯt-ə-mō-ˌbēl, ˌȯt-ə-'mō-ˌbēl\ *adj* [F, fr. *aut-* + *mobile*] : AUTOMOTIVE
[2]automobile *n* : a usu. four-wheeled automotive vehicle designed for passenger transportation and commonly propelled by an internal-combustion engine using a volatile fuel — **automobile** *vi* — **au·to·mo·bil·ist** \-'bē-ləst, -ˌbē-\ *n*
au·to·mor·phism \ˌȯt-ə-'mȯr-ˌfiz-əm\ *n* [*aut-* + iso*morphism*] : an isomorphism of a set (as a group) with itself
au·to·mo·tive \ˌȯt-ə-'mōt-iv\ *adj* **1** : SELF-PROPELLED **2** : of, relating to, or concerned with automotive vehicles or machines
au·to·nom·ic \ˌȯt-ə-'näm-ik\ *adj* **1 a** : acting independently of volition ⟨~ reflexes⟩ **b** : relating to, affecting, or controlled by the autonomic nervous system **2** : due to internal causes or influences : SPONTANEOUS — **au·to·nom·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
autonomic nervous system *n* : a part of the vertebrate nervous system that innervates smooth and cardiac muscle and glandular tissues and governs involuntary actions and that consists of the sympathetic nervous system and the parasympathetic nervous system
au·ton·o·mist \ȯ-'tän-ə-məst\ *n* : one who advocates autonomy
au·ton·o·mous \ȯ-'tän-ə-məs\ *adj* [Gk *autonomos* independent, fr. *aut-* + *nomos* law — more at NIMBLE] **1** : of, relating to, or marked by autonomy **2 a** : having the right or power of self-government **b** : undertaken or carried on without outside control : SELF-CONTAINED ⟨an ~ school system⟩ **3 a** : existing or capable of existing independently ⟨an ~ zooid⟩ **b** : responding, reacting, or developing independently of the whole ⟨an ~ growth⟩ **4** : controlled by the autonomic nervous system ***syn*** see FREE — **au·ton·o·mous·ly** *adv*
au·ton·o·my \-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** **1** : the quality or state of being self-governing; *esp* : the right of self-government **2** : a self-governing state **3** : self-directing freedom and esp. moral independence
au·to·phyte \'ȯt-ə-ˌfīt\ *n* : a plant capable of synthesizing its own food from simple inorganic substances — **au·to·phyt·ic** \ˌȯt-ə-'fit-ik\ *adj* — **au·to·phyt·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
au·to·pi·lot \'ȯt-ō-ˌpī-lət\ *n* : AUTOMATIC PILOT
au·to·plas·tic \ˌȯt-ō-'plas-tik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or involving repair of lesions with tissue from the same body — **au·to·plas·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **au·to·plas·ty** \'ȯt-ō-ˌplas-tē\ *n*
au·top·sy \'ȯ-ˌtäp-sē, 'ȯt-əp-\ *n, pl* **-sies** [Gk *autopsia* act of seeing with one's own eyes, fr. *aut-* + *opsis* sight, fr. *opsesthai* to be going to see — more at OPTIC] : POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION — **autopsy** *vt*
au·to·ra·dio·graph \ˌȯt-ō-'rād-ē-ə-ˌgraf\ *or* **au·to·ra·dio·gram** \-ˌgram\ *n* [ISV] : an image produced on a photographic film or plate by the radiations from a radioactive substance in an object which is in close contact with the emulsion — **au·to·ra·dio·graph·ic** \-ˌrād-ē-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj* — **au·to·ra·di·og·ra·phy** \-ˌrād-ē-'äg-rə-fē\ *n*
au·to·ro·ta·tion \-rō-'tā-shən\ *n* : the turning of the rotor of an autogiro or a helicopter with the resulting lift caused solely by the aerodynamic forces induced by motion of the rotor along its flight path — **au·to·ro·tate** \-'rō-ˌtāt\ *vi* — **au·to·ro·ta·tion·al** \-rō-'tā-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*
autos–da–fé *pl of* AUTO-DA-FÉ
au·to·sex·ing \'ȯt-ō-ˌsek-siŋ\ *adj* : showing different characters in the two sexes at birth or hatching
au·to·some \'ȯt-ə-ˌsōm\ *n* : a chromosome other than a sex chromosome — **au·to·so·mal** \ˌȯt-ə-'sō-məl\ *adj* — **au·to·so·mal·ly** \-mə-lē\ *adv*
au·to·stra·da \ˌau̇t-ō-'sträd-ə, ˌȯt-ō-\ *n, pl* **-stradas** *or* **-stra·de** \-'sträd-(ˌ)ā\ [It, fr. *auto*mobile + *strada* street, fr. LL *strata* paved road — more at STREET] : a high-speed multilane highway first developed in Italy
au·to·sug·ges·tion \ˌȯt-ō-sə(g)-'jes(h)-chən\ *n* [ISV] : an influencing of one's own attitudes, behavior, or physical condition by mental processes other than conscious thought : SELF-HYPNOSIS — **au·to·sug·gest** \-sə(g)-'jest\ *vt*
au·to·te·lic \ˌȯt-ō-'tel-ik, -'tē-lik\ *adj* [Gk *autotelēs*, fr. *aut-* + *telos* end — more at WHEEL] : having a purpose in itself
au·to·tet·ra·ploi·dy \ˌȯt-ō-'te-trə-ˌplȯid-ē\ *n* : the state of having four genomes due to doubling of the ancestral chromosome complement — **au·to·tet·ra·ploid** \-ˌplȯid\ *adj or n*
au·tot·o·mize \ȯ-'tät-ə-ˌmīz\ *vb* **-mized; -miz·ing** *vt* : to effect autotomy of ~ *vi* : to undergo autotomy
au·tot·o·my \-mē\ *n* [ISV] : reflex separation of a part from the body : division of the body into two or more pieces — **au·to·tom·ic** \ˌȯt-ə-'täm-ik\ *or* **au·to·to·mous** \ȯ-'tät-ə-məs\ *adj*
au·to·trans·form·er \-tran(t)s-'fȯr-mər\ *n* : a transformer in which the primary and secondary coils have part or all of their turns in common
au·to·trans·plant \-'tran(t)s-ˌplant\ *n* : AUTOGRAFT — **au·to·trans·plant** \-tran(t)s-'\ *vt*
au·to·trans·plan·ta·tion \-ˌtran(t)s-ˌplan-'tā-shən\ *n* : the action of autotransplanting : the condition of being autotransplanted
au·to·troph \'ȯt-ə-ˌtrōf, -ˌträf\ *n* [G, fr. *autotroph*, adj.] : an autotrophic organism — **au·tot·ro·phy** \ȯ-'tä-trə-fē\ *n*
au·to·tro·phic \ˌȯt-ə-'trō-fik\ *adj* [prob. fr. G *autotroph*, fr. Gk *autotrophos* supplying one's own food, fr. *aut-* + *trephein* to nourish — more at ATROPHY] **1** : needing only carbon dioxide or carbonates as a source of carbon and a simple inorganic nitrogen compound for metabolic synthesis **2** : not requiring a specified exogenous factor for normal metabolism — **au·to·tro·phi·cal·ly** \-fi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
au·tumn \'ȯt-əm\ *n* [ME *autumpne*, fr. L *autumnus*] **1** : the season between summer and winter comprising in the northern hemisphere usu. the months of September, October, and November or as reckoned astronomically extending from the September equinox to the December solstice — called also *fall* **2** : a period of maturity or incipient decline ⟨in the ~ of her life⟩ — **au·tum·nal** \ȯ-'təm-nəl\ *adj* — **au·tum·nal·ly** \-nə-lē\ *adv*
autumn crocus *n* : an autumn-blooming colchicum
au·tun·ite \ō-'tən-ˌīt, 'ȯt-ᵊn-\ *n* [*Autun*, France] : a radioactive lemon-yellow mineral $Ca(UO_2)(PO_4)_2.10–12H_2O$ occurring in tabular crystals with basal cleavage and in scales like mica
aux *or* **auxil** *abbr* auxiliary
aux·e·sis \ȯg-'zē-səs, ȯk-'sē-\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *auxēsis* increase, growth, fr. *auxein* to increase — more at EKE] : GROWTH; *specif* : increase of cell size without cell division — **aux·et·ic** \-'zet-ik, -'set-\ *adj* — **aux·et·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
[1]aux·il·ia·ry \ȯg-'zil-yə-rē, -'zil-(ə-)rē\ *adj* [L *auxiliaris*, fr. *auxilium* help; akin to Gk *auxein* to increase] **1 a** : offering or providing help **b** : functioning in a subsidiary capacity ⟨an ~ branch of the state university⟩ **2** *of a verb* : accompanying another verb and typically expressing person, number, mood, or tense **3 a** : SUPPLEMENTARY **b** : constituting a reserve ⟨an ~ power plant⟩ **4** : equipped with sails and a supplementary inboard engine
[2]auxiliary *n, pl* **-ries** **1 a** : an auxiliary person, group, or device; *specif* : a member of a foreign force serving a nation at war **b** : a Roman Catholic titular bishop assisting a diocesan bishop and not having the right of succession **2** : an auxiliary boat or ship **3** : an auxiliary verb
aux·in \'ȯk-sən\ *n* [ISV, fr. Gk *auxein*] : an organic substance that is able in low concentrations to promote elongation of plant shoots and usu. to control other specific growth effects; *broadly* : PLANT HORMONE — **aux·in·ic** \ȯk-'sin-ik\ *adj* — **aux·in·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
auxo·troph \'ȯk-sə-ˌtrōf, -ˌträf\ *n* : an auxotrophic strain or individual

auxo·tro·phic \ˌȯk-sə-'trō-fik\ *adj* [Gk *auxein* to increase + *-o-* + E *-trophic*] : requiring a specific growth substance beyond the minimum required for normal metabolism and reproduction ⟨~ mutants of bacteria⟩ — **aux·ot·ro·phy** \ȯk-'sät-rə-fē\ *n*

av *abbr* **1** avenue **2** average **3** avoirdupois

AV *abbr* **1** ad valorem **2** audiovisual **3** Authorized Version

[1]avail \ə-'vā(ə)l\ *vb* [ME *availen*, prob. fr. *a-* (as in *abaten* to abate) + *vailen* to avail, fr. OF *valoir* to be of worth, fr. L *valēre* — more at WIELD] *vi* : to be of use or advantage : SERVE ⟨our best efforts did not ~⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to be of use or advantage to : PROFIT **2** : to result in : bring about ⟨his efforts ~*ed* him nothing⟩ — **avail oneself of** *also* **avail of** : to make use of : take advantage of

[2]avail *n* **1** : advantage toward attainment of a goal or purpose : USE ⟨effort was of little ~⟩ **2** *pl, archaic* : profits or proceeds esp. from a business or from the sale of property

avail·abil·i·ty \ə-ˌvā-lə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being available **2** : an available person or thing

avail·able \ə-'vā-lə-bəl\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : having a beneficial effect **2** : VALID — used of a legal plea or charge **3** : present or ready for immediate use **4** : ACCESSIBLE, OBTAINABLE ⟨articles ~ in any drugstore⟩ **5** : qualified or willing to do something or to assume a responsibility ⟨~ candidates⟩ **6** : present in such chemical or physical form as to be usable (as by a plant) ⟨~ nitrogen⟩ ⟨~ water⟩ — **avail·able·ness** *n* — **avail·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

[1]av·a·lanche \'av-ə-ˌlanch\ *n* [F, fr. F dial. *lavantse, avalantse*] **1** : a large mass of snow, ice, earth, rock, or other material in swift motion down a mountainside or over a precipice **2** : a sudden great or overwhelming rush or accumulation of something ⟨office workers tied down with an ~ of paper work⟩ **3** : a cumulative process in which electrons or charge carriers accelerated by an electric field produce additional electrons or charge carriers through collisions (as with gas molecules)

[2]avalanche *vb* **-lanched; -lanch·ing** *vi* : to descend in an avalanche ~ *vt* : OVERWHELM, FLOOD

Av·a·lon \'av-ə-ˌlän\ *n* : a paradise in Arthurian legend to which Arthur is carried after his death

[1]avant–garde \ˌäv-ˌän(t)-'gärd, ˌav-, ˌȧv-; ə-'vänt-, ; ˌav-ˌōⁿ-', ˌav-ˌȯn(t)-'\ *n* [F, vanguard] : an intelligentsia that develops new or experimental concepts esp. in the arts — **avant–gard·ism** \-'gärd-ˌiz-əm\ *n* — **avant–gard·ist** \-'gärd-əst\ *n*

[2]avant–garde *adj* : of or relating to an avant-garde ⟨~ writers⟩

av·a·rice \'av-(ə-)rəs\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *avaritia*, fr. *avarus* avaricious, fr. *avēre* to covet — more at AVID] : excessive or insatiable desire for wealth or gain : GREEDINESS, CUPIDITY

av·a·ri·cious \ˌav-ə-'rish-əs\ *adj* : greedy of gain : excessively acquisitive esp. in seeking to hoard riches ***syn*** see COVETOUS ***ant*** generous — **av·a·ri·cious·ly** *adv* — **av·a·ri·cious·ness** *n*

avast \ə-'vast\ *vb imper* [perh. fr. D *houd vast* hold fast] — a nautical command to stop or cease

av·a·tar \'av-ə-ˌtär\ *n* [Skt *avatāra* descent, fr. *avatarati* he descends, fr. *ava-* away + *tarati* he crosses over — more at UKASE, THROUGH] **1** : the incarnation of a Hindu deity (as Vishnu) **2 a** : an incarnation in human form **b** : an embodiment (as of a concept or philosophy) usu. in a person **3** : a variant phase or version of a continuing basic entity

avaunt \ə-'vȯnt, -'vänt\ *adv* [ME, fr. MF *avant*, fr. L *abante* forward, before, fr. *ab* from + *ante* before — more at OF, ANTE-] : AWAY, HENCE

AVC *abbr* **1** American Veterans Committee **2** automatic volume control

avdp *abbr* avoirdupois

[1]ave \'äv-(ˌ)ā\ *n* [ME, fr. L, hail] **1** : an expression of greeting or of leave-taking : HAIL, FAREWELL **2** *often cap* : AVE MARIA

[2]ave *abbr* avenue

avel·lan \ə-'vel-ən\ *or* **avel·lane** \ə-'vel-ˌān, 'av-ə-ˌlān\ *adj* [L *abellana, avellana* filbert, fr. fem. of *Abellanus* of Abella, fr. *Abella*, ancient town in Italy] *of a heraldic cross* : having the four arms shaped like conventionalized filberts — see CROSS illustration

Ave Ma·ria \ˌäv-(ˌ)ā-mə-'rē-ə\ *n* [ME, fr. ML, hail, Mary] : HAIL MARY

avenge \ə-'venj\ *vt* **avenged; aveng·ing** [ME *avengen*, prob. fr. *a-* (as in *abaten* to abate) + *vengen* to avenge, fr. OF *vengier* — more at VENGEANCE] **1** : to take vengeance for or on behalf of **2** : to exact satisfaction for (a wrong) by punishing the wrongdoer — **aveng·er** *n*

syn AVENGE, REVENGE *shared meaning element* : to punish one who has wronged oneself or another

av·ens \'av-ənz\ *n, pl* **avens** [ME *avence*, fr. OF] : any of a genus (*Geum*) of perennial herbs of the rose family with white, purple, or yellow flowers

av·en·tail \'av-ən-ˌtāl\ *n* [ME, modif. of OF *ventaille*] : VENTAIL

aven·tu·rine \ə-'ven-chə-ˌrēn, -rən\ *n* [F, fr. *aventure* chance — more at ADVENTURE] **1** : glass containing opaque sparkling particles of foreign material usu. copper or chromic oxide **2** : a translucent quartz spangled throughout with scales of mica or other mineral

av·e·nue \'av-ə-ˌn(y)ü\ *n* [MF, fr. fem. of *avenu*, pp. of *avenir* to come to, fr. L *advenire* — more at ADVENTURE] **1** : a way of access : ROUTE **2** : a channel for pursuing a desired object ⟨~*s* of communication⟩ **3 a** *chiefly Brit* : the principal walk or driveway to a house situated off a main road **b** : a broad passageway bordered by trees **4** : an often broad street or road

aver \ə-'vər\ *vt* **averred; aver·ring** [ME *averren*, fr. MF *averer*, fr. ML *adverare* to confirm as authentic, fr. L *ad-* + *verus* true — more at VERY] **1 a** : to verify or prove to be true in pleading a cause **b** : to allege or assert in pleading **2** : to declare positively

[1]av·er·age \'av-(ə-)rij\ *n* [modif. of MF *avarie* damage to ship or cargo, fr. OIt *avaria*, fr. Ar *'awārīyah* damaged merchandise] **1** : sundry petty charges regularly defrayed by the master of a ship and usu. included in the freight **2 a** : a less than total loss sustained by a ship or cargo **b** : a charge arising from damage caused by sea perils customarily distributed equitably and proportionately among all chargeable with it **3 a** : a single value (as a mean, mode, or median) that summarizes or represents the general significance of a set of unequal values **b** : MEAN 1b **4 a** : an estimation of or approximation to an arithmetic mean **b** : a level (as of intelligence) typical of a group, class, or series ⟨above the ~⟩ **5** : a ratio expressing the average performance esp. of an athletic team or an athlete computed according to the number of opportunities for successful performance

syn AVERAGE, MEAN, MEDIAN, NORM *shared meaning element* : something (as a quantity) that represents a middle point between extremes ***ant*** maximum, minimum

[2]average *adj* **1** : equaling an arithmetic mean **2 a** : being about midway between extremes ⟨a man of ~ height⟩ **b** : not out of the ordinary : COMMON ⟨the ~ person⟩ — **av·er·age·ly** *adv* — **av·er·age·ness** *n*

[3]average *vb* **av·er·aged; av·er·ag·ing** *vi* **1 a** : to be or come to an average ⟨the gain *averaged* out to 20 percent⟩ **b** : to have a medial value of ⟨a color *averaging* a pale purple⟩ **2** : to buy on a falling market or sell on a rising market additional shares or commodities so as to obtain a more favorable average price — usu. used with *down* or *up* ~ *vt* **1** : to do, get, or have on the average or as an average sum or quantity ⟨~*s* 12 hours of work a day⟩ **2** : to find the arithmetic mean of (a series of unequal quantities) **3 a** : to bring toward the average **b** : to divide among a number proportionately

aver·ment \ə-'vər-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of averring **2** : something that is averred : AFFIRMATION

averse \ə-'vərs\ *adj* [L *aversus*, pp. of *avertere*] : having an active feeling of repugnance or distaste ⟨~ to strenuous exercise⟩ ***syn*** see DISINCLINED ***ant*** avid (*of* or *for*), athirst (*for*) — **averse·ly** *adv* — **averse·ness** *n*

aver·sion \ə-'vər-zhən, -shən\ *n* **1** *obs* : the act of turning away **2 a** : a feeling of repugnance toward something with a desire to avoid or turn from it ⟨regards drunkenness with ~⟩ **b** : a settled dislike : ANTIPATHY ⟨expressed an ~ to parties⟩ **3** *archaic* : one that is the object of aversion

aver·sive \ə-'vər-siv, -ziv\ *adj* : tending to avoid or causing avoidance of a noxious or punishing stimulus ⟨behavior modification by ~ stimulation⟩

avert \ə-'vərt\ *vt* [ME *averten*, fr. MF *avertir*, fr. L *avertere*, fr. *ab-* + *vertere* to turn — more at WORTH] **1** : to turn away or aside (as the eyes) in avoidance **2** : to see coming and ward off : AVOID ***syn*** see PREVENT

Aves·ta \ə-'ves-tə\ *n* [MPer *Avastāk*, lit., original text] : the book of the sacred writings of Zoroastrianism

Aves·tan \-tən\ *n* : one of the two ancient languages of Old Iranian and that in which the sacred books of Zoroastrianism were written — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table — **Avestan** *adj*

avg *abbr* average

av·gas \'av-ˌgas\ *n* [*av*iation *gas*oline] : gasoline for airplanes

avi·an \'ā-vē-ən\ *adj* [L *avis*] : of, relating to, or derived from birds

avi·an·ize \-vē-ə-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to modify or attenuate (as a virus) by repeated culture in the developing chick embryo

avi·a·rist \'ā-vē-ə-rəst, -vē-ˌer-əst\ *n* : one who keeps an aviary

avi·ary \'ā-vē-ˌer-ē\ *n, pl* **-ar·ies** [L *aviarium*, fr. *avis* bird; akin to Gk *aetos* eagle] : a place for keeping birds confined

avi·ate \'ā-vē-ˌāt, 'av-ē-\ *vi* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [back-formation fr. *aviation*] : to navigate the air (as in an airplane)

avi·a·tion \ˌā-vē-'ā-shən, ˌav-ē-\ *n, often attrib* [F, fr. L *avis*] **1** : the operation of heavier-than-air aircraft **2** : military airplanes **3** : airplane manufacture, development, and design

aviation cadet *n* : one in training for a military or naval commission with an aeronautical rating

avi·a·tor \'ā-vē-ˌāt-ər, 'av-ē-\ *n* : the operator or pilot of an airplane

avi·a·tress \-ˌā-trəs\ *n* : AVIATRIX

avi·a·trix \ˌā-vē-'ā-triks, ˌav-ē-\ *n, pl* **-trix·es** \-trik-səz\ *or* **-tri·ces** \-trə-ˌsēz\ : a woman aviator

avi·cul·ture \'ā-və-ˌkəl-chər, 'av-ə-\ *n* [L *avis* + E *culture*] : the raising and care of birds and esp. of wild birds in captivity — **avi·cul·tur·ist** \ˌā-və-'kəlch-(ə-)rəst, ˌav-ə-\ *n*

av·id \'av-əd\ *adj* [F or L; F *avide*, fr. L *avidus*, fr. *avēre* to covet; akin to Goth *awiliuth* thanks, Gk *enēēs* gentle] **1** : desirous to the point of greed : urgently eager : GREEDY ⟨~ fondness for publicity⟩ **2** : characterized by enthusiasm and vigorous pursuit ⟨~ readers⟩ ***syn*** see EAGER ***ant*** indifferent, averse — **av·id·ly** *adv* — **av·id·ness** *n*

av·i·din \'av-əd-ən\ *n* [fr. its avidity for biotin] : a protein found in white of egg that combines with biotin and makes it inactive

avid·ity \ə-'vid-ət-ē, a-\ *n, pl* **-ities** **1** : the quality or state of being avid: **a** : keen eagerness **b** : consuming greed **2 a** : the strength of an acid or base dependent on its degree of dissociation **b** : AFFINITY 2b

avi·fau·na \ˌā-və-'fȯn-ə, ˌav-ə-, -'fän-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. L *avis* + NL *fauna*] : the birds or the kinds of birds of a region, period, or environment — **avi·fau·nal** \-ᵊl\ *adj* — **avi·fau·nal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **avi·fau·nis·tic** \-fȯ-'nis-tik, -fä-\ *adj*

av·i·ga·tion \ˌav-ə-'gā-shən\ *n* [L *avis* + E *-gation* (as in *navigation*)] : the navigation of airplanes

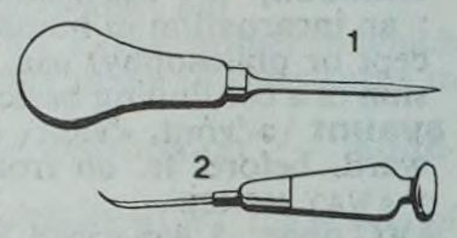
avi·on·ics \ˌā-vē-'än-iks, ˌav-ē-\ *n pl* [*av*iation electr*onics*] : the development and production of electrical and electronic devices for use in aviation, missilery, and astronautics; *also* : the devices and systems so developed — **avi·on·ic** \-ik\ *adj*

avir·u·lent \(ˈ)ā-'vir-(y)ə-lənt\ *adj* [ISV] : not virulent — compare NONPATHOGENIC

avi·ta·min·osis \ˌā-ˌvīt-ə-mə-'nō-səs\ *n, pl* **-o·ses** \-ˌsēz\ : disease (as pellagra) resulting from a deficiency of one or more vitamins — **avi·ta·min·ot·ic** \-mə-'nät-ik\ *adj*

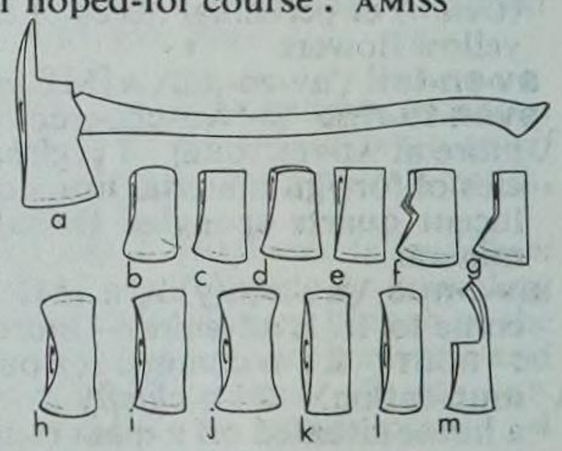
avn *abbr* aviation

avo \'av-(,)ü\ *n, pl* **avos** [Pg, fr. *avo* fractional part, fr. *-avo* ordinal suffix (as in *oitavo* eighth, fr. L *octavus*) — more at OCTAVE] — see *pataca* at MONEY table
av·o·ca·do \,av-ə-'käd-(,)ō, ,äv-\ *n, pl* **-dos** *also* **-does** [modif. of Sp *aguacate*, fr. Nahuatl *ahuacatl*] : the pulpy green or purple edible fruit of various tropical American trees (genus *Persea*) of the laurel family; *also* : a tree bearing avocados — called also *alligator pear, avocado pear*
av·o·ca·tion \,av-ə-'kā-shən\ *n* [L *avocation-, avocatio*, fr. *avocatus*, pp. of *avocare* to call away, fr. *ab-* + *vocare* to call, fr. *voc-, vox* voice — more at VOICE] **1** *archaic* : DIVERSION, DISTRACTION **2** : a subordinate occupation pursued in addition to one's vocation esp. for enjoyment : HOBBY **3** : customary employment : VOCATION — **av·o·ca·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **av·o·ca·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
av·o·cet \'av-ə-,set\ *n* [F & It; F *avocette*, fr. It *avocetta*] : any of several rather large long-legged shorebirds (genus *Recurvirostra*) with webbed feet and slender upward-curving bill
avoid \ə-'vȯid\ *vt* [ME *avoiden*, fr. OF *esvuidier*, fr. *es-* (fr. L *ex-*) + *vuidier* to empty — more at VOID] **1** *obs* : VOID, EXPEL **2** *archaic* : to depart or withdraw from : LEAVE **3** : to make legally void : ANNUL ⟨~ a plea⟩ **4** **a** : to keep away from : SHUN **b** : to prevent the occurrence or effectiveness of **c** : to refrain from ***syn*** see ESCAPE — **avoid·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **avoid·ably** \-blē\ *adv* — **avoid·er** *n*
avoid·ance \ə-'vȯid-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* **1** *obs* **a** : an action of emptying, vacating, or clearing away **b** : OUTLET **2** : ANNULMENT **3** : an act or practice of avoiding
av·oir·du·pois \,av-ərd-ə-'pȯiz, 'av-ərd-ə-,\ *n* [ME *avoir de pois* goods sold by weight, fr. OF, lit., goods of weight] **1** : AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT **2** : WEIGHT, HEAVINESS; *esp* : personal weight
avoirdupois weight *n* : the series of units of weight based on the pound of 16 ounces and the ounce of 16 drams — see WEIGHT table
avouch \ə-'vaůch\ *vt* [ME *avouchen* to cite as authority, fr. MF *avochier* to summon, fr. L *advocare* — more at ADVOCATE] **1** : to declare as a matter of fact or as a thing that can be proved : AFFIRM **2** : to vouch for : CORROBORATE **3** **a** : to acknowledge (as an act) as one's own **b** : CONFESS, AVOW
avouch·ment \-mənt\ *n* : an act of avouching : AVOWAL
avow \ə-'vaů\ *vt* [ME *avowen*, fr. OF *avouer*, fr. L *advocare*] **1** : to declare assuredly **2** : to declare openly, bluntly, and without shame ⟨ever ready to ~ his reactionary outlook⟩ ***syn*** **1** see ASSERT **2** see ACKNOWLEDGE ***ant*** disavow — **avow·ed·ly** \-'vaů-əd-lē\ *adv* — **avow·er** \-'vaů(-ə)r\ *n*
avow·al \-'vaů(-ə)l\ *n* : an open declaration or acknowledgment
avulse \ə-'vəls\ *vt* **avulsed; avuls·ing** [L *avulsus*, pp. of *avellere* to tear off, fr. *ab-* + *vellere* to pluck — more at VULNERABLE] : to separate by avulsion
avul·sion \ə-'vəl-shən\ *n* : a forcible separation or detachment: as **a** : a tearing away of a body part accidentally or surgically **b** : a sudden cutting off of land by flood, currents, or change in course of a body of water; *esp* : one separating land from one person's property and joining it to another's
avun·cu·lar \ə-'vəŋ-kyə-lər\ *adj* [L *avunculus* maternal uncle — more at UNCLE] **1** : of or relating to an uncle **2** : suggestive of an uncle esp. in kindliness or geniality ⟨~ indulgence⟩
aw \'ȯ\ *interj* — used to express mild sympathy, remonstrance, incredulity, or disgust
AW *abbr* **1** actual weight **2** aircraft warning **3** all water **4** articles of war **5** automatic weapon
await \ə-'wāt\ *vb* [ME *awaiten*, fr. ONF *awaitier*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *waitier* to watch — more at WAIT] *vt* **1** *obs* : to lie in wait for **2** **a** : to wait for **b** : to remain in abeyance until ⟨a treaty ~*ing* ratification⟩ **3** : to be ready or waiting for ⟨wondered what ~*ed* him at the end of his journey⟩ ~ *vi* **1** *obs* : ATTEND **2** : to stay or be in waiting : WAIT **3** : to be in store ***syn*** see EXPECT ***ant*** despair
[1]awake \ə-'wāk\ *vb* **awoke** \-'wōk\ *also* **awaked** \-'wākt\; **awaked** *also* **awoke** *or* **awo·ken** \-'wō-kən\; **awak·ing** *vi* **1** : to cease sleeping **2** : to become aroused or active again **3** : to become conscious or aware of something ⟨*awoke* to their danger⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to arouse from sleep or a sleeplike state **2** : to make active : stir up ⟨*awoke* old memories⟩
[2]awake *adj* : roused from or as if from sleep ***syn*** see AWARE
awak·en \ə-'wā-kən\ *vb* **awak·ened; awak·en·ing** \-'wāk-(ə-)niŋ\ [ME *awakenen*, fr. OE *awæcnian*, fr. *a-* + *wæcnian* to waken] : AWAKE — **awak·en·er** \-'wāk-(ə-)nər\ *n*
[1]award \ə-'wȯ(ə)rd\ *vt* [ME *awarden* to decide, fr. ONF *eswarder*, fr. *es-* (fr. L *ex-*) + *warder* to guard, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *wartēn* to watch — more at WARD] **1** : to give by judicial decree or after careful weighing of evidence **2** : to confer or bestow as being deserved or merited or needed ⟨~ scholarships to ghetto students⟩ ***syn*** see GRANT — **award·able** \-'wȯrd-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **award·er** \-'wȯrd-ər\ *n*
[2]award *n* **1** **a** : a judgment or final decision; *esp* : the decision of arbitrators in a case submitted to them **b** : the document containing the decision of arbitrators **2** : something that is conferred or bestowed esp. on the basis of merit or need
award·ee \ə-,wȯr-'dē, -'wȯr-,\ *n* : one that receives an award
aware \ə-'wa(ə)r, -'we(ə)r\ *adj* [ME *iwar*, fr. OE *gewær*, fr. *ge-* (associative prefix) + *wær* wary — more at CO-, WARY] **1** *archaic* : WATCHFUL, WARY **2** : having or showing realization, perception, or knowledge — **aware·ness** *n*
syn AWARE, COGNIZANT, CONSCIOUS, SENSIBLE, ALIVE, AWAKE *shared meaning element* : having knowledge of something and esp. of something not generally known or apparent ***ant*** unaware
awash \ə-'wȯsh, -'wäsh\ *adj* **1** **a** : alternately covered and exposed by waves or tide **b** : washing about : AFLOAT **c** : covered with water : FLOODED **2** : marked by an abundance ⟨a post office ~ with holiday mail⟩
[1]away \ə-'wā\ *adv* **1** : on the way : ALONG ⟨get ~ early⟩ **2** : from this or that place : HENCE, THENCE ⟨go ~⟩ **3** **a** : in a secure place or manner ⟨locked ~⟩ ⟨tucked ~⟩ **b** : in another direction **4** : out of existence : to an end ⟨echoes dying ~⟩ **5** : from one's possession ⟨gave ~ a fortune⟩ **6** **a** : ON, UNINTERRUPTEDLY ⟨clocks ticking ~⟩ **b** : without hesitation or delay **7** : by a long distance or interval : FAR ⟨~ back in 1910⟩
[2]away *adj* **1** : absent from a place : GONE ⟨~ for the weekend⟩ **2** : DISTANT ⟨a lake 10 miles ~⟩ **3** : played on an opponent's grounds ⟨home and ~ games⟩ **4** *baseball* : OUT ⟨two ~ in the 9th⟩ — **away·ness** *n*
[1]awe \'ȯ\ *n* [ME, fr. ON *agi*; akin to OE *ege* awe, Gk *achos* pain] **1** *archaic* **a** : DREAD, TERROR **b** : the power to inspire dread **2** : emotion in which dread, veneration, and wonder are variously mingled: as **a** : profound and humbly fearful reverence inspired by deity or by something sacred or mysterious **b** : submissive and admiring fear inspired by authority or power ⟨they stood in ~ of the king⟩ **c** : wondering reverence tinged with fear inspired by the sublime ***syn*** see REVERENCE
[2]awe *vt* **awed; aw·ing** : to inspire with awe
awea·ry \ə-'wi(ə)r-ē\ *adj, archaic* : being weary
aweath·er \ə-'weth-ər\ *adv* : on or toward the weather or windward side — compare ALEE
awed \'ȯd\ *adj* : showing awe ⟨~ respect⟩
aweigh \ə-'wā\ *adj* : raised just clear of the ground — used of an anchor
awe·less *or* **aw·less** \'ȯ-ləs\ *adj* **1** : feeling no awe **2** *obs* : inspiring no awe
awe·some \'ȯ-səm\ *adj* **1** : expressive of awe ⟨~ tribute⟩ **2** : inspiring awe ⟨an ~ sight⟩ — **awe·some·ly** *adv* — **awe·some·ness** *n*
awe·struck \-,strək\ *also* **awe·strick·en** \-,strik-ən\ *adj* : filled with awe
[1]aw·ful \'ȯ-fəl\ *adj* **1** : inspiring awe **2** : filled with awe: as **a** *obs* : AFRAID, TERRIFIED **b** : deeply respectful or reverential **3** : extremely disagreeable or objectionable **4** : exceedingly great — used as an intensive ⟨they took an ~ chance⟩ ***syn*** see FEARFUL — **aw·ful·ly** \'ȯ-fə-lē, *esp as adv of adj senses 3 & 4* -flē\ *adv* — **aw·ful·ness** \-fəl-nəs\ *n*
[2]awful *adv* : VERY, EXTREMELY ⟨~ tired⟩
awhile \ə-'hwī(ə)l, ə-'wī(ə)l\ *adv* : for a while
awhirl \ə-'hwər(-ə)l, -'wər(-ə)l\ *adj* : characterized by whirling
awk·ward \'ȯ-kwərd\ *adj* [ME *awkeward* in the wrong direction, fr. *awke* turned the wrong way, fr. ON *öfugr*; akin to OHG *abuh* turned the wrong way, L *opacus* obscure] **1** *obs* : PERVERSE **2** *archaic* : UNFAVORABLE, ADVERSE **3** : lacking dexterity or skill (as in the use of hands) ⟨~ with a needle and thread⟩ **b** : showing lack of expertness ⟨~ pictures⟩ **4** **a** : lacking ease or grace (as of movement or expression) **b** : lacking the right proportions, size, or harmony of parts : UNGAINLY **5** **a** : lacking social grace and assurance **b** : causing embarrassment ⟨an ~ moment⟩ **6** : poorly adapted for use or handling ⟨an ~ load⟩ **7** : requiring caution ⟨an ~ diplomatic situation⟩ — **awk·ward·ly** *adv* — **awk·ward·ness** *n*
syn AWKWARD, CLUMSY, MALADROIT, INEPT, GAUCHE *shared meaning element* : not marked by ease and smoothness (as in acting or functioning) ***ant*** handy, deft, graceful
awl \'ȯl\ *n* [ME *al*, fr. ON *alr*; akin to OHG *āla* awl, Skt *ārā*] : a pointed instrument for marking surfaces or piercing small holes (as in leather or wood)
awl–shaped \-,shāpt\ *adj* : shaped like an awl; *specif* : being linear and tapering to a fine point



awls: *1* ordinary, *2* sewing

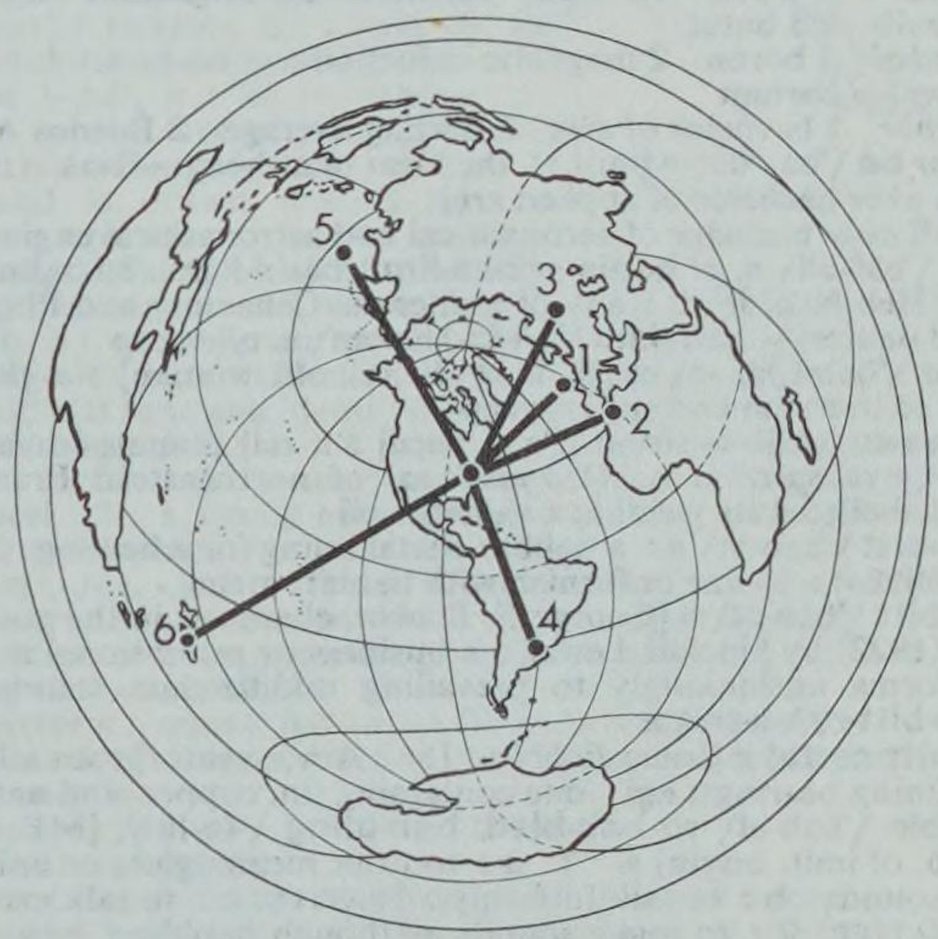
aw·mous \'ȧ-məs, 'ȯ-\ *n* [ME (northern dial.) *almouse*, fr. ON *almusa*, fr. OS *almōsa* or OHG *alamuosan*] *Scot* : ALMS
awn \'ȯn\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *agen*, fr. ON *ögn*; akin to OHG *agana* awn, OE *ecg* edge — more at EDGE] : one of the slender bristles that terminate the glumes of the spikelet in some cereal and other grasses; *broadly* : a small pointed process — **awned** \'ȯnd\ *adj* — **awn·less** \'ȯn-ləs\ *adj*
aw·ning \'ȯn-iŋ, 'än-\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : a rooflike cover extending over or before a place (as over the deck of a ship or before a window) as a shelter **2** : a shelter resembling an awning — **aw·ninged** \-iŋd\ *adj*
awoke *past of* AWAKE
awoken *past part of* AWAKE
[1]AWOL \'ā-,wȯl, ,ā-,dəb-əl-yů-,ō-'el\ *adj, often not cap* [absent without leave] : absent without leave
[2]AWOL *n, often not cap* : one who is AWOL
awry \ə-'rī\ *adv or adj* **1** : in a turned or twisted position or direction : ASKEW **2** : out of the right or hoped-for course : AMISS
[1]ax *or* **axe** \'aks\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *æcx*; akin to OHG *ackus* ax, L *ascia*, Gk *axinē*] **1** : a cutting tool that consists of a heavy edged head fixed to a handle with the edge parallel to the handle and that is used esp. for felling trees and chopping and splitting wood **2** : a hammer with a sharp edge for dressing or spalling stone **3** : abrupt removal (as from employment or from a budget) — **ax to grind** : an ulterior often selfish purpose to further



ax 1: *a* fireman's ax; *b-g* single-bit patterns: *b* Michigan, *c* Yankee, *d* Connecticut, *e* wedge, *f* rockaway, *g* Hudson Bay; *h-m* double-bit patterns: *h* crown, *i* Western, *j* peeling, *k* wedge, *l* Puget Sound falling, *m* forester's

[2]ax *or* **axe** *vt* **axed; ax·ing** **1** **a** : to shape, dress, or trim with an ax **b** : to chop, split, or sever with an ax **2** : to remove abruptly (as from employment or from a budget)
[3]ax *abbr* **1** axiom **2** axis
ax·el \'ak-səl, 'äk-\ *n* [*Axel* Paulsen *fl* 1890 Norw figure skater] : a jump in figure skating from the outer forward edge of one skate with 1½ turns taken in the air and a return to the outer backward edge of the other skate

axe·nic \(')ā-'zen-ik, -'zēn-\ *adj* [*a-* + Gk *xenos* strange] : free from other living organisms — **axe·ni·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ax·i·al \'ak-sē-əl\ *or* **ax·al** \-səl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of an axis **2 a** : situated around, in the direction of, on, or along an axis **b** : extending in a direction essentially perpendicular to the plane of a cyclic structure (as of cyclohexane) ⟨~ hydrogens⟩ — compare EQUATORIAL — **ax·i·al·i·ty** \ˌak-sē-'al-ət-ē\ *n* — **ax·i·al·ly** \'ak-sē-ə-lē\ *adv*
axial skeleton *n* : the skeleton of the trunk and head
ax·il \'ak-səl, -ˌsil\ *n* [NL *axilla*, fr. L] : the angle between a branch or leaf and the axis from which it arises
ax·ile \-ˌsīl\ *adj* : relating to or situated in an axis
ax·il·la \ag-'zil-ə, ak-'sil-\ *n, pl* **-lae** \-(ˌ)ē, -ˌī\ *or* **-las** [L] : ARMPIT
ax·il·lar \ag-'zil-ər, ak-'sil-, 'ag-zəl-, 'ak-səl-, -ˌär\ *n* : an axillary part (as a vein, nerve, or feather)
[1]ax·il·lary \'ak-sə-ˌler-ē\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or located near the axilla **2** : situated in or growing from an axil ⟨~ buds⟩
[2]axillary *n, pl* **-lar·ies** : AXILLAR; *esp* : one of the feathers arising from the axilla and closing the space between the flight feathers and body of a flying bird
axillary bud *n* : LATERAL BUD
ax·i·o·log·i·cal \ˌak-sē-ə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* : of or relating to axiology — **ax·i·o·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ax·i·ol·o·gy \ˌak-sē-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* [Gk *axios* + ISV *-logy*] : the study of the nature, types, and criteria of values and of value judgments esp. in ethics
ax·i·om \'ak-sē-əm\ *n* [L *axioma*, fr. Gk *axiōma*, lit., honor, fr. *axioun* to think worthy, fr. *axios* worth, worthy; akin to Gk *agein* to drive — more at AGENT] **1** : a maxim widely accepted on its intrinsic merit **2 a** : a proposition regarded as a self-evident truth **b** : POSTULATE 1
ax·i·om·at·ic \ˌak-sē-ə-'mat-ik\ *adj* [MGk *axiōmatikos*, fr. Gk, honorable, fr. *axiōmat-, axiōma*] : of, relating to, or having the nature of an axiom : widely accepted as self-evident — **ax·i·om·at·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ax·is \'ak-səs\ *n, pl* **ax·es** \-ˌsēz\ [L, axis, axle; akin to OE *eax* axis, axle, Gk *axōn*, L *axilla* armpit, *agere* to drive — more at AGENT] **1 a** : a straight line about which a body or a geometric figure rotates or may be supposed to rotate **b** : a straight line with respect to which a body or figure is symmetrical **c** : a straight line that bisects at right angles a system of parallel chords of a curve and divides the curve into two symmetrical parts **d** : a straight line about which a line, curve, or plane figure is conceived to revolve in generating a solid of revolution **e** : one of the reference lines of a coordinate system **2 a** : the second vertebra of the neck that serves as a pivot for the head to turn on **b** : any of various central, fundamental, or axial parts **3** : a plant stem **4** : one of several imaginary lines assumed in describing the positions of the planes by which a crystal is bounded and the positions of atoms in the structure of the crystal **5** : a main line of direction, motion, growth, or extension **6 a** : an implied line in painting or sculpture through a composition to which elements in the composition are referred **b** : a line actually drawn and used as the basis of measurements in an architectural or other working drawing **7** : any of three fixed lines of reference in an airplane which are usu. centroidal and mutually perpendicular and of which the first is the principal longitudinal line in the plane of symmetry, the second is perpendicular to the first in the plane of symmetry, and the third is perpendicular to the other two — called also respectively *longitudinal axis, normal axis, lateral axis* **8** : PARTNERSHIP, ALLIANCE
Axis *adj* : of or relating to the three powers Germany, Italy, and Japan engaged against the Allied nations in World War II
axi·sym·met·ric \ˌak-si-sə-'me-trik\ *also* **axi·sym·met·ri·cal** \-tri-kəl\ *adj* [*axis* + *symmetric*] : symmetric in respect to an axis — **axi·sym·met·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **axi·sym·me·try** \-'sim-ə-trē\ *n*
ax·le \'ak-səl\ *n* [ME *axel-* (as in *axeltre*)] **1** *archaic* : AXIS **2 a** : a pin or shaft on or with which a wheel or pair of wheels revolves **b** (1) : the spindle of an axletree (2) : AXLETREE
axle·tree \-(ˌ)trē\ *n* [ME *axeltre*, fr. ON *öxultrē*, fr. *öxull* axle + *trē* tree] : a fixed bar or beam with bearings at its ends on which wheels (as of a cart) revolve
ax·man \'ak-smən\ *n* : one who wields an ax
Ax·min·ster \'ak-ˌsmin(t)-stər\ *n* [*Axminster*, England] : a machine-woven carpet with pile tufts inserted mechanically in a variety of textures and patterns
ax·o·lotl \'ak-sə-ˌlät-ᵊl\ *n* [Nahuatl, lit., water doll] : any of several salamanders (genus *Ambystoma*) of mountain lakes of Mexico and the western U.S. that ordinarily live and breed without metamorphosing
ax·on \'ak-ˌsän\ *also* **ax·one** \-ˌsōn\ *n* [NL *axon*, fr. Gk *axōn*] : a usu. long and single nerve-cell process that usu. conducts impulses away from the cell body — see NEURON illustration — **ax·o·nal** \'ak-sən-ᵊl; ak-'sän-, -'sōn-\ *or* **ax·on·ic** \ak-'sän-ik, -'sōn-\ *adj*
ax·o·no·met·ric projection \ˌak-sə-nō-ˌme-trik-\ *n* [Gk *axōn* axis + E *-metric*] : a drawing projection in which an object is represented by means of its perpendicular projection on a surface in such a way that a rectangular solid appears as inclined and shows three faces
axo·plasm \'ak-sə-ˌplaz-əm\ *n* [*axon* + *-plasm*] : the protoplasm of an axon — **axo·plas·mic** \ˌak-sə-'plaz-mik\ *adj*
ay \(')ī\ *interj* [MF *aymi* ay me] — usu. used with following *me* to express sorrow or regret
ayah \'ī-ə; 'ä-yə, -(ˌ)yä\ *n* [Hindi *āyā*, fr. Pg *aia*, fr. L *avia* grandmother] : a nurse or maid native to India
AYC *abbr* American Youth Congress
AYD *abbr* American Youth for Democracy
[1]aye *also* **ay** \'ā\ *adv* [ME, fr. ON *ei*; akin to OE *ā* always, L *aevum* age, lifetime, Gk *aiōn* age] : EVER, ALWAYS, CONTINUALLY ⟨love that will ~ endure —W. S. Gilbert⟩
[2]aye *also* **ay** \'ī\ *adv* [perh. fr. ME *ye, yie* — more at YEA] : YES ⟨~, ~, sir⟩
[3]aye *also* **ay** \'ī\ *n, pl* **ayes** : an affirmative vote or voter ⟨the ~s have it⟩
aye–aye \'ī-ˌī\ *n* [F, fr. Malagasy *aiay*] : a nocturnal lemur (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*) of Madagascar
AYH *abbr* American Youth Hostels
ayin \'ī-ən\ *n* [Heb *'ayin*, lit., eye] : the 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet — see ALPHABET table
Ay·ma·ra \ˌī-mə-'rä\ *n, pl* **Aymara** *or* **Aymaras** [Sp *aymará*] **1** : a member of an Indian people of Bolivia and Peru **2 a** : the language of the Aymara people **b** : a language family of the Kechumaran stock comprising Aymara
Ayr *abbr* Ayrshire
Ayr·shire \'a(ə)r-ˌshi(ə)r, 'e(ə)r-, -shər; 'ash-ˌi(ə)r\ *n* [*Ayrshire*, Scotland] : any of a breed of hardy dairy cattle originated in Ayr that vary in color from white to red or brown
az *abbr* **1** azimuth **2** azure
AZ *abbr* Arizona
az- *or* **azo-** *comb form* [ISV, fr. *azote*] : containing nitrogen esp. as the bivalent group N=N ⟨*azine*⟩
aza- *or* **az-** *comb form* [ISV *az-* + *-a-*] : containing nitrogen in place of carbon and usu. the bivalent group NH for the group CH_2 or a single trivalent nitrogen atom for the group CH ⟨*aza*guanine⟩
aza·lea \ə-'zāl-yə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk, fem. of *azaleos* dry; akin to L *aridus* dry — more at ARDOR] : any of a genus or subgenus (*Azalea*) of rhododendrons with funnel-shaped corollas and usu. deciduous leaves including many species and hybrid forms cultivated as ornamentals
aza·thi·o·prine \ˌaz-ə-'thī-ə-ˌprēn\ *n* [*aza-* + *thio-* + *purine*] : a purine antimetabolite $C_9H_7N_7O_2S$ that is used esp. to suppress antibody production
Aza·zel \ə-'zā-zəl, 'az-ə-ˌzel\ *n* [Heb *'ăzāzēl*] : an evil spirit of the wilderness to which a scapegoat was sent by the ancient Hebrews in a ritual of atonement
AZC *abbr* American Zionist Council
azide \'ā-ˌzīd, 'az-ˌīd\ *n* : a compound containing the group N_3 combined with an element or radical — **az·i·do** \'az-ə-ˌdō\ *adj*
az·i·muth \'az-(ə-)məth\ *n* [ME, fr. (assumed) ML, fr. Ar *as-sumūt* the azimuth, pl. of *as-samt* the way] **1** : an arc of the horizon measured between a fixed point (as true north) and the vertical circle passing through the center of an object usu. in astronomy and navigation clockwise from the north point through 360 degrees **2** : horizontal direction expressed as the angular distance between the direction of a fixed point (as the observer's heading) and the direction of the object — **az·i·muth·al** \ˌaz-ə-'məth-əl\ *adj* — **az·i·muth·al·ly** \-'məth-ə-lē\ *adv*
azimuthal equidistant projection *n* : a map projection of the surface of the earth so centered at any given point that a straight line radiating from the center to any other point represents the shortest distance and can be measured to scale



azimuthal equidistant projection, centered on Washington, D.C.: *1* London, *2* Algiers, *3* Moscow, *4* Buenos Aires, *5* Tokyo, *6* Auckland

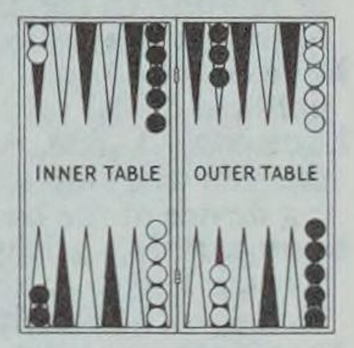
azine \'ā-ˌzēn, 'az-ˌēn\ *n* **1** : any of numerous organic compounds with a nitrogenous 6-membered ring **2** : a compound of the general formula RCH=NN=CHR or R_2C=NN=CR_2 formed by the action of hydrazine on aldehydes or ketones
azin·phos·meth·yl \ˌāz-ᵊn-(ˌ)fäs-'meth-əl, ˌaz-\ *n* [*azine* + *phos*phorus + *methyl*] : an organophosphorus pesticide used against insects and mites
azo \'ā-(ˌ)zō, 'az-(ˌ)ō\ *adj* [*az-*] : relating to or containing the bivalent group N=N united at both ends to carbon
azo dye *n* : any of numerous versatile dyes containing azo groups
azo·ic \(')ā-'zō-ik\ *adj* [*a-* + Gk *zōē* life — more at QUICK] : having no life; *specif* : of or relating to the part of geologic time that antedates life — compare ARCHEAN
azole \'ā-ˌzōl, 'az-ˌōl\ *n* : any of numerous compounds characterized by a 5-membered ring containing at least one atom of nitrogen

azon·al \(ˈ)ā-ˈzōn-ᵊl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being a soil or a major soil group marked by soils lacking well-developed horizons often because of immaturity — compare INTRAZONAL, ZONAL
azote \ˈā-ˌzōt, ˈaz-ˌōt\ *n* [F, irreg. fr. *a-* + Gk *zōē* life] : NITROGEN
azo·te·mia \ˌā-zō-ˈtē-mē-ə, ˌaz-ō-\ *n* [ISV *azote* + NL *-emia*] : an excess of nitrogenous bodies in the blood as a result of kidney insufficiency — **azo·te·mic** \-mik\ *adj*
az·oth \ˈaz-ˌȯth\ *n* [Ar *az-zā'ūq* the mercury] **1** : mercury regarded by alchemists as the first principle of metals **2** : the universal remedy of Paracelsus
azo·to·bac·ter \ā-ˈzōt-ə-ˌbak-tər\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. ISV *azote* + NL *bacterium*] : any of a genus (*Azotobacter*) of large rod-shaped or spherical bacteria occurring in soil and sewage and fixing atmospheric nitrogen
azo·tu·ria \ˌā-zō-ˈt(y)u̇r-ē-ə\ *n* [ISV *azote* + NL *-uria*] : an excess of urea or other nitrogenous substances in the urine
Az·tec \ˈaz-ˌtek\ *n* [Sp *azteca*, fr. Nahuatl, pl. of *aztecatl*] **1 a** : a member of a Nahuatlan people that founded the Mexican empire conquered by Cortes in 1519 **b** : a member of any people under Aztec influence **2 a** : the language of the Aztec people **b** : NAHUATL — **Az·tec·an** \-ən\ *adj*
azure \ˈazh-ər\ *n* [ME *asur*, fr. OF *azur*, prob. fr. OSp, modif. of Ar *lāzaward*, fr. Per *lāzhuward*] **1** *archaic* : LAPIS LAZULI **2 a** : the blue color of the clear sky **b** : the heraldic color blue **3** : the unclouded sky — **azure** *adj*
azur·ite \ˈazh-ə-ˌrīt\ *n* [F, fr. *azur* azure] **1** : a mineral $Cu_3(OH)_2(CO_3)_2$ consisting of blue basic carbonate of copper, occurring in monoclinic crystals, in mass, and in earthy form, and constituting an ore of copper **2** : a semiprecious stone derived from azurite
azygo- *comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk *azygos*] : azygous
azygos *n* [NL, fr. Gk, unyoked, fr. *a-* + *zygon* yoke — more at YOKE] : an azygous anatomical part
azy·gous *or* **azy·gos** \(ˈ)ā-ˈzī-gəs\ *adj* [NL *azygos*] : not being one of a pair : SINGLE ⟨an ~ vein⟩

B

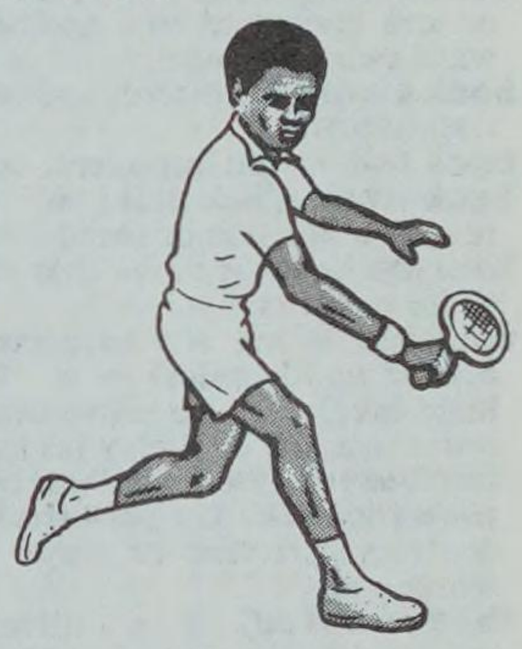
[1]b \ˈbē\ *n, pl* **b's** *or* **bs** \ˈbēz\ *often cap, often attrib* **1 a** : the 2d letter of the English alphabet **b** : a graphic representation of this letter **c** : a speech counterpart of orthographic *b* **2** : the 7th tone of a C-major scale **3** : a graphic device for reproducing the letter *b* **4** : one designated *b* esp. as the 2d in order or class **5 a** : a grade rating a student's work as good but short of excellent **b** : one graded or rated with a B **6** : something shaped like the letter B
[2]b *abbr, often cap* **1** bachelor **2** bacillus **3** back **4** bag **5** bale **6** bass **7** basso **8** bat **9** Baumé **10** before **11** Bible **12** billion **13** bishop **14** black **15** blue **16** bolivar **17** book **18** born **19** brick **20** brightness **21** British **22** bulb **23** butut
B *symbol* **1** boron **2** magnetic induction
Ba *symbol* barium
BA *abbr* **1** bachelor of arts **2** batting average **3** Buenos Aires
baa *or* **ba** \ˈba, ˈbä\ *n* [imit.] : the bleat of a sheep — **baa** *vi*
BAA *abbr* bachelor of applied arts
BAAE *abbr* bachelor of aeronautical and astronautical engineering
baal \ˈbā(-ə)l\ *n, pl* **baals** *or* **baa·lim** \ˈbā-(ə-)ləm, ˈbā-ə-ˌlim\ *often cap* [Heb *ba'al* lord] : any of numerous Canaanite and Phoenician local deities — **baal·ism** \ˈbā-(ə-)ˌliz-əm\ *n, often cap*
ba·ba \ˈbäb-(ˌ)ä, -ə\ *n* [F, fr. Pol, lit., old woman] : a rich cake soaked in a rum and sugar syrup
ba·bas·su \ˌbäb-ə-ˈsü\ *n* [Pg *babaçú*] : a tall pinnate-leaved palm (*Orbignya speciosa* or *O. martiana*) of northeastern Brazil with hard-shelled nuts yielding a valuable oil
[1]bab·bitt \ˈbab-ət\ *n* : a babbitt-metal lining for a bearing
[2]babbitt *vt* : to line or furnish with babbitt metal
Bab·bitt \ˈbab-ət\ *n* [George F. *Babbitt*, character in the novel *Babbitt* (1922) by Sinclair Lewis] : a business or professional man who conforms unthinkingly to prevailing middle-class standards — **Bab·bitt·ry** \-ə-trē\ *n*
babbitt metal *n* [Isaac *Babbitt* †1862 Am inventor] : an alloy used for lining bearings; *esp* : one containing tin, copper, and antimony
bab·ble \ˈbab-əl\ *vb* **bab·bled; bab·bling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *babelen*, prob. of imit. origin] *vi* **1 a** : to utter meaningless or unintelligible sounds **b** : to talk foolishly : PRATTLE **c** : to talk excessively : CHATTER **2** : to make sounds as though babbling ~ *vt* **1** : to utter in an incoherently or meaninglessly repetitious manner **2** : to reveal by talk that is too free — **babble** *n* — **bab·ble·ment** \-əl-mənt\ *n* — **bab·bler** \-(ə-)lər\ *n*
Bab·cock test \ˌbab-ˌkäk-\ *n* [Stephen M. *Babcock* †1931 Am agricultural chemist] : a test for determining the fat content of milk and milk products
babe \ˈbāb\ *n* [ME, prob. of imit. origin] **1 a** : INFANT, BABY **b** *slang* : GIRL, WOMAN **2** : a naive inexperienced person
Ba·bel \ˈbā-bəl, ˈbab-əl\ *n* [Heb *Bābhel*, fr. Assyr-Bab *bāb-ilu* gate of god] **1** : a city in Shinar where the building of a tower is held in the Book of Genesis to have been interrupted by the confusion of tongues **2** *often not cap* **a** : a confusion of sounds or voices **b** : a scene of noise or confusion
ba·be·sia \bə-ˈbē-zh(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Victor *Babeş* †1926 Rumanian bacteriologist] : any of a family (Babesiidae and esp. genus *Babesia*) of sporozoans parasitic in mammalian red blood cells (as in Texas fever) and transmitted by the bite of a tick — called also *piroplasm*
bab·e·si·a·sis \ˌbab-ə-ˈzī-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] : an infection with or disease caused by babesias
ba·boon \ba-ˈbün, *chiefly Brit* bə-\ *n* [ME *babewin*, fr. MF *babouin*, fr. *baboue* grimace] : any of several large African and Asiatic primates (*Papio* and related genera of the family Cercopithecidae) having doglike muzzles and usu. short tails — **ba·boon·ish** \-ˈbü-nish\ *adj*
ba·bu \ˈbäb-(ˌ)ü\ *n* [Hindi *bābū*, lit., father] **1** : a Hindu gentleman — a form of address corresponding to *Mr.* **2 a** : an Indian clerk who writes English **b** : an Indian having some education in English — often used disparagingly
ba·bul \bə-ˈbül\ *n* [Per *babūl*] : an acacia tree (*Acacia arabica*) widespread in northern Africa and across Asia that yields gum arabic and tannins as well as fodder and timber
ba·bush·ka \bə-ˈbüsh-kə, -ˈbu̇sh-\ *n* [Russ, grandmother, dim. of *baba* old woman] **1** : a usu. triangularly folded kerchief for the head **2** : a head covering resembling a babushka
[1]ba·by \ˈbā-bē\ *n, pl* **babies** [ME, fr. *babe*] **1 a** (1) : an extremely young child; *esp* : INFANT (2) : an extremely young animal **b** : the youngest of a group **2** : an infantile person **3 a** *slang* : GIRL, WOMAN — often used in address **b** : PERSON, THING **c** *slang* : BOY, MAN — often used in address — **baby** *adj* — **ba·by·hood** \-bē-ˌhu̇d\ *n* — **ba·by·ish** \-ish\ *adj*
[2]baby *vt* **ba·bied; ba·by·ing** **1** : to tend or indulge with often excessive or inappropriate care and solicitude ⟨parents must resist the urge to ~ an only child⟩ **2** : to operate or treat with care ⟨~ a new motor⟩ ***syn*** see INDULGE
baby blue–eyes \-ˈblü-ˌīz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : NEMOPHILA
baby carriage *n* : a four-wheeled push carriage usu. with a folding top — called also *baby buggy*
baby farm *n* : a place where care of babies is provided for a fee — **baby farming** *n*
baby grand *n* : a small grand piano five to six feet long
Bab·y·lon \ˈbab-ə-lən, -ˌlän\ *n* [*Babylon*, ancient city of Babylonia] : a city devoted to materialism and the pursuit of sensual pleasure
[1]Bab·y·lo·nian \ˌbab-ə-ˈlō-nyən, -nē-ən\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of ancient Babylonia or Babylon **2** : the form of the Akkadian language used in ancient Babylonia
[2]Babylonian *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of Babylonia or Babylon, the Babylonians, or Babylonian **2** : LUXURIOUS
baby's breath *n* **1** : GYPSOPHILA **2** : a bedstraw (*Galium sylvaticum*) with thin lanceolate leaves and white flowers
ba·by–sit \ˈbā-bē-ˌsit\ *vb* **-sat** \-ˌsat\; **-sit·ting** [back-formation fr. *baby-sitter*] *vi* : to care for children usu. during a short absence of the parents ~ *vt* : to baby-sit for — **ba·by–sit·ter** *n*
baby talk *n* **1** : the syntactically imperfect speech or phonetically modified forms used by small children learning to talk **2** : the consciously imperfect or mutilated speech or prattle often used by adults in speaking to small children
bac *abbr* [ML *baccalaureus*] bachelor
bac·ca \ˈbak-ə\ *n, pl* **bac·cae** \ˈbak-ˌsē, ˈbak-ˌī\ [NL, fr. L *baca*, *bacca* berry] : BERRY 1c — **bac·cif·er·ous** \bak-ˈsif-(ə-)rəs\ *adj*
bac·ca·lau·re·ate \ˌbak-ə-ˈlȯr-ē-ət, -ˈlär-\ *n* [ML *baccalaureatus*, fr. *baccalaureus* bachelor, alter. of *baccalarius*] **1** : the degree of bachelor conferred by universities and colleges **2 a** : a sermon to a graduating class **b** : the service at which this sermon is delivered
bac·ca·rat \ˌbäk-ə-ˈrä, ˌbak-\ *n* [F *baccara*] : a card game resembling chemin de fer in which three hands are dealt and players may bet either or both hands against the dealer's
bac·cate \ˈbak-ˌāt\ *adj* [L *bacca* berry] **1** : pulpy throughout like a berry **2** : bearing berries
Bac·chae \ˈbak-ˌē, -ˌī\ *n pl* [L, fr. Gk *Bakchai*, fr. *Bakchos* Bacchus] **1** : the female attendants or priestesses of Bacchus **2** : the women participating in the Bacchanalia
[1]bac·cha·nal \ˈbak-ən-ᵊl\ *adj* [L *bacchanalis* of Bacchus] : of, relating to, or suggestive of the Bacchanalia : BACCHANALIAN
[2]bac·cha·nal \ˈbak-ən-ᵊl, ˌbak-ə-ˈnal, ˌbäk-ə-ˈnäl\ *n* **1 a** : a devotee of Bacchus; *esp* : one who celebrates the Bacchanalia **b** : REVELER **2** : drunken revelry or carousal : BACCHANALIA
bac·cha·na·lia \ˌbak-ə-ˈnāl-yə\ *n, pl* **bacchanalia** [L, pl., fr. neut. pl. of *bacchanalis*] **1** *pl, cap* : a Roman festival of Bacchus celebrated with dancing, song, and revelry **2** : a drunken feast : ORGY — **bac·cha·na·lian** \-ˈnāl-yən\ *adj or n*
bac·chant \bə-ˈkant, -ˈkänt; ˈbak-ənt\ *n, pl* **bacchants** *or* **bac·chantes** \bə-ˈkants, -ˈkänts, -ˈkant-ēz, -ˈkänt-ēz\ [L *bacchant-*, *bacchans*, fr. prp. of *bacchari* to take part in the orgies of Bacchus] : BACCHANAL — **bacchant** *adj* — **bac·chan·tic** \bə-ˈkant-ik, -ˈkänt-\ *adj*

bac·chante \bə-'kant(-ē), -'känt(-ē)\ *n* [F, fr. L *bacchant-, bacchans*] : a priestess or female follower of Bacchus : MAENAD
bac·chic \'bak-ik\ *adj, often cap* **1** : of or relating to Bacchus **2** : of or relating to the Bacchanalia : BACCHANALIAN
Bac·chus \'bak-əs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Bakchos*] : the Greek god of wine — called also *Dionysus*
bach \'bach\ *vi* : to live as a bachelor — **bach** *n*
bach·e·lor \'bach-(ə-)lər\ *n* [ME *bacheler*, fr. OF, fr. ML *baccalarius* tenant farmer, squire, advanced student, of Celtic origin; akin to IrGael *bachlach* shepherd, peasant, fr. OIr *bachall* staff, fr. L *baculum* — more at BACTERIUM] **1** : a young knight who follows the banner of another : KNIGHT BACHELOR **2** : a person who has received what is usu. the lowest degree conferred by a four-year college, university, or professional school ⟨~ of arts⟩ **3 a** : an unmarried man **b** : a male animal (as a fur seal) without a mate during breeding time — **bach·e·lor·hood** \-ˌhu̇d\ *n*
bachelor's button *n* : a European composite (*Centaurea cyanus*) having flower heads with blue, pink, or white rays that is often cultivated in No. America — called also *cornflower*
ba·cil·la·ry \'bas-ə-ˌler-ē, bə-'sil-ə-rē\ *or* **ba·cil·lar** \bə-'sil-ər, 'bas-ə-lər\ *adj* [ML & NL *bacillus*] **1** : shaped like a rod; *also* : consisting of small rods **2** : of, relating to, or produced by bacilli
ba·cil·lus \bə-'sil-əs\ *n, pl* **-li** \-ˌī *also* -ē\ [NL, fr. ML, small staff, rod, dim. of L *baculus* staff, alter. of *baculum* — more at BACTERIUM] **1** : any of a genus (*Bacillus*) of aerobic rod-shaped bacteria producing endospores that do not thicken the rod and including many saprophytes and some parasites (as *B. anthracis* of anthrax); *broadly* : a straight rod-shaped bacterium **2** : BACTERIUM; *esp* : a disease-producing bacterium
bac·i·tra·cin \ˌbas-ə-'trās-ᵊn\ *n* [NL *Bacillus subtilis* (species of bacillus producing the toxin) + Margaret *Tracy b ab* 1936 Am child in whose tissues it was found] : a toxic antibiotic isolated from a bacillus (*Bacillus subtilis*) and usu. used topically against cocci
¹back \'bak\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bæc;* akin to OHG *bah* back] **1 a** : the rear part of the human body esp. from the neck to the end of the spine **b** : the corresponding part of a lower animal (as a quadruped) **c** : SPINAL COLUMN **d** : BACKBONE 4 **2 a** : the side or surface opposite the front or face : the rear part; *also* : the farther or reverse side **b** : something at or on the back for support ⟨~ of a chair⟩ **3** : a position in some games (as football or soccer) behind the front line of players; *also* : a player in this position — **back·less** \'bak-ləs\ *adj*
²back *adv* **1 a** : to, toward, or at the rear **b** : in or into the past : AGO **c** : in or into a reclining position **d** (1) : under restraint (2) : in a delayed or retarded condition **2 a** : to, toward, or in a place from which a person or thing came **b** : to or toward a former state **c** : in return or reply — **back and forth** : backward and forward : from one place to another
³back *adj* **1 a** : being at or in the back ⟨~ door⟩ **b** : distant from a central or main area : REMOTE **c** : articulated at or toward the back of the oral passage **2** : being in arrears : OVERDUE **3** : moving or operating backward **4** : not current ⟨~ number of a magazine⟩ **5** : constituting the final nine holes of an 18-hole golf course
⁴back *vt* **1 a** : to support by material or moral assistance — often used with *up* **b** : SUBSTANTIATE **c** (1) : COUNTERSIGN, ENDORSE (2) : to assume financial responsibility for **2** : to cause to go back or in reverse **3 a** : to furnish with a back **b** : to be at the back of ~ *vi* **1** : to move backward **2** *of the wind* : to shift counterclockwise — compare VEER **3** : to have the back in the direction of something ***syn*** see SUPPORT, RECEDE — **back and fill** **1** : to manage the sails of a ship so as to keep it clear of obstructions as it floats down with the current of a river or channel **2** : to take opposite positions alternately : SHILLY-SHALLY
⁵back *n* [D *bak*] : a shallow vat or tub used esp. by brewers or dyers
back·ache \'bak-ˌāk\ *n* : a pain in the lower back
back away *vi* : to move back (as from a theoretical position) : WITHDRAW
back–bench·er \'bak-'ben-chər\ *n* : a rank-and-file member of a British legislature
back·bite \-ˌbīt\ *vb* **-bit; -bitten; -biting** *vt* : to say mean or spiteful things about : SLANDER ~ *vi* : to backbite a person — **back·bit·er** *n*
back·board \-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a board placed at or serving as the back of something; *specif* : a rounded or rectangular board that is behind the basket on a basketball court and that serves to keep missed shots from going out-of-bounds and as a surface from which the ball can be made to rebound into the basket
back·bone \-'bōn, -ˌbōn\ *n* **1** : SPINAL COLUMN, SPINE **2 a** : a chief mountain ridge, range, or system **b** : the foundation or most substantial or sturdiest part of something **3** : firm and resolute character **4** : the back of a book usu. lettered with the title and the author's and publisher's names ***syn*** see FORTITUDE ***ant*** spinelessness
back–check \-ˌchek\ *vi* : to skate back toward one's own goal while closely defending against the offensive rushes of an opposing player in ice hockey
back·coun·try \-ˌkən-trē\ *n* : a thinly settled rural area
back·court \-'kō(ə)rt, -'kȯ(ə)rt\ *n* **1** : the area near or nearest the back boundary lines or back wall of the playing area in a net or court game **2** : a basketball team's defensive half of the court; *also* : the part of the offensive half of the court farthest from the goal
back·court·man \-mən\ *n* : a guard on a basketball team
back·cross \'bak-ˌkrȯs\ *vt* [²*back*] : to cross (a first-generation hybrid) with or as if with one parent — **backcross** *n*
back dive *n* : a dive from a position facing the diving board
back down *vi* : to withdraw from a commitment or position
back·drop \'bak-ˌdräp\ *n* **1** : a painted cloth hung across the rear of a stage **2** : BACKGROUND
back·er \'bak-ər\ *n* **1** : one that supports **2** : one who works with backs or backing
back·field \-ˌfēld\ *n* : the football players whose positions are behind the line of scrimmage; *also* : the positions themselves
¹back·fire \-ˌfī(ə)r\ *n* **1** : a fire started to check an advancing forest or prairie fire by clearing an area **2** : an improperly timed explosion of fuel mixture in the cylinder of an internal-combustion engine
²backfire *vi* **1** : to make or undergo a backfire **2** : to have the reverse of the desired or expected effect
back–formation *n* **1** : a word formed by subtraction of a real or supposed affix from an already existing longer word (as *burgle* from *burglar*) **2** : the formation of a back-formation
back·gam·mon \'bak-ˌgam-ən, bak-'\ *n* [perh. fr. ³*back* + ME *gamen, game* game] : a board game played with dice and counters in which each player tries to move his counters along the board and at the same time to block or capture his opponent's counters



backgammon board with men arranged as at the beginning of a game

¹back·ground \'bak-ˌgrau̇nd\ *n* **1 a** : the scenery or ground behind something **b** : the part of a painting representing what lies behind objects in the foreground **2** : an inconspicuous position **3 a** : the conditions that form the setting within which something is experienced **b** (1) : the circumstances or events antecedent to a phenomenon or development (2) : information essential to understanding of a problem or situation **c** : the total of a person's experience, knowledge, and education **4** : intrusive sound that interferes with received or recorded electronic signals
²background *vt* : to provide with background ⟨~ a new employee⟩
background music *n* : music to accompany the dialogue or action of a motion picture or radio or television drama
¹back·hand \'bak-ˌhand\ *n* **1 a** : a stroke (as in tennis) made with the back of the hand turned in the direction of movement **b** : a catch (as in baseball) made to the side of the body opposite the hand being used **2** : handwriting whose strokes slant downward from left to right


backhand 1

²backhand *or* **back·hand·ed** \-'han-dəd\ *adv* : with a backhand
³backhand *vt* : to do, hit, or catch backhand
back·hand·ed \'bak-'han-dəd\ *adj* **1** : using or made with a backhand **2** : INDIRECT, DEVIOUS; *esp* : SARCASTIC — **back·hand·ed·ly** *adv*
back·hoe \-ˌhō\ *n* : an excavating machine whose bucket is rigidly attached to a hinged stick on the boom and is drawn toward the machine in operation
back·house \-ˌhau̇s\ *n* : an outdoor toilet
back·ing \'bak-iŋ\ *n* **1** : something forming a back **2 a** : SUPPORT, AID **b** : endorsement esp. of a warrant by a magistrate
back judge *n* : a football official whose duties include keeping the game's official time and identifying eligible pass receivers
back·lash \'bak-ˌlash\ *n* **1** : a sudden violent backward movement or reaction **2** : a snarl in that part of a fishing line wound on the reel **3** : a strong adverse reaction (as to a recent political or social development) — **back·lash·er** *n*
¹back·log \-ˌlȯg, -ˌläg\ *n* **1** : a large log at the back of a hearth fire **2** : a reserve that promises continuing work and profit **3** : an accumulation of tasks unperformed or materials not processed
²backlog *vb* : ACCUMULATE
back matter *n* : matter following the main text of a book
back mutation *n* : mutation of a previously mutated gene to its former condition
back of *prep* : BEHIND
back off *vi* : to back down
back out *vi* : to withdraw esp. from a commitment or contest
¹back·pack \'bak-ˌpak\ *n* **1 a** : a load carried on the back **b** : a camping pack (as of canvas or nylon) supported by a usu. aluminum frame and carried on the back **2** : a piece of equipment designed for use while being carried on the back
²backpack *vt* : to carry (food or equipment) on the back esp. in hiking ~ *vi* : to hike with a backpack — **back·pack·er** *n*
back·ped·al \'bak-ˌped-ᵊl\ *vi* : to retreat or move backward (as in boxing)
back·rest \-ˌrest\ *n* : a rest for the back
back room *n* **1** : a room situated in the rear **2** : the meeting place of a directing group that exercises its authority in an inconspicuous and indirect way
back·saw \'bak-ˌsȯ\ *n* : a saw with a metal rib along its back
back·scat·ter \-ˌskat-ər\ *or* **back·scat·ter·ing** \-ə-riŋ\ *n* : the scattering of radiation (as X rays) in a direction opposite to that of the incident radiation due to reflection from particles of the medium traversed; *also* : the radiation so reversed in direction
back·seat \-'sēt\ *n* **1** : a seat in the back (as of an automobile) **2** : an inferior position ⟨won't take a ~ to anyone⟩
back·set \'bak-ˌset\ *n* : SETBACK
back·side \-'sīd\ *n* : BUTTOCKS — often used in pl.

back·slap \-ˌslap\ *vt* : to display excessive or effusive goodwill for ~ *vi* : to display excessive cordiality or good-fellowship — **back·slap·per** *n*
back·slide \-ˌslīd\ *vi* **-slid** \-ˌslid\; **-slid** *or* **-slid·den** \-ˌslid-ᵊn\; **-slid·ing** \-ˌslīd-iŋ\ : to lapse morally or in the practice of religion ***syn*** see LAPSE — **back·slid·er** \-ˌslīd-ər\ *n*
back·spin \-ˌspin\ *n* : a backward rotary motion of a ball
¹back·stage \ˈbak-ˈstāj\ *adv* **1** : in or to a backstage area **2** : in private : SECRETLY
²back·stage \ˈbak-ˌstāj\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or occurring in the area behind the proscenium and esp. in the dressing rooms **2** : of or relating to the private lives of theater people **3** : of or relating to the inner working or operation (as of an organization)
back·stairs \-ˌsta(ə)rz, -ˌste(ə)rz\ *adj* **1** : SECRET, FURTIVE ⟨~ political deals⟩ **2** : SORDID, SCANDALOUS ⟨~ gossip⟩
back·stay \-ˌstā\ *n* **1** : a stay extending from the mastheads to the side of a ship and slanting aft **2** : a strengthening or supporting device at the back (as of a carriage or a shoe)
back·stitch \-ˌstich\ *n* : a hand stitch made by inserting the needle a stitch length to the right and bringing it up an equal distance to the left — **backstitch** *vb*
¹back·stop \-ˌstäp\ *n* **1** : something at the back serving as a stop: as **a** : a screen or fence for keeping a ball from leaving the field of play **b** : a stop (as a pawl) that prevents a backward movement (as of a wheel) **2** : a player (as the catcher) whose position is behind the batter
²backstop *vt* **1** : to serve as a backstop to **2** : SUPPORT, BOLSTER
back·stretch \ˈbak-ˈstrech\ *n* : the side opposite the homestretch on a racecourse
back·stroke \-ˌstrōk\ *n* : a swimming stroke executed on the back
back·swept \-ˌswept\ *adj* : swept or slanting backward
back swimmer *n* : a water bug (family Notonectidae) that swims on its back
back·swing \ˈbak-ˌswiŋ\ *n* : the movement of a club, racket, bat, or arm backward to a position from which the forward or downward swing is made
back·sword \-ˌsō(ə)rd, -ˌsȯ(ə)rd\ *n* **1** : a single-edged sword **2** : SINGLESTICK
back talk *n* : an impudent, insolent, or argumentative reply
back·track \ˈbak-ˌtrak\ *vi* **1** : to retrace one's course **2** : to reverse a position or stand
back·up \-ˌəp\ *n* : one that serves as a substitute or alternative ⟨a ~ for a rocket⟩
back up \-ˈəp\ *vi* : to accumulate in a congested state ⟨traffic *backed up* for miles⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to hold back ⟨a dam *backing up* a huge lake⟩ **2** : to move into a position behind (a teammate) in order to assist on a play (as in stopping a missed ball)
¹back·ward \ˈbak-wərd\ *or* **back·wards** \-wərdz\ *adv* **1 a** : toward the back **b** : with the back foremost **2 a** : in a reverse or contrary direction or way **b** : toward the past **c** : toward a worse state
²backward *adj* **1 a** : directed or turned backward **b** : done or executed backward **2** : DIFFIDENT, SHY **3** : retarded in development — **back·ward·ly** *adv* — **back·ward·ness** *n*
³backward *n* : the part behind or past
back·wash \ˈbak-ˌwȯsh, -ˌwäsh\ *n* **1** : backward movement (as of water or air) produced by a propelling force (as the motion of oars) **2** : a consequence or by-product of an event : AFTERMATH
back·wa·ter \-ˌwȯt-ər, -ˌwät-\ *n* **1 a** : water turned back in its course by an obstruction, an opposing current, or the tide **b** : a body of water turned back **2** : an isolated or backward place or condition
back·woods \-ˈwu̇dz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1** : wooded or partly cleared areas on the frontier **2** : a remote or culturally backward area — **back·woods·man** \-mən\ *n*
back·yard \-ˈyärd\ *n* **1** : an area at the rear of a house **2** : an area that is one's special domain
ba·con \ˈbā-kən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *bahho* side of bacon, *bah* back] : a side of a pig cured and smoked
Ba·co·ni·an \bā-ˈkō-nē-ən\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of Francis Bacon or his doctrines **2** : of or relating to those who believe that Francis Bacon wrote the works usu. attributed to Shakespeare — **Baconian** *n*
bact *abbr* **1** bacterial **2** bacteriology **3** bacterium
bac·ter·emia \ˌbak-tə-ˈrē-mē-ə\ *n* [NL, alter. of *bacteriemia*, fr. *bacteri-* + *-emia*] : the usu. transient presence of bacteria or other microorganisms in the blood — **bac·ter·emic** \-mik\ *adj*
bacteri- *or* **bacterio-** *comb form* [NL *bacterium*] : bacteria ⟨*bacterial*⟩ ⟨*bacteriolysis*⟩
bacteria *pl of* BACTERIUM
bac·te·ri·al \bak-ˈtir-ē-əl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or caused by bacteria ⟨a ~ chromosome⟩ ⟨~ infection⟩ — **bac·te·ri·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*
bac·te·ri·cid·al \bak-ˌtir-ə-ˈsīd-ᵊl\ *adj* : destroying bacteria — **bac·te·ri·cid·al·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **bac·te·ri·cide** \-ˈtir-ə-ˌsīd\ *n*
bac·ter·in \ˈbak-tə-rən\ *n* : a suspension of killed or attenuated bacteria for use as an antigen
bac·te·rio·chlo·ro·phyll \bak-ˌtir-ē-ō-ˈklōr-ə-ˌfil, -ˈklȯr-, -fəl\ *n* : a pyrrole derivative in photosynthetic bacteria related to the chlorophyll of higher plants
bac·te·rio·cin \bak-ˈtir-ē-ə-sən\ *n* [ISV *bacteri-* + *-cin* (as in *colicin*)] : an antibiotic (as colicin) produced by bacteria
bac·te·ri·ol·o·gy \(ˌ)bak-ˌtir-ē-ˈäl-ə-jē\ *n* [ISV] **1** : a science that deals with bacteria and their relations to medicine, industry, and agriculture **2** : bacterial life and phenomena — **bac·te·ri·o·log·ic** \bak-ˌtir-ē-ə-ˈläj-ik\ *or* **bac·te·ri·o·log·i·cal** \-ˈläj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **bac·te·ri·o·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **bac·te·ri·ol·o·gist** \(ˌ)bak-ˌtir-ē-ˈäl-ə-jəst\ *n*
bac·te·ri·ol·y·sis \(ˌ)bak-ˌtir-ē-ˈäl-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] : destruction or dissolution of bacterial cells — **bac·te·ri·o·lyt·ic** \bak-ˌtir-ē-ə-ˈlit-ik\ *adj*
bac·te·rio·phage \bak-ˈtir-ē-ə-ˌfāj, -ˌfäzh\ *n* [ISV] : any of various specific bacteriolytic viruses normally present in sewage and in body products — **bac·te·rio·phag·ic** \-ˌtir-ē-ə-ˈfaj-ik\ *or* **bac·te·ri·oph·a·gous** \(ˌ)bak-ˌtir-ē-ˈäf-ə-gəs \ *adj* — **bac·te·ri·oph·a·gy** \(ˌ)bak-ˌtir-ē-ˈäf-ə-jē\ *n*
bac·te·rio·sta·sis \bak-ˌtir-ē-ō-ˈstā-səs\ *n* [NL] : inhibition of the growth of bacteria without destruction
bac·te·rio·stat \-ˈtir-ē-ō-ˌstat\ *n* : an agent that causes bacteriostasis — **bac·te·rio·stat·ic** \-ˌtir-ē-ō-ˈstat-ik\ *adj* — **bac·te·rio·stat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
bac·te·ri·um \bak-ˈtir-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ria** \-ē-ə\ [NL, fr. Gk *baktērion* staff; akin to L *baculum* staff] : any of a class (Schizomycetes) of microscopic plants having round, rodlike, spiral, or filamentous single-celled or noncellular bodies often aggregated into colonies or motile by means of flagella, living in soil, water, organic matter, or the bodies of plants and animals, and being autotrophic, saprophytic, or parasitic in nutrition and important to man because of their chemical effects and as pathogens
bac·te·ri·uria \bak-ˌtir-ē-ˈ(y)u̇r-ē-ə\ *n* [NL] : the passage of bacteria in the urine
bac·te·rize \ˈbak-tə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-rized; -riz·ing** : to subject to bacterial action — **bac·te·ri·za·tion** \ˌbak-tə-rə-ˈzā-shən\ *n*
bac·te·roid \ˈbak-tə-ˌrȯid\ *n* **1** : an irregularly shaped bacterium (as a rhizobium) found esp. in root nodules of legumes **2** : a microorganism like a bacterium found in cells of the fat body esp. of roaches
Bac·tri·an camel \ˌbak-trē-ən-\ *n* [fr. its habitat in ancient Bactria] : CAMEL 1b
¹bad \ˈbad\ *adj* **worse** \ˈwərs\; **worst** \ˈwərst\ [ME] **1 a** : failing to reach an acceptable standard : POOR **b** : UNFAVORABLE ⟨make a ~ impression⟩ **c** : not fresh or sound : SPOILED, DILAPIDATED ⟨~ fish⟩ ⟨the house was in ~ condition⟩ **2 a** : morally objectionable **b** : MISCHIEVOUS, DISOBEDIENT **3** : inadequate or unsuited to a purpose ⟨a ~ plan⟩ ⟨~ lighting⟩ **4** : DISAGREEABLE, UNPLEASANT ⟨~ news⟩ **5 a** : INJURIOUS, HARMFUL **b** : SEVERE ⟨a ~ cold⟩ **6** : INCORRECT, FAULTY ⟨~ grammar⟩ **7 a** : suffering pain or distress ⟨felt generally ~⟩ **b** : UNHEALTHY, DISEASED ⟨~ teeth⟩ **8** : SORROWFUL, SORRY **9** : INVALID, VOID ⟨a ~ check⟩ — **bad** *adv* — **bad·ly** *adv* — **bad·ness** *n*
syn BAD, EVIL, ILL, WICKED, NAUGHTY *shared meaning element* : not ethically or morally acceptable. BAD, a very general term, is applicable to anyone or anything reprehensible for whatever reason and to whatever degree ⟨such a *bad* boy, he won't stay in the yard⟩ ⟨almost as *bad* . . . as kill a king, and marry with his brother —Shak.⟩ EVIL may add to *bad* a strong suggestion of the sinister or baleful ⟨watched silently with an *evil* glow in his eyes⟩ ⟨an *evil* deed⟩ ILL may suggest an active malevolence or vicious intent ⟨misled by *ill* counsel⟩ or it may merely attribute objectionableness or inferiority to someone or something ⟨a man held in *ill* repute⟩ WICKED usually implies serious moral reprehensibility ⟨the *wicked* sorcerers who have done people to death by their charms —J. G. Frazer⟩ or it may suggest malevolence and malice ⟨a brooding *wicked* spirit⟩ NAUGHTY, once a close synonym of *wicked*, is now usually restricted to trivial misdeeds (as of children) or used to suggest reprehensibility in a light or playful way ⟨a very *naughty* story⟩ ***ant*** good
²bad *n* **1** : something that is bad **2** : an evil or unhappy state
bad blood *n* : ill feeling : BITTERNESS
bad·der·locks \ˈbad-ər-ˌläks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [origin unknown] : a large blackish seaweed (*Alaria esculenta*) often eaten as a vegetable in Europe
bad·die *or* **bad·dy** \ˈbad-ē\ *n, pl* **baddies** : one that is bad; *esp* : an opponent of the hero (as in fiction or motion pictures)
bade *past of* BID
badge \ˈbaj\ *n* [ME *bage, bagge*] **1** : a device or token esp. of membership in a society or group **2** : a characteristic mark **3** : an emblem awarded for a particular accomplishment — **badge** *vt*
¹bad·ger \ˈbaj-ər\ *n* [prob. fr. *badge*; fr. the white mark on its forehead] **1 a** : any of several sturdy burrowing mammals (genera *Meles* and *Taxidea* of the family Mustelidae) widely distributed in the northern hemisphere **b** : the pelt or fur of a badger **2** *cap* : a native or resident of Wisconsin — used as a nickname
²badger *vt* **bad·gered; bad·ger·ing** \ˈbaj-(ə-)riŋ\ [fr. the sport of baiting badgers] : to harass or annoy persistently ***syn*** see BAIT
ba·di·nage \ˌbad-ᵊn-ˈäzh\ *n* [F] : playful repartee : BANTER
bad·land \ˈbad-ˌland\ *n* : a region marked by intricate erosional sculpturing, scanty vegetation, and fantastically formed hills — usu. used in pl.
bad·min·ton \ˈbad-ˌmint-ᵊn\ *n* [*Badminton*, residence of the Duke of Beaufort, England] : a court game played with light long-handled rackets and a shuttlecock volleyed over a net
bad–mouth \ˈbad-ˌma u̇th, -ˌma u̇th\ *vt* : to criticize severely and persistently
BAE *abbr* **1** bachelor of aeronautical engineering **2** bachelor of agricultural engineering **3** bachelor of architectural engineering **4** bachelor of art education **5** bachelor of arts in education
BAEd *abbr* bachelor of arts in education
Bae·de·ker \ˈbād-i-kər\ *n* [Karl *Baedeker* †1859 G publisher of guidebooks] : GUIDEBOOK
BAeE *abbr* bachelor of aeronautical engineering
BAEE *abbr* bachelor of arts in elementary education
¹baf·fle \ˈbaf-əl\ *vt* **baf·fled; baf·fling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [prob. alter. of ME (Sc) *bawchillen* to denounce, discredit publicly] **1** : to defeat or check (as a person or his plans) by confusing or puzzling : DISCONCERT **2 a** : to check or break the force or flow of by or as if by a baffle **b** : to prevent (sound waves) from interfering with each other (as by a baffle) ***syn*** see FRUSTRATE — **baf·fle·ment** \-əl-mənt\ *n* — **baf·fler** \-(ə-)lər\ *n* — **baf·fling·ly** \ˈbaf-liŋ-lē\ *adv*
²baffle *n* **1** : a device (as a plate, wall, or screen) to deflect, check, or regulate flow (as of a fluid or light) **2** : a partition or cabinet to impede the exchange of sound waves between the front and back of a loudspeaker
baffling wind *n* : a light wind that frequently shifts from one point to another
¹bag \ˈbag\ *n* [ME *bagge*, fr. ON *baggi*] **1** : a usu. flexible container that may be closed for holding, storing, or carrying some-

thing: as **a** : PURSE; *esp* : HANDBAG **b** : a bag for game **c** : TRAVELING BAG **2** : something resembling a bag: as **a** : a pouched or pendulous bodily part or organ; *esp* : UDDER **b** : a puffed-out sag or bulge in cloth **c** : a square white canvas container to mark a base in baseball **3** : the amount contained in a bag **4 a** (1) : a quantity of game taken (2) : the maximum quantity of game permitted by law **b** : SPOILS **c** : a group of persons or things **5** : a slovenly unattractive woman **6** : something one likes or does well **7 a** : a way of life **b** : a characteristic manner of expression — **in the bag** : SURE, CERTAIN

²bag *vb* **bagged; bag·ging** *vi* **1** : to swell out : BULGE **2** : to hang loosely ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to swell **2** : to put into a bag **3 a** : to take (animals) as game **b** : to get possession of esp. by strategy or stealth **c** : CAPTURE, SEIZE **d** : to shoot down : DESTROY ***syn*** see CATCH

BAg *abbr* bachelor of agriculture

ba·gasse \bə-'gas\ *n* [F] : plant residue (as of sugarcane or grapes) left after a product (as juice) has been extracted

bag·a·telle \ˌbag-ə-'tel\ *n* [F, fr. It *bagattella*] **1** : TRIFLE 1 **2** : a game played with a cue and balls on an oblong table having cups or cups and arches at one end

ba·gel \'bā-gəl\ *n* [Yiddish *beygel*, deriv. of OHG *boug* ring; akin to OE *bēag* ring — more at BEE] : a hard glazed doughnut-shaped roll

bag·ful \'bag-ˌfu̇l\ *n* **1** : as much or as many as a bag will hold **2** : a large number or amount ⟨had a ~ of tricks⟩

bag·gage \'bag-ij\ *n* [ME *bagage*, fr. MF, fr. *bague* bundle] **1** : traveling bags and personal belongings of travelers : LUGGAGE **2** : transportable equipment esp. of a military force **3 a** : superfluous or intrusive things or circumstances **b** : outmoded theories or practices **4** [prob. modif. of MF *bagasse*, fr. OProv *bagassa*] **a** : a worthless or contemptible woman; *esp* : PROSTITUTE **b** : a young woman or girl

bag·ging \'bag-iŋ\ *n* : material (as cloth) for bags

bag·gy \'bag-ē\ *adj* **bag·gi·er; -est** : loose, puffed out, or hanging like a bag ⟨~ trousers⟩ — **bag·gi·ly** \'bag-ə-lē\ *adv* — **bag·gi·ness** \'bag-ē-nəs\ *n*

bag·man \'bag-mən\ *n* **1** *chiefly Brit* : TRAVELING SALESMAN **2** : a person who on behalf of another collects or distributes illicitly gained money

ba·gnio \'ban-(ˌ)yō\ *n, pl* **bagnios** [It *bagno*, lit., public baths (fr. the use of Roman baths at Constantinople for imprisonment of Christian prisoners by the Turks), fr. L *balneum*, fr. Gk *balaneion*; akin to OHG *quellan* to gush — more at DEVIL] **1** *obs* : PRISON **2** : BROTHEL

bag of waters : the double-walled fluid-filled sac that encloses and protects the fetus in the womb and that breaks releasing its fluid during the birth process

bag·pipe \'bag-ˌpīp\ *n* : a wind instrument consisting of a leather bag, a valve-stopped mouth tube, a reed melody pipe, and three or four drone pipes — often used in pl. — **bag·pip·er** \-ˌpī-pər\ *n*



bagpipe

ba·guette \ba-'get\ *n* [F, lit., rod] **1** : a small molding like but smaller than the astragal **2** : a gem having the shape of a long narrow rectangle; *also* : the shape itself

bag·wig \'bag-ˌwig\ *n* : an 18th century wig with the back hair enclosed in a small silk bag

bag·worm \-ˌwərm\ *n* : any of a family (Psychidae) of moths with wingless females and plant-feeding larvae that live in a silk case covered with plant debris; *esp* : one (*Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis*) often destructive to deciduous and evergreen trees of the eastern U.S.

bah \'bä, 'ba\ *interj* — used to express disdain or contempt

Ba·ha'i \bä-'hä-ˌē, -'hī\ *n, pl* **Baha'is** [Per *bahā'ī*, lit., of glory, fr. *bahā'* glory] : an adherent of a religious movement originating among Shia Muslims in Iran in the 19th century and emphasizing the spiritual unity of mankind — **Baha'i** *adj* — **Ba·ha·ism** \-'hä-ˌiz-əm, -'hī-ˌiz-\ *n* — **Ba·ha·ist** \-'hä-(ˌ)ist\ *n*

Ba·ha·sa In·do·ne·sia \bə-ˌhäs-ə-ˌin-də-'nē-zhə, -shə\ *n* [Indonesian *bahasa indonésia*, lit., Indonesian language] : INDONESIAN 2b

Ba·hia grass \bə-'hē-ə-\ *n* [*Bahia*, state in Brazil] : a perennial tropical American grass (*Paspalpum notatum*) used in the southern U.S. as a pasture grass

baht \'bät\ *n, pl* **bahts** *or* **baht** [Thai *bāt*] — see MONEY table

¹bail \'bā(ə)l\ *n* [ME, custody, security for appearance, fr. MF, custody, fr. *baillier* to have in charge, deliver, fr. ML *bajulare* to control, fr. L, to carry a load, fr. *bajulus* porter] **1** : security given for the due appearance of a prisoner in order to obtain his release from imprisonment **2** : the temporary release of a prisoner on bail **3** : one who provides bail

²bail *vt* [In sense 1, fr. AF *baillier*, fr. F, to deliver; in other senses, fr. ¹*bail*] **1** : to deliver (property) in trust to another for a special purpose and for a limited period **2** : to release under bail **3** : to procure the release of by giving bail — often used with *out* **4** : to help from a predicament — used with *out* ⟨~*ing* out impoverished countries⟩

³bail *n* [ME *baille* bailey, fr. OF] *chiefly Brit* : a device for confining or separating animals

⁴bail *n* [ME *baille*, fr. MF, bucket, fr. ML *bajula* water vessel, fr. fem. of L *bajulus*] : a container used to remove water from a boat

⁵bail *vt* **1** : to clear (water) from a boat by dipping and throwing over the side — usu. used with *out* **2** : to clear water from by dipping and throwing — usu. used with *out* ~ *vi* : to parachute from an airplane — usu. used with *out* — **bail·er** *n*

⁶bail *n* [ME *beil, baile*, prob. of Scand origin; akin to Sw *bygel* bow, hoop; akin to OE *būgan* to bend — more at BOW] **1 a** : a supporting half hoop **b** : a hinged bar for holding paper against the platen of a typewriter **2** : the usu. arched handle of a kettle or pail

bail·able \'bā-lə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : entitled to bail **2** : allowing bail ⟨a ~ offense⟩

bail·ee \bā-'lē\ *n* : the person to whom property is bailed

bai·ley \'bā-lē\ *n, pl* **baileys** [ME *bailli*, fr. OF *baille, balie* palisade, bailey] **1** : the outer wall of a castle or any of several walls surrounding the keep **2** : the space immediately within the external wall or between two outer walls of a castle

Bai·ley bridge \ˌbā-lē-\ *n* [Sir Donald *Bailey b*1901 E engineer] : a bridge designed for rapid construction from interchangeable latticed steel panels that are coupled with steel pins

bai·lie \'bā-lē\ *n* [ME] **1** *chiefly dial* : BAILIFF **2** : a Scottish municipal magistrate corresponding to an English alderman

bai·liff \'bā-ləf\ *n* [ME *baillif, bailie*, fr. OF *baillif*, fr. *bail* custody, jurisdiction — more at BAIL] **1 a** : an official employed by a British sheriff to serve writs and make arrests and executions **b** : a minor officer of some U.S. courts usu. serving as a messenger or usher **2** *chiefly Brit* : one who manages an estate or farm — **bailiff·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

bai·li·wick \'bā-li-ˌwik\ *n* [ME *baillifwik*, fr. *baillif* + *wik* dwelling place, village, fr. OE *wīc*; akin to OHG *wīch* dwelling place, town; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. L *vicus* village — more at VICINITY] **1** : the office or jurisdiction of a bailiff **2** : a special domain

bail·ment \'bā(ə)l-mənt\ *n* : the act of bailing a person or property

bail·or \bā-'lȯ(ə)r, 'bā-lər\ *or* **bail·er** \'bā-lər\ *n* : one who delivers goods or money to another in trust

bails·man \'bā(ə)lz-mən\ *n* : one who gives bail for another

bairn \'ba(ə)rn, 'be(ə)rn\ *n* [ME *bern, barn*, fr. OE *bearn* & ON *barn*; akin to OHG *barn* child] *chiefly Scot* : CHILD

Bai·sakh \'bī-ˌsäk\ *n* [Hindi, fr. Skt *Vaiśākha*] : a month of the Hindu year — see MONTH table

¹bait \'bāt\ *vb* [ME *baiten*, fr. ON *beita*; akin to OE *bǣtan* to bait, *bītan* to bite] *vt* **1 a** : to persecute or exasperate with unjust, malicious, or persistent attacks **b** : to nag at **c** : TEASE **2 a** : to harass (as a chained animal) with dogs usu. for sport **b** : to attack by biting and tearing **3 a** : to furnish with bait **b** : ENTICE, LURE **4** : to give food and drink to (an animal) esp. on the road ~ *vi, archaic* : to stop for food and rest when traveling — **bait·er** *n*

syn BAIT, BADGER, HECKLE, HECTOR, CHIVY, HOUND *shared meaning element* : to harass persistently or annoyingly

²bait *n* [ON *beit* pasturage & *beita* food; akin to OE *bītan* to bite] **1 a** : something used in luring esp. to a hook or trap **b** : a poisonous material placed where it will be eaten by pests **2** : LURE, TEMPTATION

bai·za \'bī-(ˌ)zä\ *n* [colloq. Ar, fr. Hindi *paisā*] — see *rial* at MONEY table

baize \'bāz\ *n* [MF *baies*, pl. of *baie* baize, fr. fem. of *bai* bay-colored] : a coarse woolen or cotton fabric napped to imitate felt

¹bake \'bāk\ *vb* **baked; bak·ing** [ME *baken*, fr. OE *bacan*; akin to OHG *bahhan* to bake, Gk *phōgein* to roast] *vt* **1** : to prepare (as food) by dry heat esp. in an oven **2** : to dry or harden by subjecting to heat ~ *vi* **1** : to prepare food by baking it **2** : to become baked — **bak·er** *n*

²bake *n* **1** : the act or process of baking **2** : a social gathering at which a baked food is served

Ba·ke·lite \'bā-kə-ˌlīt, -ˌklīt\ *trademark* — used for any of various synthetic resins and plastics

baker's dozen *n* : THIRTEEN

bakers' yeast *n* : a yeast (as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) used or suitable for use as leaven

bak·ery \'bā-k(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : a place for baking or selling baked goods

bake·shop \'bāk-ˌshäp\ *n* : BAKERY

baking powder *n* : a powder used as a leavening agent in making baked goods (as quick breads) that consists of a carbonate, an acid substance, and starch or flour

baking soda *n* : SODIUM BICARBONATE

bak·sheesh \'bak-ˌshēsh, bak-'\ *n, pl* **baksheesh** [Per *bakhshīsh*, fr. *bakhshīdan* to give; akin to Gk *phagein* to eat, Skt *bhajati* he allots] : TIP, GRATUITY

bal *abbr* balance

¹BAL \ˌbē-ˌā-'el\ *n* [*B*ritish *A*nti-*L*ewisite] : a compound $C_3H_8OS_2$ developed as an antidote against lewisite and used against other arsenicals and against mercurials

²BAL *n* [*b*asic *a*ssembly *l*anguage] : a generalized assembly language for programming a computer with a small memory

Ba·laam \'bā-ləm\ *n* [Gk, fr. Heb *Bil'ām*] : an Old Testament prophet who is reproached by the ass he is riding and rebuked by God's angel while on the way to meet with an enemy of Israel

bal·a·lai·ka \ˌbal-ə-'lī-kə\ *n* [Russ] : a stringed instrument with a triangular body used esp. in the U.S.S.R.

¹bal·ance \'bal-ən(t)s\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *bilancia*, fr. LL *bilanc-, bilanx* having two scalepans, fr. L *bi-* + *lanc-, lanx* plate; akin to OE *eln* ell — more at ELL] **1** : an instrument for weighing: as **a** : a beam that is supported freely in the center and has two pans of equal weight suspended from its ends **b** : a device that uses the elasticity of a spiral spring for measuring weight or force **c** *cap* : LIBRA **2** : a means of judging or deciding **3** : a counterbalancing weight, force, or influence **4** : a vibrating wheel operating with a hairspring to regulate the movement of a timepiece **5 a** : stability produced by even distribution of weight on each side of the vertical axis **b** : equipoise between contrasting, opposing, or interacting elements **c** : equality between the totals of the two sides of an account **6 a** : an aesthetically pleasing integration of elements **b** : the juxtaposition in writing of syntac-

tically parallel constructions containing similar or contrasting ideas **7 a** : physical equilibrium **b** : the ability to retain one's balance **8 a** : weight or force of one side in excess of another **b** : something left over : REMAINDER **c** : an amount in excess esp. on the credit side of an account **9** : mental and emotional steadiness **10** : the point on the trigger side of a rifle at which if the rifle is held the weight of the ends balance each other — **bal·anced** \-ən(t)st\ *adj* — **in the balance** *or* **in balance** : in an uncertain critical position : with the fate or outcome about to be determined — **on balance** : all things considered

²balance *vb* **bal·anced; bal·anc·ing** *vt* **1 a** (1) : to compute the difference between the debits and credits of (an account) (2) : to pay the amount due on : SETTLE **b** (1) : to arrange so that one set of elements exactly equals another ⟨~ a mathematical equation⟩ (2) : to complete (a chemical equation) so that the same number of atoms of each kind appears on each side **2 a** : COUNTERBALANCE, OFFSET **b** : to equal or equalize in weight, number, or proportion **3 a** : to compare the weight of in or as if in a balance **b** : to deliberate upon esp. by weighing opposing issues : PONDER **4 a** : to bring to a state or position of equipoise **b** : to poise in or as if in balance **c** : to bring into harmony or proportion ~ *vi* **1** : to become balanced or established in balance **2** : to be an equal counterpoise **3** : FLUCTUATE, WAVER ⟨contempt for the mind that ~*s* and waits —P. E. More⟩ **4** : to move with a swaying or swinging motion ***syn*** see COMPENSATE

balance beam *n* **1** : a narrow wooden beam supported in a horizontal position approximately four feet above the floor and used for balancing feats in gymnastics **2** : an event in gymnastics competition in which the balance beam is used

balance of payments : a summary of the international transactions of a country or region over a period of time including commodity and service transactions, capital transactions, and gold movements

balance of power : an equilibrium of power sufficient to discourage or prevent one nation or political party from imposing its will upon or interfering with the interests of another

balance of terror : an equilibrium of military power (as nuclear capability) between potentially opposing nations sufficient to deter one nation from waging war upon another

balance of trade : the difference in value over a period of time between a country's imports and exports

bal·anc·er \'bal-ən-sər\ *n* : one that balances; *specif* : HALTERE

balance sheet *n* : a statement of financial condition at a given date

balance wheel *n* **1** : a wheel that regulates or stabilizes the motion of a mechanism **2** : a balancing or stabilizing force ⟨serve as a vital *balance wheel* in this country's overall educational and cultural relations — F. A. Young⟩

Ba·lante \bə-'länt\ *n, pl* **Balante** *or* **Balantes** [F, fr. Balante *Bulanda*] **1** : a member of a Negro people of Senegal and Angola **2** : the language of the Balante people

bal·as \'bal-əs\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *balais*, fr. Ar *balakhsh*, fr. *Balakhshān*, ancient region of Afghanistan] : a ruby spinel of a pale rose-red or orange

ba·la·ta \bə-'lät-ə\ *n* [Sp, of Cariban origin; akin to Galibi *balata*] : a substance like gutta-percha that is the dried juice of tropical American trees (esp. *Manilkara bidentata*) of the sapodilla family and is used esp. in belting and golf balls; *also* : a tree yielding balata

bal·boa \bal-'bō-ə\ *n* [Sp, fr. Vasco Núñez de *Balboa* †1517 Sp explorer] — see MONEY table

bal·brig·gan \bal-'brig-ən\ *n* [*Balbriggan*, Ireland] : a knitted cotton fabric used esp. for underwear or hosiery

bal·co·ny \'bal-kə-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [It *balcone*, fr. OIt, scaffold, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *balko* beam — more at BALK] **1** : a platform that projects from the wall of a building and is enclosed by a parapet or railing **2** : an interior projecting gallery in a public building (as a theater) — **bal·co·nied** \-nēd\ *adj*

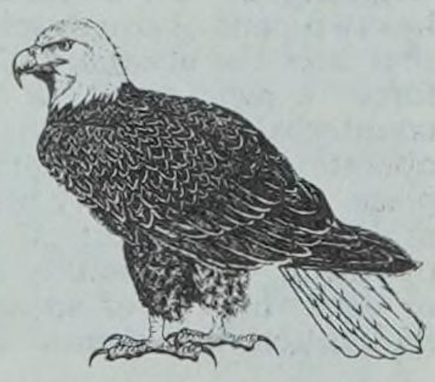
¹bald \'bȯld\ *adj* [ME *balled*; akin to OE *bæl* fire, pyre, Dan *bældet* bald, L *fulica* coot, Gk *phalios* having a white spot] **1 a** : lacking a natural or usual covering (as of hair, vegetation, or nap) **b** : having little or no tread ⟨~ tires⟩ **2** : UNADORNED **3** : UNDISGUISED, PALPABLE **4** : marked with white ***syn*** see BARE — **bald·ish** \'bȯl-dish\ *adj* — **bald·ly** \'bȯl-(d)lē\ *adv* — **bald·ness** \'bȯl(d)nəs\ *n*

²bald *vi* : to become bald

bal·da·chin \'bȯl-də-kən, 'bal-\ *or* **bal·da·chi·no** \ˌbal-də-'kē-(ˌ)nō, ˌbäl-\ *n, pl* **baldachins** *or* **baldachinos** [It *baldacchino*, fr. *Baldacco* Baghdad, Iraq] **1** : a rich embroidered fabric of silk and gold **2** : a cloth canopy fixed or carried over an important person or a sacred object **3** : an ornamental structure resembling a canopy used esp. over an altar

bald cypress *n* **1** : either of two large swamp trees (*Taxodium distichum* and *T. ascendens*) of the southern U.S. that are related to the sequoias **2** : the hard red wood of bald cypress that is much used for shingles

bald eagle *n* : the common eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) of No. America that is wholly brown when young but in full adult plummage has white head and neck feathers and a white tail



bald eagle

Bal·der \'bȯl-dər\ *n* [ON *Baldr*] : the son of Odin and Frigga and Norse god of light and peace slain through the trickery of Loki by a mistletoe sprig

bal·der·dash \'bȯl-dər-ˌdash\ *n* [origin unknown] : NONSENSE

bald–faced \'bȯl(d)-'fāst\ *adj* : BARE-FACED

bald·head \'bȯld-ˌhed\ *n* : a bald-headed person

bald·pate \'bȯl(d)-ˌpāt\ *n* **1** : BALDHEAD **2** : a No. American widgeon (*Mareca americana*) with a white crown

bal·dric \'bȯl-drik\ *n* [ME *baudry, baudrik*] : an often ornamented belt worn over one shoulder to support a sword or bugle

¹bale \'bā(ə)l\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bealu*; akin to OHG *balo* evil, OSlav *bolŭ* sick man] **1** : great evil **2** : WOE, SORROW

²bale *n* [ME, fr. OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *balla* ball] : a large bundle of goods; *specif* : a large closely pressed package of merchandise bound and usu. wrapped ⟨a ~ of paper⟩ ⟨a ~ of hay⟩

³bale *vt* **baled; bal·ing** : to make up into a bale — **bal·er** *n*

ba·leen \bə-'lēn\ *n* [ME *baleine* whale, baleen, fr. L *balaena* whale, fr. Gk *phallaina*; akin to Gk *phallos* penis — more at BLOW] : WHALEBONE

bale·fire \'bā(ə)l-ˌfī(ə)r\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bælfȳr* funeral fire, fr. *bæl* pyre + *fȳr* fire — more at BALD] : an outdoor fire often used as a signal fire

bale·ful \-fəl\ *adj* **1** : deadly or pernicious in influence **2** : foreboding evil : OMINOUS ***syn*** see SINISTER — **bale·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **bale·ful·ness** \-fəl-nəs\ *n*

¹balk \'bȯk\ *n* [ME *balke*, fr. OE *balca*; akin to OHG *balko* beam, L *fulcire* to prop, Gk *phalanx* log, phalanx] **1** : a ridge of land left unplowed as a dividing line or through carelessness **2** : BEAM, RAFTER **3** : HINDRANCE, CHECK **4 a** : the space behind the balkline on a billiard table **b** : any of the outside divisions made by the balklines **5** : failure of a player to complete a motion; *esp* : an illegal motion of the pitcher in baseball while in position

²balk *vt* **1** *archaic* : to pass over or by **2** : to check or stop by or as if by an obstacle : BLOCK ~ *vi* **1** : to stop short and refuse to proceed **2** : to refuse abruptly — used with *at* **3** : to commit a balk in sports ***syn*** see FRUSTRATE ***ant*** forward — **balk·er** *n*

bal·kan·ize \'bȯl-kə-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** *often cap* [*Balkan* peninsula] : to break up (as a region) into smaller and often hostile units — **bal·kan·iza·tion** \ˌbȯl-kə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n, often cap*

balk·line \'bȯ-ˌklīn\ *n* **1** : a line across a billiard table near one end behind which the cue balls are placed in making opening shots **2 a** : one of four lines parallel to the cushions of a billiard table dividing it into nine compartments **b** : a carom billiards game that sets restrictions (as in scoring) determined by these lines

balky \'bȯ-kē\ *adj* **balk·i·er; -est** : refusing or likely to refuse to proceed or act as directed or expected ⟨a ~ mule⟩ ***syn*** see CONTRARY — **balk·i·ness** *n*

¹ball \'bȯl\ *n* [ME *bal*, fr. ON *böllr*; akin to OE *bealluc* testis, OHG *balla* ball, OE *bula* bull] **1** : a round or roundish body or mass: as **a** : a spherical or ovoid body used in a game or sport **b** : EARTH, GLOBE **c** : a spherical or conical projectile; *also* : projectiles used in firearms **d** : a roundish protuberant anatomic structure; *esp* : the rounded eminence at the base of the thumb or great toe **2 a** : TESTIS — often considered vulgar **b** *pl* (1) : NONSENSE — often considered vulgar (2) : COURAGE — often considered vulgar **3** : a game in which a ball is thrown, kicked, or struck; *esp* : BASEBALL **4 a** : the delivery of the ball ⟨a pitcher whose ~ curves⟩ **b** : a pitched baseball not struck at by the batter that fails to pass through the strike zone **c** : a hit or thrown ball in various games ⟨foul ~⟩ — **on the ball** **1** : marked by knowledgeableness and competence : ALERT ⟨the other introductory essay . . . is much more *on the ball* —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ ⟨keep *on the ball*⟩ **2** : of ability or competence ⟨if the teacher has something *on the ball*, the pupils won't squirm much — *New Yorker*⟩

²ball *vi* : to form or gather into a ball ~ *vt* **1** : to form or gather into a ball ⟨~*ed* the paper into a wad⟩ **2** : to have sexual intercourse with — usu. considered vulgar

³ball *n* [F *bal*, fr. OF, fr. *baller* to dance, fr. LL *ballare*, fr. Gk *ballizein*; akin to Skt *balbalīti* he whirls] **1** : a large formal gathering for social dancing **2** : a very pleasant experience : a good time

bal·lad \'bal-əd\ *n* [ME *balade* song sung while dancing, song, fr. MF, fr. OProv *balada* dance, song sung while dancing, fr. *balar* to dance, fr. LL *ballare*] **1** : a simple song : AIR **2 a** : a narrative composition in rhythmic verse suitable for singing **b** : an art song accompanying a traditional ballad **3** : a popular song; *esp* : a slow romantic or sentimental song — **bal·lad·ic** \bə-'lad-ik, ba-\ *adj*

bal·lade \bə-'läd, ba-\ *n* [ME *balade*, fr. MF, ballad, ballade] **1** : a fixed verse form consisting usu. of three stanzas with recurrent rhymes, an envoi, and an identical refrain for each part **2 a** : an elaborate musical setting of a ballad **b** : a musical composition usu. for piano suggesting the epic ballad

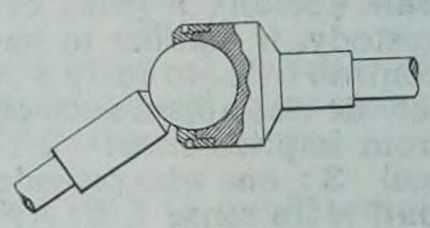
bal·lad·eer \ˌbal-ə-'di(ə)r\ *n* : a singer of ballads

bal·lad·ist \'bal-əd-əst\ *n* : one who writes or sings ballads

bal·lad·ry \'bal-ə-drē\ *n* : BALLADS

ballad stanza *n* : a stanza consisting of four lines with the first and third lines unrhymed iambic tetrameters and the second and fourth lines rhymed iambic trimeters

ball–and–socket joint *n* **1** : a joint in which a ball moves within a socket so as to allow rotary motion in every direction within certain limits **2** : an articulation (as the hip joint) in which the rounded head of one bone fits into a cuplike cavity of the other and admits movement in any direction — called also *enarthrosis*



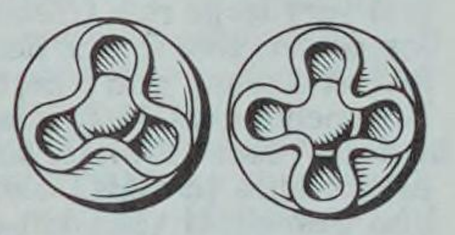
ball-and-socket joint 1

¹bal·last \'bal-əst\ *n* [prob. fr. LG, of Scand origin; akin to Dan & Sw *barlast* ballast; akin to OE *bær* bare & to OE *hlæst* load, *hladan* to load — more at LADE] **1** : a heavy substance used to improve the stability and control the draft of a ship or the ascent of a balloon **2** : something that gives stability esp. in character or conduct ⟨stated that his training had given him ~ and a sense of responsibility — *Current Biog.*⟩ **3** : gravel or broken stone laid in a railroad bed or used in making concrete **4** : a resistance used to stabilize the current in a circuit (as of a fluorescent lamp) — **in ballast** *of a ship* : having only ballast for a load

²ballast *vt* **1** : to steady or equip with or as if with ballast **2** : to fill in (as a railroad bed) with ballast

ball bearing *n* : a bearing in which the journal turns upon loose hardened steel balls that roll easily in a race; *also* : one of the balls in such a bearing

ball boy *n* : a tennis court attendant who retrieves balls for the players
ball·car·ri·er \'bȯl-ˌkar-ē-ər\ *n* : the football player carrying the ball on an offensive play
ball cock *n* : an automatic valve whose opening and closing are controlled by a spherical float at the end of a lever
ball control *n* : an offensive strategy (as in football or basketball) in which a team tries to maintain possession of the ball for extended periods of time
bal·le·ri·na \ˌbal-ə-'rē-nə\ *n* [It, fr. *ballare* to dance, fr. LL] : a female ballet dancer : DANSEUSE
bal·let \'ba-ˌlā, ba-'\ *n* [F, fr. It *balletto*, dim. of *ballo* dance, fr. *ballare*] **1 a** : dancing in which conventional poses and steps are combined with light flowing figures (as leaps and turns) **b** : a theatrical art form using ballet dancing, music, and scenery to convey a story, theme, or atmosphere **2** : music for a ballet **3** : a group that performs ballets — **bal·let·ic** \ba-'let-ik\ *adj*
ballet d'ac·tion \'ba-ˌlā-daks-'yōⁿ, ba-'lā-\ *n, pl* **ballets d'action** \-ˌlā(z)-, -'lā(z)-\ [F, ballet of action] : a ballet with a plot
bal·let·o·mane \ba-'let-ə-ˌmān\ *n* [*ballet* + *-o-* + *-mane* (fr. *mania*)] : a devotee of ballet
bal·let·o·ma·nia \-ˌlet-ə-'mā-nē-ə, -nyə\ *n* : enthusiasm for ballet
ball–flow·er \'bȯl-ˌflaù(-ə)r\ *n* : an architectural ornament consisting of a ball placed in the flower-shaped hollow of a circular mold



ball-flowers

ball hawk *n* **1** : one skillful in taking the ball away from opponents (as in football or basketball) **2** : a baseball outfielder skilled in catching fly balls
bal·lis·ta \bə-'lis-tə\ *n, pl* **-tae** \-ˌtē\ [L, fr. (assumed) Gk *ballistēs*, fr. *ballein* to throw — more at DEVIL] : an ancient military engine often in the form of a crossbow for hurling large missiles
bal·lis·tic \bə-'lis-tik\ *adj* [L *ballista*] : of or relating to ballistics or to a body in motion according to the laws of ballistics — **bal·lis·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ballistic missile *n* : a self-propelled missile guided in the ascent of a high-arch trajectory and freely falling in the descent
bal·lis·tics \bə-'lis-tiks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1 a** : the science of the motion of projectiles in flight **b** : the flight characteristics of a projectile **2 a** : the study of the processes within a firearm as it is fired **b** : the firing characteristics of a firearm or cartridge
bal·lis·to·car·dio·gram \bə-'lis-tō-'kärd-ē-ə-ˌgram\ *n* : the record made by a ballistocardiograph
bal·lis·to·car·dio·graph \-ˌgraf\ *n* [*ballistic* + *-o-* + *cardiograph*] : a device for measuring the amount of blood passing through the heart in a specified time by recording the recoil movements of the body that result from contraction of the heart muscle in ejecting blood from the ventricles — **bal·lis·to·car·dio·graph·ic** \-ˌkärd-ē-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj* — **bal·lis·to·car·di·og·ra·phy** \-ē-'äg-rə-fē\ *n*
ball lightning *n* : a rare form of lightning consisting of luminous balls that may move along solid objects or float in the air
ball of fire : a person of unusual energy, vitality, or drive
bal·lon \ba-'lōⁿ\ *n* [F, lit., balloon] : lightness of movement that exaggerates the duration of a ballet dancer's jump
bal·lo·net \ˌbal-ə-'nā\ *n* [F *ballonnet*, dim. of *ballon*] : a compartment of variable volume within the interior of a balloon or airship used to control ascent and descent
bal·lon·né \ˌbal-ə-'nā\ *n* [F, fr. *ballon*] : a wide circular jump in ballet usu. with a battement
¹bal·loon \bə-'lün\ *n* [F *ballon* large football, balloon, fr. It dial. *ballone* large football, aug. of *balla* ball, of Gmc origin] **1** : a nonporous bag of tough light material filled with heated air or a gas lighter than air so as to rise and float in the atmosphere **2** : a toy consisting of an inflatable rubber bag **3** : the outline enclosing words spoken or thought by a figure esp. in a cartoon
²balloon *vt* : INFLATE, DISTEND ~ *vi* **1** : to ascend or travel in a balloon **2** : to swell or puff out : EXPAND **3** : to increase rapidly
³balloon *adj* **1** : relating to, resembling, or suggesting a balloon ⟨a ~ sleeve⟩ **2** : having a final installment that is much larger than preceding ones in a term or installment note
bal·loon·ing \bə-'lü-niŋ\ *n* : the act or sport of riding in a balloon
bal·loon·ist \-nəst\ *n* : one who ascends in a balloon
balloon sail *n* : a large light sail set in addition to or in place of an ordinary light sail
balloon tire *n* : a pneumatic tire with a flexible carcass and large cross section designed to provide cushioning through low pressure
balloon vine *n* : a tropical American vine (*Cardiospermum halicacabum*) of the soapberry family bearing large ornamental pods
¹bal·lot \'bal-ət\ *n* [It *ballotta*, fr. It dial., dim. of *balla* ball] **1 a** : a small ball used in secret voting **b** : a sheet of paper used to cast a secret vote **2 a** : the action or system of secret voting **b** : the right to vote **c** : ¹VOTE 1a **3** : the number of votes cast
²ballot *vi* : to vote or decide by ballot — **bal·lot·er** *n*
bal·lotte·ment \bə-'lät-mənt\ *n* [F, lit., act of tossing, shaking, fr. *ballotter* to toss, fr. MF *baloter*, fr. *balotte* little ball, fr. It dial. *ballotta*] : a sharp upward pushing against the uterine wall with a finger for diagnosing pregnancy by feeling the return impact of the displaced fetus; *also* : a similar procedure for detecting a floating kidney
ball park *n* : a park in which ball games are played — **in the ball park** *slang* : approximately correct ⟨concede that the industry estimate . . . is "*in the ball park*" —Ronald Kessler⟩
ball–point pen *n* : a pen having as the writing point a small rotating metal ball that inks itself by contact with an inner magazine
ball·room \'bȯl-ˌrüm, -ˌrùm\ *n* : a large room for dances
ball up *vt* : to make a mess of : CONFUSE, MUDDLE ⟨incompetents who *balled up* the whole program⟩ ~ *vi* : to become badly muddled or confused
ball valve *n* : a valve in which a ball regulates the aperture by its rise and fall due to fluid pressure, a spring, or its own weight
bal·ly·hoo \'bal-ē-ˌhü\ *n, pl* **-hoos** [origin unknown] **1** : a noisy attention-getting demonstration or talk **2** : flamboyant, exaggerated, or sensational advertising or propaganda — **ballyhoo** *vt*
bal·ly·rag \-ˌrag\ *var of* BULLYRAG
balm \'bäm, 'bälm\ *n* [ME *basme, baume*, fr. OF, fr. L *balsamum* balsam, fr. Gk *balsamon*] **1** : a balsamic resin; *esp* : one from small tropical evergreen trees (genus *Commiphora* of the family Burseraceae) **2** : an aromatic preparation (as a healing ointment) **3** : any of various aromatic plants (as of the genera *Melissa* or *Monarda*) **4** : a spicy aromatic odor **5** : a soothing restorative agency
bal·ma·caan \ˌbal-mə-'kan, -'kän\ *n* [*Balmacaan*, estate near Inverness, Scotland] : a loose single-breasted overcoat usu. made of rough woolens and having raglan sleeves, a short turnover collar, and a closing that may be buttoned up to the throat
balm of Gil·e·ad \-'gil-ē-əd\ [*Gilead*, region of ancient Palestine known for its balm (Jer 8:22)] **1** : a small evergreen African and Asian tree (*Commiphora meccanensis* of the family Burseraceae) with aromatic leaves; *also* : a fragant oleoresin from this tree **2** : an agency that soothes, relieves, or heals **3 a** : BALSAM FIR **b** : either of two poplars: (1) : a hybrid northern tree (*Populus gileadensis*) with broadly cordate leaves that are pubescent esp. on the underside (2) : BALSAM POPLAR
bal·mor·al \bal-'mȯr-əl, -'mär-\ *n* [*Balmoral* Castle, Scotland] **1** : a laced boot or shoe; *esp* : an oxford shoe with quarters meeting over a separate tongue **2** *often cap* : a round flat cap with a top projecting all around
balmy \'bäm-ē, 'bäl-mē\ *adj* **balm·i·er; -est** **1 a** : having the qualities of balm : SOOTHING **b** : MILD **2** : FOOLISH, INSANE — **balm·i·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv* — **balm·i·ness** \-ē-nəs\ *n*
bal·ne·ol·o·gy \ˌbal-nē-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* [ISV, fr. L *balneum* bath — more at BAGNIO] : the science of the therapeutic use of baths
¹ba·lo·ney \bə-'lō-nē\ *var of* BOLOGNA
²baloney *n* [*bologna*] : pretentious nonsense : BUNKUM — often used as a generalized expression of disagreement ⟨it is a wish-gratifying intellectual toy. And a lot of ~ —H. D. Scott⟩
bal·sa \'bȯl-sə\ *n* [Sp] **1** : a tropical American tree (*Ochroma lagopus*) of the silk-cotton family with extremely light strong wood used esp. for floats; *also* : its wood **2** : RAFT; *specif* : one made of two cylinders of metal or wood joined by a framework and used for landing through surf
bal·sam \'bȯl-səm\ *n* [L *balsamum*] **1 a** : an aromatic and usu. oily and resinous substance flowing from various plants; *esp* : any of several resinous substances containing benzoic or cinnamic acid and used esp. in medicine **b** : a preparation containing resinous substances and having a balsamic odor **2 a** : a balsam-yielding tree; *esp* : BALSAM FIR **b** : IMPATIENS; *esp* : a common garden ornamental (*Impatiens balsamina*) **3** : BALM 5 — **bal·sam·ic** \bȯl-'sam-ik\ *adj*
balsam fir *n* : a resinous American evergreen tree (*Abies balsamea*) that is widely used for pulpwood and as a Christmas tree
balsam of Pe·ru \-pə-'rü\ : a leguminous balsam from a tropical American tree (*Myroxylon pereirae*) used in perfumery and medicine
balsam of To·lu \-tə-'lü\ [Santiago de *Tolú*, Colombia] : a balsam from a tropical American leguminous tree (*Myroxylon balsamum*) used esp. in cough syrups and perfumes
balsam poplar *n* : a No. American poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) that is often cultivated as a shade tree and has buds thickly coated with an aromatic resin — called also *balm of Gilead, hackmatack, tacamahac*
Bal·ti \'bəl-tē, 'bȯl-\ *n* : a Tibeto-Burman language of northern Kashmir
Bal·tic \'bȯl-tik\ *adj* [ML (*mare*) *balticum* Baltic sea] **1** : of or relating to the Baltic sea or to the states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia **2** : of or relating to a branch of the Indo-European languages containing Latvian, Lithuanian, and Old Prussian — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table
Bal·ti·more chop \ˌbȯl-tə-ˌmō(ə)r-, -ˌmȯ(ə)r-, -mər-\ *n* [fr. its strategic use by the Baltimore team] : a batted baseball that usu. bounces too high for an infielder to have time to catch it and make a putout at first base
Baltimore oriole *n* [George Calvert, Lord *Baltimore*] : a common American oriole (*Icterus galbula*) in which the male is brightly colored with orange, black, and white and the female is primarily brown and greenish yellow
Bal·to–Slav·ic \ˌbȯl-(ˌ)tō-'slav-ik, -'släv-\ *n* : a subfamily of Indo-European languages consisting of the Baltic and the Slavic branches — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table
Ba·lu·chi \bə-'lü-chē\ *n, pl* **Baluchi** *or* **Baluchis** [Per *Balūchī*] **1 a** : an Indo-Iranian people of Baluchistan **b** : a member of this people **2** : the Iranian language of the Baluchi people
bal·us·ter \'bal-ə-stər\ *n* [F *balustre*, fr. It *balaustro*, fr. *balaustra* wild pomegranate flower, fr. L *balaustium*, fr. Gk *balaustion*; fr. its shape] **1** : an upright often vase-shaped support for a rail **2** : an object or vertical member (as the leg of a table, a round in the back of a chair, or the stem of a glass) having a vaselike or turned outline
bal·us·trade \-ə-ˌstrād\ *n* [F, fr. It *balaustrata*, fr. *balaustro*] : a row of balusters topped by a rail; *also* : a low parapet or barrier
BAM *abbr* **1** bachelor of applied mathematics **2** bachelor of arts in music
Bam·ba·ra \bam-'bär-ə\ *n, pl* **Bambara** *or* **Bambaras** **1** : a member of a Negroid people of the upper Niger **2** : a Mande language of the Bambara people

bam·bi·no \bam-'bē-(,)nō, bäm-\ *n, pl* **-nos** *or* **-ni** \-(,)nē\ [It, dim. of *bambo* child] **1** : CHILD, BABY **2** *pl usu* ***bambini*** : a representation of the infant Christ

bam·boo \(')bam-'bü\ *n, pl* **bamboos** [Malay *bambu*] : any of various chiefly tropical woody or arborescent grasses (as of the genera *Bambusa, Arundinaria,* and *Dendrocalamus*) including some with hollow stems used for building, furniture, or utensils and young shoots used for food — **bamboo** *adj*



bamboo

bamboo curtain *n, often cap B&C* : a political, military, and ideological barrier in the Orient

bam·boo·zle \bam-'bü-zəl\ *vt* **bam·boo·zled; bam·boo·zling** \-'büz-(ə-)liŋ\ [origin unknown] : to conceal one's true motives from esp. by elaborately feigning good intentions : HOODWINK — **bam·boo·zle·ment** \-'bü-zəl-mənt\ *n*

[1]ban \'ban\ *vb* **banned; ban·ning** [ME *bannen* to summon, curse, fr. OE *bannan* to summon; akin to OHG *bannan* to command, L *fari* to speak, Gk *phanai* to say, *phōnē* sound, voice] *vt* **1** *archaic* : CURSE **2** : to prohibit esp. by legal means or social pressure ~ *vi* : to utter curses or maledictions ***syn*** see FORBID

[2]ban *n* [ME, partly fr. *bannen* & partly fr. OF *ban*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *bannan* to command] **1** : the summoning in feudal times of the king's vassals for military service **2** : ANATHEMA, EXCOMMUNICATION **3** : MALEDICTION, CURSE **4** : legal prohibition **5** : censure or condemnation esp. through public opinion

[3]ban \'bän\ *n, pl* **ba·ni** \'bän-(,)ē\ [Rum] — see *leu* at MONEY table

ba·nal \bə-'näl, -'nal; bə-'nal, ba-, bā-; 'bān-ᵊl\ *adj* [F, fr. MF, of compulsory feudal service, possessed in common, commonplace, fr. *ban*] **1** : lacking originality, freshness, or novelty : TRITE **2** : COMMON, ORDINARY ⟨a ~ inflammation⟩ ***syn*** see INSIPID ***ant*** original — **ba·nal·i·ty** \bə-'nal-ət-e *also* bā- *or* ba-\ *n* — **ba·nal·ly** \bə-'näl-lē, -'nal; bə-'nal-lē, ba-, bā-; 'bān-ᵊl-(l)ē\ *adv*

ba·nana \bə-'nan-ə, *esp Brit* -'nän-\ *n, often attrib* [Sp or Pg; Sp, fr. Pg, of African origin; akin to Wolof *banäna* banana] **1** : an elongated usu. tapering tropical fruit with soft pulpy flesh enclosed in a soft usu. yellow rind **2** : a widely cultivated perennial herb (genus *Musa* of the family Musaceae, the banana family) bearing bananas in compact pendent bunches

banana oil *n* **1** : a colorless liquid acetate $C_7H_{14}O_2$ of amyl alcohol that has a pleasant fruity odor and is used as a solvent and in the manufacture of artificial fruit essences **2** : a lacquer containing banana oil

banana seat *n* : an elongated bicycle saddle that often has an upward-curved back and a tapered front

banana split *n* : one or more scoops of ice cream served on a banana sliced in half lengthwise and usu. garnished with flavored syrups, fruits, nuts, and whipped cream

ba·nau·sic \bə-'nȯ-sik, -zik\ *adj* [Gk *banausikos* of an artisan, nonintellectual, vulgar, fr. *banausos* artisan] **1 a** : PRACTICAL, UTILITARIAN ⟨a ~ approach to literature⟩ **b** : DULL, PEDESTRIAN ⟨a ~ performance⟩ **2 a** : VOCATIONAL ⟨~ pursuits⟩ **b** : concerned with or tending to seek material things : MATERIALISTIC ⟨a ~ civilization⟩

[1]band \'band\ *n* [in senses 1 & 2, fr. ME *band, bond* something that constricts, fr. ON *band;* akin to OE *bindan* to bind; in other senses, fr. ME *bande* strip, fr. MF, fr. (assumed) VL *binda,* of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *binta* fillet; akin to OE *bindan*] **1** : something that confines or constricts while allowing a degree of movement **2** : something that binds or restrains legally, morally, or spiritually: as **a** : a restraining obligation or tie affecting one's relations to others or to a tradition **b** *archaic* : a formal promise or guarantee **c** *archaic* : a pledge given : SECURITY **3** : a strip serving to join or hold things together: as **a** : BELT 2 **b** : a cord or strip across the backbone of a book to which the sections are sewn **4** : a thin flat encircling strip esp. for binding: as **a** : a close-fitting strip that confines material at the waist, neck, or cuff of clothing **b** : a strip of cloth used to protect a newborn baby's navel — called also *bellyband* **c** : a ring of elastic **5** : an elongated surface or section with parallel or roughly parallel sides; *specif* : a more or less well-defined range of wavelengths, frequencies, or energies of optical, electric, or acoustic radiation **6** : a narrow strip serving chiefly as decoration: as **a** : a narrow strip of material applied as trimming to an article of dress **b** *pl* : a pair of strips hanging at the front of the neck as part of a clerical, legal, or academic dress **c** : a ring without raised portions **7** : a group of grooves on a phonograph record containing recorded sound

[2]band *vt* **1** : to affix a band to or tie up with a band **2** : to finish with a band **3 a** : to attach (oneself) to a group **b** : to gather together or summon for a purpose ⟨he ~*ed* all his resources together against the coming struggle⟩ **c** : to unite in a company or confederacy ⟨the farmers were ~*ed* against certain government controls⟩ ~ *vi* : to unite for a common purpose — often used with *together* ⟨fourteen of the largest cities have ~*ed* together in hopes of attacking the blight that is common to them all —J. B. Conant⟩ — **band·er** *n*

[3]band *n* [MF *bande* troop] : a group of persons, animals, or things; *esp* : a group of musicians organized for ensemble playing and using chiefly woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments — compare ORCHESTRA

[1]ban·dage \'ban-dij\ *n* [MF, fr. *bande*] **1** : a strip of fabric used esp. to dress and bind up wounds **2** : a flexible strip or band used to cover, strengthen, or compress something

[2]bandage *vt* **ban·daged; ban·dag·ing** : to bind, dress, or cover with a bandage — **ban·dag·er** *n*

Band–Aid \'ban-'dād\ *trademark* — used for a small adhesive strip with a gauze pad for covering minor wounds

ban·dan·na *or* **ban·dana** \ban-'dan-ə\ *n* [Hindi *bā̃dhnū* a dyeing process involving the tying of cloth in knots, cloth so dyed, fr. *bā̃dhnā* to tie, fr. Skt *badhnāti* he ties; akin to OE *bindan*] : a large figured handkerchief

band·box \'ban(d)-ˌbäks\ *n* **1** : a usu. cylindrical box of paperboard or thin wood for holding light articles of attire **2** : a structure (as a theater or baseball park) having relatively small interior dimensions

ban·deau \ban-'dō\ *n, pl* **ban·deaux** \-'dōz\ [F, dim. of *bande*] **1** : a fillet or band esp. for the hair **2** : BRASSIERE

band·ed \'ban-dəd\ *adj* : having or marked with bands ⟨a ~ pattern of clouds⟩

ban·de·ri·lla \ˌban-də-'rē(l)-yə\ *n* [Sp, dim. of *bandera* banner] : a decorated barbed dart that the banderillero thrusts into the neck or shoulders of the bull in a bullfight

ban·de·ri·lle·ro \ˌban-də-(ˌ)rē(l)-'ye(ə)r-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-ros** [Sp, fr. *banderilla*] : one who thrusts in the banderillas in a bullfight

ban·de·role *or* **ban·de·rol** \'ban-də-ˌrōl\ *n* [F *banderole,* fr. It *banderuola,* dim. of *bandiera* banner, of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *bandwo* sign — more at BANNER] **1** : a long narrow forked flag or streamer **2** : a long scroll bearing an inscription or a device

ban·di·coot \'ban-di-ˌküt\ *n* [Telugu *pandikokku*] **1** : any of several very large rats (*Nesokia* and related genera) of India and Ceylon destructive to rice fields and gardens **2** : any of various small insectivorous and herbivorous marsupial mammals (family Peramelidae) of Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea

ban·dit \'ban-dət\ *n* [It *bandito,* fr. pp. of *bandire* to banish, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *bannan* to command — more at BAN] **1** *pl also* **ban·dit·ti** \ban-'dit-ē\ **a** : an outlaw who lives by plunder; *esp* : a member of a band of marauders **b** : a political terrorist : GUERRILLA **2** : ROBBER **3** : one who takes unfair advantage of others ⟨the taxi ~*s* who tie up traffic —Bennett Cerf⟩ **4** : an enemy plane — **ban·dit·ry** \'ban-də-trē\ *n*

band·lead·er \'ban-ˌdlēd-ər\ *n* : the director of a band

band·mas·ter \'ban(d)-ˌmas-tər\ *n* : a conductor of a musical band

ban·dog \'ban-ˌdȯg\ *n* [ME *bandogge,* fr. *band* + *dogge* dog] : a dog kept tied to serve as a watchdog or because of its ferocity

ban·do·lier *or* **ban·do·leer** \ˌban-də-'li(ə)r\ *n* [MF *bandouliere,* deriv. of OSp *bando* band, of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *bandwo*] : a belt worn over the shoulder and across the breast often for the suspending or supporting of some article (as cartridges) or as a part of an official or ceremonial dress

ban·dore \'ban-ˌdō(ə)r, -ˌdȯ(ə)r\ *or* **ban·do·ra** \ban-'dōr-ə, -'dȯr-\ *n* [Sp *bandurria* or Pg *bandurra,* fr. LL *pandura* 3-stringed lute, fr. Gk *pandoura*] : a bass stringed instrument resembling a guitar

band razor *n* : a safety razor utilizing a cartridge that contains a narrow single-edged band of steel which may be advanced just enough to expose a new surface

band saw *n* : a saw in the form of an endless steel belt running over pulleys; *also* : a power sawing machine using this device

band shell *n* : a bandstand having at the rear a sounding board shaped like a huge concave seashell

bands·man \'ban(d)z-mən\ *n* : a member of a musical band

band·stand \'ban(d)-ˌstand\ *n* : a usu. roofed stand or raised platform on which a band or orchestra performs

b and w *abbr* black and white

band·wag·on \'ban-ˌdwag-ən\ *n* **1** : a usu. ornate and high wagon for a band of musicians esp. in a circus parade **2** : a party, faction, or cause that attracts adherents or amasses power by its timeliness, showmanship, or momentum

band·width \'ban-ˌdwidth\ *n* : the range within a band of wavelengths, frequencies, or energies

[1]ban·dy \'ban-dē\ *vb* **ban·died; ban·dy·ing** [prob. fr. MF *bander* to be tight, to bandy, fr. *bande* strip — more at BAND] *vt* **1** : to bat (as a tennis ball) to and fro **2 a** : to toss from side to side or pass about from one to another often in a careless or inappropriate manner **b** : EXCHANGE; *esp* : to exchange (words) argumentatively **c** : to discuss lightly or banteringly **d** : to use in a glib or offhand manner — often used with *about* ⟨~ these statistics about with considerable bravado —Richard Pollak⟩ **3** *archaic* : to band together ~ *vi* **1** *obs* : CONTEND **2** *archaic* : UNITE

[2]bandy *n* [perh. fr. MF *bandé,* pp. of *bander*] : a game similar to hockey and believed to be its prototype

[3]bandy *adj* [prob. fr. *bandy* (hockey stick)] **1** *of legs* : BOWED **2** : BOWLEGGED — **ban·dy-legged** \ˌban-dē-'leg(-ə)d, -'lāg(-ə)d\ *adj*

[1]bane \'bān\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bana;* akin to OHG *bano* death, Av *banta* ill] **1 a** *obs* : MURDERER, SLAYER **b** : POISON **c** : DEATH, DESTRUCTION ⟨money, thou ~ of bliss, and source of woe —George Herbert⟩ **d** : WOE **2** : a source of harm or ruin : CURSE ⟨national frontiers have been more of a ~ than a boon for mankind —D. C. Thomson⟩

[2]bane *vt* **baned; ban·ing** *obs* : to kill esp. with poison

[3]bane *n* [ME (northern dial.) *ban,* fr. OE *bān*] *chiefly Scot* : BONE

bane·ber·ry \'bān-ˌber-ē\ *n* : the acrid poisonous berry of a plant (genus *Actaea*) of the buttercup family; *also* : the plant itself

bane·ful \'bān-fəl\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : POISONOUS **2** : productive of destruction or woe : seriously harmful ⟨a ~ influence⟩ ***syn*** see PERNICIOUS ***ant*** beneficial — **bane·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv*

[1]bang \'baŋ\ *vb* [prob. of Scand origin; akin to Icel *banga* to hammer] *vt* **1** : to strike sharply : BUMP ⟨fell and ~*ed* his knee⟩ **2** : to knock, beat, or thrust vigorously often with a sharp noise **3** : to have sexual intercourse with — often considered vulgar ~ *vi* **1** : to strike with a sharp noise or thump ⟨the falling chair ~*ed* against the wall⟩ **2** : to produce a sharp often metallic explosive or percussive noise or series of such noises

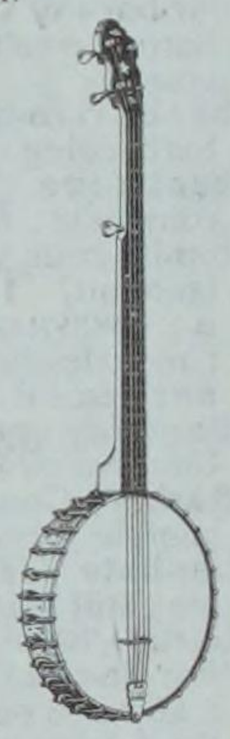
[2]bang *n* **1** : a resounding blow **2** : a sudden loud noise — often used interjectionally **3 a** : a sudden striking effect **b** : a quick burst of energy ⟨start off with a ~⟩ **c** : THRILL ⟨I get a ~ out of all this —W. H. Whyte⟩

[3]bang *adv* : RIGHT, DIRECTLY ⟨ran ~ up against more trouble⟩

[4]bang *n* [prob. short for *bangtail* (short tail)] : a fringe of banged hair — usu. used in pl.

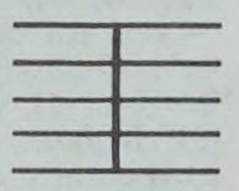
[5]bang *vt* : to cut (as front hair) short and squarely across

ban·ga·lore torpedo \ˌbaŋ-gə-ˌlō(ə)r-, -ˌlȯ(ə)r-\ *n* [*Bangalore*, India] : a metal tube that contains explosives and a firing mechanism and is used to cut barbed wire and detonate buried mines
bang away *vi* **1** : to work with determined effort ⟨students *banging away* at their homework⟩ **2** : to attack persistently ⟨police are going to keep *banging away* at you —E. S. Gardner⟩
bang·er \'baŋ-ər\ *n, Brit* : SAUSAGE
bang·kok \'baŋ-ˌkäk, baŋ-'\ *n* [earlier *bangkok*, a fine straw, fr. *Bangkok*, Thailand] : a hat woven of fine palm fiber in the Philippines
ban·gle \'baŋ-gəl\ *n* [Hindi *baṅglī*] **1** : a stiff usu. ornamental bracelet or anklet slipped or clasped on **2** : an ornamental disk that hangs loosely (as on a bracelet or tambourine)
Bang's disease \'baŋz-\ *n* [Bernhard L. F. *Bang* †1932 Dan veterinarian] : BRUCELLOSIS; *specif* : contagious abortion of cattle
bang·tail \'baŋ-ˌtāl\ *n* [*bangtail* (short tail)] **1** : RACEHORSE **2** : a wild horse
bang–up \'baŋ-ˌəp\ *adj* [³*bang*] : FIRST-RATE, EXCELLENT ⟨a ~ job⟩
bang up \-'əp\ *vt* [¹*bang*] : to cause extensive damage to
bani *pl of* BAN
ban·ish \'ban-ish\ *vt* [ME *banishen*, fr. MF *baniss-*, stem of *banir*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *bannan* to command — more at BAN] **1** : to require by authority to leave a country **2** : to drive out or remove from a home or place of usual resort or continuance **3** : to clear away : DISPEL ⟨his discovery ~*es* anxiety —Stringfellow Barr⟩ — **ban·ish·er** *n* — **ban·ish·ment** \-ish-mənt\ *n*
syn BANISH, EXILE, DEPORT, TRANSPORT *shared meaning element* : to remove by authority or force from a country, state, or sovereignty
ban·is·ter *also* **ban·nis·ter** \'ban-ə-stər\ *n* [alter. of *baluster*] **1** : one of the upright supports of a handrail alongside a staircase **2** **a** : a handrail with its supporting posts **b** : HANDRAIL
ban·jo \'ban-(ˌ)jō\ *n, pl* **banjos** *also* **banjoes** [prob. of African origin; akin to Kimbundu *mbanza*, a similar instrument] : a musical instrument consisting of a drumlike body, a long fretted neck, and four or more strings that are strummed with the fingers — **ban·jo·ist** \-ˌjō-əst\ *n*


banjo

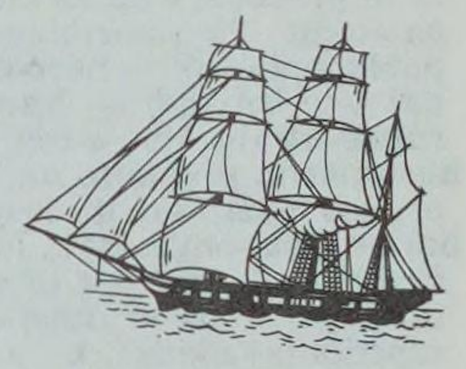
¹bank \'baŋk\ *n* [ME, prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *bakki* bank; akin to OE *benc* bench — more at BENCH] **1** : a mound, pile, or ridge raised above the surrounding level: as **a** : a piled up mass of cloud or fog **b** : an undersea elevation rising esp. from the continental shelf **2** : the rising ground bordering a lake, river, or sea or forming the edge of a cut or hollow **3** **a** : a steep slope (as of a hill) **b** : the lateral inward tilt of a surface along a curve or of a vehicle (as an airplane) when taking a curve **4** : a protective or cushioning rim or piece
²bank *vt* **1** **a** : to raise a bank about **b** : to cover (as a fire) with fresh fuel and adjust the draft of air so as to keep in an inactive state **c** : to build (a curve) with the roadbed or track inclined laterally upward from the inside edge **2** : to heap or pile in a bank **3** : to drive (a ball in billiards) into a cushion **4** : to form or group in a tier ~ *vi* **1** : to rise in or form a bank — often used with *up* ⟨clouds would ~ up about midday, and showers fall —William Beebe⟩ **2** **a** : to incline an airplane laterally **b** (1) : to incline laterally (2) : to follow a curve or incline ⟨skiers ~*ing* around the turn⟩
³bank *n* [ME, fr. OF *banc* bench, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *benc*] **1** : a bench for the rowers of a galley **2** : a group or series of objects arranged near together in a row or a tier: as **a** : a row of keys on a typewriter **b** : a set of two or more elevators **3** : one of the horizontal and usu. secondary or lower divisions of a headline
⁴bank *n* [ME, fr. MF or OIt; MF *banque*, fr. OIt *banca*, lit., bench, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *benc*] **1** **a** *obs* : the table, counter, or place of business of a money changer **b** : an establishment for the custody, loan, exchange, or issue of money, for the extension of credit, and for facilitating the transmission of funds **2** : a person conducting a gambling house or game; *specif* : DEALER **3** : a supply of something held in reserve: as **a** : the fund of supplies (as money, chips, or pieces) held by the banker or dealer for use in a game **b** : a fund of pieces belonging to a game (as dominoes) from which the players draw **4** : a place where something is held available ⟨data ~⟩; *esp* : a depot for the collection and storage of a biological product of human origin for medical use
⁵bank *vi* **1** : to keep a bank **2** : to deposit money or have an account in a bank ~ *vt* : to deposit in a bank — **bank on** : to depend or rely on
bank·able \'baŋ-kə-bəl\ *adj* : acceptable to or at a bank
bank acceptance *n* : a draft drawn on and accepted by a bank
bank annuities *n pl* : CONSOLS
bank·book \'baŋk-ˌbůk\ *n* : the depositor's book in which a bank records his deposits and withdrawals — called also *passbook*
bank discount *n* : the interest discounted in advance on a note and computed on the face value of the note
¹bank·er \'baŋ-kər\ *n* **1** : one that engages in the business of banking **2** : the player who keeps the bank in various games
²banker *n* : a man or boat employed in the cod fishery on the Newfoundland banks
³banker *n* : a sculptor's or mason's workbench
banker's bill *n* : a bill of exchange drawn by a bank on a foreign bank
bank holiday *n* **1** *Brit* : LEGAL HOLIDAY **2** : a period when banks in general are closed often by government fiat
bank·ing *n* : the business of a bank or a banker
bank line *n* [¹*bank*] : a fishing line attached to the shore and not constantly tended by a fisherman
bank money *n* : a medium of exchange consisting chiefly of checks and drafts
bank note *n* : a promissory note issued by a bank payable to bearer on demand without interest and acceptable as money
bank paper *n* **1** : circulating bank notes **2** : bankable commercial paper (as drafts or bills)
bank rate *n* : the discount rate fixed by a central bank
¹bank·roll \'baŋ-ˌkrōl\ *n* : supply of money : FUNDS
²bankroll *vt* : to supply the capital for or pay the cost of (a business or project) — **bank·roll·er** *n*
¹bank·rupt \'baŋ-(ˌ)krəpt\ *n* [modif. of MF & OIt; MF *banqueroute* bankruptcy, fr. OIt *bancarotta*, fr. *banca* bank + *rotta* broken, fr. L *rupta*, fem. of *ruptus*, pp. of *rumpere* to break — more at BANK, REAVE] **1** **a** : a person who has done any of the acts that by law entitle his creditors to have his estate administered for their benefit **b** : a person judicially declared subject to having his estate administered under the bankrupt laws for the benefit of his creditors **c** : a person who becomes insolvent **2** : one who is destitute of a particular thing ⟨a moral ~⟩
²bankrupt *vt* **1** : to reduce to bankruptcy **2** : IMPOVERISH ⟨war had ~*ed* the nation's natural resources⟩ ***syn*** see DEPLETE
³bankrupt *adj* **1** **a** : reduced to a state of financial ruin : IMPOVERISHED; *specif* : legally declared a bankrupt ⟨the company went ~⟩ **b** : of or relating to bankrupts or bankruptcy ⟨~ laws⟩ **2** **a** : BROKEN, RUINED ⟨a ~ professional career⟩ **b** : DEPLETED, STERILE ⟨a ~ old culture⟩ **c** : DESTITUTE — used with *of* or *in* ⟨~ of all merciful feelings⟩
bank·rupt·cy \'baŋ-(ˌ)krəp-(t)sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the quality or state of being bankrupt **2** : utter failure or impoverishment
bank shot *n* **1** : a shot in billiards and pool in which a player banks the cue ball or the object ball **2** : a shot in basketball played to rebound from the backboard into the basket
bank·sia \'baŋ(k)-sē-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Sir Joseph *Banks* †1820 E naturalist] : an Australian evergreen tree or shrub (genus *Banksia*) of the protea family with alternate leathery leaves and yellowish flowers in dense cylindrical heads
bank·side \'baŋk-ˌsīd\ *n* **1** : the slope of a bank esp. of a stream **2** *cap* : the bank of the Thames at Southwark
¹ban·ner \'ban-ər\ *n* [ME *banere*, fr. OF, of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *bandwo* sign; akin to ON *benda* to give a sign] **1** **a** : a piece of cloth attached by one edge to a staff and used by a monarch, feudal lord, or commander as his standard and as a rallying point in battle **b** : FLAG 1 **c** : an ensign displaying a distinctive or symbolic device or legend; *esp* : one presented as an award of honor or distinction **2** : a headline in large type running across a newspaper page **3** : a strip of cloth on which a sign is painted ⟨welcome ~*s* stretched across the street⟩ **4** : a name, slogan, or goal associated with a particular group or ideology ⟨the new ~ is "community control" —F. M. Hechinger⟩ — often used with *under* ⟨69th production under its own ~ —T. J. Smith⟩ ⟨every new administration arrives . . . under the ~ of change —John Cogley⟩
²banner *adj* **1** : distinguished from all others esp. in excellence ⟨a ~ year for business⟩ **2** : prominent in support of a political party ⟨a ~ Democratic county⟩
¹ban·ner·et \'ban-ə-rət, ˌban-ə-'ret\ *n, often cap* [ME *baneret*, fr. OF, fr. *banere*] : a knight leading his vassals into the field under his own banner and therefore ranking above a knight bachelor
²banneret *also* **ban·ner·ette** *n* : a small banner
ban·ne·rol *also* **ban·ner roll** \'ban-ə-ˌrōl\ *n* : BANDEROLE
ban·nock \'ban-ək\ *n* [ME *bannok*] **1** : an often unleavened bread of oat or barley flour baked in flat loaves **2** *NewEng* : CORN BREAD; *esp* : a thin cake baked on a griddle
banns \'banz\ *n pl* [pl. of *bann*, fr. ME *bane*, *ban* proclamation, ban] : public announcement esp. in church of a proposed marriage
¹ban·quet \'baŋ-kwət, 'ban- *also* -ˌkwet\ *n* [MF, fr. OIt *banchetto*, fr. dim. of *banca* bench, bank] : an elaborate and often ceremonious meal for numerous people often in honor of a person
²banquet *vt* : to treat with a banquet : FEAST ~ *vi* : to partake of a banquet — **ban·quet·er** *n*
banquet room *n* : a large room (as in a restaurant or hotel) suitable for banquets
ban·quette \baŋ-'ket, ban-\ *n* [F, fr. Prov *banqueta*, dim. of *banc* bench, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *benc* bench] **1** **a** : a raised way along the inside of a parapet or trench for gunners or guns **b** *South* : SIDEWALK **2** **a** : a long upholstered seat **b** : a sofa having one roll-over arm **c** : a built-in upholstered bench along a wall
Ban·quo \'baŋ-(ˌ)kwō, 'ban-\ *n* : a murdered Scottish thane in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* whose ghost appears to Macbeth
ban·shee \'ban-(ˌ)shē, ban-'\ *n* [ScGael *bean-sīth*, fr. or akin to OIr *ben sīde* woman of fairyland] : a female spirit in Gaelic folklore whose appearance or wailing warns a family of the approaching death of a member
¹ban·tam \'bant-əm\ *n* [*Bantam*, former residency in Java] **1** : any of numerous small domestic fowls that are often miniatures of members of the standard breeds **2** : a person of diminutive stature and often combative disposition
²bantam *adj* **1** : SMALL, DIMINUTIVE **2** : pertly combative : SAUCY
ban·tam·weight \-ˌwāt\ *n* : a boxer who weighs more than 112 but not more than 118 pounds
¹ban·ter \'bant-ər\ *vb* [origin unknown] *vt* **1** : to speak to or address in a witty and teasing manner **2** *archaic* : DELUDE **3** *chiefly South & Midland* : CHALLENGE ~ *vi* : to speak or act playfully or wittily — **ban·ter·er** \-ər-ər\ *n* — **ban·ter·ing·ly** \'bant-ə-riŋ-lē\ *adv*
²banter *n* : good-natured and usu. witty and animated joking ⟨exchanged ~ with newsmen⟩
bant·ling \'bant-liŋ\ *n* [perh. modif. of G *bänkling* bastard, fr. *bank* bench, fr. OHG — more at BENCH] : a very young child

Ban·tu \'ban-(,)tü, 'bän-\ *n, pl* **Bantu** *or* **Bantus** **1 a** : a family of Negroid peoples who occupy equatorial and southern Africa **b** : a member of any of these peoples **2** : a group of African languages spoken generally south of a line from Cameroons to Kenya
Ban·tu·stan \,ban-tü-'stan, ,bän-tü-'stän\ *n* [*Bantu* + *-stan* land (as in *Hindustan*)] : an all-black enclave in the Republic of So. Africa with a limited degree of self-government
ban·yan \'ban-yən\ *n* [earlier *banyan* Hindu merchant, fr. Hindi *baniyā;* fr. a banyan pagoda erected under a tree of the species in Iran] : an East Indian tree (*Ficus bengalensis*) of the mulberry family with branches that send out shoots which grow down to the soil and root to form secondary trunks
ban·zai \(')bän-'zī\ *n* [Jap] : a Japanese cheer or battle cry — usu. used interjectionally
banzai attack *n* : a mass attack by Japanese soldiers
bao·bab \'baü-,bab, 'bā-ə-\ *n* [prob. native name in Africa] : a broad-trunked Old World tropical tree (*Adansonia digitata*) of the silk-cotton family with an edible acid fruit resembling a gourd and bark used in making paper, cloth, and rope
Bap *or* **Bapt** *abbr* Baptist
bap·ti·sia \bap-'tizh-(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *baptisis* a dipping, fr. *baptein*] : any of a genus (*Baptisia*) of No. American leguminous plants with showy papilionaceous flowers
bap·tism \'bap-,tiz-əm\ *n* **1 a** : a Christian sacrament marked by ritual use of water and admitting the recipient to the Christian community **b** : a non-Christian rite using water for ritual purification **c** *Christian Science* : purification by or submergence in Spirit **2** : an act, experience, or ordeal by which one is purified, sanctified, initiated, or named — **bap·tis·mal** \bap-'tiz-məl\ *adj* — **bap·tis·mal·ly** \-mə-lē\ *adv*
baptismal name *n* : CHRISTIAN NAME 1
baptism of fire **1** : a spiritual baptism by a gift of the Holy Spirit — often used in allusion to Acts 2:3-4; Mt. 3:11 (RSV) **2** : an introductory or initial experience that is a severe ordeal; *specif* : a soldier's first exposure to enemy fire
bap·tist \'bap-təst\ *n* **1** : one that baptizes **2** *cap* : a member or adherent of an evangelical Protestant denomination marked by congregational polity and baptism by immersion of believers only — **Baptist** *adj*
bap·tis·tery *or* **bap·tis·try** \'bap-tə-strē\ *n, pl* **-ter·ies** *or* **-tries** : a part of a church or formerly a separate building used for baptism
bap·tize \bap-'tīz, 'bap-,\ *vb* **bap·tized; bap·tiz·ing** [ME *baptizen*, fr. OF *baptiser*, fr. LL *baptizare*, fr. Gk *baptizein* to dip, baptize, fr. *baptos* dipped, fr. *baptein* to dip; akin to ON *kafa* to dive] *vt* **1** : to administer baptism to **2 a** : to purify or cleanse spiritually esp. by a purging experience or ordeal **b** : INITIATE **3** : to give a name to (as at baptism) : CHRISTEN ~ *vi* : to administer baptism — **bap·tiz·er** *n*
[1]bar \'bär\ *n, often attrib* [ME *barre*, fr. OF] **1 a** : a straight piece (as of wood or metal) that is longer than it is wide and has any of various uses (as for a lever, support, barrier, or fastening) **b** : a solid piece or block of material that is usu. rectangular and considerably longer than it is wide **c** : a usu. rigid piece (as of wood or metal) longer than it is wide that is used as a handle or support; *esp* : a handrail used by ballet dancers to maintain balance while exercising **2** : something that obstructs or prevents passage, progress, or action: as **a** : the complete and permanent destruction of an action or claim in law; *also* : a plea or objection that effects such destruction **b** : an intangible or nonphysical impediment **c** : a submerged or partly submerged bank (as of sand) along a shore or in a river often obstructing navigation **3 a** (1) : the railing in a courtroom that encloses the place about the judge where prisoners are stationed or where the business of the court is transacted in civil cases (2) : COURT, TRIBUNAL (3) : a particular system of courts (4) : an authority or tribunal that hands down judgment **b** (1) : the barrier in the English Inns of Court that formerly separated the seats of the benchers or readers from the body of the hall occupied by the students (2) : the whole body of barristers or lawyers qualified to practice in any jurisdiction (3) : the profession of barrister or lawyer **4** : a straight stripe, band, or line much longer than it is wide: as **a** : one of two or more horizontal stripes on a heraldic shield **b** : a metal or embroidered strip worn on a military uniform esp. to indicate rank or service **5 a** : a counter at which food or esp. alcoholic beverages are served **b** : BARROOM **6 a** : a vertical line across the musical staff before the initial measure accent **b** : MEASURE **7** : a lace and embroidery joining covered with buttonhole stitch for connecting various parts of the pattern in needlepoint lace and cutwork


bar 6a

[2]bar *vt* **barred; bar·ring** **1 a** : to fasten with a bar **b** : to place bars across to prevent ingress or egress **2** : to mark with bars : STRIPE **3 a** : to confine or shut in by or as if by bars **b** : to set aside : rule out **c** : to keep out : EXCLUDE **4 a** : to interpose legal objection to or to the claim of **b** : PREVENT, FORBID
[3]bar *prep* : EXCEPT
[4]bar *n* [G, fr. Gk *baros*] **1** : a unit of pressure equal to one million dynes per square centimeter **2** : the absolute cgs unit of pressure equal to one dyne per square centimeter
[5]bar *abbr* **1** barometer; barometric **2** barrel
Bar *abbr* Baruch
BAr *abbr* bachelor of architecture
BAR *abbr* Browning automatic rifle
bar- *or* **baro-** *comb form* [Gk *baros;* akin to Gk *barys* heavy — more at GRIEVE] : weight : pressure ⟨*baro*meter⟩
Ba·rab·bas \bə-'rab-əs\ *n* [Gk, fr. Aram *Bar-abba*] : a Jewish prisoner according to Matthew, Mark, and John released in preference to Christ at the demand of the multitude
bar·a·thea \,bar-ə-'thē-ə\ *n* [fr. *Barathea*, a trademark] : a fabric that has a broken rib weave and a pebbly texture and that is made of silk, worsted, or synthetic fiber or a combination of these
[1]barb \'bärb\ *n* [ME *barbe* barb, beard, fr. MF, fr. L *barba* — more at BEARD] **1 a** : a sharp projection extending backward (as from the point of an arrow or fishhook) and preventing easy extraction; *also* : a sharp projection with its point similarly oblique to something else **b** : a biting or pointedly critical remark or comment **2** : a medieval cloth headdress passing over or under the chin and covering the neck **3** : [2]BARBEL **4** : one of the side branches of the shaft of a feather **5** : a plant hair or bristle ending in a hook
[2]barb *vt* : to furnish with a barb
[3]barb *n* [F *barbe*, fr. It *barbero*, fr. *barbero* of Barbary, fr. *Barberia* Barbary, coastal region in Africa] **1** : any of a northern African breed of horses that are noted for speed and endurance and are related to Arabs **2** : a pigeon of a domestic breed related to the carrier pigeons
bar·bar·ian \bär-'ber-ē-ən, -'bar-\ *adj* [L *barbarus*] **1** : of or relating to a land, culture, or people alien and usu. believed to be inferior to one's own **2** : lacking refinement, learning, or artistic or literary culture — **barbarian** *n* — **bar·bar·i·an·ism** \-ē-ə-,niz-əm\ *n*
syn BARBARIAN, BARBARIC, BARBAROUS, SAVAGE *shared meaning element* : characteristic of uncivilized man ***ant*** civilized
bar·bar·ic \bär-'bar-ik\ *adj* **1 a** : of, relating to, or characteristic of barbarians **b** : possessing or characteristic of a cultural level more complex than primitive savagery but less sophisticated than advanced civilization **2 a** : marked by a lack of restraint : WILD **b** : having a bizarre, primitive, or unsophisticated quality ***syn*** see BARBARIAN ***ant*** restrained, refined, subdued — **bar·bar·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
bar·ba·rism \'bär-bə-,riz-əm\ *n* **1** : an idea, act, or expression that in form or use offends against contemporary standards of good taste or acceptability **2 a** : a barbarian or barbarous social or intellectual condition : BACKWARDNESS **b** : the practice or display of barbarian acts, attitudes, or ideas
bar·bar·i·ty \bär-'bar-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : BARBARISM **2 a** : barbarous cruelty : INHUMANITY **b** : an act or instance of barbarous cruelty
bar·ba·ri·za·tion \,bär-bə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n* : the act or process of barbarizing : the state of being barbarized
bar·ba·rize \'bär-bə-,rīz\ *vb* **-rized; -riz·ing** *vi* : to become barbarous ~ *vt* : to make barbarian or barbarous
bar·ba·rous \'bär-b(ə-)rəs\ *adj* [L *barbarus*, fr. Gk *barbaros* foreign, ignorant] **1** : characterized by the occurrence of barbarisms **2 a** : UNCIVILIZED **b** : lacking culture or refinement : PHILISTINE **3** : mercilessly harsh or cruel ***syn*** **1 see** BARBARIAN **2** see FIERCE ***ant*** clement — **bar·ba·rous·ly** *adv* — **bar·ba·rous·ness** *n*
Bar·ba·ry ape \,bär-b(ə-)rē-\ *n* [*Barbary*, Africa] : a tailless monkey (*Macaca sylvana*) of No. Africa and Gibraltar
Barbary Coast *n* : a district or section of a city noted as a center of gambling, prostitution, and riotous nightlife
bar·bate \'bär-,bāt\ *adj* [L *barbatus*, fr. *barba*] : bearded esp. with long stiff hairs
barbe \'bärb\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, lit., beard] : [1]BARB 2
[1]bar·be·cue \'bär-bi-,kyü\ *n* [AmerSp *barbacoa*, prob. fr. Taino] **1** : an often portable fireplace over which meat and fish are roasted **2** : a large animal (as a hog or steer) roasted or broiled whole or split over an open fire or barbecue pit **3** : a social gathering esp. in the open air at which barbecued food is eaten
[2]barbecue *vt* **-cued; -cu·ing** **1** : to roast or broil on a rack over hot coals or on a revolving spit before or over a source of cooking heat **2** : to cook in a highly seasoned vinegar sauce — **bar·be·cu·er** *n*
barbed \'bärbd\ *adj* **1** : having barbs **2** : characterized by pointed and biting criticism ⟨~ witticisms⟩ — **barbed·ness** \'bär-bəd-nəs, 'barb(d)-nəs\ *n*
barbed wire \'bä(r)b-'(d)wī(ə)r\ *n* : twisted wires armed with barbs or sharp points — called also *barbwire*
[1]bar·bel \'bär-bəl\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. (assumed) VL *barbellus*, dim. of L *barbus* barbel, fr. *barba* beard — more at BEARD] : a European freshwater cyprinid fish (*Barbus fluviatilis*) with four barbels on its upper jaw; *also* : any of various other fishes of this genus
[2]bar·bel *n* [obs. F, fr. MF, dim. of *barbe* barb, beard] : a slender tactile process on the lips of certain fishes (as catfishes)
bar·bell \'bär-,bel\ *n* : a bar with adjustable weighted disks attached to each end that is used for exercise and in weight lifting
bar·bel·late \'bär-bə-,lāt, bär-'bel-ət\ *adj* [NL *barbella* short stiff hair, dim. of L *barbula*, dim. of *barba*] : having short stiff hooked bristles or hairs ⟨a ~ fruit⟩
[1]bar·ber \'bär-bər\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *barbeor*, fr. *barbe* beard — more at BARB] : one whose business is cutting and dressing hair, shaving and trimming beards, and performing related services
[2]barber *vb* **bar·bered; bar·ber·ing** \-b(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* : to perform the services of a barber for ~ *vi* : to perform the services of a barber
bar·ber·ry \'bär-,ber-ē\ *n* [ME *barbere*, fr. MF *barbarin*, fr. Ar *barbārīs*] : any of a genus (*Berberis* of the family Berberidaceae, the barberry family) of shrubs having spines, yellow flowers, and oblong red berries
[1]bar·ber·shop \'bär-bər-,shäp\ *n* : a barber's place of business
[2]barbershop *adj* [fr. the old custom of men in barbershops forming quartets for impromptu singing of sentimental songs] : having a style of impromptu unaccompanied vocal harmonizing of popular songs esp. by a male quartet and marked by chromatically altered tones
barber's itch *n* : ringworm of the face and neck
bar·bet \'bär-bət\ *n* [prob. fr. [1]*barb*] : any of numerous nonpasserine tropical birds (family Capitonidae) with a stout bill bearing bristles and usu. swollen at the base
bar·bette \bär-'bet\ *n* [F, dim. of *barbe* headdress] **1** : a mound of earth or a protected platform from which guns fire over a parapet **2** : a cylinder of armor protecting a gun turret on a warship
bar·bi·can \'bär-bi-kən\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *barbacane*, fr. ML *barbacana*] : an outer defensive work; *esp* : a tower at a gate or bridge
bar·bi·cel \'bär-bə-,sel\ *n* [NL *barbicella*, dim. of L *barba*] : one of the small hook-bearing processes on a barbule of a feather
bar·bi·tal \'bär-bə-,tȯl\ *n* [*barbit*uric + *-al* (as in *Veronal*)] : a white crystalline addictive hypnotic $C_8H_{12}N_2O_3$ often administered in the form of its soluble sodium salt

bar·bi·tone \'bär-bə-ˌtōn\ *n* [*barbit*uric + *-one*] *Brit* : BARBITAL
bar·bi·tu·rate \bär-'bich-ə-rət, -ˌrāt; ˌbär-bə-'t(y)u̇r-ət, -'t(y)u̇(ə)r-ˌāt\ *n* **1** : a salt or ester of barbituric acid **2** : any of various derivatives of barbituric acid used esp. as sedatives, hypnotics, and antispasmodics
bar·bi·tu·ric acid \ˌbär-bə-ˌt(y)u̇r-ik-\ *n* [part trans. of G *barbitursäure*, irreg. fr. the name *Barbara* + ISV *uric* + G *säure* acid] : a synthetic crystalline acid $C_4H_4N_2O_3$ that is a derivative of pyrimidine
bar·bule \'bär-(ˌ)byü(ə)l\ *n* : a minute barb; *esp* : one of the processes that fringe the barbs of a feather
barb·wire *n* : BARBED WIRE
bar car *n* : a railroad car with facilities for preparing and serving refreshments and esp. drinks
bar·ca·role *or* **bar·ca·rolle** \'bär-kə-ˌrōl\ *n* [F *barcarolle*, fr. It *barcarola*, fr. *barcarolo* gondolier, fr. *barca* bark, fr. LL] **1** : a Venetian boat song usu. in $^6/_8$ or $^{12}/_8$ time characterized by the alternation of a strong and weak beat that suggests a rowing rhythm **2** : music imitating a barcarole
bar chart *n* : a graphic means of comparing quantities by rectangles with lengths proportional to the size of the quantities represented — called also *bar graph*
[1]bard \'bärd\ *n* [ME, fr. ScGael & MIr] **1 a** : a tribal poet-singer gifted in composing and reciting verses on heroes and their deeds **b** : a composer, singer, or declaimer of epic or heroic verse **2** : POET — **bard·ic** \-ik\ *adj*
[2]bard *or* **barde** \'bärd\ *n* [MF *barde*, fr. OSp *barda*, fr. Ar *barda'ah*] : a piece of armor or ornament for a horse's neck, breast, or flank
[3]bard *vt* : to furnish with bards
bard·ol·a·ter \bär-'däl-ət-ər\ *n* [*Bard (of Avon)*, epithet of Shakespeare + *idolater*] : one who idolizes Shakespeare — **bard·ol·a·try** \-ə-trē\ *n*
[1]bare \'ba(ə)r, 'be(ə)r\ *adj* **bar·er; bar·est** [ME, fr. OE *bær*; akin to OHG *bar* naked, Lith *basas* barefoot] **1 a** : lacking a natural, usual, or appropriate covering **b** (1) : lacking clothing (2) *obs* : BAREHEADED **c** : UNARMED **2** : open to view : EXPOSED **3 a** : unfurnished or scantily supplied **b** : DESTITUTE ⟨~ of all safeguards⟩ **4 a** : having nothing left over or added : MERE **b** : devoid of amplification or adornment **5** *obs* : WORTHLESS — **bare·ness** *n*
syn BARE, NAKED, NUDE, BALD, BARREN *shared meaning element* : deprived of naturally or conventionally appropriate covering
ant covered
[2]bare *vt* **bared; bar·ing** : to make or lay bare : UNCOVER, REVEAL
[3]bare *archaic past of* BEAR
bare·back \-ˌbak\ *or* **bare·backed** \-'bakt\ *adv or adj* : on the bare back of a horse : without a saddle ⟨a young boy riding ~⟩ ⟨learned ~ riding among the Indians⟩
bare bones *n pl* : the barest essentials, facts, or elements ⟨stripped his proposition to its *bare bones* —A. H. Vandenberg †1951⟩
bare·faced \'ba(ə)r-'fāst, 'be(ə)r-\ *adj* **1** : having the face uncovered: **a** : BEARDLESS **b** : wearing no mask **2 a** : OPEN, UNCONCEALED **b** : lacking scruples — **bare·faced·ly** \-'fā-səd-lē, -'fāst-lē\ *adv* — **bare·faced·ness** \-'fā-səd-nəs, -'fās(t)-nəs\ *n*
bare·foot \-ˌfu̇t\ *or* **bare·foot·ed** \-'fu̇t-əd\ *adv or adj* : with the feet bare : UNSHOD ⟨went ~ most of the summer⟩ ⟨~ boy, with cheek of tan —J. G. Whittier⟩
ba·rege \bə-'rezh\ *n* [F *barège*, fr. *Barèges*, town in the Pyrenees, France] : a sheer fabric of open weave for women's clothing usu. made of wool in combination with silk or cotton
bare–hand·ed \'ba(ə)r-'han-dəd, 'be(ə)r-\ *adv or adj* **1** : without gloves **2** : without tools or weapons ⟨fight an animal ~⟩
bare·head·ed \-'hed-əd\ *adv or adj* : without a hat or other covering for the head ⟨go ~ in the hot sun⟩ ⟨a ~ boy who had lost his cap⟩ — **bare·head·ed·ness** *n*
bare·knuck·le \-'nək-əl\ *or* **bare·knuck·led** \-əld\ *adj or adv* **1** : not using boxing gloves ⟨champion ~ prizefighter of England — Dennis Craig⟩ ⟨the days in which men fought ~⟩ **2** : having a fierce unrelenting character ⟨a . . . ~ polemic —*Nat'l Review*⟩ ⟨fighting ~ in congress for his beliefs⟩
bare·ly *adv* **1** : SCARCELY, HARDLY ⟨~ enough money to cover expenses⟩ **2** : in a meager manner : PLAINLY ⟨a ~ furnished room⟩
barf \'bärf\ *vi* [origin unknown] : VOMIT
bar·fly \'bär-ˌflī\ *n* : a drinker who frequents bars
[1]bar·gain \'bär-gən\ *n, often attrib* **1** : an agreement between parties settling what each gives or receives in a transaction between them or what course of action or policy each pursues in respect to the other **2** : something acquired by or as if by bargaining; *esp* : an advantageous purchase **3** : a transaction, situation, or event regarded in the light of its results — **in the bargain** *or* **into the bargain** : BESIDES
[2]bargain *vb* [ME *bargainen*, fr. MF *bargaignier*, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *borgian* to borrow — more at BURY] *vi* **1** : to negotiate over the terms of a purchase, agreement, or contract : HAGGLE **2** : to come to terms : AGREE ~ *vt* : to sell or dispose of by bargaining : BARTER — **bar·gain·er** *n* — **bargain for** : EXPECT
bargain basement *n* : a section of a store (as the basement) where merchandise is sold at reduced prices
bargain counter *n* : a counter where merchandise is sold at bargain prices
[1]barge \'bärj\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. LL *barca*] : any of various boats: as **a** : a roomy usu. flat-bottomed boat used chiefly for the transport of goods on inland waterways and usu. propelled by towing **b** : a large motorboat supplied to the flag officer of a flagship **c** : a roomy pleasure boat; *esp* : a boat of state elegantly furnished and decorated
[2]barge *vb* **barged; barg·ing** *vt* : to carry by barge ~ *vi* **1** : to move ponderously or clumsily **2** : to thrust oneself heedlessly or unceremoniously
barge·board \'bärj-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* [origin unknown] : an often ornamented board that conceals roof timbers projecting over gables
barg·ee \bär-'jē\ *n, Brit* : BARGEMAN
barge·man \'bärj-mən\ *n* : the master or a deckhand of a barge
bar graph *n* : BAR CHART
bar·hop \'bär-ˌhäp\ *vi* : to visit and drink at a series of bars in the course of an evening
bar·iat·rics \ˌbar-ē-'a-triks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*bar-* + *-iatrics*] : a branch of medicine that deals with the treatment of obesity — **bar·ia·tri·cian** \ˌbar-ē-ə-'trish-ən\ *n*
bar·ic \'bar-ik\ *adj* : of or relating to barium
ba·ri·lla \bə-'rē(l)-yə\ *n* [Sp *barrilla*] **1** : either of two European saltworts (*Salsola kali* and *S. soda*) or a related Algerian plant (*Halogeton souda*) **2** : an impure sodium carbonate made from barilla ashes and formerly used esp. in making soap and glass
bar·ite \'ba(ə)r-ˌīt, 'be(ə)r-\ *n* [Gk *barytēs* weight, fr. *barys*] : barium sulfate $BaSO_4$ occurring as a mineral
[1]bari·tone \'bar-ə-ˌtōn\ *n* [F *baryton* or It *baritono*, fr. Gk *barytonos* deep sounding, fr. *barys* heavy + *tonos* tone — more at GRIEVE] **1 a** : a male singing voice of medium compass between bass and tenor **b** : one having such a voice **2** : a saxhorn similar in range and tone to the euphonium — called also *baritone horn* — **bari·tonal** \ˌbar-ə-'tōn-ᵊl\ *adj*
[2]baritone *adj* : relating to or having the range or part of a baritone
bar·i·um \'bar-ē-əm, 'ber-\ *n* [NL, fr. *bar-*] : a silver-white malleable toxic bivalent metallic element of the alkaline-earth group that occurs only in combination — see ELEMENT table
barium sulfate *n* : a colorless crystalline insoluble compound $BaSO_4$ that occurs in nature as barite, is obtained artificially by precipitation, and is used as a pigment and extender, as a filler, and as a substance opaque to X rays in medical photography of the alimentary canal
[1]bark \'bärk\ *vb* [ME *berken*, fr. OE *beorcan*; akin to ON *berkja* to bark, Lith *burgėti* to growl] *vi* **1 a** : to make the characteristic short loud cry of a dog **b** : to make a noise resembling a bark **2** : to speak in a curt loud and usu. angry tone : SNAP ~ *vt* **1** : to utter in a curt loud usu. angry tone **2** : to advertise by persistent outcry ⟨newsboys ~*ed* their wares persistently⟩ — **bark up the wrong tree** : to proceed under a misapprehension
[2]bark *n* **1 a** : the sound made by a barking dog **b** : a similar sound **2** : a short sharp peremptory tone of speech or utterance — **bark·less** \'bär-kləs\ *adj*
[3]bark *n* [ME, fr. ON *bark-, börkr*; akin to MD & MLG *borke* bark] **1** : the tough exterior covering of a woody root or stem **2 a** : TANBARK **b** : CINCHONA 2 — **bark·less** \'bär-kləs\ *adj*
[4]bark *vt* **1** : to treat with an infusion of tanbark **2 a** : to strip the bark from; *specif* : GIRDLE 3 **b** : to rub off or abrade the skin of
[5]bark *n* [ME, fr. MF *barque*, fr. OProv *barca*, fr. LL] **1 a** : a small sailing ship **b** : a 3-masted ship with foremast and mainmast square-rigged and mizzenmast fore-and-aft rigged **2** : a craft propelled by sails or oars

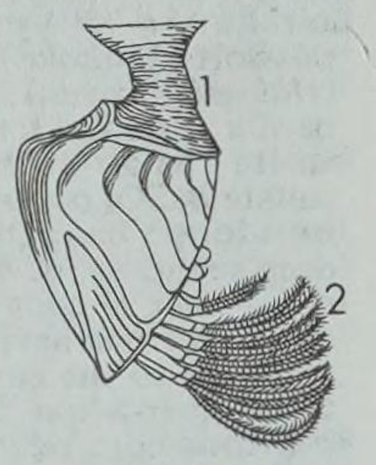

bark 1b

bark beetle *n* : a beetle (family Scolytidae) that bores under the bark of trees both as larva and adult
bar·keep·er \'bär-ˌkē-pər\ *or* **bar·keep** \-ˌkēp\ *n* : BARTENDER
bar·ken·tine \'bär-kən-ˌtēn\ *n* [[5]*bark* + *-entine*, alter. of *-antine* (as in *brigantine*)] : a 3-masted ship having the foremast square-rigged and the mainmast and mizzenmast fore-and-aft rigged
[1]bark·er \'bär-kər\ *n* : one that barks; *esp* : a person who advertises by hawking at an entrance to a show
[2]barker *n* : one that removes or prepares bark
barky \'bär-kē\ *adj* **bark·i·er; -est** : covered with or resembling bark
bar·ley \'bär-lē\ *n* [ME *barly*, fr. OE *bærlic* of barley; akin to OE *bere* barley, L *far* spelt] : a cereal grass (genus *Hordeum*, esp. *H. vulgare*) having the flowers in dense spikes with long awns and three spikelets at each joint of the rachis; *also* : its seed used in malt beverages and in breakfast foods and stock feeds
bar·ley–bree \-ˌbrē\ *also* **bar·ley–broo** \-ˌbrü\ *n* [*barley* + Sc *bree* or *broo* (bree)] **1** *chiefly Scot* : WHISKEY **2** *chiefly Scot* : BEER, ALE
bar·ley·corn \-ˌkȯ(ə)rn\ *n* **1** : a grain of barley **2** : an old unit of length equal to the third part of an inch
bar·low \'bär-ˌlō\ *n* [Russell *Barlow* 18th cent. E knife maker] : a sturdy inexpensive jackknife
barm \'bärm\ *n* [ME *berme*, fr. OE *beorma*; akin to L *fermentum* yeast, *fervēre* to boil — more at BURN] : yeast formed on fermenting malt liquors
bar·maid \'bär-ˌmād\ *n* : a female bartender
bar·man \-mən\ *n* : BARTENDER
Bar·me·cid·al \ˌbär-mə-'sīd-ᵊl\ *or* **Bar·me·cide** \'bär-mə-ˌsīd\ *adj* [*Barmecide*, a wealthy Persian, who, in a tale of *The Arabian Nights*, invited a beggar to a feast of imaginary food] : providing only the illusion of plenty or abundance ⟨a ~ feast⟩
[1]bar mitz·vah \bär-'mits-və\ *n, often cap B&M* [Heb *bar miṣwāh*, lit., son of the (divine) law] **1** : a Jewish boy who reaches his 13th birthday and attains the age of religious duty and responsibility **2** : the initiatory ceremony recognizing a boy as a bar mitzvah
[2]bar mitzvah *vt* **bar mitz·vahed; bar mitz·vah·ing** : to administer the ceremony of bar mitzvah to
barmy \'bär-mē\ *adj* **barm·i·er; -est** **1** : full of froth or ferment **2** : BALMY 2
barn \'bärn\ *n* [ME *bern*, fr. OE *bereærn*, fr. *bere* barley + *ærn* place] **1 a** : a usu. large building for the storage of farm prod-

ucts, for feed, and usu. for the housing of farm animals or farm equipment **b** : an unusually large and usu. bare building ⟨a great ~ of a hotel —W. A. White⟩ **2** : a large building for the housing of a fleet of vehicles (as trolley cars or trucks) — **barny** \'bär-nē\ *adj*

Bar·na·bas \'bär-nə-bəs\ *n* [Gk, fr. Aram *Barnebhū'āh*] : a companion of the apostle Paul on his first missionary journey

bar·na·cle \'bär-ni-kəl\ *n* [ME *barnakille*, alter. of *bernake*, of Celt origin; akin to Corn *brennyk* limpet] **1** : a European goose (*Branta leucopsis*) that breeds in the arctic and is larger than the related brant — called also *barnacle goose* **2** : any of numerous marine crustaceans (subclass Cirripedia) with feathery appendages for gathering food that are free-swimming as larvae but fixed to rocks or floating logs as adults — **bar·na·cled** \-kəld\ *adj*



barnacle 2: *1* peduncle, *2* cirri

barn dance *n* : a rollicking American social dance orig. held in a barn with square dances, round dances, and traditional music and calls

barn lot *n, chiefly South & Midland* : BARNYARD

barn owl *n* : a widely distributed owl (*Tyto alba*) that has plumage mottled buff brown and gray above and chiefly white below, frequents barns and other buildings, and preys esp. on rodents

barn raising *n* : a gathering for the purpose of erecting a barn — compare ¹BEE 3

barn·storm \'bärn-ˌstȯrm\ *vi* **1** : to tour through rural districts staging theatrical performances usu. in one-night stands **2** : to travel from place to place making brief stops (as in a political campaign) **3** : to pilot one's airplane in sightseeing flights with passengers or in exhibition stunts in an unscheduled itinerant course esp. in rural districts ~ *vt* : to travel across while barnstorming — **barn·storm·er** *n*

¹barn·yard \-ˌyärd\ *n* : a usu. fenced area adjoining a barn

²barnyard *adj* : EARTHY, SMUTTY, SCATOLOGICAL ⟨~ humor⟩

baro- — see BAR-

baro·gram \'bar-ə-ˌgram\ *n* [ISV] : a barographic tracing

baro·graph \-ˌgraf\ *n* [ISV] : a self-registering barometer — **baro·graph·ic** \ˌbar-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj*

ba·rom·e·ter \bə-'räm-ət-ər\ *n* **1** : an instrument for determining the pressure of the atmosphere and hence for assisting in judgment as to probable weather changes and for determining the height of an ascent **2** : something that serves to register fluctuations (as in public opinion) — **baro·met·ric** \ˌbar-ə-'me-trik\ *or* **baro·met·ri·cal** \-tri-kəl\ *adj* — **baro·met·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **ba·rom·e·try** \bə-'räm-ə-trē\ *n*

barometric pressure *n* : the pressure of the atmosphere usu. expressed in terms of the height of a column of mercury

bar·on \'bar-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *baro* freeman] **1 a** : one of a class of tenants holding his rights and title by military or other honorable service directly from a feudal superior (as a king) **b** : a lord of the realm : NOBLE, PEER **2 a** : a member of the lowest grade of the peerage in Great Britain **b** : a nobleman on the continent of Europe of varying rank **c** : a member of the lowest order of nobility in Japan **3** : a man of great power or influence in some field of activity ⟨cattle ~⟩

bar·on·age \-ə-nij\ *n* : the whole body of barons or peers : NOBILITY 2

bar·on·ess \-ə-nəs\ *n* **1** : the wife or widow of a baron **2** : a woman who holds a baronial title in her own right

bar·on·et \'bar-ə-nət, *US also* ˌbar-ə-'net\ *n* : the holder of a rank of honor below a baron and above a knight

bar·on·et·age \-ij\ *n* **1** : BARONETCY **2** : the whole body of baronets

bar·on·et·cy \-sē\ *n* : the rank of a baronet

ba·rong \bə-'rȯŋ, -'räŋ\ *n* [native name in the Philippines] : a thick-backed thin-edged knife or sword used by the Moro

ba·ro·ni·al \bə-'rō-nē-əl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a baron or the baronage **2** : STATELY, AMPLE ⟨a ~ room⟩

bar·ony \'bar-ə-nē\ *n, pl* **-on·ies** **1** : the domain, rank, or dignity of a baron **2** : a vast private landholding **3** : a field of activity under the sway of an individual or a special group

¹ba·roque \bə-'rōk, ba-, -'räk\ *n* [F, fr. Pg *barrôco*] : an irregularly shaped pearl

²ba·roque \bə-'rōk, ba-, -'räk\ *adj* [F, fr. It *barocco*] : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a style of artistic expression prevalent esp. in the 17th century that is marked generally by extravagant forms and elaborate and sometimes grotesque ornamentation and specifically also in architecture by dynamic opposition and the use of curved and plastic figures, in music by improvisation, contrasting effects, and powerful tensions, and in literature by complexity of form and bizarre, ingenious, and often ambiguous imagery — **ba·roque·ly** *adv*

baro·re·cep·tor \ˌbar-ō-ri-'sep-tər\ *n* [*bar-* + *receptor*] : a neural receptor (as of the arterial walls) sensitive to changes in pressure

ba·rouche \bə-'rüsh\ *n* [G *barutsche*, fr. It *biroccio*, deriv. of LL *birotus* two-wheeled, fr. L *bi-* + *rota* wheel — more at ROLL] : a four-wheeled carriage with a driver's seat high in front, two double seats inside facing each other, and a folding top over the back seat

bar pilot *n* : a pilot who navigates a ship from a pilot station over a bar and often into a harbor or to the harbor docks

barque \'bärk\, **bar·quen·tine** \'bär-kən-ˌtēn\ *var of* BARK, BARKENTINE

¹bar·rack \'bar-ək, -ik\ *n* [F *baraque* hut, fr. Catal *barraca*] **1** : a building or set of buildings used esp. for lodging soldiers in garrison **2 a** : a structure resembling a shed or barn that provides temporary housing **b** : housing characterized by extreme plainness or dreary uniformity — usu. used in pl. in all senses

²barrack *vt* : to lodge in barracks

³barrack *vb* [origin unknown] *vi* **1** *chiefly Austral* : JEER, SCOFF **2** *chiefly Austral* : ROOT, CHEER — usu. used with *for* ~ *vt, chiefly Austral* : to shout at derisively or sarcastically — **bar·rack·er** *n*

barracks bag *n* : a fabric bag for carrying personal equipment

bar·ra·coon \ˌbar-ə-'kün\ *n* [Sp *barracón*, aug. of *barraca* hut, fr. Catal] : an enclosure or barracks formerly used for temporary confinement of slaves or convicts

bar·ra·cou·ta \ˌbar-ə-'küt-ə\ *n* [modif. of AmerSp *barracuda*] **1** : a large marine food fish (*Thyrsites atun*) **2** : BARRACUDA

bar·ra·cu·da \ˌbar-ə-'küd-ə\ *n, pl* **-da** *or* **-das** [AmerSp] : any of several predaceous marine fishes (genus *Sphyraena* of the family Sphyraenidae) of warm seas that include excellent food fishes as well as forms regarded as toxic

¹bar·rage \'bär-ij\ *n* [F, fr. *barrer* to bar, fr. *barre* bar] : an artificial dam placed in a watercourse to increase the depth of water or to divert it into a channel for navigation or irrigation

²bar·rage \bə-'räzh, -'räj\ *n* [F (*tir de*) *barrage* barrier fire] **1** : a barrier of fire esp. of artillery laid on a line close to friendly troops to screen and protect them **2** : a rapid-fire massive or concentrated delivery or outpouring (as of speech or writing)

³bar·rage \bə-'räzh, -'räj\ *vt* **bar·raged; bar·rag·ing** : to deliver a barrage against

barrage balloon *n* : a small captive balloon used to support wires or nets as protection against air attacks

bar·ra·mun·da \ˌbar-ə-'mən-də\ *or* **bar·ra·mun·di** \-dē\ *n* [native name in Australia] : any of several Australian fishes: as **a** : a large red-fleshed lungfish (*Neoceratodus forsteri*) of Australian rivers used for food **b** : a river fish (*Scleropages leichhardtii*) that is used for food

bar·ran·ca \bə-'raŋ-kə\ *or* **bar·ran·co** \-(ˌ)kō\ *n, pl* **-cas** *or* **-cos** [Sp] **1** : a deep gulley or arroyo with steep sides **2** : a steep bank or bluff

bar·ra·tor *also* **bar·ra·ter** \'bar-ət-ər\ *n* : one who engages in barratry

bar·ra·try \'bar-ə-trē\ *n, pl* **-tries** [ME *barratrie*, fr. MF *baraterie* deception, fr. *barater* to deceive, exchange] **1** : the purchase or sale of office or preferment in church or state **2** : a fraudulent breach of duty on the part of a master of a ship or of the mariners to the injury of the owner of the ship or cargo **3** : the persistent incitement of litigation

barred \'bärd\ *adj* : marked by or divided off by bars; *specif* : having alternate bands of different color ⟨~ feather⟩

¹bar·rel \'bar-əl\ *n* [ME *barel*, fr. MF *baril*] **1** : a round bulging vessel of greater length than breadth that is usu. made of staves bound with hoops and has flat ends of equal diameter **2 a** : the amount contained in a barrel; *esp* : the amount (as 31 gal. of fermented beverage or 42 gal. of petroleum) fixed for a certain commodity used as a unit of measure **b** : a great quantity **3** : a drum or cylindrical part: as **a** : the discharging tube of a gun **b** : the cylindrical metal box enclosing the mainspring of a timepiece **c** : the part of a fountain pen or of a pencil containing the ink or lead **d** : a cylindrical or tapering housing containing the optical components of a photographic-lens system and the iris diaphragm **e** : TUMBLING BARREL **f** : the fuel outlet from the carburetor on a gasoline engine **4** : the trunk of a quadruped — see COW illustration — **bar·reled** \-əld\ *adj* — **on the barrel** : asking for or granting no credit : in cash — **over a barrel** : at a disadvantage : in an awkward position

²barrel *vb* **-reled** *or* **-relled; -rel·ing** *or* **-rel·ling** *vt* : to put or pack in a barrel ~ *vi* : to move at a high speed

barrel chair *n* : an upholstered chair with a high solid rounded back

bar·rel·ful \'bar-əl-ˌfůl\ *n, pl* **barrelfuls** \-ˌfůlz\ *or* **bar·rels·ful** \-əlz-ˌfůl\ **1** : as much or as many as a barrel will hold **2** : a large number or amount

bar·rel·house \'bar-əl-ˌhaůs\ *n* **1** : a cheap drinking and usu. dancing establishment **2** : a style of jazz characterized by a very heavy beat and simultaneous improvisation by each player

barrel organ *n* : an instrument for producing music by the action of a revolving cylinder studded with pegs on a series of valves that admit air from a bellows to a set of pipes

barrel roll *n* : an airplane maneuver in which a complete revolution about the longitudinal axis is made

¹bar·ren \'bar-ən\ *adj* [ME *bareine*, fr. OF *baraine*] **1** : not reproducing: as **a** : incapable of producing offspring — used esp. of females or matings **b** : not yet or not recently pregnant **c** : habitually failing to fruit **2** : not productive: as **a** : lacking a normal or adequate cover of vegetation or crops : DESOLATE ⟨arid ~ soil⟩ **b** : unproductive of results or gain : FRUITLESS ⟨a ~ scheme⟩ **3** : DEVOID, LACKING — used with *of* ⟨~ of excitement⟩ **4** : lacking interest, information, or charm **5** : DULL, UNRESPONSIVE ***syn*** **1** see STERILE ***ant*** fecund **2** see BARE — **bar·ren·ly** *adv* — **bar·ren·ness** \-ən-nəs\ *n*

²barren *n* **1** : a tract of barren land **2** *pl* : an extent of usu. level land having an inferior growth of trees or little vegetation

bar·rette \bä-'ret, bə-\ *n* [F, dim. of *barre* bar] : a clip or bar for holding a woman's hair in place

¹bar·ri·cade \'bar-ə-ˌkād, ˌbar-ə-'\ *vt* **-cad·ed; -cad·ing** **1** : to block off or stop up with a barricade **2** : to prevent access to by means of a barricade

²barricade *n* [F, fr. MF, fr. *barriquer* to barricade, fr. *barrique* barrel] **1** : an obstruction or rampart thrown up across a way or passage to check the advance of the enemy **2** : BARRIER, OBSTACLE **3** *pl* : a field of combat or dispute

bar·ri·ca·do \ˌbar-ə-'kād-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-does** [modif. of F *barricade*] *archaic* : BARRICADE — **barricado** *vt, archaic*

bar·ri·er \'bar-ē-ər\ *n* [ME *barrere*, fr. MF *barriere*, fr. *barre*] **1 a** : a material object or set of objects that separates, demarcates, or serves as a barricade **b** : an extension of the antarctic continental ice cap into the sea resting partly on the bottom **2** *pl, often cap* : a medieval war game in which combatants fight on foot with a fence or railing between them **3** : the movable gate or device at the starting line in a racetrack **4** : something immaterial that impedes or separates ⟨~s of reserve⟩ **5** : a factor that tends to restrict the

free movement, mingling, or interbreeding of individuals or populations ⟨behavioral and geographic ~*s* to hybridization⟩

barrier reef *n* : a coral reef roughly parallel to a shore and separated from it by a lagoon

bar·ring \'bär-iŋ\ *prep* : excluding by exception : EXCEPTING

bar·rio \'bär-ē-ˌō, 'bar-\ *n, pl* **-ri·os** [Sp, fr. Ar *barrī* of the open country, fr. *barr* outside, open country] **1** : a ward, quarter, or district of a city or town in Spanish-speaking countries **2** : a Spanish-speaking quarter or neighborhood in a city or town in the U.S. esp. in the Southwest

bar·ris·ter \'bar-ə-stər\ *n* [¹*bar* + *-i-* + *-ster*] : a counsel admitted to plead at the bar and undertake the public trial of causes in an English superior court — compare SOLICITOR

bar·room \'bär-ˌrüm, -ˌrùm\ *n* : a room or establishment whose main feature is a bar for the sale of liquor

¹barrow \'bar-(ˌ)ō, -ə(-w)\ *n* [ME *bergh*, fr. OE *beorg;* akin to OHG *berg* mountain, Skt *bṛhant* high] **1** : MOUNTAIN, MOUND — used only in the names of hills in England **2** : a large mound of earth or stones over the remains of the dead : TUMULUS

²barrow *n* [ME *barow*, fr. OE *bearg;* akin to OHG *barug* barrow, OE *borian* to bore] : a male hog castrated before sexual maturity

³barrow *n* [ME *barew*, fr. OE *bearwe;* akin to OE *beran* to carry — more at BEAR] **1 a** : HANDBARROW **b** : WHEELBARROW **2** : a cart with a shallow box body, two wheels, and shafts for pushing it : PUSHCART

barrow boy *n* : a boy who sells goods (as fruit or vegetables) from a barrow

bar sinister *n* **1** : a heraldic charge held to be a mark of bastardy **2** : the fact or condition of being of illegitimate birth

Bart *abbr* baronet

bar·tend·er \'bär-ˌten-dər\ *n* : one that serves liquor at a bar

¹barter \'bärt-ər\ *vb* [ME *bartren*, fr. MF *barater*] *vi* : to trade by exchanging one commodity for another ~ *vt* : to trade or exchange by or as if by bartering — **bar·ter·er** \-ər-ər\ *n*

²barter *n* **1** : the act or practice of carrying on trade by bartering **2** : the thing given in exchange in bartering

Bar·tho·lin's gland \ˌbärt-ᵊl-ənz-, ˌbär-thə-lənz-\ *n* [Kaspar *Bartholin* †1738 Dan physician] : either of two oval racemose glands lying one to each side of the lower part of the vagina and secreting a lubricating mucus — compare COWPER'S GLAND

bar·ti·zan \'bärt-ə-zən, ˌbärt-ə-'zan\ *n* [ME *bretasinge*, fr. *bretasce* parapet — more at BRATTICE] : a small structure (as a turret) projecting from a building and serving esp. for lookout or defense

Ba·ruch \bə-'rük, 'bär-ˌük\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *Barouch*, fr. Heb *Bārūkh*] : a homiletic book included in the Roman Catholic canon of the Old Testament and in the Protestant Apocrypha — see BIBLE table

bar·ware \'bär-ˌwa(ə)r, -ˌwe(ə)r\ *n* : equipment for outfitting a bar

bary·on \'bar-ē-ˌän\ *n* [ISV *bary-* (fr. Gk *barys* heavy) + ²*-on* — more at GRIEVE] : any of a group of elementary particles with the same spin that have a mass equal to or greater than that of the proton — **bary·on·ic** \ˌbar-ē-'än-ik\ *adj*

ba·ry·ta \bə-'rīt-ə\ *n* [NL, modif. of Gk *barytēs* weight — more at BARITE] : any of several compounds of barium: as **a** : barium monoxide **b** : barium hydroxide **c** : BARIUM SULFATE — **ba·ryt·ic** \-'rit-ik\ *adj*

bar·yte \'ba(ə)r-ˌīt, 'be(ə)r-\ *or* **ba·ry·tes** \bə-'rīt-ēz\ *var of* BARITE

bary·tone \'bar-ə-ˌtōn\ *var of* BARITONE

BAS *abbr* **1** bachelor of applied science **2** bachelor of arts and sciences

bas·al \'bā-səl, -zəl\ *adj* **1 a** : relating to, situated at, or forming the base **b** : arising from the base of a stem ⟨~ leaves⟩ **2 a** : of or relating to the foundation, base, or essence : FUNDAMENTAL **b** : of, relating to, or being essential for maintaining the fundamental vital activities of an organism : MINIMAL **c** : used for teaching beginners ⟨~ readers⟩ — **ba·sal·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

basal body *n* : a minute distinctively staining cell organelle found at the base of a flagellum or cilium and resembling a centriole in structure — called also *basal granule, kinetosome*

basal cell *n* : one of the innermost cells of the deeper epidermis of the skin

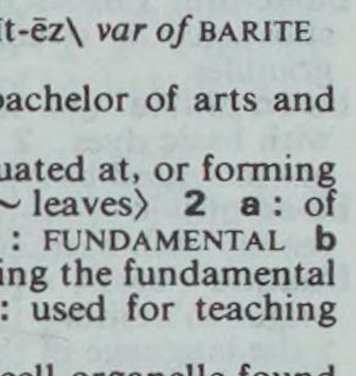
basal metabolic rate *n* : the rate at which heat is given off by an organism at complete rest

basal metabolism *n* : the turnover of energy in a fasting and resting organism using energy solely to maintain vital cellular activity, respiration, and circulation as measured by the basal metabolic rate

ba·salt \bə-'sȯlt, 'bā-ˌ\ *n* [L *basaltes*, MS var. of *basanites* touchstone, fr. Gk *basanitēs* (*lithos*), fr. *basanos* touchstone, fr. Egypt *bḥnw*] : a dark gray to black dense to fine-grained igneous rock that consists of basic plagioclase, augite, and usu. magnetite — **ba·sal·tic** \bə-'sȯl-tik\ *adj*

bas·cule \'bas-(ˌ)kyü(ə)l\ *n* [F, seesaw] : an apparatus or structure (as a bridge) in which one end is counterbalanced by the other on the principle of the seesaw or by weights

¹base \'bās\ *n, pl* **bas·es** \'bā-səz\ [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *basis*, fr. Gk, step, base, fr. *bainein* to go — more at COME] **1 a** : the bottom of something considered as its support : FOUNDATION **b** (1) : the lower part of a wall, pier, or column considered as a separate architectural feature (2) : the lower part of a complete architectural design **c** : a side or face of a geometrical figure from which an altitude can be constructed; *esp* : one on which the figure stands **d** : that part of a bodily organ by which it is attached to another more central structure of the organism **2 a** : a main ingredient ⟨paint having a latex ~⟩ **b** : a supporting or carrying ingredient (as of a medicine) **3** : the fundamental part of something : GROUNDWORK **4** : the lower part of a heraldic field **5 a** : the point or line from which a start is made in an action or undertaking **b** : a line in a survey which serves as the origin for computations **c** : the locality or the installations on which a military force relies for supplies or from which it initiates operations **d** : the number with reference to which a number system or a mathematical table is constructed; *esp* : the number of units in a given digit's place that is required to give one in the next higher place **e** : ROOT 6 **6 a** : the starting place or goal in various games **b** : any one of the four stations at the corners of a baseball infield **7** : any of various typically water-soluble and acrid or brackish tasting compounds capable of reacting with an acid to form a salt that are molecules or ions able to take up a proton from an acid or substances able to give up an unshared pair of electrons to an acid **8** : a price level at which a security previously actively declining in price resists further price decline **9** : a sum of money in business which is multiplied by a rate (as of interest) or of which a percent is taken **10** : the part of a transformational grammar consisting of rules and a lexicon that generates the deep structures of a language — **based** \'bāst\ *adj* — **base·less** \'bā-sləs\ *adj*



base of a column: *1* upper torus, *2* scotia, *3* lower torus, *4* plinth, *5* shaft, *6* fillets

syn BASE, BASIS, FOUNDATION, GROUND *shared meaning element* : something on which another thing is built up and by which it is supported ***ant*** top

— **off base** **1** : completely or absurdly mistaken **2** : UNAWARES

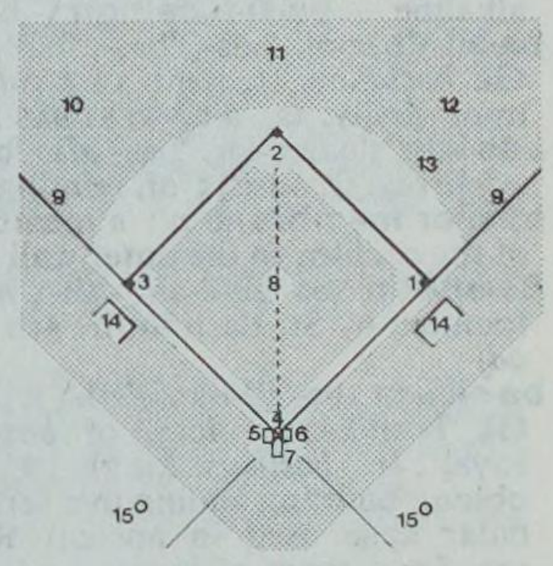
²base *vt* **based; bas·ing** **1** : to make, form, or serve as a base for **2** : to find a base or basis for — usu. used with *on* or *upon*

³base *adj* : constituting or serving as a base

⁴base *adj* [ME *bas*, fr. MF, fr. ML *bassus* short, low] **1** *archaic* : of little height **2** *obs* : low in place or position **3** *obs* : BASS **4** *archaic* : BASEBORN **5 a** : resembling a villein : SERVILE ⟨a ~ tenant⟩ **b** : held by villenage ⟨~ tenure⟩ **6 a** : being of comparatively low value and having relatively inferior properties (as resistance to corrosion) ⟨a ~ metal such as iron⟩ — compare NOBLE **b** : containing a larger than usual proportion of base metals ⟨~ silver denarii⟩ **7 a** : lacking or indicating the lack of higher qualities of mind or spirit : IGNOBLE ⟨a ~ betrayal⟩ **b** : lacking higher values : DEGRADING ⟨a drab ~ way of life⟩ **8** : of relatively little value — **base·ly** *adv* — **base·ness** *n*

syn BASE, LOW, VILE *shared meaning element* : contemptible because beneath what is expected of the average man. BASE stresses the ignoble and may suggest cruelty, treachery, greed, or grossness ⟨*base* self-centered indulgence and selfish ambition —W. R. Inge⟩ LOW may connote crafty cunning, vulgarity, or immorality and regularly implies an outraging of one's sense of decency or propriety ⟨refused to listen to such *low* talk⟩ VILE, the strongest of these words, tends to suggest disgusting depravity or filth ⟨a *vile* remark⟩ ⟨matricide, the *vilest* of crimes⟩ ***ant*** noble

base·ball \'bās-ˌbȯl\ *n, often attrib* : a game played with a bat and ball between two teams of nine players each on a large field centering on four bases that mark the course a runner must take to score; *also* : the ball used in this game



baseball field: *1* first base, *2* second base, *3* third base, *4* home base, *5* right-handed batter's box, *6* left-handed batter's box, *7* catcher's box, *8* pitcher's plate, *9* foul lines, *10* left field, *11* center field, *12* right field, *13* grass line, *14* coaches' boxes, *15* next batter's boxes

base·board \-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a board situated at or forming the base of something; *specif* : a molding covering the joint of a wall and the adjoining floor

base·born \-'bȯ(ə)rn\ *adj* **1 a** : of humble birth : LOWLY **b** : of illegitimate birth : BASTARD **2** : MEAN, IGNOBLE

base burner *n* : a stove in which the fuel is fed from a hopper as the lower layer is consumed

base component *n* : BASE 10

base exchange *n* : a post exchange at a naval or air force base

base hit *n* : a hit in baseball that enables the batter to reach base safely without benefit of an error or fielder's choice

base·lev·el \'bā-ˌslev-əl\ *n* : the level below which a land surface cannot be reduced by running water

base·line \'bā-ˌslīn\ *n* **1** : a line serving as a base **2** : the area within which a baseball player must keep when running between bases **3** : the back line at each end of a court in various games (as tennis) **4** : FOUNDATION, BASIS 3

base·ment \'bā-smənt\ *n* [prob. fr. ¹*base*] **1** : the ground floor facade or interior in Renaissance architecture **2** : the part of a building that is wholly or partly below ground level **3** : the lowest or fundamental part of something **4** *chiefly New Eng* : TOILET, WASHROOM — **base·ment·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

basement membrane *n* : a usu. single-layered membrane of flat cells of connective tissue underlying the epithelial cells of many organs

ba·sen·ji \bə-'sen-jē, -'zen-\ *n* [of Bantu origin; akin to Lingala *basenji*, pl. of *mosenji* native] : any of an African breed of small compact curly-tailed chestnut-brown dogs that rarely bark

base on balls : an advance to first base given to a baseball player who during his turn at bat receives four pitches outside the strike zone that are not swung at

base path *n* : the area between the bases of a baseball field used by a base runner

base pay *n* : a rate or amount of pay for a standard work period, job, or position exclusive of additional payments or allowances

base runner *n* : a baseball player of the team at bat who is on base or is attempting to reach a base — **base·run·ning** *n*

[1]bash \'bash\ *vb* [origin unknown] *vt* : to strike violently : HIT; *also* : to injure or damage by striking : SMASH — usu. used with *in* ~ *vi* : CRASH — **bash·er** *n*

[2]bash *n* **1** : a forceful blow **2** : a festive social gathering : PARTY **3** : an important sports contest **4** : TRY, ATTEMPT

ba·shaw \bə-'shȯ\ *var of* PASHA

bash·ful \'bash-fəl\ *adj* [obs. *bash* (to be abashed)] **1** : socially shy or timid; *esp* : exhibiting an immature lack of savoir faire **2** : characterized by, showing, or resulting from extreme sensitiveness, self-consciousness or shyness ⟨a ~ smile⟩ ***syn*** see SHY ***ant*** forward, brazen — **bash·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **bash·ful·ness** \-fəl-nəs\ *n*

[1]ba·sic \'bā-sik, -zik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or forming the base or essence : FUNDAMENTAL **2** : constituting or serving as the basis or starting point **3 a** : of, relating to, containing, or having the character of a base **b** : having an alkaline reaction **4** *of rocks* : containing relatively little silica **5** : of, relating to, or made by a basic process — **ba·si·cal·ly** \-si-k(ə-)lē, -zi-\ *adv* — **ba·sic·i·ty** \bā-'sis-ət-ē\ *n*

[2]basic *n* **1** : something that is basic : FUNDAMENTAL ⟨the ~s of biology⟩ **2** : BASIC TRAINING

BA·SIC \'bā-sik, -zik\ *n* [*B*eginner's *A*ll-purpose *S*ymbolic *I*nstruction *C*ode] : a standardized language for programming and interacting with a computer

basic process *n* : a process of making steel carried on in a furnace lined with basic material and under a slag that is dominantly basic

basic slag *n* : a slag low in silica and high in base-forming oxides that is used in the basic process of steelmaking and that is then useful as a fertilizer

basic training *n* : the initial period of training of a military recruit

ba·sid·io·my·cete \bə-ˌsid-ē-ō-'mī-ˌsēt, -ˌmī-'sēt\ *n* [deriv. of NL *basidium* + Gk *mykēt-, mykēs* fungus — more at MYC-] : any of a large class (Basidiomycetes) of higher fungi having septate hyphae, bearing spores on a basidium, and including rusts, smuts, mushrooms, and puffballs — **ba·sid·io·my·ce·tous** \-ē-ō-ˌmī-'sēt-əs\ *adj*

ba·sid·io·spore \bə-'sid-ē-ə-ˌspō(ə)r, -ˌspȯ(ə)r\ *n* [NL *basidium* + E *-o-* + *spore*] : a spore produced by a basidium — **ba·sid·io·spo·rous** \-ˌsid-ē-ə-'spōr-əs, -'spȯr-; -ē-'äs-pə-rəs\ *adj*

ba·sid·i·um \bə-'sid-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ia** \-ē-ə\ [NL, fr. L *basis*] : a structure on a basidiomycete in which nuclear fusion occurs followed by meiosis and on which usu. four basidiospores are borne — **ba·sid·i·al** \-ē-əl\ *adj*

ba·si·fy \'bā-sə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** : to convert into a base or make alkaline — **ba·si·fi·ca·tion** \-ˌbā-sə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n*

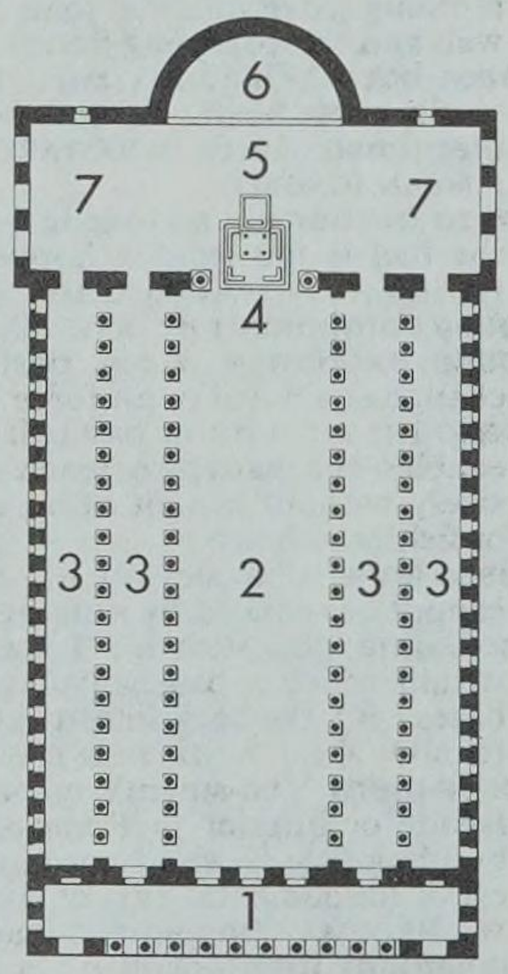
ba·sil \'baz-əl, 'bās-, 'bas-, 'bāz-\ *n* [MF *basile*, fr. LL *basilicum*, fr. Gk *basilikon*, fr. neut. of *basilikos*] : any of several plants of the mint family: as **a** : SWEET BASIL **b** : BUSH BASIL

bas·i·lar \'baz-ə-lər, 'bas- *also* 'bāz- *or* 'bās-\ *also* **bas·i·lary** \-ˌler-ē\ *adj* [irreg. fr. *basis*] : of, relating to, or situated at the base

basilar membrane *n* : a membrane extending from the bony shelf of the cochlea to the outer wall and supporting the organ of Corti

Ba·sil·i·an \bə-'zil-ē-ən, -'sil-\ *n* : a member of the monastic order founded by St. Basil in the 4th century in Cappadocia — **Basilian** *adj*

ba·sil·i·ca \bə-'sil-i-kə, -'zil-\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *basilikē*, fr. fem. of *basilikos* royal, fr. *basileus* king] **1** : an oblong building ending in a semicircular apse used in ancient Rome esp. for a court of justice and place of public assembly **2** : an early Christian church building consisting of nave and aisles with clerestory and a large high transept from which an apse projects **3** : a Roman Catholic church given ceremonial privileges — **ba·sil·i·can** \-kən\ *adj*



basilica 2: *1* narthex, *2* nave, *3* aisles, *4* altar, *5* bema, *6* apse, *7* transept

bas·i·lisk \'bas-ə-ˌlisk, 'baz-\ *n* [ME, fr. L *basiliscus*, fr. Gk *basiliskos*, fr. dim. of *basileus*] **1** : a legendary reptile with fatal breath and glance **2** : any of several crested tropical American lizards (genus *Basiliscus*) related to the iguanas and noted for their ability to run on their hind legs — **basilisk** *adj*

basil thyme *n* : CALAMINT

ba·sin \'bās-ᵊn\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *bacin*, fr. LL *bacchinon*] **1 a** : an open usu. circular vessel with sloping or curving sides used typically for holding water for washing **b** : the quantity contained in a basin **2 a** : a dock built in a tidal river or harbor **b** : an enclosed or partly enclosed water area **3 a** : a large or small depression in the surface of the land or in the ocean floor **b** : the entire tract of country drained by a river and its tributaries **c** : a great depression in the surface of the lithosphere occupied by an ocean **4** : a broad area of the earth beneath which the strata dip usu. from the sides toward the center — **ba·sin·al** \-ᵊn-əl\ *adj* — **ba·sined** \-ᵊnd\ *adj*

bas·i·net \ˌbas-ə-'net\ *n* [ME *bacinet*, fr. OF, dim. of *bacin*] : a light often pointed steel helmet

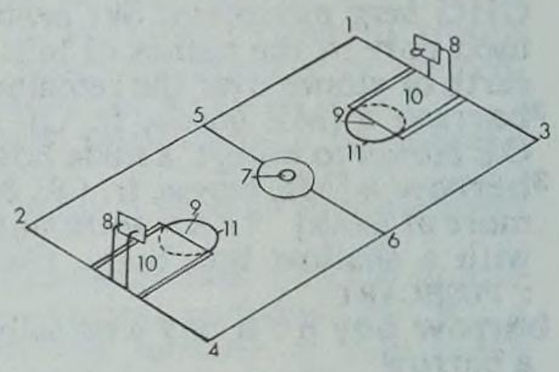
ba·sip·e·tal \bā-'sip-ət-ᵊl, -'zip-\ *adj* [L *basis* + *petere* to go toward — more at FEATHER] : proceeding from the apex toward the base or from above downward — **ba·sip·e·tal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

ba·sis \'bā-səs\ *n, pl* **ba·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [L — more at BASE] **1** : FOUNDATION **2** : the principal component of something **3** : something on which something else is constructed or established **4** : the basic principle **5** : a set of linearly independent vectors in a vector space such that any vector in the vector space can be expressed as a linear combination of them with appropriately chosen coefficients ***syn*** see BASE

bask \'bask\ *vb* [ME *basken*, fr. ON *bathask*, refl. of *batha* to bathe; akin to OE *bæth* bath] *vi* **1** : to lie in or expose oneself to a pleasant warmth or atmosphere **2** : to take pleasure or derive enjoyment ~ *vt, obs* : to warm by continued exposure to heat

bas·ket \'bas-kət\ *n* [ME, prob. fr. (assumed) ONF *baskot*; akin to OF *baschoue* wooden vessel; both fr. L *bascauda* dishpan, of Celt origin; akin to MIr *basc* necklace — more at FASCIA] **1 a** : a receptacle made of interwoven material (as osiers) **b** : any of various lightweight usu. wood containers **c** : the quantity contained in a basket **2** : something that resembles a basket esp. in shape or use **3 a** : a net open at the bottom and suspended from a metal ring that constitutes the goal in basketball **b** : a field goal in basketball — **bas·ket·ful** \-ˌfu̇l\ *n* — **bas·ket·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj* — **bas·ket·work** \-ˌwərk\ *n*

bas·ket·ball \-ˌbȯl\ *n, often attrib* : a usu. indoor court game between two teams of usu. five players each who score by tossing an inflated ball through a raised goal; *also* : the ball used in this game



basketball court: *1-2, 3-4* sidelines, *1-3, 2-4* end lines, *5-6* division line, *7* center circle, *8* backboards and baskets, *9* free throw line, *10* lane, *11* free throw circle

basket case *n* **1** : one who has all four limbs amputated **2** : one that is totally incapacitated or inoperative

basket fern *n* **1** : MALE FERN **2** : a tropical American sword fern (*Nephrolepis pectinata*)

basket–handle arch *n* : a low-crowned elliptical arch drawn from three or more centers — see ARCH illustration

basket hilt *n* : a hilt with a basket-shaped guard to protect the hand — **bas·ket–hilt·ed** \ˌbas-kət-'hil-təd\ *adj*

Basket Maker *n* **1** : any of three stages of an ancient culture of the plateau area of southwestern U.S. that preceded and formed one cultural development with the Pueblo **2** : a member of the people who produced the Basket Maker culture

basket–of–gold *n* : a European perennial herb (*Alyssum saxatile*) widely cultivated for its grayish foliage and yellow flowers

bas·ket·ry \'bas-kə-trē\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1** : the art or craft of making baskets or objects woven like baskets **2** : objects produced by basketry

basket star *n* : an echinoderm (order Euryalida) resembling a starfish with slender complexly branched interlacing arms

basket weave *n* : a textile weave resembling the checkered pattern of a plaited basket

bas·ket·work \'bas-kət-ˌwərk\ *n* : BASKETRY 2

bas mitz·vah \bä-'smits-və\ *n, often cap B&M* [Heb *bath miṣwāh*, lit., daughter of the (divine) law] **1** : a Jewish girl who at about 13 years of age assumes religious responsibilities **2** : the initiatory ceremony recognizing a girl as a bas mitzvah

ba·so·phil \'bā-sə-ˌfil, -zə-\ *or* **ba·so·phile** \-ˌfīl\ *n* : a basophilic substance or structure; *esp* : a white blood cell with basophilic granules

ba·so·phil·ia \ˌbā-sə-'fil-ē-ə, -zə-\ *n* [NL] **1** : tendency to stain with basic dyes **2** : an abnormality in which some tissue element has increased basophilia

ba·so·phil·ic \-'fil-ik\ *adj* [ISV *base* + *-o-* + *-philic*] : staining readily with basic stains

Basque \'bask\ *n* [F, fr. L *Vasco*] **1** : one of a people of obscure origin inhabiting the western Pyrenees on the Bay of Biscay **2** : the language of the Basques of unknown relationship **3** *not cap* : a tight-fitting bodice for women — **Basque** *adj*

bas–re·lief \ˌbä-ri-'lēf\ *n* [F, fr. *bas* low + *relief* raised work] **1** : sculptural relief in which the projection from the surrounding surface is slight and no part of the modeled form is undercut **2** : sculpture executed in bas-relief

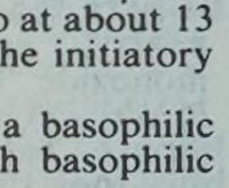
[1]bass \'bas\ *n, pl* **bass** *or* **bass·es** [ME *base*, alter. of OE *bærs*; akin to OE *byrst* bristle — more at BRISTLE] : any of numerous edible spiny-finned fishes (esp. families Centrarchidae and Serranidae)

[2]bass \'bās\ *adj* [ME *bas* base] **1** : deep or grave in tone **2 a** : of low pitch **b** : relating to or having the range or part of a bass

[3]bass \'bās\ *n* **1** : a deep or grave tone : a low-pitched sound **2 a** : the lowest part in 4-part harmony **b** : the lower half of the whole vocal or instrumental tonal range — compare TREBLE **c** : the lowest adult male singing voice; *also* : a person having this voice **d** : a member of a family of instruments having the lowest range; *esp* : DOUBLE BASS

[4]bass \'bas\ *n* [alter. of *bast*] **1** : a coarse tough fiber from palms **2** : BASSWOOD 1

bass clef *n* **1** : a clef placing the F below middle C on the fourth line of the staff **2** : the bass staff


bass clef 1

bass drum *n* : a large drum having two heads and giving a booming sound of low indefinite pitch — see DRUM illustration

bas·set hound \'bas-ət-\ *n* [F, *basset*, fr. MF, fr. *basset* short, fr. *bas* low — more at BASE] : any of an old French breed of short-legged slow-moving hunting dogs with very long ears and crooked front legs — called also *basset*

bass fiddle *n* : the double bass esp. as used in jazz orchestras

bass horn *n* : TUBA

bas·si·net \ˌbas-ə-'net\ *n* [prob. modif. of F *barcelonnette*, dim. of *berceau* cradle] **1** : a baby's basketlike bed (as of wickerwork or plastic) often with a hood over one end **2** : a perambulator that resembles a bassinet

bass·ist \'bā-səst\ *n* : a double bass player

bas·so \'bas-(ˌ)ō, 'bäs-\ *n, pl* **bassos** *or* **bas·si** \'bäs-ˌē\ [It, fr. ML *bassus*, fr. *bassus* short, low] : a bass singer; *esp* : an operatic bass

bas·soon \bə-'sün, ba-\ *n* [F *basson*, fr. It *bassone*, fr. *basso*] : a tenor or bass double-reed woodwind instrument having a long

U-shaped conical tube connected to the mouthpiece by a thin metal tube and a usual range two octaves lower than that of the oboe — **bas·soon·ist** \-'sü-nəst\ *n*



bassoon

bas·so pro·fun·do \ˌbas(ˌ)ō-prə-'fən-(ˌ)dō, ˌbäs-, -'fün-\ *n, pl* **basso profundos** [It, lit., deep bass] **1** : a deep heavy bass voice with an exceptionally low range **2** : a person having a basso profundo voice

bas·so–re·lie·vo *also* **bas·so–ri·lie·vo** \ˌbas-(ˌ)ō-ri-'lē-(ˌ)vō, ˌbäs-(ˌ)ō-rēl-'yā-(ˌ)vō\ *n* [It *bassorilievo*, fr. *basso* low + *rilievo* relief] : BAS-RELIEF

bass viol *n* **1** : the largest member of the viol family : VIOLA DA GAMBA **2** : DOUBLE BASS

bass·wood \'bas-ˌwůd\ *n* **1** : any of several New World lindens; *esp* : LINDEN 1b **2** : the straight-grained white wood of a basswood

bast \'bast\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bæst;* akin to OHG & ON *bast*] **1** : PHLOEM **2** : a strong woody fiber obtained chiefly from the phloem of plants and used esp. in cordage, matting, and fabrics

1bas·tard \'bas-tərd\ *n* [ME, fr. OF] **1** : an illegitimate child **2** : something that is spurious, irregular, inferior, or of questionable origin **3 a** : an offensive or disagreeable person — used as a generalized term of abuse **b** : MAN, FELLOW — **bas·tard·ly** *adj*

2bastard *adj* **1** : ILLEGITIMATE **2** : of inferior breed or stock : MONGREL **3** : of abnormal shape or irregular size **4** : of a kind similar to but inferior to or less typical than some standard ⟨~ measles⟩ **5** : lacking genuineness or authority : FALSE

bas·tard·ize \'bas-tər-ˌdīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to declare or prove to be a bastard **2** : to reduce from a higher to a lower state or condition : DEBASE — **bas·tard·iza·tion** \ˌbas-tərd-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*

bastard wing *n* : the process of a bird's wing corresponding to the thumb and bearing a few short quills — called also *alula*

bas·tardy \'bas-tərd-ē\ *n, pl* **-tard·ies** **1** : the quality or state of being a bastard : ILLEGITIMACY **2** : the begetting of an illegitimate child

1baste \'bāst\ *vt* **bast·ed; bast·ing** [ME *basten*, fr. MF *bastir*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *besten* to patch; akin to OE *bæst* bast] : to sew with long loose stitches in order to hold something in place temporarily — **bas·ter** *n*

2baste *vt* **bast·ed; bast·ing** [origin unknown] : to moisten (as meat) at intervals with a liquid (as melted butter, fat, or pan drippings) esp. during cooking — **bast·er** *n*

3baste *vt* **bast·ed; bast·ing** [prob. fr. ON *beysta;* akin to OE *bēatan* to beat] **1** : to beat severely or soundly : THRASH **2** : to scold vigorously : BERATE

bas·tille *or* **bas·tile** \ba-'stē(ə)l\ *n* [F *bastille*, fr. the *Bastille*, tower in Paris used as a prison] : PRISON, JAIL

Bastille Day *n* : July 14 observed in France as a national holiday in commemoration of the fall of the Bastille in 1789

1bas·ti·na·do \ˌbas-tə-'nād-(ˌ)ō, -'näd-\ *or* **bas·ti·nade** \ˌbas-tə-'nād, -'näd\ *n, pl* **-na·does** *or* **-nades** [Sp *bastonada*, fr. *bastón* stick, fr. LL *bastum*] **1** : a blow with a stick or cudgel **2 a** : a beating esp. with a stick **b** : a punishment consisting of beating the soles of the feet with a stick **3** : STICK, CUDGEL

2bastinado *vt* **-doed; -do·ing** : to subject to repeated blows

1bast·ing \'bā-stiŋ\ *n* **1** : the action of a sewer who bastes **2 a** : the thread used by a baster **b** : the stitching made by a baster

2basting *n* **1** : the action of one that bastes food **2** : the liquid used by a baster

3basting *n* : a severe beating

bas·tion \'bas-chən\ *n* [MF, fr. *bastille* fortress, modif. of OProv *bastida*, fr. *bastir* to build, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *besten* to patch] **1** : a projecting part of a fortification **2** : a fortified area or position **3** : something that is considered a stronghold : BULWARK — **bas·tioned** \-chənd\ *adj*

bast ray *n* : PHLOEM RAY

Ba·su·to \bə-'süt-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **Basuto** *or* **Basutos** : one of the Bantu-speaking people of Basutoland

1bat \'bat\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *batt*, prob. of Celt origin; akin to Gaulish anda*bata*, a gladiator — more at BATTLE] **1** : a stout solid stick : CLUB **2** : a sharp blow : STROKE **3 a** : a wooden implement used for hitting the ball in various games **b** : a racket used in various games (as squash) **c** : the short whip used by a jockey **4 a** : BATSMAN **b** : a turn at batting — usu. used in the phrase *at bat* **5** *or* **batt** : BATTING 2 — usu. used in pl. **6** *Brit* : rate of speed : GAIT **7** : BINGE — **off one's own bat** : through one's own efforts — **off the bat** : without delay : IMMEDIATELY

2bat *vb* **bat·ted; bat·ting** *vt* **1** : to strike or hit with or as if with a bat **2 a** : to advance (a base runner) by batting **b** : to have a batting average of **3** : to compose esp. in a casual, careless, or hurried manner — usu. used with *out* **4** : to discuss at length : consider in detail ~ *vi* **1 a** : to strike or hit a ball with a bat **b** : to take one's turn at bat **2** : to wander aimlessly — **bat the breeze** : CHAT 2

3bat *n* [alter. of ME *bakke*, prob. of Scand origin, akin to OSw natt*bakka* bat] : any of an order (Chiroptera) of nocturnal placental flying mammals with forelimbs modified to form wings

4bat *vt* **bat·ted; bat·ting** [prob. alter of ²*bate*] : to wink esp. in surprise or emotion ⟨never *batted* an eye⟩

BAT *abbr* bachelor of arts in teaching

bat·boy \'bat-ˌbȯi\ *n* : a boy employed to look after the equipment (as bats) of a baseball team

1batch \'bach\ *n* [ME *bache;* akin to OE *bacan* to bake] **1** : the quantity baked at one time : BAKING **2 a** : the quantity of material prepared or required for one operation; *specif* : a mixture of raw materials ready for fusion into glass **b** : the quantity produced at one operation **c** : a group of jobs to be run on a computer at one time with the same program ⟨~ processing⟩ **3** : a group of persons or things : LOT

2batch *vt* : to bring together or process as a batch — **batch·er** *n*

3batch *var of* BACH

1bate \'bāt\ *vb* **bat·ed; bat·ing** [ME *baten*, short for *abaten* to abate] *vt* **1** : to reduce the force or intensity of : RESTRAIN ⟨with *bated* breath⟩ **2** : to take away : DEDUCT **3** *archaic* : to lower esp. in amount or estimation **4** *archaic* : BLUNT ~ *vi, obs* : DIMINISH, DECREASE

2bate *vi* **bat·ed; bat·ing** [ME *baten*, fr. MF *batre* to beat — more at DEBATE] *of a falcon* : to beat the wings impatiently

ba·teau \ba-'tō\ *n, pl* **ba·teaux** \-'tō(z)\ [CanF, fr. F, fr. OF *batel*, fr. OE *bāt* boat — more at BOAT] : any of various small craft; *esp* : a flat-bottomed boat with raked bow and stern and flaring sides

Bates·ian mimicry \ˌbāt-sē-ən-\ *n* [Henry Walter *Bates* †1892 E naturalist] : resemblance of an innocuous species to another that is protected from predators by repellent qualities (as unpalatability)

bat·fish \'bat-ˌfish\ *n* : any of several fishes with winglike processes: as **a** : any of several flattened pediculate fishes (as a common West Indian form *Ogcocephalus vespertilio*) **b** : a flying gurnard (*Dactylopterus volitans*) of the Atlantic **c** : a California stingray (*Aetobatus californicus*)

bat·fowl \-ˌfaůl\ *vi* : to catch birds at night by blinding them with a light and knocking them down with a stick or netting them

1bath \'bath, 'bȧth\ *n, pl* **baths** \'baths, 'bȧths, 'bȧthz, 'bȧths\ [ME, fr. OE *bæth;* akin to OHG *bad* bath, OE *bacan* to bake] **1** : a washing or soaking (as in water or steam) of all or part of the body **2 a** : water used for bathing **b** (1) : a contained liquid for a special purpose (2) : a receptacle holding the liquid **c** (1) : a medium for regulating the temperature of something placed in or on it (2) : a vessel containing this medium **3 a** : BATHROOM **b** : a building containing an apartment or a series of rooms designed for bathing **c** : SPA — usu. used in pl. **4** : the quality or state of being covered with a liquid **5** : BATHTUB

2bath *vt, Brit* : to give a bath to ~ *vi, Brit* : to take a bath

3bath *n* [Heb] : an ancient Hebrew liquid measure corresponding to the ephah of dry measure

bath- *or* **batho-** *comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk *bathos*, fr. *bathys* deep — more at BATHY-] : depth ⟨*batho*meter⟩

bath chair \'bath-, 'bȧth-\ *n, often cap B* [*Bath*, England] : a hooded and sometimes glassed wheeled chair used esp. by invalids; *broadly* : WHEELCHAIR

1bathe \'bāth\ *vb* **bathed; bath·ing** [ME *bathen*, fr. OE *bathian;* akin to OE *bæth* bath] *vt* **1** : to wash in a liquid (as water) **2** : MOISTEN, WET **3** : to apply water or a liquid medicament to **4** : to flow along the edge of : LAVE **5** : to suffuse with or as if with light ~ *vi* **1** : to take a bath **2** : to go swimming **3** : to become immersed or absorbed — **bath·er** \'bā-thər\ *n*

2bathe *n* **1** *Brit* : ¹BATH **2** *Brit* : SWIM, DIP

ba·thet·ic \bə-'thet-ik, bā-\ *adj* [*bathos* + *-etic* (as in *pathetic*)] : characterized by bathos — **ba·thet·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

bath·house \'bath-ˌhaůs, 'bȧth-\ *n* **1** : a building equipped for bathing **2** : a building containing dressing rooms for bathers

Bath·i·nette \ˌbath-ə-'net, ˌbȧth-\ *trademark* — used for a portable bathtub for babies

bathing beauty *n* : a woman in a bathing suit who is a contestant in a beauty contest

bathing suit *n* : SWIMSUIT

bath mat *n* : a usu. washable mat used in a bathroom

batho·lith \'bath-ə-ˌlith\ *n* [ISV] : a great mass of intruded igneous rock that for the most part stopped in its rise a considerable distance below the surface — **batho·lith·ic** \ˌbath-ə-'lith-ik\ *adj*

ba·thom·e·ter \bə-'thäm-ət-ər\ *n* : an instrument for measuring depths in water

ba·thos \'bā-ˌthäs\ *n* [Gk, lit., depth] **1 a** : the sudden appearance of the commonplace in otherwise elevated matter or style **b** : ANTICLIMAX, LETDOWN **2** : exceptional commonplaceness : TRITENESS **3** : insincere or overdone pathos : SENTIMENTALISM
syn see PATHOS

bath·robe \'bath-ˌrōb, 'bȧth-\ *n* : a loose usu. absorbent robe worn before and after bathing or as a dressing gown

bath·room \-ˌrüm, -ˌrům\ *n* : a room containing a bathtub or shower and usu. a washbowl and toilet

bath salts *n* : a usu. colored crystalline compound for perfuming and softening bathwater

bath·tub \-ˌtəb\ *n* : a usu. fixed tub for bathing — **bath·tub·ful** \-ˌfůl\ *n*

bathtub gin *n* : a usu. strong liquor often made illicitly under makeshift conditions from spirits flavored with essential oils

bath·wa·ter \'bath-ˌwȯt-ər, 'bȧth-, -ˌwät-ər\ *n* : water for a bath

bathy- *comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk, fr. *bathys* deep; akin to Skt *gāhate* he dives into] **1** : deep : depth ⟨*bathy*al⟩ **2** : deep-sea ⟨*bathy*sphere⟩

bathy·al \'bath-ē-əl\ *adj* : DEEP-SEA

bathy·met·ric \ˌbath-i-'me-trik\ *adj* : of or relating to bathymetry — **bathy·met·ri·cal** \-tri-kəl\ *adj* — **bathy·met·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

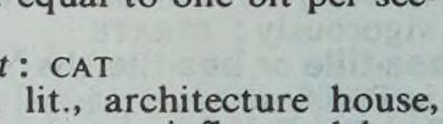
ba·thym·e·try \bə-'thim-ə-trē\ *n, pl* **-tries** [ISV] : the measurement of depths of water in oceans, seas, and lakes

bathy·pe·lag·ic \ˌbath-i-pə-'laj-ik\ *adj* [*bathy-* + *pelagic*] : of, relating to, or living in the ocean depths esp. between 2000 and 12,000 feet

bathy·scaphe \'bath-i-ˌskaf, -ˌskāf\ *also* **bathy·scaph** \-ˌskaf\ *n* [ISV *bathy-* + Gk *skaphē* light boat] : a navigable submersible ship for deep-sea exploration having a spherical watertight cabin attached to its underside

bathy·sphere \-ˌsfi(ə)r\ *n* : a strongly built steel diving sphere for deep-sea observation

ba·tik \bə-'tēk, 'bat-ik\ *n* [Malay] **1 a** : an Indonesian method of hand-printing textiles by coating with wax the parts not to be dyed **b** : a design so executed **2** : a fabric printed by batik
bat·ing \'bāt-iŋ\ *prep* : with the exception of : EXCEPTING
ba·tiste \bə-'tēst, ba-\ *n* [F] : a fine soft sheer fabric of plain weave made of various fibers
bat·man \'bat-mən\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *bastazein* to carry] : an orderly of a British military officer
bat mitz·vah \bät-'mits-və\ *often cap B&M, var of* BAS MITZVAH
ba·ton \bə-'tän, ba-, -'tōⁿ *also* 'bat-ᵊn\ *n* [F *bâton*, fr. OF *baston*, fr. LL *bastum* stick] **1** : CUDGEL, TRUNCHEON **2** : a staff borne as a symbol of office **3** : a narrow heraldic bend **4** : a stick or wand with which a leader directs a band or orchestra **5** : a hollow cylinder carried by each member of a relay team and passed to the succeeding runner **6** : a hollow metal rod with a ball usu. at one end that is carried by a drum major or drum majorette
ba·tra·chi·an \bə-'trā-kē-ən\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *batrachos* frog] : FROG, TOAD, SALIENTIAN; *broadly* : a vertebrate amphibian — **batrachian** *adj*
ba·tracho·tox·in \bə-ˌtrak-ə-'täk-sən, ˌba-trə-kō-\ *n* [ISV *batracho-* (fr. Gk *batrachos* frog) + *toxin*] : a very powerful steroid venom ($C_{31}H_{42}N_2O_6$) extracted from the skin of a So. American frog (*Phyllobates aurotaenia*)
bats·man \'bat-smən\ *n* : a batter esp. in cricket
batt *var of* BAT
bat·tai·lous \'bat-ᵊl-əs\ *adj* [ME *bataillous*, fr. MF *bataillos*, fr. *bataille* battle] *archaic* : ready for battle : WARLIKE
bat·ta·lia \bə-'tāl-yə, -'tal-\ *n* [It *battaglia*] **1** *obs* : a large body of men in battle array **2** *archaic* : order of battle
bat·tal·ion \bə-'tal-yən\ *n* [MF *bataillon*, fr. OIt *battaglione*, aug. of *battaglia* company of soldiers, battle, fr. LL *battalia* combat — more at BATTLE] **1** : a considerable body of troops organized to act together : ARMY **2** : a military unit composed of a headquarters and two or more companies, batteries, or similar units **3** : a large group ⟨a ~ of instructors teaching elementary composition —Douglas Bush⟩
batteau *var of* BATEAU
bat·te·ment \ˌbat-(ə-)'mäⁿ\ *n* [F, fr. *battre* to beat (fr. L *battuere*) + *-ment* — more at BATTLE] : a ballet movement in which the foot is extended in any direction usu. followed by a beat against the supporting foot
¹bat·ten \'bat-ᵊn\ *vb* **bat·tened; bat·ten·ing** \'bat-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ [prob. fr. ON *batna* to improve] *vi* **1 a** : to grow fat **b** : to feed gluttonously **2** : to grow prosperous esp. at the expense of another ~ *vt* : FATTEN
²batten *n* [F *bâton*] **1 a** *Brit* : a piece of lumber used esp. for flooring **b** : a thin narrow strip of lumber used esp. to seal or reinforce a joint **2** : a strip, bar, or support resembling or used similarly to a batten
³batten *vt* **bat·tened; bat·ten·ing** \'bat-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ : to furnish or fasten with battens — often used with *down*
¹bat·ter \'bat-ər\ *vb* [ME *bateren*, prob. freq. of *batten* to bat, fr. *bat*] *vt* **1 a** : to beat with successive blows so as to bruise, shatter, or demolish **b** : BOMBARD **2** : to subject to strong, overwhelming, or repeated attack **3** : to wear or damage by hard usage or blows ⟨a ~*ed* old hat⟩ ~ *vi* : to strike heavily and repeatedly : BEAT ***syn*** see MAIM
²batter *n* [ME *bater*, prob. fr. *bateren*] **1** : a mixture that consists of flour, liquid, and other ingredients and is thin enough to pour or drop from a spoon **2** : an instance of battering **3** : a damaged area on a printing surface
³batter *vt* [origin unknown] : to give a receding upward slope to (as a wall)
⁴batter *n* : a receding upward slope of the outer face of a structure
⁵batter *n* : one that bats; *esp* : the player whose turn it is to bat
bat·te·rie \ˌbat-ə-'rē\ *n* [F, lit., beating — more at BATTERY] : a ballet movement consisting of beating together the feet or calves of the legs during a leap
battering ram *n* **1** : a military siege engine consisting of a large wooden beam with a head of iron used in ancient times to beat down the walls of a besieged place **2** : a heavy metal bar with handles used (as by firemen) to batter down doors and walls
bat·tery \'bat-ə-rē, 'ba-trē\ *n, pl* **-ter·ies** [MF *batterie*, fr. OF, fr. *battre* to beat, fr. L *battuere* — more at BATTLE] **1 a** : the act of battering or beating **b** : the unlawful beating or use of force on a person without his consent — compare ASSAULT 2a **2 a** : a grouping of artillery pieces for tactical purposes **b** : the guns of a warship **3** : an artillery unit in the army equivalent to a company **4 a** : a combination of apparatus for producing a single electrical effect **b** : a group of two or more cells connected together to furnish electric current; *also* : a single cell that furnishes electric current ⟨a flashlight ~⟩ **5 a** : a number of similar articles, items, or devices arranged, connected, or used together : SET, SERIES **b** : an impressive or imposing group : ARRAY **6** : the position of readiness of a gun for firing **7** : the pitcher and catcher of a baseball team
bat·ting \'bat-iŋ\ *n* **1 a** : the act of one who bats **b** : the use of or ability with a bat **2** : layers or sheets of raw cotton or wool used for lining quilts or for stuffing or packaging
batting average *n* **1** : a ratio (as a rate per thousand) of base hits to official times at bat for a baseball player **2** : a record of achievement or accomplishment ⟨an almost unbelievably high *batting average* in gaining and holding the friendship of the home folk —G. S. Perry⟩
¹bat·tle \'bat-ᵊl\ *n, often attrib* [ME *batel*, fr. OF *bataille* battle, fortifying tower, battalion, fr. LL *battalia* combat, alter. of *battualia* fencing exercises, fr. L *battuere* to beat, of Celt origin; akin to Gaulish anda*bata*, a gladiator; akin to L *fatuus* foolish, Russ *bat* cudgel] **1** : a general encounter between armies, ships of war, or airplanes **2** : a combat between two persons **3** *archaic* : BATTALION **4** : an extended contest, struggle, or controversy
syn BATTLE, ENGAGEMENT, ACTION *shared meaning element* : a meeting between opposing forces
²battle *vb* **bat·tled; bat·tling** \'bat-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ *vi* **1** : to engage in battle : FIGHT **2** : to contend with full strength, vigor, craft, or resources : STRUGGLE ~ *vt* **1** : to fight against **2** : to force (as one's way) by battling — **bat·tler** \-lər, -ᵊl-ər\ *n*
³battle *vt* **bat·tled; bat·tling** [ME *batailen*, fr. MF *bataillier* to fortify, fr. OF, fr. *bataille*] *archaic* : to fortify with battlements
bat·tle–ax \'bat-ᵊl-ˌaks\ *n* **1** : a broadax formerly used as a weapon of war **2** : a quarrelsome domineering woman
battle cruiser *n* : a large heavily armed warship that is lighter, faster, and more maneuverable than a battleship
battle cry *n* : WAR CRY
battle fatigue *n* : COMBAT FATIGUE — **bat·tle–fa·tigued** *adj*
bat·tle·field \'bat-ᵊl-ˌfēld\ *n* **1** : a place where a battle is fought **2** : an area of conflict
bat·tle·front \-ˌfrənt\ *n* : the military sector in which actual combat takes place
bat·tle·ground \-ˌgraůnd\ *n* : BATTLEFIELD
battle group *n* : a military unit normally made up of five companies
bat·tle·ment \'bat-ᵊl-mənt\ *n* [ME *batelment*, fr. MF *bataille*] : a parapet with open spaces that surmounts a wall and is used for defense or decoration — **bat·tle·ment·ed** \-ˌment-əd\ *adj*



battlements: *1* crenels, *2* merlons, *3* machicolations

battle royal *n, pl* **battles royal** *or* **battle royals** **1 a** : a fight participated in by more than two combatants; *esp* : one in which the last man in the ring or on his feet is declared the winner **b** : a violent struggle **2** : a heated dispute
bat·tle·ship \'bat-ᵊl-ˌship\ *n* [short for *line-of-battle ship*] : a warship of the largest and most heavily armed and armored class
bat·tle·wag·on \-ˌwag-ən\ *n* : BATTLESHIP
bat·tu \ba-'t(y)ü\ *adj* [F, fr. pp. of *battre* to beat] *of a ballet movement* : performed with a striking together of the legs
bat·tue \ba-'t(y)ü\ *n* [F, fr. *battre* to beat] : the beating of woods and bushes to flush game; *also* : a hunt in which this procedure is used
bat·ty \'bat-ē\ *adj* **bat·ti·er; -est** **1** : of, relating to, or resembling a bat **2** : mentally unstable : CRAZY — **bat·ti·ness** *n*
bau·ble \'bȯ-bəl, 'bäb-əl\ *n* [ME *babel*, fr. MF] **1** : TRINKET **2** : a fool's scepter **3** : TRIFLE
Bau·cis \'bȯ-səs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Baukis*] : the wife of Philemon who with him presided over a temple of Zeus
baud \'bȯd, 'bōd\ *n, pl* **baud** *also* **bauds** [*baud* (telegraphic transmission speed unit), fr. J. M. E. *Baudot* †1903 F inventor] : a variable unit of data transmission speed usu. equal to one bit per second
bau·drons \'bȯd-rənz, 'bȯth-\ *n* [ME] *Scot* : CAT
Bau·haus \'baů-ˌhaůs\ *adj* [G *Bauhaus*, lit., architecture house, school founded by Gropius] : of, relating to, or influenced by a school of design noted esp. for a program that synthesized technology, craftsmanship, and design aesthetics
baulk *chiefly Brit var of* BALK
Bau·mé \bō-'mā\ *adj* [Antoine *Baumé*] : being, calibrated in accordance with, or according to either of two arbitrary hydrometer scales for liquids lighter than water or for liquids heavier than water that indicate specific gravity in degrees
baux·ite \'bȯk-ˌsīt, 'bäk-\ *n* [F *bauxite*, fr. Les *Baux*, near Arles, France] : an impure mixture of earthy hydrous aluminum oxides and hydroxides that commonly contains similar compounds of iron and occas. of manganese, usu. has a concretionary or oolitic structure, and is the principal source of aluminum — **baux·it·ic** \bȯk-'sit-ik, bäk-\ *adj*
Bav *abbr* Bavaria; Bavarian
Ba·var·i·an \bə-'ver-ē-ən, -'var-\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Bavaria **2** : the High German dialect of Bavaria and Austria — **Bavarian** *adj*
baw·bee *or* **bau·bee** \'bȯ-(ˌ)bē, bȯ-'\ *n* [prob. fr. Alexander Orrok, laird of Sille*bawbe fl* 1538 Sc master of the mint] **1 a** : any of various Scottish coins of small value **b** : an English halfpenny **2** : TRIFLE
baw·cock \'bȯ-ˌkäk\ *n* [F *beau coq*, fr. *beau* fine + *coq* fellow, cock] *archaic* : a fine fellow
bawd \'bȯd\ *n* [ME *bawde*] **1** *obs* : PANDER **2 a** : one who keeps a house of prostitution : MADAM **b** : PROSTITUTE
bawd·ry \'bȯ-drē\ *n* [ME *bawderie*, fr. *bawde*] **1** *obs* : UNCHASTITY **2** : suggestive, coarse, or obscene language
¹bawdy \'bȯd-ē\ *adj* **bawd·i·er; -est** [*bawd*] **1** : OBSCENE, LEWD **2** : boisterously or humorously indecent — **bawd·i·ly** \'bȯd-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **bawd·i·ness** \'bȯd-ē-nəs\ *n*
²bawdy *n* [prob. fr. ¹*bawdy*] : BAWDRY 2
¹bawl \'bȯl\ *vb* [ME *baulen*, prob. of Scand origin; akin to Icel *baula* to low] *vi* **1** : to cry out loudly and unrestrainedly : YELL, BELLOW **2** : to cry loudly : WAIL ~ *vt* : to cry out at the top of one's voice — **bawl·er** *n*
²bawl *n* : a loud prolonged cry : OUTCRY
bawl out *vt* : to reprimand loudly or severely
¹bay \'bā\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *bai*, fr. L *badius;* akin to OIr *buide* yellow] : reddish brown ⟨a ~ mare⟩
²bay *n* **1** : a bay-colored animal; *specif* : a horse with a bay-colored body and black mane, tail, and points — compare ¹CHESTNUT 4, ¹SORREL 1a **2** : a reddish brown
³bay *n* [ME, berry, fr. MF *baie*, fr. L *baca*] **1 a** : LAUREL 1 **b** : any of several shrubs or trees (as of the genera *Magnolia, Myrica,* and *Gordonia*) resembling the laurel **2 a** : a garland or crown esp. of laurel given as a prize for victory or excellence **b** : HONOR, FAME — usu. used in pl.
⁴bay *n* [ME, fr. MF *baee* opening, fr. OF, fr. fem. of *baé*, pp. of *baer* to gape, yawn — more at ABEYANCE] **1** : a principal compartment of the walls, roof, or other part of a building or of the whole building **2** : a main division of a structure: as **a** : a compartment in a

barn **b** : BAY WINDOW **c** : the forward part of a ship on each side between decks often used as a ship's hospital **d** (1) : a longitudinal part of an elongated aircraft structure lying between two adjacent transverse members or walls (2) : any of several compartments in the fuselage of an airplane **e** : a compartment (as in a service station) for a car **3** : a vertical support on which various pieces of electronic apparatus are mounted

[5]bay *vb* [ME *baien, abaien,* fr. OF *abaiier,* of imit. origin] *vi* **1** : to bark with prolonged tones **2** : to cry out : SHOUT ~ *vt* **1** : to bark at **2** : to bring to bay **3** : to pursue with barking **4** : to utter in deep prolonged tones

[6]bay *n* **1** : the position of one unable to retreat and forced to face danger ⟨brought his quarry to ~⟩ **2** : the position of one checked ⟨police kept the rioters at ~⟩ **3** : a baying of dogs

[7]bay *n, often attrib* [ME *baye,* fr. MF *baie*] **1** : an inlet of the sea or other body of water usu. smaller than a gulf **2** : a small body of water set off from the main body **3** : any of various terrestrial formations resembling a bay of the sea

ba·ya·dere \ˈbī-ə-ˌdi(ə)r, -ˌde(ə)r\ *n* [F *bayadère* Hindu dancing girl] : a fabric with horizontal stripes in strongly contrasted colors

bay antler \ˈbā-\ *n* [earlier *bes antler,* fr. ME *bes-* secondary (fr. MF, fr. L *bis-* twice) + E *antler*] : the second tine from the base of a stag's antler — see ANTLER illustration

bay·ber·ry \ˈbā-ˌber-ē\ *n* **1** : a West Indian tree (*Pimenta racemosa*) of the myrtle family yielding a yellow aromatic oil **2 a** : a hardy shrub (*Myrica pensylvanica*) of coastal eastern No. America bearing dense clusters of small globular nuts covered with grayish white wax; *also* : WAX MYRTLE **b** : the fruit of a bayberry

Bayes·ian \ˈbā-zē-ən, -zhən\ *adj* [Thomas *Bayes* †1761 E mathematician] : being or relating to a theory (as of decision or statistical inference) in which probabilities are associated with individual events or statements and not merely with sequences of events (as in frequency theories)

bay leaf *n* : the dried leaf of the European laurel used in cooking

[1]bay·o·net \ˈbā-ə-nət, -ˌnet, ˌbā-ə-ˈnet\ *n* [F *baïonnette,* fr. *Bayonne,* France] : a steel blade attached at the muzzle end of a shoulder arm and used in hand-to-hand combat

[2]bayonet *vb* **-net·ed** *also* **-net·ted; -net·ing** *also* **net·ting** *vt* **1** : to stab with a bayonet **2** : to compel or drive by or as if by the bayonet ~ *vi* : to use a bayonet

bay·ou \ˈbī-(ˌ)(y)ō, -(ˌ)(y)ü, -(y)ə\ *n* [LaF, fr. Choctaw *bayuk*] **1** : a creek, secondary watercourse, or minor river that is tributary to another body of water **2** : any of various usu. marshy or sluggish bodies of water

bay rum *n* : a fragrant cosmetic and medicinal liquid distilled from the leaves of the West Indian bayberry or usu. prepared from essential oils, alcohol, and water

Bay Stat·er \ˈbā-ˌstāt-ər\ *n* : a native or resident of Massachusetts — used as a nickname

bay window *n* **1** : a window or series of windows forming a bay or recess in a room and projecting outward from the wall **2** : POTBELLY

ba·zaar \bə-ˈzär\ *n* [Per *bāzār*] **1** : an Oriental market consisting of rows of shops or stalls selling miscellaneous goods **2 a** : a place for the sale of goods **b** : DEPARTMENT STORE **3** : a fair for the sale of articles esp. for charitable purposes

ba·zoo·ka \bə-ˈzü-kə\ *n* [*bazooka* (a crude musical instrument made of pipes and a funnel)] : a light portable shoulder weapon consisting of an open-breech smoothbore firing tube that launches armor-piercing rockets

[1]BB \ˈbē-(ˌ)bē\ *n* **1** : a shot pellet 0.18 inch in diameter for use in a shotgun cartridge **2** : a shot pellet 0.175 inch in diameter for use in a gun that propels shot by compressed air produced by a plunger operated by a spring

[2]BB *abbr* **1** bachelor of business **2** ball bearing **3** base on balls **4** blue book **5** B'nai B'rith

BBA *abbr* bachelor of business administration

B battery *n* : an electric battery connected in the plate circuit of an electron tube to cause flow of electron current in the tube

BBB *abbr* Better Business Bureau

BBC *abbr* British Broadcasting Corporation

BBE *abbr* bachelor of business education

bbl *abbr* barrel; barrels

BC *abbr* **1** bachelor of commerce **2** before Christ — often printed in small capitals **3** British Columbia

BCD *abbr* binary-coded decimal

BCE *abbr* **1** bachelor of chemical engineering **2** bachelor of civil engineering

BCG vaccine \ˌbē-(ˌ)sē-ˈjē-\ *n* [*b*acillus, *C*almette-*G*uérin (an attenuated strain of tubercle bacilli), fr. Albert *Calmette* †1933 and Camille *Guérin* †1961 F bacteriologists] : a vaccine prepared from a living attenuated strain of tubercle bacilli and used to vaccinate human beings against tuberculosis

BCh *abbr* bachelor of chemistry

BChE *abbr* bachelor of chemical engineering

BCL *abbr* **1** bachelor of canon law **2** bachelor of civil law

bcn *abbr* beacon

B complex *n* : VITAMIN B COMPLEX

BCS *abbr* **1** bachelor of chemical science **2** bachelor of commercial science

BCSE *abbr* Board of Civil Service Examiners

BC soil \ˈbē-ˈsē-\ *n* : a soil whose profile has only B-horizons and C-horizons

bd *abbr* **1** board **2** bound **3** boundary **4** bundle

BD *abbr* **1** bachelor of divinity **2** bank draft **3** barrels per day **4** bills discounted **5** bomb disposal **6** brought down

BDA *abbr* **1** bachelor of domestic arts **2** bachelor of dramatic art

bdel·li·um \ˈdel-ē-əm\ *n* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk *bdellion*] : a gum resin similar to myrrh obtained from various trees (genus *Commiphora*) of the East Indies and Africa

bdel·lo·vi·brio \ˌdel-ō-ˈvib-rē-ˌō\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *bdella* leech + NL *vibrio*] : a bacterium (genus *Bdellovibrio*) that is parasitic on other bacteria

bd ft *abbr* board foot

bdl *or* **bdle** *abbr* bundle

bdrm *abbr* bedroom

be \(ˈ)bē\ *vb, past 1st & 3d sing* **was** \(ˈ)wəz, ˈwäz\; *2d sing* **were** \(ˈ)wər\; *pl* **were;** *past subjunctive* **were;** *past part* **been** \(ˈ)bin, *chiefly Brit* (ˈ)bēn\; *pres part* **be·ing** \ˈbē-iŋ\; *pres 1st sing* **am** \əm, (ˈ)am\; *2d sing* **are** \ər, (ˈ)är\; *3d sing* **is** \(ˈ)iz, əz\; *pl* **are;** *p res subjunctive* **be** [ME *been,* fr. OE *bēon;* akin to OHG *bim* am, L *fui* I have been, *futurus* about to be, *fieri* to become, be done, Gk *phynai* to be born, be by nature, *phyein* to bring forth] *vi* **1 a** : to equal in meaning : have the same connotation as : SYMBOLIZE ⟨God *is* love⟩ ⟨January *is* the first month⟩ ⟨let $x \sim 10$⟩ **b** : to have identity with ⟨the first person I met *was* my brother⟩ **c** : to constitute the same class as **d** : to have a specified qualification or characterization ⟨the leaves *are* green⟩ **e** : to belong to the class of ⟨the fish *is* a trout⟩ — used regularly in senses 1a through 1e as the copula of simple predication **2 a** : to have an objective existence : have reality or actuality : LIVE ⟨ I think, therefore I *am*⟩ ⟨once upon a time there *was* a knight⟩ **b** : to have, maintain, or occupy a place, situation, or position ⟨the book *is* on the table⟩ **c** : to remain unmolested, undisturbed, or uninterrupted — used only in infinitive form ⟨let him ~⟩ **d** : to take place : OCCUR ⟨the concert *was* last night⟩ **e** *archaic* : BELONG, BEFALL ~ *verbal auxiliary* **1** — used with the past participle of transitive verbs as a passive-voice auxiliary ⟨the money *was* found⟩ ⟨the house is *being* built⟩ **2** — used as the auxiliary of the present participle in progressive tenses expressing continuous action ⟨he *is* reading⟩ ⟨I have *been* sleeping⟩ **3** — used with the past participle of some intransitive verbs as an auxiliary forming archaic perfect tenses ⟨Christ *is* risen from the dead — 1 Cor 15:20 (DV)⟩ **4** — used with the infinitive with *to* to express futurity, arrangement in advance, or obligation ⟨ I *am* to interview him today⟩ ⟨he *was* to become famous⟩

Be *symbol* beryllium

BE *abbr* **1** bachelor of education **2** bachelor of engineering **3** bill of exchange

be- *prefix* [ME, fr. OE *bi-, be-;* akin to OE *bī* by, near — more at BY] **1** : on : around : over ⟨*be*daub⟩ ⟨*be*smear⟩ **2** : to a great or greater degree : thoroughly ⟨*be*fuddle⟩ ⟨*be*rate⟩ **3** : excessively : ostentatiously — in intensive verbs formed from simple verbs ⟨*be*deck⟩ and in adjectives based on adjectives ending in *-ed* ⟨*be*ribboned⟩ **4** : about : to : at : upon : against : across ⟨*be*stride⟩ ⟨*be*speak⟩ **5** : make : cause to be : treat as ⟨*be*little⟩ ⟨*be*fool⟩ ⟨*be*friend⟩ **6** : call or dub esp. excessively ⟨*be*doctor⟩ **7** : affect, afflict, treat, provide, or cover with esp. excessively ⟨*be*devil⟩ ⟨*be*fog⟩

Bé *abbr* Baumé

[1]beach \ˈbēch\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : shore pebbles : SHINGLE **2 a** : a shore of an ocean, sea, or lake or the bank of a river covered by sand, gravel, or larger rock fragments **b** : a seashore area

[2]beach *vt* **1** : to run or drive ashore **2** : to make (a person) incapable or ineffective : DISABLE

beach ball *n* : a large inflated ball for use at the beach

beachboy *n* : a male beach attendant (as at a club or hotel)

beach break *n* : a wave that breaks close to the shore

beach buggy *n* : a motor vehicle with oversize tires for use on sand beaches

beach·comber \ˈbēch-ˌkō-mər\ *n* **1** : a white man living as a drifter or loafer esp. on the islands of the So. Pacific **2** : one who searches along a shore for useful or salable flotsam and refuse — **beach·comb** \-ˌkōm\ *vb*

beach flea *n* : any of numerous amphipod crustaceans (family Orchestiidae) living on ocean beaches and leaping like fleas

beach·front \ˈbēch-ˌfrənt\ *n* : a strip of land that fronts a beach — called also *shorefront*

beach grass *n* : any of several tough strongly rooted grasses that grow on exposed sandy shores; *esp* : a rhizomatous perennial (genus *Ammophila*) widely planted to bind sandy slopes

beach·head \ˈbēch-ˌhed\ *n* **1** : an area on a hostile shore occupied to secure further landing of troops and supplies **2** : FOOTHOLD

beach pea *n* : a wild pea (*Lathyrus maritimus*) with tough roots and purple flowers found along sandy seashores

beach plum *n* : a shrubby plum (*Prunus maritima*) having showy white flowers and growing along the northeastern coast of North America; *also* : its dark purple edible fruit that is often used in jams and jellies

beach·side \ˈbēch-ˌsīd\ *adj* : located on a beach

beach wagon *n* : STATION WAGON

beach·wear \ˈbēch-ˌwa(ə)r, -ˌwe(ə)r\ *n* : clothing for wear at a beach

beachy \ˈbē-chē\ *adj* : covered with pebbles or shingle

[1]bea·con \ˈbē-kən\ *n* [ME *beken,* fr. OE *bēacen* sign; akin to OHG *bouhhan* sign] **1** : a signal fire commonly on a hill, tower, or pole **2 a** : a lighthouse or other signal for guidance **b** : a radio transmitter emitting signals for guidance of aircraft **3** : a source of light or inspiration

[2]beacon *vt* : to furnish with a beacon ~ *vi* : to shine as a beacon

[1]bead \ˈbēd\ *n* [ME *bede* prayer, prayer bead, fr. OE *bed, gebed* prayer; akin to OE *biddan* to entreat, pray — more at BID] **1 a** *obs* : PRAYER — usu. used in pl. **b** *pl* : a series of prayers and meditations made with a rosary **2** : a small piece of material pierced for threading on a string or wire (as in a rosary) **3** *pl* **a** : ROSARY **b** : a necklace of beads or pearls **4** : a small ball-shaped body: as **a** : a drop of sweat or blood **b** : a bubble formed in or on a beverage **c** : a small metal knob on a firearm used as a front sight **d** : a blob or a line of weld metal **e** : a glassy drop of flux (as borax) used as a solvent and color test for

several metallic oxides and salts **5** : a projecting rim, band, or molding

²bead *vt* **1** : to furnish, adorn or cover with beads or beading **2** : to string together like beads ~ *vi* : to form into a bead

bead·ing *n* **1** : material or a part or a piece consisting of a bead **2** : a beaded molding **3** : an openwork trimming **4** : BEADWORK

bea·dle \'bēd-ᵊl\ *n* [ME *bedel*, fr. OE *bydel;* akin to OHG *butil* bailiff, OE *bēodan* to command — more at BID] : a minor parish official whose duties include ushering and preserving order at services and sometimes civil functions

bead·roll \'bē-ˌdrōl\ *n* [fr. the reading in church of a list of names of persons for whom prayers are to be said] **1** : a list of names : CATALOG **2** : ROSARY

beads·man \'bēdz-mən\ *n, archaic* : one who prays for another

bead·work \'bē-ˌdwərk\ *n* **1** : ornamental work in beads **2** : joinery beading

beady \'bēd-ē\ *adj* **1 a** : resembling beads **b** : small, round, and shiny with interest or greed ⟨~ eyes⟩ **2** : marked by bubbles or beads ⟨a ~ liquor⟩

bea·gle \'bē-gəl\ *n* [ME *begle*] : a small short-legged smooth-coated hound

beak \'bēk\ *n* [ME *bec*, fr. OF, fr. L *beccus*, of Gaulish origin] **1 a** : the bill of a bird; *esp* : the bill of a bird of prey adapted for striking and tearing **b** (1) : any of various rigid projecting mouth structures (as of a turtle) (2) : the elongated sucking mouth of some insects (as the typical bugs) **c** : the human nose **2** : a pointed structure or formation: **a** : a metal-pointed beam projecting from the bow of an ancient galley for piercing an enemy ship **b** : the spout of a vessel **c** : a continuous slight architectural projection ending in an arris — see MOLDING illustration **d** : a process suggesting the beak of a bird **3** *chiefly Brit* **a** : MAGISTRATE **b** : HEADMASTER — **beaked** \'bēkt\ *adj*

bea·ker \'bē-kər\ *n* [ME *biker*, fr. ON *bikarr*, prob. fr. OS *bikeri;* akin to OHG *behhari* beaker; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. ML *bicarius* beaker, fr. Gk *bikos* earthen jug] **1** : a large drinking cup that has a wide mouth and is sometimes supported on a standard **2** : a deep widemouthed and often projecting-lipped thin vessel used esp. by chemists and pharmacists

be–all and end–all \'bē-ˌȯ-lən-'(d)en-ˌdȯl\ *n* : prime cause : essential element

¹beam \'bēm\ *n* [ME *beem*, fr. OE *bēam* tree, beam; akin to OHG *boum* tree] **1 a** : a long piece of heavy often squared timber suitable for use in construction **b** : a wood or metal cylinder in a loom on which the warp is wound **c** : the part of a plow to which handles, standard, and colter are attached **d** : the bar of a balance from which scales hang **e** : one of the principal horizontal supporting members of a building or ship ⟨a steel ~ supporting a floor⟩; *also* : BOOM, SPAR ⟨the ~ of a crane⟩ **f** : the extreme width of a ship at the widest part **g** : an oscillating lever on a central axis receiving motion at one end from an engine piston rod and transmitting it at the other **2 a** : a ray or shaft of light **b** : a collection of nearly parallel rays (as X rays) or particles (as electrons) **c** : a constant directional radio signal transmitted for the guidance of pilots; *also* : the course indicated by a radio beam **3** : the main stem of a deer's antler **4** : the width of the buttocks — **on the beam** **1** : following a guiding beam **2** : proceeding or operating correctly

²beam *vt* **1** : to emit in beams or as a beam **2** : to support with beams **3 a** : to aim (a broadcast) by directional antennas **b** : to direct to a particular audience ~ *vi* **1** : to send out beams of light **2** : to smile with joy

beam–ends \'bē-'men(d)z\ *n pl* : the ends of a ship's beams — **on her beam–ends** : inclined so much on one side that the beams approach a vertical position

beam·ish \'bē-mish\ *adj* : beaming and bright with optimism, promise, or achievement — **beam·ish·ly** *adv*

beamy \'bē-mē\ *adj* **1** : emitting beams of light : RADIANT **2** : broad in the beam ⟨a ~ cargo ship⟩

¹bean \'bēn\ *n* [ME *bene*, fr. OE *bēan;* akin to OHG *bōna* bean] **1 a** : BROAD BEAN **b** : the seed of any of various erect or climbing leguminous plants (esp. genera *Phaseolus, Dolichos,* and *Vigna*) other than the broad bean **c** : a plant bearing beans **d** : a bean pod used when immature as a vegetable **2 a** : a valueless item **b** *pl* : a small amount ⟨didn't know ~*s* about it⟩ **3** : any of various seeds or fruits that resemble beans or bean pods ⟨catalpa ~⟩; *also* : a plant producing these **4** : a protuberance on the upper mandible of waterfowl **5** : HEAD, BRAIN **6** *pl* : EXUBERANCE — used in the phrase *full of beans*

²bean *vt* : to strike (a person) on the head with an object

bean·ball \'bēn-ˌbȯl\ *n* : a pitched baseball thrown at a batter's head

bean curd *n* : a soft vegetable cheese that is extensively eaten in the Orient and is prepared by treating soybean milk with coagulants (as magnesium chloride or dilute acids)

bean·ie \'bē-nē\ *n* : a small round tight-fitting skullcap worn esp. by schoolboys and college freshmen

beano \'bē-(ˌ)nō\ *n, pl* **beanos** [by alter.] : BINGO

bean sprouts *n pl* : the sprouts of bean seeds esp. of the mung bean

bean tree *n* : any of several trees having fruits resembling a bean pod: as **a** : a yellow-flowered Australian leguminous tree (*Castanospermum australe*) with large pods containing seeds like chestnuts **b** : CATALPA

¹bear \'ba(ə)r, 'be(ə)r\ *n, pl* **bears** *often attrib* [ME *bere*, fr. OE *bera;* akin to OE *brūn* brown] **1** *or pl* **bear** : any of a family (Ursidae of the order Carnivora) of large heavy mammals having long shaggy hair, rudimentary tail, and plantigrade feet and feeding largely on fruit and insects as well as on flesh **2** : a surly, uncouth, or shambling person **3** [prob. fr. the proverb about *selling the bearskin before catching the bear*] : one that sells securities or commodities in expectation of a price decline — compare BULL

²bear *vb* **bore** \'bō(ə)r, 'bȯ(ə)r\; **borne** \'bō(ə)rn, 'bȯ(ə)rn\ *also* **born** \'bȯ(ə)rn\; **bear·ing** [ME *beren*, fr. OE *beran;* akin to OHG *beran* to carry, L *ferre*, Gk *pherein*] *vt* **1 a** : to move while holding up and supporting **b** : to be equipped or furnished with **c** : to hold in the mind **d** : DISSEMINATE **e** : BEHAVE, CONDUCT ⟨~*ing* himself well⟩ **f** : to have as a feature or characteristic **g** : to give as testimony ⟨~ false witness⟩ **h** : to have as an identification ⟨*bore* the name of John⟩ **i** : LEAD, ESCORT **j** : RENDER, GIVE **2 a** : to give birth to **b** : to produce as yield **c** (1) : to permit growth of (2) : CONTAIN ⟨oil-*bearing* shale⟩ **3 a** : to support the weight of : SUSTAIN **b** : to put up with esp. without giving way ⟨couldn't ~ his wife's family⟩ **c** : ASSUME, ACCEPT **d** : to hold above, on top, or aloft **e** : to admit of : ALLOW **f** : to call for as suitable or essential ⟨his odd behavior ~*s* watching⟩ **4** : THRUST, PRESS ~ *vi* **1 a** : to force one's way **b** : to be situated : LIE **c** : to extend in a direction indicated or implied **d** : to become directed **e** : to go or incline in an indicated direction ⟨road ~*s* to the right⟩ **2 a** : APPLY, PERTAIN **b** : to exert influence or force **3** : to support a weight or strain — often used with *up* **4** : to produce fruit : YIELD

syn **1** see CARRY

2 BEAR, SUFFER, ENDURE, ABIDE, TOLERATE, STAND, BROOK *shared meaning element* : to put up with something trying or painful

— **bear a hand** : to join in and help out — **bear fruit** : to come to satisfying fruition, production, or development — **bear in mind** : to think of esp. as a warning : REMEMBER

bear·able \'bar-ə-bəl, 'ber-\ *adj* : capable of being borne — **bear·abil·i·ty** \ˌbar-ə-'bil-ət-ē, ˌber-\ *n* — **bear·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

bear·bait·ing \'ba(ə)r-ˌbāt-iŋ, 'be(ə)r-\ *n* : the practice of setting dogs on a chained bear

bear·ber·ry \-ˌber-ē\ *n* **1** : a trailing evergreen plant (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) of the heath family with astringent foliage and red berries **2** : the large cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) **3** : CASCARA BUCKTHORN

¹beard \'bi(ə)rd\ *n* [ME *berd*, fr. OE *beard;* akin to OHG *bart* beard, L *barba*] **1** : the hair that grows on a man's face often excluding the mustache **2** : a hairy or bristly appendage or tuft **3** : BEVEL 3; *also* : the bevel plus the shoulder — **beard·ed** \-əd\ *adj* — **beard·ed·ness** *n* — **beard·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

²beard *vt* **1** : to furnish with a beard **2** : to confront and oppose with boldness, resolution, and often effrontery : DEFY

bear down *vt* : OVERCOME, OVERWHELM ~ *vi* : to exert full strength and concentrated attention — **bear down on** **1** : EMPHASIZE **2** : to weigh heavily on : BURDEN

beard·tongue \'bi(ə)rd-ˌtəŋ\ *n* : PENTSTEMON

bear·er \'bar-ər, 'ber-\ *n* : one that bears: as **a** : PORTER **b** : a plant yielding fruit **c** : PALLBEARER **d** : one holding a check, draft, or other order for payment esp. if marked payable to bearer

bear grass *n* : any of several plants (genera *Yucca, Nolina,* or *Xerophyllum*) of the lily family chiefly of the southern and western U.S. with foliage resembling coarse blades of grass

bear hug *n* : a rough tight embrace

bear·ing *n* **1** : the manner in which one bears or comports oneself ⟨a man of erect and soldierly ~⟩ **2 a** : the act, power, or time of bringing forth offspring or fruit **b** : a product of bearing : CROP **3** : PRESSURE, THRUST **4 a** : an object, surface, or point that supports **b** : a machine part in which another part (as a journal or pin) turns or slides **5** : a figure borne on a heraldic field **6 a** : the situation or horizontal direction of one point with respect to another or to the compass **b** : a determination of position **c** *pl* : comprehension of one's position, environment, or situation **d** : RELATION, CONNECTION; *also* : PURPORT **7** : the part of a structural member that rests upon its supports

syn BEARING, DEPORTMENT, DEMEANOR, MIEN, MANNER, CARRIAGE *shared meaning element* : the way in which a person outwardly manifests his personality or attitude

bearing rein *n* : CHECKREIN 1

bear·ish \'ba(ə)r-ish, 'be(ə)r-\ *adj* **1** : resembling a bear in roughness, gruffness, or surliness **2 a** : marked by, tending to cause, or fearful of falling prices (as in a stock market) **b** : PESSIMISTIC — **bear·ish·ly** *adv* — **bear·ish·ness** *n*

bé·ar·naise sauce \ˌbā-är-ˌnāz-, -ər-\ *n* [F *béarnaise*, fem. of *béarnais* of Béarn, France] : hollandaise sauce flavored with wine, shallots, and herbs

bear out *vt* : CONFIRM, SUBSTANTIATE ⟨research *bore out* his theory⟩

bear·skin \'ba(ə)r-ˌskin, 'be(ə)r-\ *n* : an article made of the skin of a bear; *esp* : a military hat made of the skin of a bear

bear up *vt* : SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE ~ *vi* : to summon up courage, resolution, or strength ⟨*bearing up* under the strain⟩

beast \'bēst\ *n* [ME *beste*, fr. OF, fr. L *bestia*] **1 a** : an animal as distinguished from a plant **b** : a lower animal as distinguished from man **c** : a four-footed mammal as distinguished from man, lower vertebrates, and invertebrates **d** : an animal under human control **2** : a contemptible person

beast epic *n* : a poem with epic conventions in which animals speak and act like human beings

beast fable *n* : a usu. didactic prose or verse fable in which animals speak and act like human beings

beas·tings \'bē-stiŋz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [ME *bestynge*, fr. OE *bȳsting*, fr. *bēost* beastings] : the colostrum esp. of a cow

¹beast·ly \'bēst-lē\ *adj* **beast·li·er; -est** **1** : of, relating to, or resembling a beast : BESTIAL **2** : ABOMINABLE, DISAGREEABLE ⟨~ weather⟩ — **beast·li·ness** *n*

²beastly *adv* : VERY ⟨a ~ cold day⟩

beast of burden : an animal employed to carry heavy material or to perform other heavy work (as pulling a plow)

¹beat \'bēt\ *vb* **beat; beat·en** \'bēt-ᵊn\ *or* **beat; beat·ing** [ME *beten*, fr. OE *bēatan;* akin to OHG *bōzan* to beat, L *-futare* to beat, *fustis* club] *vt* **1** : to strike repeatedly: **a** : to hit repeatedly so as to inflict pain — often used with *up* **b** : to walk on : TREAD **c** : to strike directly against forcefully and repeatedly : dash against **d** : to flap or thrash at vigorously **e** : to strike at in order to rouse game; *also* : to range over in or as if in quest of game **f** : to mix by stirring : WHIP — often used with *up* **g** : to strike repeatedly in order to produce music or a signal ⟨~ a drum⟩ **2 a** : to drive or force by blows **b** : to pound into a powder, paste, or pulp **c** : to make by repeated treading or driving over **d** (1) : to dislodge by

repeated hitting (2) : to lodge securely by repeated striking **e** : to shape by beating ⟨~ swords into plowshares⟩; *esp* : to flatten thin by blows **f** : to sound or express esp. by drumbeat **3** : to cause to strike or flap repeatedly **4 a** : OVERCOME, DEFEAT; *also* : SURPASS — often used with *out* **b** : to prevail despite ⟨~ the odds⟩ **c** : BEWILDER, BAFFLE **d** (1) : FATIGUE, EXHAUST (2) : to leave dispirited, irresolute, or hopeless **e** : CHEAT, SWINDLE **5 a** (1) : to act ahead of usu. so as to forestall (2) : to report a news item in advance of **b** : to come or arrive before **c** : CIRCUMVENT ⟨~ the system⟩ **6** : to indicate by beating ⟨~ the tempo⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to become forcefully impelled : DASH **b** : to glare or strike with oppressive intensity **c** : to sustain distracting activity **d** : to beat a drum **2 a** (1) : PULSATE, THROB (2) : TICK **b** : to sound upon being struck **3 a** : to strike repeated blows **b** : to strike the air : FLAP **c** : to strike cover in order to rouse game; *also* : to range or scour for or as if for game **4** : to progress with much difficulty — **beat about the bush** *or* **beat around the bush** : to fail or refuse to come to the point in discourse — **beat it 1** : to hurry away : SCRAM **2** : HURRY, RUSH — **beat one's brains out** : to try intently to resolve something difficult by thinking — **beat the bushes** : to search thoroughly through all possible areas — **beat the rap** : to escape or evade the penalties connected with an accusation or charge

²beat *n* **1 a** : a single stroke or blow esp. in a series; *also* : PULSATION, TICK **b** : a sound produced by or as if by beating **c** : a driving impact or force **2** : one swing of the pendulum or balance of a timepiece **3** : each of the pulsations of amplitude produced by the union of sound or radio waves or electric currents having different frequencies **4** : an accented stroke (as of one leg or foot against the other) in dancing **5 a** : a metrical or rhythmic stress in poetry or music or the rhythmic effect of these stresses **b** : the tempo indicated (as by a conductor) to a musical performer **c** : the pronounced rhythm that is the characteristic driving force in jazz or rock music; *also* : ²ROCK 2 **6** : a regularly traversed round ⟨the cop on the ~⟩ **7 a** : something that excels ⟨I've never seen the ~ of it⟩ **b** : the reporting of a news story ahead of competitors **8** : DEADBEAT **9 a** : an act of beating to windward **b** : one of the reaches so traversed : TACK — **beat·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

³beat *adj* [ME *beten, bete,* fr. pp. of *beten*] **1 a** : being in a state of exhaustion : EXHAUSTED **b** : sapped of resolution or morale **2** : of, relating to, or being beatniks ⟨~ poets⟩

⁴beat *n* : BEATNIK

beat·en \'bēt-ᵊn\ *adj* **1** : hammered into a desired shape ⟨~ gold⟩ **2** : much trodden and worn smooth; *also* : FAMILIAR ⟨a ~ path⟩ **3** : being in a state of exhaustion : EXHAUSTED

beat·er \'bēt-ər\ *n* **1** : one that beats: as **a** : EGGBEATER **b** : a rotary blade attached to an electric mixer **c** : DRUMSTICK 1 **2** : one that strikes bushes or other cover to rouse game **3** : an advance publicity agent

be·atif·ic \ˌbē-ə-'tif-ik\ *adj* [L *beatificus* making happy, fr. *beatus* happy, fr. pp. of *beare* to bless; akin to L *bonus* good — more at BOUNTY] **1** : of, possessing, or imparting beatitude **2** : having a blissful or benign appearance : SAINTLY, ANGELIC ⟨a ~ smile⟩ — **be·atif·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

beatific vision *n* : the direct knowledge of God enjoyed by the blessed in heaven

be·at·i·fy \bē-'at-ə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** [MF *beatifier,* fr. LL *beatificare,* fr. L *beatus*] **1** : to make supremely happy **2** : to declare to have attained the blessedness of heaven and authorize the title "Blessed" and limited public religious honor — **be·at·i·fi·ca·tion** \-ˌat-ə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n*

beat·ing \'bēt-iŋ\ *n* **1** : an act of striking with repeated blows so as to injure or damage; *also* : the injury or damage thus inflicted **2** : PULSATION **3** : SETBACK, DEFEAT

beating reed *n* : a reed in a musical instrument that vibrates against the edges of an air opening (as in a clarinet or organ pipe) to which it is attached — compare FREE REED

be·at·i·tude \bē-'at-ə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* [L *beatitudo,* fr. *beatus*] **1 a** : a state of utmost bliss **b** — used as a title for a primate esp. of an Eastern church **2** : any of the declarations made in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:3–12) beginning in the AV "Blessed are"

beat·nik \'bēt-nik\ *n* [³*beat* + Yiddish *-nik,* suffix denoting a person, fr. Russ & Pol] : a person who rejects the mores of established society (as by dressing and behaving unconventionally) and indulges in exotic philosophizing and self-expression

beat out *vt* **1** : to make or perform by or as if by beating **2** : to mark or accompany by beating **3** : to turn (a routine ground ball) into a hit in baseball by fast running to first base

Be·atrice *n* [It] \ˌbā-ä-'trē-(ˌ)chā, 'bē-ə-trəs\ : a Florentine woman immortalized in Dante's *Vita Nuova* and *Divina Commedia*

beau \'bō\ *n, pl* **beaux** \'bōz\ *or* **beaus** [F, fr. *beau* beautiful, fr. L *bellus* pretty] **1** : DANDY **2** : a man who is a frequent or steady escort of a woman : BOYFRIEND

Beau Brum·mell \bō-'brəm-əl\ *n* [nickname of G. B. *Brummell*] : DANDY

Beau·fort scale \ˌbō-fərt-\ *n* [Sir Francis *Beaufort*] : a scale in which the force of the wind is indicated by numbers from 0 to 12

beau geste \bō-'zhest\ *n, pl* **beaux gestes** *or* **beau gestes** \bō-'zhest\ [F, lit., beautiful gesture] **1** : a graceful or magnanimous gesture **2** : an ingratiating conciliatory gesture

beau ide·al \ˌbō-ī-'dē(-ə)l\ *n, pl* **beau ideals** [F *beau idéal* ideal beauty] : the perfect type or model

Beau·jo·lais \ˌbō-zhō-'lā\ *n* [F, fr. *Beaujolais,* region of central France] : a French red table wine

Beau·mé *var of* BAUMÉ

beau monde \bō-'mänd, -mōⁿd\ *n, pl* **beau mondes** \-'män(d)z\ *or* **beaux mondes** \bō-mōⁿd\ [F, lit., fine world] : the world of high society and fashion

beau·te·ous \'byüt-ē-əs\ *adj* [ME, fr. *beaute*] : BEAUTIFUL — **beau·te·ous·ly** *adv* — **beau·te·ous·ness** *n*

beau·ti·cian \byü-'tish-ən\ *n* [*beauty* + *-ician*] : COSMETOLOGIST

beau·ti·ful \'byüt-i-fəl\ *adj* **1** : having qualities of beauty : exciting aesthetic pleasure **2** : generally pleasing : EXCELLENT — **beau·ti·ful·ly** \-f(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **beau·ti·ful·ness** \-fəl-nəs\ *n*

BEAUFORT SCALE

BEAUFORT NUMBER	NAME	MILES PER HOUR	DESCRIPTION
0	calm	less than 1	calm; smoke rises vertically
1	light air	1–3	direction of wind shown by smoke but not by wind vanes
2	light breeze	4–7	wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vane moved by wind
3	gentle breeze	8–12	leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag
4	moderate breeze	13–18	raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved
5	fresh breeze	19–24	small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters
6	strong breeze	25–31	large branches in motion; telegraph wires whistle; umbrellas used with difficulty
7	moderate gale (*or* near gale)	32–38	whole trees in motion; inconvenience in walking against wind
8	fresh gale (*or* gale)	39–46	breaks twigs off trees; generally impedes progress
9	strong gale	47–54	slight structural damage occurs; chimney pots and slates removed
10	whole gale (*or* storm)	55–63	trees uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs
11	storm (*or* violent storm)	64–72	very rarely experienced; accompanied by widespread damage
12	hurricane*	73–136	devastation occurs

*The U.S. uses 74 statute mph as the speed criterion for hurricane.

syn BEAUTIFUL, LOVELY, HANDSOME, PRETTY, COMELY, FAIR *shared meaning element* : pleasing to the mind, spirit, or senses ***ant*** ugly

beautiful people *n pl, often cap B & P* : people who are identified with international society

beau·ti·fy \'byüt-ə-ˌfī\ *vb* **-fied; -fy·ing** *vt* : to make beautiful or add beauty to : EMBELLISH ~ *vi* : to grow beautiful ***syn*** see ADORN — **beau·ti·fi·ca·tion** \byüt-ə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* — **beau·ti·fi·er** \'byüt-ə-ˌfī(-ə)r\ *n*

beau·ty \'byüt-ē\ *n, pl* **beauties** [ME *beaute,* fr. OF *biauté,* fr. *bel, biau* beautiful, fr. L *bellus* pretty; akin to L *bonus* good — more at BOUNTY] **1** : the quality or aggregate of qualities in a person or thing that gives pleasure to the senses or pleasurably exalts the mind or spirit : LOVELINESS **2** : a beautiful person or thing; *esp* : a beautiful woman **3** : a brilliant, extreme, or egregious example or instance ⟨that mistake was a ~⟩ **4** : a particularly graceful, ornamental, or excellent quality

beauty bush *n* : a Chinese shrub (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*) of the honeysuckle family with pinkish flowers and bristly fruit

beauty shop *n* : an establishment or department where hairdressing, facials, and manicures are done — called also *beauty parlor, beauty salon*

beauty spot *n* **1** : ¹PATCH 2 **2 a** : NEVUS **b** : a minor blemish

beaux arts \bō-'zär\ *n pl* [F] : FINE ARTS

beaux esprits *pl of* BEL ESPRIT

¹bea·ver \'bē-vər\ *n, pl* **beavers** [ME *bever,* fr. OE *beofor;* akin to OHG *bibar* beaver, OE *brūn* brown] **1** *or pl* **beaver a** : either of two large semiaquatic rodents (genus *Castor*) having webbed hind feet and a broad flat tail, constructing dams and underwater lodges, and yielding valuable fur and castor **b** : the fur or pelt of the beaver **2 a** : a hat made of beaver fur or a fabric imitation **b** : SILK HAT **3** : a heavy fabric of felted wool or of cotton napped on both sides

²beaver *n* [ME *baviere,* fr. MF] **1** : a piece of armor protecting the lower part of the face **2** : a helmet visor

³beaver *vi* : to work energetically ⟨~*ing* away at the problem⟩

bea·ver·board \'bē-vər-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* [fr. *Beaver Board,* a trademark] : a fiberboard used for partitions and ceilings

be·bop \'bē-ˌbäp\ *n* [imit.] : BOP — **be·bop·per** *n*

BEC *abbr* Bureau of Employees' Compensation

be·calm \bi-'käm, -'kälm\ *vt* **1** : to keep motionless by lack of wind **2** : to make calm : SOOTHE

be·cause \bi-'kȯz, -(')kəz\ *conj* [ME *because that, because,* fr. *by cause that*] **1** : for the reason that : SINCE ⟨rested ~ he was tired⟩ **2** : the fact that : THAT ⟨the latter fact, we suggest, was because the world was . . . particularly attentive at that moment to the subject of violence —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩

because of *prep* : by reason of : on account of
bec·ca·fi·co \ˌbek-ə-ˈfē-(ˌ)kō\ *n, pl* **-cos** *or* **-coes** [It, fr. *beccare* to peck + *fico* fig, fr. L *ficus*] : any of various European songbirds that are sometimes served as a table delicacy
bé·cha·mel \ˌbā-shə-ˈmel\ *n* [F *sauce béchamelle*, fr. Louis de *Béchamel* †1703 F courtier] : a white sauce sometimes enriched with cream
be·chance \bi-ˈchan(t)s\ *vb, archaic* : BEFALL
bêche-de-mer \ˌbesh-də-ˈme(ə)r, ˌbāsh-\ *n* [F, lit., sea grub] **1** *pl* **bêche-de-mer** *or* **bêches-de-mer** \ˌbesh-(əz-)də-, ˌbāsh-\ : TREPANG **2** *cap B&M* : a lingua franca based on English and used esp. in New Guinea, the Bismarck archipelago, and the Solomon islands
¹beck \ˈbek\ *n* [ME *bek*, fr. ON *bekkr*; akin to OE *bæc* brook, OHG *bah*, MIr *būal* flowing water] *Brit* : CREEK 2
²beck *vt* [ME *becken*, alter. of *beknen*] *archaic* : BECKON
³beck *n* **1** *chiefly Scot* : BOW, CURTSY **2 a** : a beckoning gesture **b** : SUMMONS, BIDDING — **at one's beck and call** : in obedient readiness to obey any command
beck·et \ˈbek-ət\ *n* [origin unknown] : a device for holding something in place: as **a** : a grommet or a loop of rope with a knot at one end to catch in an eye at the other **b** : a ring of rope or metal **c** : a loop of rope (as for a handle)
becket bend *n* : SHEET BEND
beck·on \ˈbek-ən\ *vb* **beck·oned; beck·on·ing** \ˈbek-(ə-)niŋ\ [ME *beknen*, fr. OE *bīecnan*, fr. *bēacen* sign — more at BEACON] *vi* **1** : to summon or signal typically with a wave or nod **2** : to appear inviting : ATTRACT ~ *vt* : to beckon to — **beckon** *n*
be·cloud \bi-ˈklau̇d\ *vt* **1** : to obscure with or as if with a cloud **2** : to prevent clear perception or realization of : MUDDLE ⟨prejudices that ~ his judgment⟩
be·come \bi-ˈkəm\ *vb* **-came** \-ˈkām\; **-come; -com·ing** [ME *becomen* to come to, become, fr. OE *becuman*, fr. *be-* + *cuman* to come] *vi* **1 a** : to come into existence **b** : to come to be ⟨~ sick⟩ **2** : to undergo change or development ~ *vt* : to suit or be suitable to ⟨her clothes ~ her⟩ — **become of** : to happen to
be·com·ing \-ˈkəm-iŋ\ *adj* : SUITABLE, FITTING; *esp* : attractively suitable — **be·com·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
¹bed \ˈbed\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bedd*; akin to OHG *betti* bed, L *fodere* to dig] **1 a** : a piece of furniture on or in which one may lie and sleep **b** (1) : a place of marital sex relations (2) : marital relationship **c** : a place for sleeping **d** : SLEEP; *also* : a time for sleeping ⟨took a walk before ~⟩ **e** (1) : a mattress filled with soft material (2) : BEDSTEAD **f** : the equipment and services needed to care for one hospitalized patient or hotel guest **2** : a flat or level surface: as **a** : a plot of ground prepared for plants; *also* : the plants grown in such a plot **b** : the bottom of a body of water; *esp* : an area of sea bottom supporting a heavy growth of a particular organism ⟨an oyster ~⟩ **3** : a supporting surface or structure : FOUNDATION; *esp* : the earthwork that supports the ballast and track of a railroad **4** : LAYER, STRATUM **5 a** : the place or material in which a block or brick is laid **b** : the lower surface of a brick, slate, or tile **6** : a mass or heap resembling a bed ⟨a ~ of ashes⟩ — **in bed** : in the act of sexual intercourse
²bed *vb* **bed·ded; bed·ding** *vt* **1 a** : to furnish with a bed or bedding : settle in sleeping quarters — often used with *down* **b** : to put, take, or send to bed **2 a** : EMBED **b** : to plant or arrange in beds **c** : BASE, ESTABLISH **3 a** : to lay flat or in a layer **b** : to make a bed in or of ~ *vi* **1 a** : to find or make sleeping accommodations **b** : to go to bed **2** : to form a layer **3** : to lie flat or flush
BEd *abbr* bachelor of education
be·dab·ble \bi-ˈdab-əl\ *vt* : to wet or soil by dabbling
be·daub \bi-ˈdȯb, -ˈdäb\ *vt* **1** : to daub over : BESMEAR **2** : to ornament with vulgar excess
be·daz·zle \bi-ˈdaz-əl\ *vt* **1** : to confuse by a strong light : DAZZLE **2** : to impress forcefully : ENCHANT — **be·daz·zle·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
bed board *n* : a stiff thin wide board inserted usu. between bedspring and mattress esp. to give support to one's back or to protect a mattress from sagging springs
bed·bug \ˈbed-ˌbəg\ *n* : a wingless bloodsucking bug (*Cimex lectularius*) sometimes infesting houses and esp. beds and feeding on human blood
bed·cham·ber \-ˌchām-bər\ *n* : BEDROOM
bed check *n* : a night inspection to check the presence of persons (as soldiers) required by regulations to be in bed or in quarters
bed·clothes \ˈbed-ˌklō(th)z\ *n pl* : the covering (as sheets and blankets) used on a bed
bed·der \ˈbed-ər\ *n* **1** : one that makes up beds **2** : a bedding plant
¹bed·ding \ˈbed-iŋ\ *n* [ME, fr. OE, fr. *bedd*] **1** : BEDCLOTHES **2** : a bottom layer : FOUNDATION **3** : material to provide a bed for livestock **4** : STRATIFICATION
²bedding *adj* [fr. gerund of *²bed*] : appropriate or adapted for culture in open-air beds
be·deck \bi-ˈdek\ *vt* : to clothe with finery : deck out
be·dev·il \bi-ˈdev-əl\ *vt* **1** : to possess with or as if with a devil **2** : to change for the worse : SPOIL **3** : to drive frantic : HARASS **4** : to confuse utterly : BEWILDER — **be·dev·il·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
be·dew \bi-ˈd(y)ü\ *vt* : to wet with or as if with dew
bed·fast \ˈbed-ˌfast\ *adj* : BEDRIDDEN
bed·fel·low \-ˌfel-(ˌ)ō, -ə(-w)\ *n* **1** : one who shares a bed with another **2** : a close associate : ALLY ⟨political ~*s*⟩
Bed·ford cord \ˌbed-fərd-\ *n* [perh. fr. New *Bedford*, Massachusetts] : a clothing fabric with lengthwise ribs that resembles corduroy; *also* : the weave used in making this fabric
be·dight \bi-ˈdīt\ *vt* **be·dight·ed** *or* **bedight; be·dight·ing** *archaic* : EQUIP, ARRAY
be·dim \bi-ˈdim\ *vt* **1** : to make less bright **2** : to make indistinct : OBSCURE
Bed·i·vere \ˈbed-ə-ˌvi(ə)r\ *n* : a knight of the Round Table
be·di·zen \bi-ˈdīz-ᵊn, -ˈdiz-\ *vt* : to dress or adorn with gaudy finery — **be·di·zen·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
bed·lam \ˈbed-ləm\ *n* [*Bedlam*, popular name for the Hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem, London, an insane asylum, fr. ME *Bedlem* Bethlehem] **1** *obs* : MADMAN, LUNATIC **2** *archaic* : a lunatic asylum **3** : a place, scene, or state of uproar and confusion — **bedlam** *adj*
bed·lam·ite \-lə-ˌmīt\ *n* : MADMAN, LUNATIC — **bedlamite** *adj*
Bed·ling·ton terrier \ˌbed-liŋ-tən-\ *n* [*Bedlington*, England] : a swift rough-coated terrier of light build usu. groomed to resemble a lamb
bed·mate \ˈbed-ˌmāt\ *n* : one who shares one's bed; *esp* : a sexual partner
bed molding *n* : the molding of a cornice below the corona and above the frieze; *also* : a molding below a deep projection
bed of roses : a place or situation of agreeable ease
bed·ou·in *or* **bed·u·in** \ˈbed(-ə)-wən\ *n, pl* **bedouin** *or* **bedouins** *or* **beduin** *or* **beduins** *often cap* [F *bédouin*, fr. Ar *badāwi, bidwān*, pl. of *badawi* desert dweller] : a nomadic Arab of the Arabian, Syrian, or No. African deserts
bed·pan \ˈbed-ˌpan\ *n* : a shallow vessel used by a person in bed for urination or defecation
bed·plate \-ˌplāt\ *n* : a plate or framing used as a support
bed·post \-ˌpōst\ *n* : the usu. turned or carved post of a bed
be·drag·gle \bi-ˈdrag-əl\ *vt* : to wet thoroughly
be·drag·gled \bi-ˈdrag-əld\ *adj* **1** : left wet and limp by or as if by rain **2** : soiled and stained by or as if by trailing in mud **3** : DILAPIDATED ⟨~ buildings⟩
bed·rid·den \ˈbed-ˌrid-ᵊn\ *or* **bed·rid** \-ˌrid\ *adj* [alter. of ME *bedrede, bedreden*, fr. OE *bedreda*, fr. *bedreda* one confined to bed, fr. *bedd* bed + *-rida, -reda* rider, fr. *rīdan* to ride] : confined (as by illness) to bed
bed·rock \-ˈräk, -ˌräk\ *n* **1** : the solid rock underlying unconsolidated surface materials (as soil) **2 a** : lowest point : NADIR **b** : BASIS — **bedrock** *adj*
bed·roll \-ˌrōl\ *n* : bedding rolled up for carrying
¹bed·room \-ˌrüm, -ˌru̇m\ *n* : a room furnished with a bed and intended primarily for sleeping
²bed·room *adj* **1** : dealing with, suggestive of, or inviting to sexual relations ⟨a ~ farce⟩ ⟨~ eyes⟩ **2** : inhabited or used by commuters ⟨~ suburbs⟩
Beds *abbr* Bedfordshire
¹bed·side \ˈbed-ˌsīd\ *n* : the side of a bed : a place beside a bed
²bedside *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or conducted at the bedside ⟨a ~ diagnosis⟩ **2** : suitable for a bedridden person ⟨~ reading⟩
bedside manner *n* : the manner that a physician assumes toward his patients
bed–sit·ter \ˈbed-ˌsit-ər\ *n* [*bed*room + *sitt*ing room + *-er*] *Brit* : a one-room apartment serving as both bedroom and sitting room — called also *bed-sit, bed-sitting-room*
bed·so·nia \bed-ˈsō-nē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Sir Samuel P. *Bedson* †1969 E bacteriologist] : any of a group of rickettsias (genus *Chlamydia*) including the causative agent of lymphogranuloma venereum
bed·sore \ˈbed-ˌsō(ə)r, -ˌsȯ(ə)r\ *n* : an ulceration of tissue deprived of nutrition by prolonged pressure
bed·spread \-ˌspred\ *n* : a usu. ornamental cloth cover for a bed
bed·spring \-ˌspriŋ\ *n* : a spring supporting a mattress
bed·stead \-ˌsted, -ˌstid\ *n* : the framework of a bed
bed·straw \-ˌstrȯ\ *n* [fr. its use for mattresses] : any of a genus (*Galium*) of herbs of the madder family having angled stems, opposite or whorled leaves, and small flowers
bed table *n* **1** : a small table used beside a bed **2** : an adjustable table used (as for eating or writing) by a person in bed
bed·time \-ˌtīm\ *n* : a time for going to bed
bedtime story *n* : a simple story for young children that often deals with animals
bed warmer *n* : a covered pan containing hot coals used to warm a bed
bed–wet·ting \-ˌwet-iŋ\ *n* : enuresis esp. when occurring in bed during sleep — **bed wetter** *n*
¹bee \ˈbē\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bēo*; akin to OHG *bīa* bee, Lith *bitis*] **1** : a social colonial hymenopterous insect (*Apis mellifera*) often kept in hives for the honey that it produces; *broadly* : any of numerous insects (superfamily Apoidea) that differ from the related wasps esp. in the heavier hairier body and in having sucking as well as chewing mouthparts, that feed on pollen and nectar, and that store both and often also honey **2** : an eccentric notion : FANCY **3** [perh. fr. E dial. *been* help given by neighbors, fr. ME *bene* prayer, boon, fr. OE *bēn* prayer — more at BOON] : a gathering of people for a specific purpose ⟨quilting ~⟩ — **bee·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj* — **bee in one's bonnet** : ¹BEE 2
²bee *n* [ME *beghe* metal ring, fr. OE *bēag*; akin to OE *būgan* to bend — more at BOW] : a piece of hard wood at the side of a bowsprit to reeve fore-topmast stays through
³bee *n* : the letter *b*
BEE *abbr* bachelor of electrical engineering
bee balm *n* : any of several mints (as monarda) attractive to bees; *esp* : OSWEGO TEA
bee·bee *var of* BB
bee·bread \ˈbē-ˌbred\ *n* : bitter yellowish brown pollen stored up in honeycomb cells and used mixed with honey by bees as food
beech \ˈbēch\ *n, pl* **beech·es** *or* **beech** [ME *beche*, fr. OE *bēce*; akin to OE *bōc* beech, OHG *buohha*, L *fagus*, Gk *phēgos* oak] : any of a genus (*Fagus* of the family Fagaceae, the beech family) of hardwood trees with smooth gray bark and small edible nuts; *also* : its wood — **beech·en** \ˈbē-chən\ *adj*
beech·drops \ˈbēch-ˌdräps\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : a low wiry plant (*Epifagus virginiana*) of the broomrape family parasitic on the roots of beeches
beech·nut \-ˌnət\ *n* : the nut of the beech
bee eater *n* : any of a family (Meropidae) of brightly colored slender-billed insectivorous chiefly tropical Old World birds
¹beef \ˈbēf\ *n, pl* **beefs** \ˈbēfs\ *or* **beeves** \ˈbēvz\ [ME, fr. OF *buef* ox, beef, fr. L *bov-, bos* head of cattle — more at COW] **1** : the flesh of an adult domestic bovine (as a steer or cow) when killed for food **2 a** : an ox, cow, or bull in a full-grown or nearly full-grown

state; *esp* : a steer or cow fattened for food ⟨quality Texas *beeves*⟩ ⟨a herd of good ~⟩ **b** : a dressed carcass of a beef animal **3** : muscular flesh : BRAWN **4** *pl* **beefs** : COMPLAINT

²beef *vt* : to add weight, strength, or power to — usu. used with *up* ~ *vi* : COMPLAIN

beef·cake \'bēf-ˌkāk\ *n* : a photographic display of muscular male physiques — compare CHEESECAKE

beef cattle *n pl* : cattle developed primarily for the efficient production of meat and marked by capacity for rapid growth, heavy well-fleshed body, and stocky build

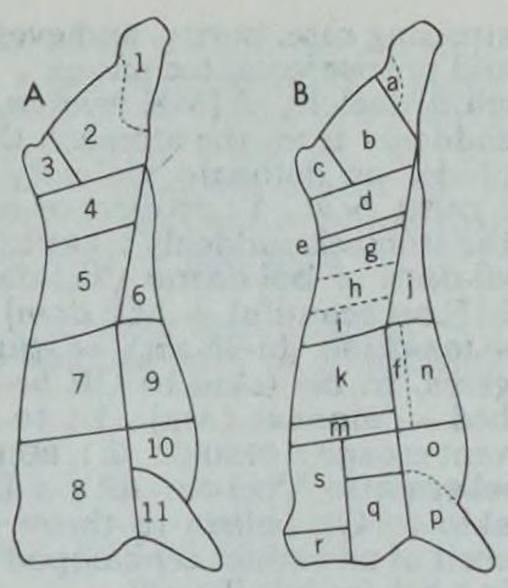
beef·eat·er \'bē-ˌfēt-ər\ *n* : a yeoman of the guard of an English monarch

bee fly *n* : any of numerous two-winged flies (family Bombyliidae) many of which resemble bees

beef·steak \'bēf-ˌstāk\ *n* : a steak of beef usu. from the hindquarter

beefsteak fungus *n* : a bright red edible pore fungus (*Fistulina hepatica*) that grows on dead trees

beef Stro·ga·noff \-'strȯ-gə-ˌnȯf, -'strō-\ *n* [Count Paul *Stroganoff*, 19th cent. Russ diplomat] : beef sliced thin and cooked in a sour-cream sauce



beef 1: *A* wholesale cuts: *1* shank, *2* round with rump and shank cut off, *3* rump, *4* sirloin, *5* short loin, *6* flank, *7* rib, *8* chuck, *9* plate, *10* brisket, *11* shank; *B* retail cuts: *a* heel pot roast, *b* round steak, *c* rump roast, *d* sirloin steak, *e* pinbone steak, *f* short ribs, *g* porterhouse steak, *h* T-bone steak, *i* club steak, *j* flank steak, *k* rib roast, *m* blade rib roast, *n* plate, *o* brisket, *p* crosscut shank, *q* arm pot roast, *r* boneless neck, *s* blade roast

beef·wood \'bēf-ˌwu̇d\ *n* : any of several hard heavy reddish chiefly tropical woods used esp. for cabinetwork; *also* : a tree (as a casuarina) yielding beefwood

beefy \'bē-fē\ *adj* **beef·i·er; -est** **1** : heavily and powerfully built **2** : full of beef

bee·hive \'bē-ˌhīv\ *n* **1** : HIVE 1 **2** : something resembling a hive for bees: as **a** : a scene of crowded activity **b** : a woman's hairdo that is conical in shape — **beehive** *adj*

bee·keep·er \-ˌkē-pər\ *n* : one who raises bees — **bee·keep·ing** *n*

bee·line \-ˌlīn\ *n* [fr. the belief that nectar-laden bees return to their hives in a direct line] : a straight direct course

Beel·ze·bub \bē-'el-zi-ˌbəb, 'bēl-zi-, 'bel-\ *n* [*Beelzebub*, prince of devils, fr. L, fr. Gk *Beelzeboub*, fr. Heb *Baʿal zĕbhūbh*, a Philistine god, lit., lord of flies] **1** : DEVIL **2** : a fallen angel in Milton's *Paradise Lost* ranking next to Satan

been *past part of* BE

¹beep \'bēp\ *n* [imit.] : a sound (as from a horn or an electronic device) that serves as a signal or warning

²beep *vi* **1** : to sound a horn **2** : to make a beep ~ *vt* : to cause (as a horn) to sound — **beep·er** *n*

beer \'bi(ə)r\ *n* [ME *ber*, fr. OE *bēor*; akin to OHG *bior* beer] **1** : a malted and hopped somewhat bitter alcoholic beverage; *specif* : such a beverage brewed by slow fermentation **2** : a carbonated nonalcoholic or a fermented slightly alcoholic beverage with flavoring from roots or other plant parts ⟨birch ~⟩

beery \'bi(ə)r-ē\ *adj* **beer·i·er; -est** **1** : affected or caused by beer ⟨~ voices⟩ **2** : smelling or tasting of beer ⟨~ tavern⟩

bees·tings *var of* BEASTINGS

bees·wax \'bēz-ˌwaks\ *n* : WAX 1

beet \'bēt\ *n* [ME *bete*, fr. OE *bēte*, fr. L *beta*] : a biennial garden plant (genus *Beta*) of the goosefoot family with thick long-stalked edible leaves and swollen root used as a vegetable, as a source of sugar, or for forage; *also* : its root

beet armyworm *n* : an armyworm (*Spodoptera exigua*) that eats the foliage of beets, alfalfa, and vegetables

¹bee·tle \'bēt-ᵊl\ *n* [ME *betylle*, fr. OE *bitula*, fr. *bītan* to bite] **1** : any of an order (Coleoptera) of insects having four wings of which the outer pair are modified into stiff elytra that protect the inner pair when at rest **2** : any of various insects resembling a beetle

²beetle *n* [ME *betel*, fr. OE *bīetel*; akin to OE *bēatan* to beat] **1** : a heavy wooden hammering or ramming instrument **2** : a wooden pestle or bat for domestic tasks **3** : a machine for giving fabrics a lustrous finish

³beetle *adj* [ME *bitel-browed* having overhanging brows, prob. fr. *betylle*, *bitel* beetle] : being prominent and overhanging ⟨~ brows⟩

⁴beetle *vi* **bee·tled; bee·tling** \'bēt-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ : PROJECT, JUT ⟨to scale the *beetling* crags —R. L. Stevenson⟩

beet leafhopper *n* : a leafhopper (*Eutettix tenellus*) that transmits a virus disease to sugar beets and other plants in the western U.S.

bee tree *n* : a hollow tree in which honeybees nest

beet·root \'bē-ˌtrüt\ *n, chiefly Brit* : the root of the beet

bef *abbr* before

BEF *abbr* British Expeditionary Force

be·fall \bi-'fȯl\ *vb* **-fell** \-'fel\; **-fall·en** \-'fȯ-lən\ *vi* : to happen esp. as if by fate ~ *vt* : to happen to

be·fit \bi-'fit\ *vt* : to be proper or becoming to

be·fit·ting \-'fit-iŋ\ *adj* **1** : SUITABLE, APPROPRIATE **2** : PROPER, DECENT — **be·fit·ting·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

be·fog \bi-'fȯg, -'fäg\ *vt* **1** : to make foggy : OBSCURE **2** : CONFUSE

be·fool \bi-'fül\ *vt* **1** : to make a fool of **2** : DELUDE, DECEIVE

¹be·fore \bi-'fō(ə)r, -'fȯ(ə)r\ *adv* [ME, adv. & prep., fr. OE *beforan*, fr. *be-* + *foran* before, fr. *fore*] **1** : in advance : AHEAD **2** : at an earlier time : PREVIOUSLY

²before *prep* **1 a** (1) : in front of (2) : in the presence of ⟨stood ~ the judge⟩ **b** : under the jurisdiction or consideration of ⟨the case ~ the court⟩ **c** (1) : at the disposal of (2) : in store for **2** : preceding in time : earlier than **3** : in a higher or more important position than ⟨put quantity ~ quality⟩

³before *conj* **1** : earlier than the time when **2** : sooner than

be·fore·hand \bi-'fō(ə)r-ˌhand, -'fȯ(ə)r-\ *adv or adj* **1 a** : in anticipation **b** : in advance **2** : ahead of time : EARLY — **be·fore·hand·ed·ness** \-ˌhan-dəd-nəs, -'han-\ *n*

be·fore·time \-ˌtīm\ *adv, archaic* : FORMERLY

be·foul \bi-'faù(ə)l\ *vt* : to make foul with or as if with dirt or filth

be·friend \bi-'frend\ *vt* : to act as a friend to

be·fud·dle \bi-'fəd-ᵊl\ *vt* **1** : to muddle or stupefy with or as if with drink **2** : CONFUSE, PERPLEX — **be·fud·dle·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

¹beg \'beg\ *vb* **begged; beg·ging** [ME *beggen*] *vt* **1** : to ask for as a charity **2** : to ask earnestly for : ENTREAT **3 a** : EVADE, SIDESTEP ⟨*begged* the real problems⟩ **b** : to assume as established or proved ⟨~ the question⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to ask for alms **2** : to ask earnestly ⟨*begged* for mercy⟩

syn BEG, ENTREAT, BESEECH, IMPLORE, SUPPLICATE, ADJURE, IMPORTUNE *shared meaning element* : to ask or request urgently

— **beg off** : to ask to be released from something

²beg *abbr* begin; beginning

be·gat \bi-'gat\ *archaic past of* BEGET

be·get \bi-'get\ *vt* **-got** \-'gät\; **-got·ten** \-'gät-ᵊn\ *or* **-got; -get·ting** [ME *begeten*, alter. of *beyeten*, fr. OE *bigietan* — more at GET] **1** : to procreate as the father : SIRE **2** : to produce as an effect : CAUSE — **be·get·ter** *n*

¹beg·gar \'beg-ər\ *n* [ME *beggere*, *beggare*, fr. *beggen* to beg + *-ere*, *-are* -er] **1** : one that begs; *esp* : one that lives by asking for gifts **2** : PAUPER **3** : FELLOW

²beggar *vt* **beg·gared; beg·gar·ing** \'beg-(ə-)riŋ\ **1** : to reduce to beggary **2** : to exceed the resources or abilities of ⟨~s description⟩

beg·gar·ly \'beg-ər-lē\ *adj* **1** : befitting or resembling a beggar; *esp* : marked by extreme poverty **2** : contemptibly mean, scant, petty, or paltry ***syn*** see CONTEMPTIBLE — **beg·gar·li·ness** *n*

beg·gar's–lice \'beg-ərz-ˌlīs\ *or* **beg·gar–lice** \-ər-ˌlīs\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : any of several plants (as of the genera *Lappula*, *Hackelia*, and *Desmodium*) with prickly or adhesive fruits; *also* : one of these fruits

beg·gar–ticks *or* **beg·gar's–ticks** \-ˌtiks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1** : BUR MARIGOLD; *also* : its prickly achenes **2** : BEGGAR'S-LICE

beg·gar·weed \'beg-ər-ˌwēd\ *n* **1** : any of various plants (as a knotgrass, spurrey, or dodder) that grow in waste ground **2** : any of several tick trefoils (genus *Desmodium*); *esp* : a West Indian forage plant (*D. tortuosum*) cultivated in the southern U.S.

beg·gary \'beg-ə-rē\ *n, pl* **-gar·ies** **1** : POVERTY, PENURY **2** : the class or occupation of beggars **3** : the act of begging : MENDICANCY

be·gin \bi-'gin\ *vb* **be·gan** \-'gan\; **be·gun** \-'gən\; **be·gin·ning** [ME *beginnen*, fr. OE *beginnan*; akin to OHG *biginnan* to begin, OE *onginnan*] *vi* **1 a** : to do the first part of an action : START **b** : to undergo initial steps **2 a** : to come into existence : ARISE **b** : to have a starting point **3** : to do or succeed in the least degree ~ *vt* **1** : to set about the activity of **2 a** : to call into being : FOUND **b** : ORIGINATE, INVENT **3** : to come first in

syn BEGIN, COMMENCE, START, INITIATE, INAUGURATE *shared meaning element* : to take the first step (as in a course, process, or operation) ***ant*** end

be·gin·ner \bi-'gin-ər\ *n* : one that begins something; *specif* : an inexperienced person

¹be·gin·ning \bi-'gin-iŋ\ *n* **1** : the point at which something begins : START **2** : the first part **3** : ORIGIN, SOURCE **4 a** : a rudimentary stage or early period — usu. used in pl. **b** : something undeveloped or incomplete

²beginning *adj* **1** : just created or formed : INCIPIENT **2** : INTRODUCTORY, EARLY **3** : BASIC ⟨~ chemistry⟩ **4** : just becoming familiar with the rudiments or practice ⟨a ~ machinist⟩

beginning rhyme *n* **1** : rhyme at the beginning of successive lines of verse **2** : ALLITERATION

be·gird \bi-'gərd\ *vt* **1** : GIRD 1a **2** : SURROUND, ENCOMPASS

be·gone \bi-'gȯn *also* -'gän\ *vi* [ME, fr. *be gone* (imper.)] : to go away : DEPART — used esp. in the imperative

be·go·nia \bi-'gōn-yə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Michel *Bégon* †1710 F governor of Santo Domingo] : any of a large genus (*Begonia* of the family Begoniaceae, the begonia family) of tropical herbs having asymmetrical leaves and being widely cultivated as ornamentals

be·gor·ra \bi-'gȯr-ə, -'gär-\ *interj* [euphemism for *by God*] *Irish* — used as a mild oath

be·grime \bi-'grīm\ *vt* **be·grimed; be·grim·ing** **1** : to make dirty with grime **2** : SULLY, CORRUPT

be·grudge \bi-'grəj\ *vt* **1** : to give or concede reluctantly **2 a** : to look upon with reluctance or disapproval **b** : to take little pleasure in : be annoyed by **3** : to envy the pleasure or enjoyment of — **be·grudg·er** *n* — **be·grudg·ing·ly** \-'grəj-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

be·guile \bi-'gī(ə)l\ *vb* **be·guiled; be·guil·ing** *vt* **1** : to lead by deception **2 a** : HOODWINK **b** : to deprive by guile : CHEAT **3** : to while away esp. by some agreeable occupation **4** : to please or persuade by the use of wiles : CHARM ~ *vi* : to deceive by wiles

syn see DECEIVE, WHILE — **be·guile·ment** \-'gī(ə)l-mənt\ *n* — **be·guil·er** \-'gī-lər\ *n* — **be·guil·ing·ly** \-'gī-liŋ-lē\ *adv*

be·guine \bi-'gēn\ *n* [AmerF *béguine*, fr. F *béguin* flirtation] : a vigorous popular dance of the islands of Saint Lucia and Martinique that somewhat resembles the rumba

Be·guine \'bā-ˌgēn, ˌbā-'\ *n* [MF] : a member of one of various ascetic and philanthropic communities of women not under vows founded chiefly in the Netherlands in the 13th century

be·gum \'bā-gəm, 'bē-\ *n* [Hindi *begam*] : a Muslim woman of high rank

be·half \bi-'haf, -'häf\ *n* [ME, fr. *by* + *half* half, side] : INTEREST, BENEFIT; *also* : SUPPORT, DEFENSE ⟨argued in his ~⟩ — **in behalf of** *or* **on behalf of** : in the interest of : as a representative of

be·have \bi-'hāv\ *vb* **be·haved; be·hav·ing** [ME *behaven*, fr. *be-* + *haven* to have, hold] *vt* **1** : to bear or comport (oneself) in a particular way **2** : to conduct (oneself) in a proper manner ~ *vi* **1** : to act, function, or react in a particular way **2** : to conduct oneself properly — **be·hav·er** *n*

syn BEHAVE, CONDUCT, COMPORT, DEPORT, ACQUIT *shared meaning element* : to act or to cause or allow (oneself) to act in a particular way ***ant*** misbehave

be·hav·ior \bi-'hā-vyər\ *n* [alter. of ME *behavour*, fr. *behaven*] **1** : the manner of conducting oneself **2 a** : anything that an organism does involving action and response to stimulation **b** : the response of an individual, group, or species to its environment **3** : the way in which something (as a machine) behaves — **be·hav·ior·al** \-vyə-rəl\ *adj* — **be·hav·ior·al·ly** \-rə-lē\ *adv*

behavioral science *n* : a science (as psychology, sociology, or anthropology) dealing with human action and seeking generalizations of man's behavior in society — **behavioral scientist** *n*

be·hav·ior·ism \bi-'hā-vyə-ˌriz-əm\ *n* : a doctrine holding that the proper concern of psychology is the objective evidence of behavior and that consciousness and mind cannot be meaningfully defined or studied — **be·hav·ior·ist** \-vyə-rəst\ *adj or n* — **be·hav·ior·is·tic** \-ˌhā-vyə-'ris-tik\ *adj*

be·hav·iour *chiefly Brit var of* BEHAVIOR

be·head \bi-'hed\ *vt* : to cut off the head of : DECAPITATE

be·he·moth \bi-'hē-məth, 'bē-ə-ˌmäth\ *n* [ME, fr. L, fr. Heb *bĕhēmōth*] **1** *often cap* : an animal described in Job 40:15–24 that is prob. the hippopotamus **2** : something of oppressive or monstrous size or power — **be·he·moth·ic** \ˌbē-ə-'mäth-ik\ *adj*

be·hest \bi-'hest\ *n* [ME, promise, command, fr. OE *behæs* promise, fr. *behātan* to promise, fr. *be-* + *hātan* to command, promise — more at HIGHT] **1** : an authoritative order : COMMAND **2** : an urgent prompting ⟨returned home at the ~ of his friends⟩

[1]be·hind \bi-'hīnd\ *adv* [ME *behinde*, fr. OE *behindan*, fr. *be-* + *hindan* from behind; akin to OE *hinder* behind — more at HIND] **1 a** : in the place, situation, or time that is being or has been departed from ⟨stay ~⟩ **b** : in, to, or toward the back ⟨look ~⟩ **2 a** : in a secondary or inferior position **b** : in arrears ⟨~ in his payments⟩ **c** : SLOW **3** *archaic* : still to come

[2]behind *prep* **1 a** (1) : in or to a place or situation in back of or to the rear of ⟨look ~ you⟩ ⟨stayed ~ the troops⟩ (2) : beyond in past time ⟨left a great name ~ him⟩ **b** — used as a function word to indicate something that lies between one thing (as an observer) and another ⟨malice ~ the mask of friendship⟩ **2** — used as a function word to indicate backwardness ⟨~ his classmates in performance⟩, delay ⟨~ schedule⟩, or deficiency ⟨lagged ~ last year's sales⟩ **3 a** : in the background of ⟨the conditions ~ the strike⟩ **b** : in a supporting position at the back of ⟨solidly ~ their candidate⟩ — **behind the times** : OLD-FASHIONED, OUT-OF-DATE

[3]behind *n* [*[1]behind*] : BUTTOCKS — sometimes considered vulgar

be·hind·hand \bi-'hīnd-ˌhand\ *adj* **1** : being in arrears **2 a** : lagging behind the times : BACKWARD **b** : being in an inferior position **c** : being behind schedule ***syn*** see TARDY ***ant*** beforehand

behind–the–scenes *adj* : kept, made, or held in secret

be·hold \bi-'hōld\ *vb* **-held** \-'held\; **-hold·ing** [ME *beholden* to keep, behold, fr. OE *behealdan*, fr. *be-* + *healdan* to hold] *vt* **1** : to perceive through sight or apprehension : SEE **2** : to gaze upon : OBSERVE ~ *vi* — used in the imperative esp. to call attention — **be·hold·er** *n*

be·hold·en \bi-'hōl-dən\ *adj* [ME, fr. pp. of *beholden*] : being under obligation for a favor or gift : INDEBTED

be·hoof \bi-'hüf\ *n* [ME *behof*, fr. OE *behōf*; akin to OE *hebban* to raise — more at HEAVE] : ADVANTAGE, PROFIT

be·hoove \bi-'hüv\ *or* **be·hove** \-'hōv\ *vb* **be·hooved** *or* **be·hoved; be·hoov·ing** *or* **be·hov·ing** [ME *behoven*, fr. OE *behōfian*, fr. *behōf*] *vt* : to be necessary, proper, or advantageous for ⟨it ~s us to fight⟩ ~ *vi* : to be necessary, fit, or proper

beige \'bāzh\ *n* [F] **1** : cloth made of natural undyed wool **2 a** : a variable color averaging light grayish yellowish brown **b** : a pale to grayish yellow — **beige** *adj* — **beigy** \'bā-zhē\ *adj*

[1]be·ing \'bē-iŋ\ *n* **1 a** : the quality or state of having existence **b** (1) : something conceivable as existing (2) : something that actually exists (3) : the totality of existing things **c** : conscious existence : LIFE **2** : the qualities that constitute an existent thing : ESSENCE; *esp* : PERSONALITY **3** : a living thing; *esp* : PERSON

[2]being *adj* [prp. of *be*] : PRESENT — used in the phrase *for the time being*

Be·ja \'bā-jə\ *n, pl* **Beja** **1 a** : a nomadic pastoral people living between the Nile and the Red sea **b** : a member of this people **2** : the Cushitic language of the Beja people

bel \'bel\ *n* [Alexander Graham *Bell*] : ten decibels

be·la·bor \bi-'lā-bər\ *vt* **1** : to work on or at to absurd lengths ⟨~ the obvious⟩ **2 a** : to beat soundly **b** : ASSAIL, ATTACK

be·la·bour *chiefly Brit var of* BELABOR

be·lat·ed \bi-'lāt-əd\ *adj* [pp. of *belate* (to make late)] **1** : delayed beyond the usual time **2** : existing or appearing past the normal or proper time — **be·lat·ed·ly** *adv* — **be·lat·ed·ness** *n*

be·laud \bi-'lȯd\ *vt* : to praise usu. to excess

[1]be·lay \bi-'lā\ *vb* [ME *beleggen* to beset, fr. OE *belecgan*, fr. *be-* + *lecgan* to lay] *vt* **1 a** : to secure (as a rope) by turns around a cleat, pin, or bitt **b** : to make fast **2** : STOP **3 a** : to secure (a person) at the end of a rope **b** : to secure (a rope) to a person or object ~ *vi* **1** : to be made fast **2** : STOP, QUIT — used in the imperative ⟨~ there⟩ **3** : to make a line fast by turns around a cleat, pin, or bitt

[2]belay *n* **1** : the obtaining of a hold (as for a rope) during mountain climbing; *also* : a method of obtaining such a hold **2** : something (as a projection of rock) to which a mountain climber's rope is anchored

bel can·to \bel-'kän-(ˌ)tō\ *n* [It, lit., beautiful singing] : operatic singing originating in 17th century and 18th century Italy and stressing ease, purity, and evenness of tone production and an agile and precise vocal technique

belch \'belch\ *vb* [ME *belchen*, fr. OE *bealcian*] *vi* **1** : to expel gas suddenly from the stomach through the mouth **2** : to erupt, explode, or detonate violently **3** : to issue forth spasmodically : GUSH ~ *vt* **1** : to eject or emit violently **2** : to expel (gas) from the stomach suddenly : ERUCT — **belch** *n*

bel·dam *or* **bel·dame** \'bel-dəm\ *n* [ME *beldam* grandmother, fr. MF *bel* beautiful + ME *dam*] : an old woman; *esp* : HAG

be·lea·guer \bi-'lē-gər\ *vt* **-guered; -guer·ing** \-g(ə-)riŋ\ [D *belegeren*, fr. *be-* (akin to OE *be-*) + *leger* camp; akin to OHG *legar* bed — more at LAIR] **1** : to surround with an army so as to prevent escape : BESIEGE **2** : BESET, HARASS ⟨~*ed* parents⟩

bel·em·nite \'bel-əm-ˌnīt\ *n* [F *bélemnite*, fr. Gk *belemnon* dart; akin to Gk *ballein* to throw — more at DEVIL] : a conical fossil shell of an extinct cephalopod (family Belemnitidae) — **bel·em·nit·ic** \ˌbel-əm-'nit-ik\ *adj*

bel es·prit \ˌbel-ə-'sprē, -e-\ *n, pl* **beaux es·prits** \ˌbō-ˌzes-'prē\ [F, lit., fine mind] : a person with a fine and gifted mind

bel·fry \'bel-frē\ *n, pl* **belfries** [ME *belfrey*, alter. of *berfrey*, fr. MF *berfrei*, deriv. of Gk *pyrgos phorētos* movable war tower] **1** : a bell tower; *esp* : one surmounting or attached to another structure **2** : a room in which a bell is hung in a tower **3** : a cupola, turret, or framework for enclosing a bell

Belg *abbr* Belgian; Belgium

bel·ga \'bel-gə\ *n* [F, fr. L *Belga* Belgian] : a former Belgian monetary unit for use in foreign exchange equal to five francs

Bel·gae \'bel-ˌgī, -ˌjē\ *n pl* [L, pl. of *Belga*] : a people occupying northern France, Belgium, and England in Caesar's time — **Bel·gic** \-jik\ *adj*

Bel·gian \'bel-jən\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Belgium **2** : any of a Belgian breed of heavy usu. roan or chestnut draft horses — **Belgian** *adj*

Belgian hare *n* : any of a breed of slender dark-red domestic rabbits

Belgian Ma·li·nois \-ˌmal-ən-'wä\ *n* : any of a breed of squarely built working dogs closely related to the Belgian sheepdog and having relatively short straight hair with a dense undercoat — called also *Malinois*

Belgian sheepdog *n* : any of a breed of hardy black or gray dogs developed in Belgium esp. for herding sheep

Belgian Ter·vu·ren \-(ˌ)tər-'vyůr-ən, -ter-\ *n* [*Tervuren*, commune in Brabant, Belgium] : any of a breed of working dogs closely related to the Belgian sheepdog but having abundant long straight fawn-colored hair with black tips

Bel·go- \'bel-(ˌ)gō\ *comb form* [*Belgian*] : Belgian and ⟨*Belgo*-English⟩

Be·lial \'bē-lē-əl, 'bēl-yəl\ *n* [Gk, fr. Heb *bĕlīya'al* worthlessness] **1** — a biblical name of the devil or one of the fiends **2** : one of the fallen angels in Milton's *Paradise Lost*

be·lie \bi-'lī\ *vt* **-lied; -ly·ing** **1 a** : to give a false impression of **b** : to contrast with **2 a** : to prove (something) false **b** : to run counter to : CONTRADICT ***syn*** see MISREPRESENT — **be·li·er** \-'lī(-ə)r\ *n*

be·lief \bə-'lēf\ *n* [ME *beleave*, prob. alter. of OE *gelēafa*, fr. *ge-*, associative prefix + *lēafa*; akin to OE *lȳfan*] **1** : a state or habit of mind in which trust or confidence is placed in some person or thing **2** : something believed; *specif* : a tenet or body of tenets held by a group **3** : conviction of the truth of some statement or the reality of some being or phenomenon esp. when based on examination of evidence

syn **1** BELIEF, FAITH, CREDENCE, CREDIT *shared meaning element* : an assent or act of assenting to something offered for acceptance. BELIEF may suggest mental acceptance without directly implying certitude or certainty on the part of the believer ⟨had the strongest *belief* in his own capacity for success⟩ FAITH implies certitude and full trust and confidence in the source whether there be objective evidence or not ⟨*faith* is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen —Heb. 11:1 (AV)⟩ CREDENCE implies intellectual acceptance but conveys nothing about the validity of the grounds for acceptance ⟨give *credence* to rumors⟩ CREDIT implies acceptance on grounds short of proof and especially on the past reputation of the source ⟨what *credit* can be attached to an anonymous report?⟩ ***ant*** unbelief, disbelief **2** see OPINION

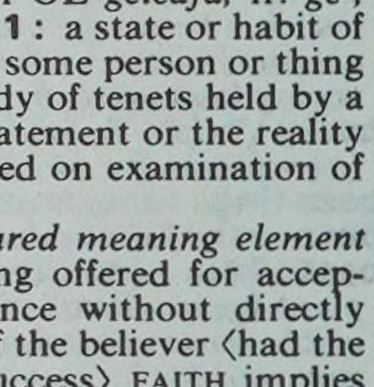
be·liev·able \-'lē-və-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being believed esp. as within the range of known possibility or probability ***syn*** see PLAUSIBLE ***ant*** unbelievable — **be·liev·abil·i·ty** \-ˌlē-və-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **be·liev·ably** \-'lē-və-blē\ *adv*

be·lieve \bə-'lēv\ *vb* **be·lieved; be·liev·ing** [ME *beleven*, fr. OE *belēfan*, fr. *be-* + *lȳfan*, *lēfan* to allow, believe; akin to OHG *gilouben* to believe, OE *lēof* dear — more at LOVE] *vi* **1 a** : to have a firm religious faith **b** : to accept trustfully and on faith ⟨people who ~ in the natural goodness of man⟩ **2** : to have a firm conviction as to the reality or goodness of something ⟨~ in exercise⟩ **3** : to hold an opinion : THINK ~ *vt* **1** : to consider to be true or honest ⟨~ the reports⟩ **2** : to hold as an opinion : SUPPOSE ⟨I ~ it will rain soon⟩ ***syn*** see KNOW — **be·liev·er** *n*

be·like \bi-'līk\ *adv, archaic* : most likely : PROBABLY

be·lit·tle \bi-'lit-ᵊl\ *vt* **-lit·tled; -lit·tling** \-'lit-ᵊl-iŋ, -'lit-liŋ\ **1** : to cause (a person or thing) to seem little or less **2** : DISPARAGE 2 ⟨~*s* her efforts⟩ ***syn*** see DECRY ***ant*** aggrandize, magnify — **be·lit·tle·ment** \-'lit-ᵊl-mənt\ *n* — **be·lit·tler** \-'lit-ᵊl-ər, -'lit-lər\ *n*

be·live \bi-'līv\ *adv* [ME *bilive*, fr. *by* + *live*, dat. of *lif* life] *Scot* : in due time : by and by



bell 1: *1* crown, *2* head, *3* shoulder, *4* waist, *5* bead lines, *6* sound bow, *7* lip, *8* mouth, *9* clapper

[1]bell \'bel\ *n* [ME *belle*, fr. OE; akin to OE *bellan* to roar — more at BELLOW] **1** : a hollow metallic device that vibrates and gives forth a ringing sound when struck **2** : the sounding of a bell as a signal **3 a** : a

bell rung to tell the hour **b** : a stroke of such a bell esp. on shipboard **c** : the time so indicated **d** : a half hour period of a watch on shipboard indicated by the strokes of a bell — see SHIP'S BELLS table below **4** : something having the form of a bell: as **a** : the corolla of a flower **b** : the flared end of a wind instrument **5 a** : a percussion instrument consisting of metal bars or tubes that when struck give out tones resembling bells — usu. used in pl. **b** : GLOCKENSPIEL

²bell *vt* **1** : to provide with a bell **2** : to make bell-mouthed ~ *vi* : to take the form of a bell : FLARE — **bell the cat** : to do a daring or risky deed

SHIP'S BELLS

NO. OF BELLS	HOUR (A.M. OR P.M.)		
1	12:30	4:30	8:30
2	1:00	5:00	9:00
3	1:30	5:30	9:30
4	2:00	6:00	10:00
5	2:30	6:30	10:30
6	3:00	7:00	11:00
7	3:30	7:30	11:30
8	4:00	8:00	12:00

³bell *vi* [ME *bellen*, fr. OE *bellan*] : to make a resonant bellowing or baying sound ⟨the wild buck ~*s* from ferny brake —Sir Walter Scott⟩

⁴bell *n* : BELLOW, ROAR

bel·la·don·na \ˌbel-ə-ˈdän-ə\ *n* [It, lit., beautiful lady] **1** : a European poisonous plant (*Atropa belladonna*) of the nightshade family having reddish bell-shaped flowers, shining black berries, and root and leaves that yield atropine — called also *deadly nightshade* **2** : a medicinal extract (as atropine) from the belladonna plant

belladonna lily *n* : an amaryllis (*Amaryllis belladonna*) often cultivated for its fragrant usu. white or rose flowers

bell·bird \ˈbel-ˌbərd\ *n* : any of several birds whose notes suggest the sound of a bell

bell–bot·toms \ˈbel-ˈbät-əmz\ *n pl* : pants with wide flaring bottoms — **bell–bottom** *adj*

bell·boy \ˈbel-ˌbȯi\ *n* : BELLHOP

bell buoy *n* : a buoy with a bell that rings by the action of the waves

bell captain *n* : CAPTAIN 1h(2)

belle \ˈbel\ *n* [F, fr. fem. of *beau* beautiful — more at BEAU] : a popular and attractive girl or woman; *esp* : a girl or woman whose charm and beauty make her a favorite ⟨the ~ of the ball⟩

Bel·leek \bə-ˈlēk\ *n* [*Belleek*, town in Northern Ireland] : a very thin translucent porcelain with a lustrous pearly glaze first produced in Ireland in the mid-nineteenth century — called also *Belleek china, Belleek ware*

Bel·ler·o·phon \bə-ˈler-ə-fən, -ˌfän\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Bellerophōn*] : a legendary Greek hero noted for killing the Chimera

belles let·tres \bel-letrᵊ\ *n pl but sing in constr* [F, lit., fine letters] : literature that is an end in itself and not practical or purely informative; *specif* : light, entertaining, and often sophisticated literature

bel·le·trist \bel-ˈle-trəst\ *n* [*belles lettres*] : a writer of belles lettres — **bel·le·tris·tic** \ˌbel-ə-ˈtris-tik\ *adj*

bell·flow·er \ˈbel-ˌflaù(-ə)r\ *n* : any of a genus (*Campanula* of the family Campanulaceae, the bellflower family) having an acrid juice, alternate leaves, and usu. showy bell-shaped flowers

bell·hop \-ˌhäp\ *n* [short for *bell-hopper*] : a hotel or club employee who escorts guests to rooms, assists them with luggage, and runs errands

bel·li·cose \ˈbel-i-ˌkōs\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *bellicosus*, fr. *bellicus* of war, fr. *bellum* war] : favoring or inclined to start quarrels or wars ***syn*** see BELLIGERENT ***ant*** pacific, amicable — **bel·li·cose·ly** *adv* — **bel·li·cose·ness** *n* — **bel·li·cos·i·ty** \ˌbel-i-ˈkäs-ət-ē\ *n*

-bel·lied \ˈbel-ēd\ *adj comb form* : having (such) a belly ⟨a big-*bellied* man⟩

bel·lig·er·ence \bə-ˈlij(-ə)-rən(t)s\ *n* : an aggressive or truculent attitude, atmosphere, or disposition

bel·lig·er·en·cy \-rən-sē\ *n* **1** : the state of being at war or in conflict; *specif* : the status of a legally recognized belligerent **2** : BELLIGERENCE

bel·lig·er·ent \-rənt\ *adj* [modif. of L *belligerant-, belligerans*, prp. of *belligerare* to wage war, fr. *belliger* waging war, fr. *bellum* + *gerere* to wage — more at CAST] **1** : waging war; *specif* : belonging to or recognized as a state at war and protected by and subject to the laws of war **2** : inclined to or exhibiting assertiveness, hostility, or combativeness — **belligerent** *n* — **bel·lig·er·ent·ly** *adv*

syn BELLIGERENT, BELLICOSE, PUGNACIOUS, COMBATIVE, QUARRELSOME, CONTENTIOUS *shared meaning element* : having or taking an aggressive or truculent attitude ***ant*** friendly

bell jar *n* : a bell-shaped usu. glass vessel designed to cover objects or to contain gases or a vacuum

bell–ly·ra \ˈbel-ˈlī-rə\ *or* **bell lyre** \-ˌlī(ə)r\ *n* [*lyra* fr. L, lyre] : a glockenspiel mounted in a portable lyre-shaped frame and used esp. in marching bands

bell·man \ˈbel-mən\ *n* **1** : a man (as a town crier) who rings a bell **2** : BELLHOP

bell metal *n* : bronze that consists usu. of three to four parts of copper to one of tin and that is used for making bells

Bel·lo·na \bə-ˈlō-nə\ *n* [L] : the Roman goddess of war

bel·low \ˈbel-(ˌ)ō, -ə(-w)\ *vb* [ME *belwen*, fr. OE *bylgian*; akin to OE & OHG *bellan* to roar, Skt *bhāsate* he talks] *vi* **1** : to make the loud deep hollow sound characteristic of a bull **2** : to shout in a deep voice ~ *vt* : BAWL ⟨~*s* the orders⟩ — **bellow** *n*

bel·lows \ˈbel-(ˌ)ōz, -əz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [ME *bely, below, belwes* — more at BELLY] **1** : an instrument or machine that by alternate expansion and contraction draws in air through a valve or orifice and expels it through a tube; *also* : any of various other blowers **2** : LUNGS **3** : the pleated expansible part in a camera

bell·pull \ˈbel-ˌpůl\ *n* : a handle or knob attached to a cord by which one rings a bell; *also* : the cord itself

bell push *n* : a button that is pushed to ring a bell

bells \ˈbelz\ *n pl* : BELL-BOTTOMS

bell tower *n* : a tower that supports or shelters a bell

bell·weth·er \ˈbel-ˈweth-ər, -ˌweth-\ *n* [ME, leading sheep of a flock, leader, fr. *belle* bell + *wether*; fr. the practice of belling the leader of a flock] : one that takes the lead or initiative : LEADER

bell·wort \ˈbel-ˌwərt, -ˌwȯ(ə)rt\ *n* : any of a small genus (*Uvularia*) of herbs of the lily family with yellow drooping bell-shaped flowers

¹bel·ly \ˈbel-ē\ *n, pl* **bellies** [ME *bely* bellows, belly, fr. OE *belg* bag, skin; akin to OHG *balg* bag, skin, OE *blāwan* to blow] **1 a** : ABDOMEN 1 **b** : the undersurface of an animal's body; *also* : hide from this part **c** : WOMB, UTERUS **d** : the stomach and its adjuncts **2** : an internal cavity : INTERIOR **3** : appetite for food **4** : a surface or object curved or rounded like a human belly **5 a** : the part of a sail that swells out when filled with wind **b** : the enlarged fleshy body of a muscle **c** : the side of a piece of printer's type having the nick

²belly *vb* **bel·lied; bel·ly·ing** : SWELL, FILL

¹bel·ly·ache \ˈbel-ē-ˌāk\ *n* : pain in the abdomen and esp. in the bowels : COLIC

²bellyache *vi* : to complain whiningly or peevishly : find fault — **bel·ly·ach·er** *n*

bel·ly·band \ˈbel-ē-ˌband\ *n* : a band around or across the belly : as **a** : GIRTH 1 **b** : BAND 4b

belly button *n* : NAVEL 1

belly dance *n* : a usu. solo dance emphasizing movements of the belly — **belly dance** *vi* — **belly dancer** *n*

belly flop *n* : a dive (as into water or in coasting prone on a sled) in which the front of the body strikes flat against another surface — called also *belly flopper* — **belly flop** *vi*

bel·ly·ful \ˈbel-ē-ˌfůl\ *n* : an excessive amount ⟨a ~ of advice⟩

bel·ly–land \-ˌland\ *vi* : to land an airplane on its undersurface without use of landing gear — **belly landing** *n*

belly laugh *n* : a deep hearty laugh

be·long \bi-ˈlȯŋ\ *vi* [ME *belongen*, fr. *be-* + *longen* to be suitable — more at LONG] **1 a** : to be suitable, appropriate, or advantageous ⟨a telephone ~*s* in every home⟩ **b** : to be in a proper situation ⟨a man of his ability ~*s* in teaching⟩ **2 a** : to be the property of a person or thing — used with *to* **b** : to be attached or bound by birth, allegiance, or dependency **c** : to be a member of a club or organization **3** : to be an attribute, part, adjunct, or function of a person or thing ⟨nuts and bolts ~ to a car⟩ **4** : to be properly classified

be·long·ing \-ˈlȯŋ-iŋ\ *n* **1** : POSSESSION — usu. used in pl. **2** : close or intimate relationship ⟨a sense of ~⟩

Be·lo·rus·sian \ˌbel-ō-ˈrəsh-ən\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Belorussia, U.S.S.R. **2** : the Slavic language of the Belorussians — **Belorussian** *adj*

be·loved \bi-ˈləv(-ə)d\ *adj* [ME, fr. pp. of *beloven* to love, fr. *be-* + *loven* to love] : dearly loved — **beloved** *n*

¹be·low \bi-ˈlō\ *adv* [*be-* + *low*, adj.] **1** : in or to a lower place **2 a** : on earth **b** : in or to Hades or hell **3** : on or to a lower floor or deck **4** : in, to, or at a lower rank or number **5** : lower on the same page or on a following page **6** : under the surface of the water

²below *prep* **1** : in or to a lower place than : UNDER **2** : inferior to (as in rank) **3** : not suitable to the rank of : BENEATH

³below *n* : something that is below

⁴below *adj* : written or discussed lower on the same page or on a following page

Bel Pa·ese \ˌbel-pä-ˈā-zə, -zē\ *trademark* — used for a mild soft creamy cheese in a firm rind

Bel·shaz·zar \bel-ˈshaz-ər\ *n* [Heb *Bēlshaṣṣar*] : a son of Nebuchadnezzar and king of Babylon

¹belt \ˈbelt\ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *balz* belt; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc word borrowed fr. L *balteus* belt] **1 a** : a strip of flexible material worn esp. around the waist **b** : a similar article worn as a corset or for protection or safety **2** : a continuous band of tough flexible material for transmitting motion and power or conveying materials **3** : an area characterized by some distinctive feature (as of culture, habitation, geology, or life forms); *esp* : one suited to a particular crop ⟨the corn ~⟩ — **belt·ed** \ˈbel-təd\ *adj* — **belt·less** \ˈbelt-ləs\ *adj* — **below the belt** : UNFAIRLY — **under one's belt** : in one's possession : as part of one's experience

²belt *vt* **1 a** : to encircle or fasten with a belt **b** : to strap on **2 a** : to beat with or as if with a belt : THRASH **b** : STRIKE, HIT **3** : to mark with a band **4** : to sing in a forceful manner or style ⟨~*ing* out popular songs⟩ ~ *vi* : to move or act in a vigorous or violent manner

³belt *n* **1** : a jarring blow : WHACK **2** : DRINK ⟨a ~ of brandy⟩

Bel·tane \ˈbel-tən\ *n* [ME, fr. ScGael *bealltain*] **1** : the first day of May in the old Scottish calendar **2** : the Celtic May Day festival

belt highway *n* : BELTWAY

belt·ing \ˈbel-tiŋ\ *n* **1** : BELTS **2** : material for belts

Belts·ville Small White \ˈbelts-ˌvil-, -vəl-\ *n* [*Beltsville*, Md.] : a small white domestic turkey of a variety developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

belt tightening *n* : a reduction in spending

belt up *vi, Brit* : to shut up

belt·way \ˈbelt-ˌwā\ *n* : a highway skirting an urban area

be·lu·ga \bə-ˈlü-gə\ *n* [Russ, fr. *belyĭ* white; akin to Gk *phainein* to show — more at FANCY] **1** : a white sturgeon (*Acipenser huso*) of the Black sea, Caspian sea, and their tributaries **2** [Russ *belukha*,

fr. *belyĭ*] : a cetacean (*Delphinapterus leucas*) that is about 10 feet long and white when adult
bel·ve·dere \'bel-və-ˌdi(ə)r\ *n* [It, lit., beautiful view] : a structure (as a cupola or a summerhouse) designed to command a view
BEM *abbr* **1** bachelor of engineering of mines **2** British Empire Medal
be·ma \'bē-mə\ *n* [LL & LGk; LL, fr. LGk *bēma*, fr. Gk, step, tribunal, fr. *bainein* to go — more at COME] : the part of an Eastern church containing the altar — see BASILICA illustration
Bem·ba \'bem-bə\ *n, pl* **Bemba** *or* **Bembas** **1** : a member of a primarily agricultural Bantu-speaking people of northern Rhodesia **2** : a Bantu language of the Bemba people
be·med·aled *or* **be·med·alled** \bi-'med-ᵊld\ *adj* : wearing or decorated with medals
be·mire \bi-'mī(ə)r\ *vt* **1** : to soil with mud or dirt **2** : to drag through or sink in mire
be·moan \bi-'mōn\ *vt* **1** : to express deep grief or distress over ⟨implores their pity, and his pain ~*s* —John Dryden⟩ **2** : to regard with displeasure, disapproval, or regret ***syn*** see DEPLORE
be·mock \bi-'mäk, -'mȯk\ *vt, archaic* : MOCK
be·muse \bi-'myüz\ *vt* **1** : to make confused : BEWILDER **2** : to cause to become lost in thought — **be·mus·ed·ly** \-'myü-zəd-lē\ *adv* — **be·muse·ment** \-'myüz-mənt\ *n*
¹ben \'ben\ *adv* [ME, fr. OE *binnan*, fr. *be-* + *innan* within, from within, fr. *in*] *Scot* : WITHIN
²ben \(')ben\ *prep, Scot* : WITHIN
³ben \'ben\ *n, Scot* : the inner room or parlor of a 2-room cottage
Bence–Jones protein \ˌben(t)s-ˌjōnz-\ *n* [Henry *Bence-Jones* †1873 E physician and chemist] : a globulin or a group of globulins found in the blood serum and urine in multiple myeloma and occas. in other bone diseases
¹bench \'bench\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *benc;* akin to OHG *bank* bench] **1 a** : a long seat for two or more persons **b** : a thwart in a boat **c** (1) : a seat on which the members of an athletic team await a turn or opportunity to play (2) : the reserve players on a team **2 a** : the seat where a judge sits in court **b** : the office or dignity of a judge **c** : the place where justice is administered : COURT **d** : the persons who sit as judges **3 a** : a seat for an official **b** : the office or dignity of such an official **c** : the officials occupying such a bench **4 a** : a long worktable **b** : a table forming part of a machine **5** : TERRACE, SHELF; *esp* : a former wave-cut shore of a sea or lake or floodplain of a river **6 a** : a platform on which a dog is placed at a dog show **b** : a dog show
²bench *vt* **1** : to furnish with benches **2 a** : to seat on a bench **b** (1) : to remove from or keep out of a game (2) : to remove from the starting lineup **3** : to exhibit (dogs) on a bench ~ *vi* : to form a bench by natural processes
bench·er \'ben-chər\ *n* : one who sits on or presides at a bench
bench mark *n* **1** : a mark on a permanent object indicating elevation and serving as a reference in topographical surveys and tidal observations **2** *usu* **benchmark** **a** : a point of reference from which measurements may be made **b** : something that serves as a standard by which others may be measured
bench show *n* : an exhibition of small animals in competition for prizes on the basis of points of physical conformation and condition
bench warrant *n* : a warrant issued by a presiding judge or by a court against a person guilty of contempt or indicted for a crime
¹bend \'bend\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *bende*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *binta, bant* band — more at BAND] **1** : a diagonal band that runs from the dexter chief to the sinister base on a heraldic shield **2** : the half of a butt or a hide trimmed of the thinner parts **3** [ME, band, fr. OE *bend* fetter — more at BAND] : a knot by which one rope is fastened to another or to some object
²bend *vb* **bent** \'bent\; **bend·ing** [ME *bendan*, fr. OE *bendan;* akin to OE *bend* fetter] *vt* **1** : to constrain or strain to tension ⟨~ a bow⟩ **2 a** : to turn or force from straight or even to curved or angular **b** : to force back to an original straight or even condition **c** : to force from a proper shape **3** : FASTEN ⟨~ a sail to its yard⟩ **4** : to make submissive : SUBDUE **5 a** : to cause to turn from a straight course : DEFLECT **b** : to guide or turn toward : DIRECT **c** : INCLINE, DISPOSE **6** : to direct strenuously or with interest : APPLY ~ *vi* **1** : to curve out of a straight line or position; *specif* : to incline the body in token of submission **2** : INCLINE, TEND **3** : to apply oneself vigorously ⟨~*ing* to their work⟩ **4** : to make concessions : COMPROMISE ***syn*** see CURVE — **bend over backwards** : to make extreme efforts at concession
³bend *n* **1** : the act or process of bending : the state of being bent **2** : something that is bent: as **a** : a curved part of a stream **b** : ¹WALE 2 — usu. used in pl. **3** *pl but sing or pl in constr* : CAISSON DISEASE ⟨a case of the ~*s*⟩ — **around the bend** : MAD, CRAZY ⟨afraid his friend was going *around the bend*⟩
ben·day \'ben-'dā\ *adj, often cap* [*Ben*jamin *Day* †1916 Am printer] : involving a process for adding shaded or tinted areas made up of dots for reproduction by line engraving — **benday** *vt*
bend·er \'ben-dər\ *n* **1** : one that bends **2** : SPREE
bend sinister *n* : a diagonal bend that runs from the sinister chief to the dexter base on a heraldic shield
¹be·neath \bi-'nēth\ *adv* [ME *benethe*, fr. OE *beneothan*, fr. *be-* + *neothan* below; akin to OE *nithera* nether] **1** : in or to a lower position : BELOW **2** : directly under : UNDERNEATH
²beneath *prep* **1 a** : in or to a lower position than : BELOW **b** : directly under **c** : at the foot of **2** : not suitable to the rank of : unworthy of **3** : under the control, pressure, or influence of
ben·e·dict \'ben-ə-ˌdikt\ *n* [alter. of *Benedick*, character in Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing*] : a newly married man who has long been a bachelor
Ben·e·dic·tine \ˌben-ə-'dik-tən, -ˌtēn\ *n* : a monk or a nun of one of the congregations following the rule of St. Benedict and devoted esp. to scholarship and liturgical worship — **Benedictine** *adj*
bene·dic·tion \ˌben-ə-'dik-shən\ *n* [ME *benedicciouη*, fr. LL *benediction-, benedictio*, fr. *benedictus*, pp. of *benedicere* to bless, fr. L, to speak well of, fr. *bene* well + *dicere* to say — more at BOUNTY, DICTION] **1** : an expression of good wishes **2** : the invocation of a blessing; *esp* : the short blessing with which public worship is concluded **3** *often cap* : a Roman Catholic or Anglo-Catholic devotion including the exposition of the eucharistic Host in the monstrance and the blessing of the people with it **4** : something that promotes goodness or well-being
bene·dic·to·ry \-'dik-t(ə-)rē\ *adj* : of or expressing benediction
Bene·dic·tus \-'dik-təs\ *n* [LL, blessed, fr. pp. of *benedicere;* fr. its first word] **1** : a canticle from Mt 21:9 beginning "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" **2** : a canticle from Lk 1:68 beginning "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel"
bene·fac·tion \ˌben-ə-'fak-shən\ *n* [LL *benefaction-, benefactio*, fr. L *bene factus*, pp. of *bene facere* to do good to, fr. *bene* + *facere* to do — more at DO] **1** : the act of benefiting **2** : a benefit conferred; *esp* : a charitable donation
bene·fac·tor \'ben-ə-ˌfak-tər\ *n* : one that confers a benefit; *esp* : one that makes a gift or bequest — **bene·fac·tress** \-trəs\ *n*
be·nef·ic \bə-'nef-ik\ *adj* [L *beneficus*, fr. *bene* + *facere*] : BENEFICENT
ben·e·fice \'ben-ə-fəs\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. ML *beneficium*, fr. L, favor, promotion, fr. *beneficus*] **1** : an ecclesiastical office to which the revenue from an endowment is attached **2** : a feudal estate in lands : FIEF — **benefice** *vt*
be·nef·i·cence \bə-'nef-ə-sən(t)s\ *n* [L *beneficentia*, fr. *beneficus*] **1** : the quality or state of being beneficent **2** : BENEFACTION
be·nef·i·cent \-sənt\ *adj* [back-formation fr. *beneficence*] **1** : doing or producing good; *esp* : performing acts of kindness and charity **2** : BENEFICIAL — **be·nef·i·cent·ly** *adv*
ben·e·fi·cial \ˌben-ə-'fish-əl\ *adj* [L *beneficium* favor, benefit] **1** : conferring benefits : conducive to personal or social well-being **2** : receiving or entitling one to receive advantage, use, or benefit ⟨the ~ owner of an estate⟩ ⟨a ~ legacy⟩ — **ben·e·fi·cial·ly** \-'fish-ə-lē\ *adv* — **ben·e·fi·cial·ness** *n*
syn BENEFICIAL, ADVANTAGEOUS, PROFITABLE *shared meaning element* : bringing good or gain ***ant*** harmful, detrimental
ben·e·fi·cia·ry \ˌben-ə-'fish-ē-ˌer-ē, -'fish-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1** : one that benefits from something ⟨*beneficiaries* of government programs⟩ **2 a** : the person designated to receive the income of a trust estate **b** : the person named (as in an insurance policy) to receive proceeds or benefits — **beneficiary** *adj*
ben·e·fi·ci·ate \-'fish-ē-ˌāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** : to treat (a raw material) so as to improve properties; *esp* : to prepare (iron ore) for smelting — **ben·e·fi·ci·a·tion** \-ˌfish-ē-'ā-shən\ *n*
¹ben·e·fit \'ben-ə-ˌfit\ *n* [ME, fr. AF *benfet*, fr. L *bene factum*, fr. neut. of *bene factus*] **1** *archaic* : an act of kindness : BENEFACTION **2 a** : something that promotes well-being : ADVANTAGE **b** : useful aid : HELP **3 a** : financial help in time of sickness, old age, or unemployment **b** : a payment or service provided for under an annuity, pension plan, or insurance policy **4** : an entertainment or social event to raise funds for a person or cause
²benefit *vb* **-fit·ed** \-ˌfit-əd\ *or* **-fit·ted; -fit·ing** *or* **-fit·ting** *vt* : to be useful or profitable to ⟨medicines that ~ mankind⟩ ~ *vi* : to receive benefit — **ben·e·fit·er** \-ˌfit-ər\ *n*
benefit of clergy **1** : clerical exemption from trial in a civil court **2** : the ministration or sanction of the church ⟨a couple living together without *benefit of clergy*⟩
be·nev·o·lence \bə-'nev(-ə)-lən(t)s\ *n* **1** : disposition to do good **2 a** : an act of kindness **b** : a generous gift **3** : a compulsory levy by certain English kings with no other authority than the claim of prerogative
be·nev·o·lent \-lənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *benevolent-, benevolens*, fr. *bene* + *volent-, volens*, prp. of *velle* to wish — more at WILL] **1 a** : marked by or disposed to doing good ⟨a ~ donor⟩ **b** : organized for the purpose of doing good ⟨a ~ society⟩ **2** : marked by or suggestive of goodwill ⟨~ smiles⟩ — **be·nev·o·lent·ly** *adv* — **be·nev·o·lent·ness** *n*
Ben·gal·ee \ben-'gȯl-ē, beŋ-\ *n* [Hindi *Baṅgālī* Bengali] : a native or resident of Bangladesh — **Bengalee** *adj*
Ben·gali \ben-'gȯ-lē, beŋ-\ *n* [Hindi *Baṅgālī*, fr. *Baṅgāl* Bengal] **1** : a native or resident of Bengal **2** : a native or inhabitant of Bangladesh **3** : the modern Indic language of Bengal — **Bengali** *adj*
ben·ga·line \'beŋ-gə-ˌlēn\ *n* [F, fr. *Bengal*] : a fabric with a crosswise rib made from textile fibers (as rayon, nylon, cotton, or wool) often in combination
Ben·gal light \ˌben-ˌgȯl-, ˌbeŋ-\ *n* **1** : a blue light used formerly for signaling and illumination **2** : any of various colored lights or flares
BEngr *abbr* bachelor of engineering
BEngS *abbr* bachelor of engineering science
be·night·ed \bi-'nīt-əd\ *adj* **1** : overtaken by darkness or night **2** : existing in a state of intellectual, moral, or social darkness : UNENLIGHTENED — **be·night·ed·ly** *adv* — **be·night·ed·ness** *n*
be·nign \bi-'nīn\ *adj* [ME *benigne*, fr. MF, fr. L *benignus*, fr. *bene* well + *gigni* to be born, pass. of *gignere* to beget — more at BOUNTY, KIN] **1** : of a gentle disposition : GRACIOUS ⟨a ~ teacher⟩ **2 a** : showing kindness and gentleness ⟨~ faces⟩ **b** : FAVORABLE ⟨a ~ climate⟩ **3** : of a mild character ⟨~ tumor⟩ ***syn*** see KIND ***ant*** malign — **be·nig·ni·ty** \-'nig-nət-ē\ *n* — **be·nign·ly** \-'nīn-lē\ *adv*
be·nig·nan·cy \bi-'nig-nən-sē\ *n* : benignant quality
be·nig·nant \-nənt\ *adj* [*benign* + *-ant* (as in *malignant*)] **1** : serenely mild and kindly : BENIGN **2** : FAVORABLE, BENEFICIAL ⟨a ~ power⟩ ***syn*** see KIND ***ant*** malignant — **be·nig·nant·ly** *adv*
ben·i·son \'ben-ə-sən, -zən\ *n* [ME *beneson*, fr. OF *beneiçon*, fr. LL *benediction-, benedictio*] : BLESSING, BENEDICTION
Ben·ja·min \'benj-(ə-)mən\ *n* [Heb *Binyāmīn*] : a son of Jacob and the traditional eponymous ancestor of one of the tribes of Israel
ben·ne *or* **ben·ni** \'ben-ē\ *n* [of African origin; akin to Mandingo *bĕne* sesame] : SESAME 1
ben·ny \'ben-ē\ *n, pl* **bennies** [*Benz*edrine + *-ie*] *slang* : a tablet of amphetamine taken as a stimulant
¹bent \'bent\ *n* [ME, grassy place, bent grass, fr. OE *beonot-;* akin to OHG *binuz* rush] **1** : unenclosed grassland **2 a** (1) : a reedy grass (2) : a stalk of stiff coarse grass **b** : any of a genus

(*Agrostis*) including important chiefly perennial and rhizomatous pasture and lawn grasses with fine velvety or wiry herbage

²bent *adj* [ME, fr. pp. of *benden* to bend] **1** : changed by bending out of an original straight or even condition ⟨~ twigs⟩ **2** : strongly inclined : DETERMINED ⟨was ~ on winning⟩

³bent *n* [irreg. fr. ²*bend*] **1 a** : a strong inclination or interest : BIAS **b** : a special inclination or capacity : TALENT **2** : capacity of endurance **3** : a transverse framework (as in a bridge) to carry lateral as well as vertical loads ***syn*** see GIFT

Ben·tham·ism \'ben(t)-thə-ˌmiz-əm\ *n* : the utilitarian philosophy of Jeremy Bentham and his followers — **Ben·tham·ite** \-ˌmīt\ *n*

ben·thic \'ben(t)-thik\ *or* **ben·thal** \-thəl\ *adj* [*benthos*] **1** : of, relating to, or occurring at the bottom of a body of water **2** : of, relating to, or occurring in the depths of the ocean

ben·thon·ic \ben-'thän-ik\ *adj* [irreg. fr. *benthos*] : BENTHIC

ben·thos \'ben-ˌthäs\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk, depth, deep sea; akin to Gk *bathys* deep — more at BATHY-] : organisms that live on or in the bottom of bodies of water

ben·ton·ite \'bent-ᵊn-ˌīt\ *n* [Fort *Benton*, Montana] : an absorptive and colloidal clay used esp. as a filler (as in paper) or carrier (as of drugs) — **ben·ton·it·ic** \ˌbent-ᵊn-'it-ik\ *adj*

ben tro·va·to \ˌben-trō-'vät-(ˌ)ō\ *adj* [It, lit., well found] : characteristic or appropriate but not true

bent·wood \'bent-ˌwůd\ *adj* : made of wood that is bent and not cut into shape ⟨~ furniture⟩

be·numb \bi-'nəm\ *vt* [ME *benomen*, fr. *benomen*, *benome*, pp. of *benimen* to deprive, fr. OE *beniman*, fr. *be-* + *niman* to take — more at NIMBLE] **1** : to make inactive : DEADEN **2** : to make numb esp. by cold

benz- *or* **benzo-** *comb form* [ISV, fr. *benzoin*] : related to benzene or benzoic acid ⟨*benzo*phenone⟩ ⟨*benzy*l⟩

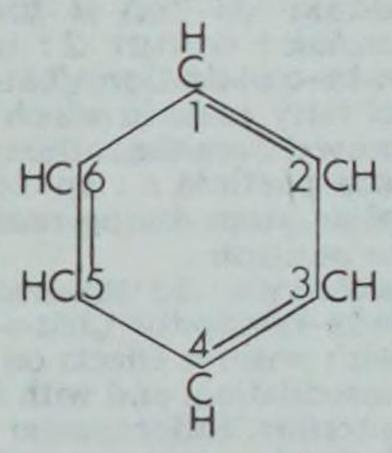
benz·al·de·hyde \ben-'zal-də-ˌhīd\ *n* [G *benzaldehyd*, fr. *benz-* + *aldehyd* aldehyde] : a colorless nontoxic aromatic liquid C_6H_5CHO found in essential oils (as in peach kernels) and used in flavoring and perfumery, in pharmaceuticals, and in synthesis of dyes

benz·an·thra·cene \ben-'zan(t)-thrə-ˌsēn\ *n* [ISV] : a crystalline feebly carcinogenic cyclic hydrocarbon $C_{18}H_{12}$ that is found in small amounts in coal tar

Ben·ze·drine \'ben-zə-ˌdrēn\ *trademark* — used for amphetamine

ben·zene \'ben-ˌzēn, ben-'\ *n* [ISV *benz-* + *-ene*] : a colorless volatile flammable toxic liquid aromatic hydrocarbon C_6H_6 used in organic synthesis, as a solvent, and as a motor fuel — called also *benzol* — **ben·ze·noid** \'ben-zə-ˌnȯid\ *adj*

benzene ring *n* : a structural arrangement of atoms held to exist in benzene and other aromatic compounds and marked by six carbon atoms linked by alternate single and double bonds in a planar symmetrical hexagon with each carbon attached to hydrogen in benzene itself or to other atoms or groups in substituted benzenes — called also *benzene nucleus*; compare META- 4b, ORTH- 4b, PARA- 2b



formula for benzene ring

ben·zi·dine \'ben-zə-ˌdēn\ *n* [prob. fr. G *benzidin*, fr. *benzin* + *-idin* -idine] : a crystalline base $C_{12}H_{12}N_2$ prepared from nitrobenzene and used esp. in making dyes

benz·imid·azole \ˌben-ˌzim-ə-'daz-ˌōl, ˌben-zə-'mid-ə-ˌzōl\ *n* [ISV *benz-* + *imidazole*] : a crystalline base $C_7H_6N_2$ that inhibits the growth of various organisms (as some viruses); *also* : one of its derivatives

ben·zine \'ben-ˌzēn, ben-'\ *n* [G *benzin*, fr. *benz-*] **1** : BENZENE **2** : any of various volatile flammable petroleum distillates used esp. as solvents or as motor fuels

ben·zo·ate \'ben-zə-ˌwāt\ *n* : a salt or ester of benzoic acid

benzoate of soda : SODIUM BENZOATE

ben·zo·caine \'ben-zə-ˌkān\ *n* [ISV] : a white crystalline ester $C_9H_{11}NO_2$ used as a local anesthetic

ben·zo·fu·ran \ˌben-zō-'fyů(ə)r-ˌan, -fyů-'ran\ *n* [*benz-* + *furan*] : COUMARONE

ben·zo·ic acid \ben-ˌzō-ik-\ *n* [ISV, fr. *benzoin*] : a white crystalline acid $C_7H_6O_2$ found naturally (as in benzoin or in cranberries) or made synthetically and used esp. as a preservative of foods, in medicine, and in organic synthesis

ben·zo·in \'ben-zə-wən, -ˌwēn; -ˌzȯin\ *n* [MF *benjoin*, fr. OCatal *benjuí*, fr. Ar *lubān jāwi*, lit., frankincense of Java] **1** : a hard fragrant yellowish balsamic resin from trees (genus *Styrax*) of southeastern Asia used esp. in medication, as a fixative in perfumes, and as incense **2** : a white crystalline hydroxy ketone $C_{14}H_{12}O_2$ made from benzaldehyde **3 a** : a tree yielding benzoin **b** : SPICEBUSH 1

ben·zol \'ben-ˌzól, -ˌzōl\ *n* [G, fr. *benz-* + *-ol*] : BENZENE; *also* : a mixture of benzene and other aromatic hydrocarbons

ben·zo·phe·none \ˌben-zō-fi-'nōn, -'fē-ˌnōn\ *n* [ISV] : a colorless crystalline ketone $C_{13}H_{10}O$ used chiefly in perfumery

ben·zo·py·rene \ˌben-zō-'pī(ə)r-ˌēn, -pī-'rēn\ *or* **benz·py·rene** \benz-'pī(ə)r-ˌēn, ˌbenz-pī-'rēn\ *n* [ISV] : a yellow crystalline cancer-producing hydrocarbon $C_{20}H_{12}$ found in coal tar

ben·zo·yl \'ben-zə-ˌwil\ *n* [G, fr. *benzoësäure* benzoic acid + Gk *hylē* matter, lit., wood] : the radical C_6H_5CO of benzoic acid

ben·zyl \'ben-ˌzēl, -zəl\ *n* [ISV *benz-* + *-yl*] : a univalent radical $C_6H_5CH_2$ derived from toluene — **ben·zyl·ic** \ben-'zil-ik\ *adj*

Be·o·wulf \'bā-ə-ˌwůlf\ *n* : a legendary Geatish warrior and hero of the Old English poem *Beowulf*

be·paint \bi-'pānt\ *vt, archaic* : TINGE

be·queath \bi-'kwēth, -'kwēth\ *vt* [ME *bequethen*, fr. OE *becwethan*, fr. *be-* + *cwethan* to say — more at QUOTH] **1** : to give or leave by will — used esp. of personal property **2** : to hand down : TRANSMIT ⟨ideas ~*ed* to us by the 19th century⟩ — **be·queath·al** \-əl\ *n*

be·quest \bi-'kwest\ *n* [ME, irreg. fr. *bequethen*] **1** : the act of bequeathing **2** : something bequeathed : LEGACY

be·rate \bi-'rāt\ *vt* : to scold or condemn vehemently and at length ***syn*** see SCOLD

Ber·ber \'bər-bər\ *n* [Ar *Barbar*] **1** : a member of a Caucasoid people of northern Africa west of Tripoli **2 a** : a branch of the Afro-Asiatic language family comprising languages spoken by various tribal groups (as the Tuareg or the Kabyle) in northern Africa **b** : any one of these languages

ber·ber·ine \'bər-bə-ˌrēn\ *n* [G *berberin*, fr. NL *berberis* barberry root, fr. ML *barberis*, fr. Ar *barbāris*] : a bitter crystalline yellow alkaloid $C_{20}H_{19}NO_5$ obtained from the roots of various plants (as barberry) and used as a tonic and antiperiodic

ber·ceuse \be(ə)r-'sə(r)z\ *n, pl* **ber·ceuses** \-'sə(r)z(-əz)\ [F] **1** : LULLABY **2** : a musical composition of a tranquil nature

be·reave \bi-'rēv\ *vt* **-reaved** *or* **-reft** \-'reft\; **-reav·ing** [ME *bereven*, fr. OE *berēafian*, fr. *be-* + *rēafian* to rob — more at REAVE] **1** *archaic* : to deprive of something — usu. used with *of* ⟨madam, you have *bereft* me of all words —Shak.⟩ **2** *archaic* : to take away (a valued or necessary possession) esp. by force

¹be·reaved *adj* : suffering the death of a loved one ⟨~ parents⟩

²bereaved *n, pl* **bereaved** : one who is bereaved

be·reave·ment \bi-'rēv-mənt\ *n* : the state or fact of being bereaved; *esp* : the loss of a loved one by death

be·reft \-'reft\ *adj* **1 a** : deprived or robbed of the possession or use of something — used with *of* ⟨both players are instantly ~ of their poise —A. E. Wier⟩ **b** : lacking something needed, wanted, or expected — used with *of* ⟨the book is . . . completely ~ of an index —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ **2** : BEREAVED ⟨a ~ daughter mourning here on the heights —B. A. Williams⟩

Ber·e·ni·ce's Hair \ˌber-ə-ˌnī-sēz-\ *n* : COMA BERENICES

be·ret \bə-'rā\ *n* [F *berret*, fr. Prov — more at BIRETTA] : a visorless usu. woolen cap with a tight headband and a soft full flat top

berg \'bərg\ *n* : ICEBERG

ber·ga·mot \'bər-gə-ˌmät\ *n* [F *bergamote*, fr. It *bergamotta*, of Turkic origin; akin to Turk *bey-armudu* prince's pear] **1** : a pear-shaped orange (*Citrus bergamia*) whose rind yields an essential oil used in perfumery **2** : any of several mints (genus *Monarda*)

be·rib·boned \bi-'rib-ənd\ *adj* : adorned with ribbons

beri·beri \ˌber-ē-'ber-ē\ *n* [Sinhalese *bæribæri*] : a deficiency disease marked by inflammatory or degenerative changes of the nerves, digestive system, and heart and caused by a lack of or inability to assimilate thiamine

Be·ring time \'bi(ə)r-iŋ-, 'be(ə)r-\ *n* [*Bering* sea] : the time of the 11th time zone west of Greenwich that includes western Alaska and the Aleutian islands

Berke·le·ian *or* **Berke·ley·an** \'bär-klē-ən, 'bər-; bär-', ˌbər-'\ *adj* : of, relating to, or suggestive of Bishop Berkeley or his system of philosophical idealism — **Berkeleian** *n* — **Berke·le·ian·ism** \-əˌniz-əm\ *n*

berke·li·um \'bər-klē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. *Berkeley*, Calif.] : a radioactive metallic element produced by bombarding americium 241 with helium ions — see ELEMENT table

Berks *abbr* Berkshire

Berk·shire \'bərk-ˌshi(ə)r, -shər\ *n* [*Berkshire*, England] : any of a breed of medium-sized black swine with white markings

ber·lin \(ˌ)bər-'lin\ *n* [F *berline*, fr. *Berlin*, Germany] : a four-wheeled two-seated covered carriage with a hooded rear seat

berm *or* **berme** \'bərm\ *n* [F *berme*, fr. D *berm* strip of ground along a dike; akin to ME *brimme* brim] : a narrow shelf, path, or ledge typically at the top or bottom of a slope

Ber·mu·da grass \(ˌ)bər-'myüd-ə-, *esp South* -'müd-\ *n* [*Bermuda* islands, No. Atlantic] : a trailing stoloniferous southern European grass (*Cynodon dactylon*)

Bermuda rig *n* : a fore-and-aft rig marked by a triangular sail and a mast with an extreme rake

Ber·mu·das \(ˌ)bər-'myüd-əz, *esp South* -'müd-\ *n pl* : BERMUDA SHORTS

Bermuda shorts *n pl* : knee-length walking shorts

Ber·nese mountain dog \ˌbər-ˌnēz-, -ˌnēs-\ *n* [*Bern*, Switzerland] : any of a Swiss breed of large powerful long-coated black dogs with brown and white markings formerly used for draft

Ber·noul·li trial \bər-ˌnü-lē-, ber-ˌnü-ē-, ˌber-ˌnü-ˌ(y)ē-\ *n* [Jacques *Bernoulli* †1705 Swiss mathematician] : a statistical experiment that has two mutually exclusive outcomes each of which has a constant probability of occurrence

ber·ried \'ber-ēd\ *adj* **1** : furnished with berries : BACCATE **2** : bearing eggs ⟨a ~ lobster⟩

¹ber·ry \'ber-ē, *esp in compounds in which a stressed syllable immediately precedes, Brit often & US sometimes* b(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **berries** [ME *berye*, fr. OE *berie*; akin to OHG *beri* berry] **1 a** : a pulpy and usu. edible fruit (as a strawberry, raspberry, or checkerberry) of small size irrespective of its structure **b** : a simple fruit (as a currant, grape, tomato, or banana) with a pulpy or fleshy pericarp **c** : the dry seed of some plants (as coffee) **2** : an egg of a fish or lobster

²ber·ry \'ber-ē\ *vi* **ber·ried; ber·ry·ing** **1** : to bear or produce berries ⟨a ~*ing* shrub⟩ **2** : to gather or seek berries

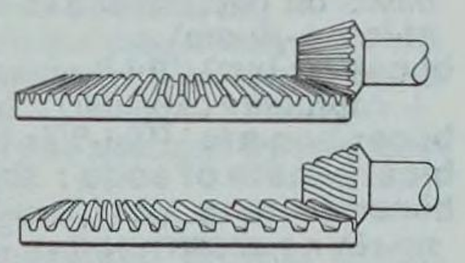
ber·ry·like \'ber-ē-ˌlīk\ *adj* **1** : resembling a berry esp. in size or structure **2** : being small and rounded : COCCOID

ber·seem \(ˌ)bər-'sēm\ *n* [Ar *barsīm*, fr. Copt *bersīm*] : a succulent clover (*Trifolium alexandrinum*) cultivated as a forage plant and green-manure crop esp. in the alkaline soils of the Nile valley and in the southwestern U.S. — called also *Egyptian clover*

¹ber·serk \bə(r)-'sərk, ˌbər-, -'zərk, 'bər-ˌ\ *or* **ber·serk·er** \-ər\ *n* [ON *berserkr*, fr. *björn* bear + *serkr* shirt] **1** : an ancient Scandinavian warrior frenzied in battle and held to be invulnerable **2** : one whose actions are marked by reckless defiance

²berserk *adj* : FRENZIED, CRAZED — usu. used in the phrase *go berserk* — **berserk** *adv*
¹berth \'bərth\ *n* [prob. fr. ²*bear* + *-th*] **1 a** : sufficient distance for maneuvering a ship **b** : safe distance — used esp. with *wide* **2 a** : the place where a ship lies when at anchor or at a wharf **b** : a space for an automotive vehicle at rest ⟨a truck-loading ~⟩ **3** : a place to sit or sleep esp. on a ship or vehicle : ACCOMMODATION **4 a** : a billet on a ship **b** : JOB, POSITION
²berth *vt* **1** : to bring into a berth **2** : to allot a berth to ~ *vi* : to come into a berth
ber·tha \'bər-thə\ *n* [F *berthe*, fr. *Berthe* (Bertha) †783 queen of the Franks] : a wide round collar covering the shoulders
Ber·til·lon system \'bərt-ᵊl-ˌän-, 'bert-ē-ˌ(y)ōⁿ-\ *n* [Alphonse *Bertillon* †1914 F criminologist] : a system of identification of persons by a description based on anthropometric measurements, standardized photographs, notation of markings, color, thumb line impressions, and other data
Berw *abbr* Berwick
ber·yl \'ber-əl\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *beril*, fr. L *beryllus*, fr. Gk *bēryllos*, of Indic origin; akin to Skt *vaiḍūrya* cat's-eye] : a mineral $Be_3Al_2Si_6O_{18}$ consisting of a silicate of beryllium and aluminum of great hardness and occurring in green, bluish green, yellow, pink, or white hexagonal prisms
be·ryl·li·um \bə-'ril-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *bēryllion*, dim. of *bēryllos*] : a steel-gray light strong brittle toxic bivalent metallic element used chiefly as a hardening agent in alloys — see ELEMENT table
be·seech \bi-'sēch\ *vb* **-sought** \-'sȯt\ *or* **-seeched; -seech·ing** [ME *besechen*, fr. *be-* + *sechen* to seek] *vt* **1** : to beg for urgently or anxiously **2** : to request earnestly : IMPLORE ~ *vi* : to make supplication ***syn*** see BEG — **be·seech·ing·ly** \-'sē-chiŋ-lē\ *adv*
be·seem \bi-'sēm\ *vi, archaic* : to be fitting or becoming ~ *vt, archaic* : to be suitable to : BEFIT
be·set \bi-'set\ *vt* **1** : to set or stud with or as if with ornaments **2** : TROUBLE, HARASS ⟨inflation ~*s* the economy⟩ **3 a** : to set upon : ASSAIL ⟨the settlers were ~ by savages⟩ **b** : to hem in : SURROUND — **be·set·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
be·set·ting *adj* : constantly present or attacking : OBSESSIVE
be·shrew \bi-'shrü, *esp South* -'srü\ *vt, archaic* : CURSE
¹be·side \bi-'sīd\ *adv* [ME, adv. & prep., fr. OE *be sīdan* at or to the side, fr. *be* at (fr. *bī*) + *sīdan*, dat. & acc. of *sīde* side — more at BY] **1** *archaic* : NEARBY **2** *archaic* : BESIDES
²beside *prep* **1 a** : by the side of ⟨walk ~ me⟩ **b** : in comparison with **c** : on a par with **2** : BESIDES — **beside oneself** : in a state of extreme excitement
¹be·sides \bi-'sīdz\ *adv* **1** : over and above : ALSO **2** : MOREOVER, FURTHERMORE
²besides *prep* **1** : other than : EXCEPT **2** : in addition to
³besides *adj* : ELSE
be·siege \bi-'sēj\ *vt* **1** : to surround with armed forces **2 a** : to press with requests : IMPORTUNE **b** : to cause worry or distress to : BESET ⟨doubts that *besieged* him⟩ — **be·sieg·er** *n*
be·smear \bi-'smi(ə)r\ *vt* : SMEAR
be·smirch \bi-'smərch\ *vt* : SULLY, SOIL
be·som \'bē-zəm\ *n* [ME *beseme*, fr. OE *besma*; akin to OHG *besmo* broom] **1** : BROOM 2; *esp* : one made of twigs **2** : BROOM 1
be·sot \bi-'sät\ *vt* **be·sot·ted; be·sot·ting** [*be-* + *sot* (to stultify)] : to make dull or stupid; *esp* : to muddle with drunkenness or infatuation
be·spat·ter \bi-'spat-ər\ *vt* : SPATTER
be·speak \bi-'spēk\ *vt* **-spoke** \-'spōk\; **-spo·ken** \-'spō-kən\; **-speak·ing** **1** : to hire, engage, or claim beforehand **2** : to speak to esp. with formality : ADDRESS **3** : REQUEST ⟨~ a favor⟩ **4 a** : INDICATE, SIGNIFY ⟨her performance ~*s* considerable practice⟩ **b** : to show beforehand : FORETELL
be·spec·ta·cled \bi-'spek-ti-kəld, -ˌtik-əld\ *adj* : wearing spectacles
be·spoke \bi-'spōk\ *or* **be·spo·ken** \-'spō-kən\ *adj* [pp. of *bespeak*] **1** *Brit* **a** : CUSTOM-MADE **b** : dealing in or producing custom-made articles **2** *dial* : ENGAGED
be·sprent \bi-'sprent\ *adj* [ME *bespreynt*, fr. pp. of *besprengen* to besprinkle, fr. OE *besprengan*] *archaic* : sprinkled over
be·sprin·kle \bi-'spriŋ-kəl\ *vt* [ME *besprengeln*, freq. of *besprengen*] : SPRINKLE
Bes·se·mer converter \ˌbes-ə-mər-\ *n* : the furnace used in the Bessemer process
Bessemer process *n* [Sir Henry *Bessemer*] : a process of making steel from pig iron by burning out carbon and other impurities by means of a blast of air forced through the molten metal
¹best \'best\ *adj, superlative of* GOOD [ME, fr. OE *betst*; akin to OE *bōt* remedy — more at BETTER] **1** : excelling all others ⟨the ~ student⟩ **2** : most productive of good or of advantage, utility, or satisfaction ⟨what is the ~ thing to do⟩ **3** : MOST, LARGEST ⟨it rained for the ~ part of their vacation⟩
²best *adv, superlative of* WELL **1** : in the best way : to greatest advantage ⟨some things are ~ left unsaid⟩ **2** : MOST
³best *n* **1** : the best state or part **2** : one that is best ⟨the ~ falls short⟩ **3** : the greatest degree of good or excellence **4** : one's maximum effort ⟨do your ~⟩ **5** : best clothes ⟨Sunday ~⟩ — **at best** : under the most favorable circumstances
⁴best *vt* : to get the better of : OUTDO
best–ball \'bes(t)-'bȯl\ *adj* : relating to or being a golf match in which one player competes against the best individual score of two or more players for each hole — compare FOUR-BALL
¹be·stead *also* **be·sted** \bi-'sted\ *adj* [ME *bested*, fr. *be-* + *sted*, pp. of *steden* to place] **1** *archaic* : SITUATED **2** *archaic* : BESET
²bestead *vt* **be·stead·ed; be·stead; be·stead·ing** [*be-* + *stead*] **1** *archaic* : HELP **2** *archaic* : to be useful to : AVAIL
bes·tial \'bes(h)-chəl, 'bēs(h)-\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *bestialis*, fr. *bestia* beast] **1 a** : of or relating to beasts **b** : resembling a beast **2 a** : lacking intelligence or reason **b** : marked by base or inhuman instincts or desires : BRUTAL — **bes·tial·ize** \-chə-ˌlīz\ *vt* — **bes·tial·ly** \-chə-lē\ *adv*
bes·ti·al·i·ty \ˌbes(h)-chē-'al-ət-ē, ˌbēs(h)-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the condition or status of a lower animal **2** : display or gratification of bestial traits or impulses **3** : sexual relations between a human being and a lower animal
bes·ti·ary \'bes(h)-chē-ˌer-ē, 'bēs(h)-\ *n, pl* **-ar·ies** [ML *bestiarium*, fr. L, neut. of *bestiarius* of beasts, fr. *bestia*] : a medieval allegorical or moralizing work on the appearance and habits of real or imaginary animals
be·stir \bi-'stər\ *vt* : to stir up : rouse to action
best man *n* : the principal groomsman at a wedding
be·stow \bi-'stō\ *vt* [ME *bestowen*, fr. *be-* + *stowe* place — more at STOW] **1** : to put to use : APPLY ⟨~*ed* his spare time on study⟩ **2** : to put in a particular or appropriate place : STOW **3** : to provide with quarters : put up **4** : to convey as a gift — usu. used with *on* or *upon* ***syn*** see GIVE — **be·stow·al** \-'stō-əl\ *n*
be·strew \bi-'strü\ *vt* **-strewed; -strewed** *or* **-strewn** \-'strün\; **-strew·ing** **1** : STREW **2** : to lie scattered over
be·stride \bi-'strīd\ *vt* **-strode** \-'strōd\; **-strid·den** \-'strid-ᵊn\; **-strid·ing** \-'strīd-iŋ\ **1** : to ride, sit, or stand astride : STRADDLE **2** : to tower over : DOMINATE **3** *archaic* : to stride across
best–sell·er \'bes(t)-'sel-ər\ *n* : an article (as a book) whose sales are among the highest of its class — **best·sell·er·dom** \-dəm\ *n* — **best–sell·ing** \-'sel-iŋ\ *adj*
¹bet \'bet\ *n* [origin unknown] **1 a** : something that is laid, staked, or pledged typically between two parties on the outcome of a contest or a contingent issue : WAGER **b** : the act of giving such a pledge **2** : something to wager on
²bet *vb* **bet** *also* **bet·ted; bet·ting** *vt* **1 a** : to stake on the outcome of an issue **b** : to be able to be sure that — usu. used in the expression *you bet* ⟨you ~ I'll be there⟩ **2 a** : to maintain with or as if with a bet **b** : to make a bet with ~ *vi* : to lay a bet
³bet *abbr* between
¹be·ta \'bāt-ə, *chiefly Brit* 'bē-tə\ *n* [Gk *bēta*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *bēth* beth] **1** : the 2d letter of the Greek alphabet — see ALPHABET table **2** : the second brightest star of a constellation **3 a** : BETA PARTICLE **b** : BETA RAY
²beta *or* **β-** *adj* : second in position in the structure of an organic molecule from a particular group or atom ⟨~ substitution⟩
be·ta–ad·ren·er·gic \-ˌad-rə-'nər-jik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being a beta-receptor ⟨~ blocking action⟩
beta globulin *n* [ISV] : any of several globulins of plasma or serum that have electrophoretic mobilities intermediate between those of the alpha globulins and gamma globulins
be·ta·ine \'bēt-ə-ˌēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. L *beta* beet] : a sweet crystalline quaternary ammonium salt $C_6H_{12}NO_3$ occurring esp. in beet juice; *also* : its hydrate $C_5H_{13}NO_3$ or the chloride of this
be·take \bi-'tāk\ *vt* **-took** \-'tůk\; **-tak·en** \-'tā-kən\; **-tak·ing** **1** *archaic* : COMMIT **2** : to cause (oneself) to go
be·ta–ox·i·da·tion \'bāt-ə-ˌäk-sə-'dā-shən\ *n* : stepwise catabolism of fatty acids in which two-carbon fragments are successively removed from the carboxyl end of the chain
beta particle *n* : an electron or positron ejected from the nucleus of an atom during radioactive decay; *also* : a high-speed electron or positron
beta ray *n* **1** : BETA PARTICLE **2** : a stream of beta particles
be·ta–re·cep·tor \ˌbāt-ə-ri-'sep-tər\ *n* : a receptor that is associated with positive effects on heartbeat and muscular contractility, with vasodilation, and with inhibition of smooth muscle in the bronchi, intestine, and muscular layer of the wall of the uterus — called also *beta-adrenergic receptor*
be·ta·tron \'bāt-ə-ˌträn\ *n* [ISV] : an accelerator in which electrons are propelled by the inductive action of a rapidly varying magnetic field
be·tel \'bēt-ᵊl\ *n* [Pg, fr. Tamil *veṟṟilai*] : a climbing pepper (*Piper betle*) whose leaves are chewed together with betel nut and lime as a stimulant masticatory esp. by southeastern Asians
Be·tel·geuse \'bēt-ᵊl-ˌjüs, 'bet-, -ˌjüz-, -ˌjə(r)z\ *n* [F *Bételgeuse*, fr. Ar *bayt al-jawzā'* Gemini, lit., the house of the twins (confused with Orion & Betelgeuse)] : a variable red giant star of the first magnitude near one shoulder of Orion
betel nut *n* [fr. its being chewed with betel leaves] : the astringent seed of the betel palm
betel palm *n* [*betel* nut] : an Asiatic pinnate-leaved palm (*Areca catechu*) that has an orange-colored drupe with an outer fibrous husk
bête noire \ˌbet-nə-'wär, ˌbāt-\ *n, pl* **bêtes noires** \ˌbet-nə-'wär(z), ˌbāt-\ [F, lit., black beast] : a person or thing strongly detested or avoided : BUGBEAR
beth \'bāt(h), 'bās\ *n* [Heb *bēth*, fr. *bayith* house] : the 2d letter of the Hebrew alphabet — see ALPHABET table
beth·el \'beth-əl\ *n* [Heb *bēth' ēl* house of God] **1** : a hallowed spot **2 a** : a chapel for Nonconformists **b** : a place of worship for seamen
be·think \bi-'thiŋk\ *vt* **-thought** \-'thȯt\; **-think·ing** **1 a** : REMEMBER, RECALL **b** : to cause (oneself) to be reminded **2** : to cause (oneself) to consider
be·tide \bi-'tīd\ *vt* : to happen to : BEFALL ~ *vi* : to happen esp. as if by fate
be·times \bi-'tīmz\ *adv* **1** : in good time : EARLY **2** *archaic* : in a short time : SPEEDILY **3** : at times : OCCASIONALLY
bê·tise \bā-'tēz\ *n, pl* **bê·tises** \-'tēz\ [F] **1** : lack of good sense : STUPIDITY **2** : an act of foolishness or stupidity
be·to·ken \bi-'tō-kən\ *vt* **be·to·kened; be·to·ken·ing** \-'tōk-(ə-)niŋ\ **1** : to give evidence of : SHOW **2** : to typify beforehand : PRESAGE
bet·o·ny \'bet-ᵊn-ē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [ME *betone*, fr. OF *betoine*, fr. L *vettonica, betonica*, fr. *Vettones*, an ancient people inhabiting the Iberian peninsula] : any of several woundworts (genus *Stachys*); *esp* : WOOD BETONY 1
be·tray \bi-'trā\ *vb* [ME *betrayen*, fr. *be-* + *trayen* to betray, fr. OF *traïr*, fr. L *tradere* — more at TRAITOR] *vt* **1** : to lead astray; *esp* : SEDUCE **2** : to deliver to an enemy by treachery **3** : to fail or desert esp. in time of need **4 a** : to reveal unintentionally **b** : SHOW, INDICATE **c** : to disclose in violation of confidence ~ *vi* : to prove false ***syn*** see REVEAL — **be·tray·al** \-'trā(-ə)l\ *n* — **be·tray·er** \-'trā-ər\ *n*

be·troth \bi-'träth, -'trȯth, -'trōth, *or with* th\ *vt* [ME *betrouthen*, fr. *be-* + *trouthe* truth, troth] : to promise to marry or give in marriage
be·troth·al \-'trōth-əl, -'trȯth-, -'trōth-\ *n* **1** : the act of betrothing or fact of being betrothed **2** : a mutual promise or contract for a future marriage
be·trothed *n* : the person to whom one is betrothed
bet·ta \'bet-ə\ *n* [NL] : any of a genus (*Betta*) of small brilliantly colored long-finned freshwater fishes (as the Siamese fighting fish) of southeastern Asia
¹bet·ter \'bet-ər\ *adj, comparative of* GOOD [ME *bettre*, fr. OE *betera*; akin to OE *bōt* remedy, Skt *bhadra* fortunate] **1** : more than half **2** : improved in health **3** : of higher quality
²better *adv, comparative of* WELL **1 a** : in a more excellent manner **b** : to greater advantage : PREFERABLY ⟨some things are ~ left unsaid⟩ **2 a** : to a higher or greater degree ⟨he knows the story ~ than you do⟩ **b** : MORE ⟨it is ~ than nine miles to the nearest gas station⟩
³better *n* **1 a** : something better **b** : a superior esp. in merit or rank **2** : ADVANTAGE, VICTORY ⟨get the ~ of him⟩
⁴better *vt* **1** : to make better: as **a** : to make more tolerable or acceptable ⟨trying to ~ the lot of slum dwellers⟩ **b** : to make more complete or perfect ⟨looked forward to ~*ing* her acquaintance with the new neighbors⟩ **2** : to surpass in excellence : EXCEL ~ *vi* : to become better ***syn*** see IMPROVE ***ant*** worsen
bet·ter·ment \'bet-ər-mənt\ *n* **1** : a making or becoming better **2** : an improvement that adds to the value of a property or facility
better–off \ˌbet-ə-'ȯf\ *adj* : being in comfortable economic circumstances ⟨the ~ people live in the older section of town⟩
betting shop *n, Brit* : a shop where bets are taken
bet·tor *or* **bet·ter** \'bet-ər\ *n* : one that bets
¹be·tween \bi-'twēn\ *prep* [ME *betwene*, prep. & adv., fr. OE *betwēonum*, fr. *be-* + *-twēonum* (dat. pl.) (akin to Goth *tweihnai* two each); akin to OE *twā* two] **1 a** : by the common action of : jointly engaging ⟨shared the work ~ the two of them⟩ ⟨talks ~ the three —*Time*⟩ **b** : in common to : shared by ⟨divided ~ his four grandchildren⟩ **2 a** : in the time, space, or interval that separates **b** : in intermediate relation to **3 a** : from one to the other of **b** : serving to join : CONNECTING ⟨air service ~ the two cities⟩ **c** : separating from ⟨the line ~ fact and fancy⟩ **4** : in point of comparison of ⟨not much to choose ~ the two coats⟩ — **between you and me** : in confidence
²between *adv* : in an intermediate space or interval
be·tween·brain \-ˌbrān\ *n* : DIENCEPHALON
be·tween·ness \bi-'twēn-nəs\ *n* : the quality or state of being between two others in an ordered set
be·tween·times \bi-'twēn-ˌtīmz\ *adv* : at or during intervals
be·tween·whiles \-ˌhwīlz, -ˌwīlz\ *adv* : BETWEENTIMES
be·twixt \bi-'twikst\ *adv or prep* [ME, fr. OE *betwux*, fr. *be-* + *-twux* (akin to Goth *tweihnai*)] : BETWEEN
betwixt and between *adv or adj* : in a midway position : neither one thing nor the other
Beu·lah \'byü-lə\ *n* : an idyllic land near the end of life's journey in Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*
BeV *abbr* billion electron volts
¹bev·el \'bev-əl\ *adj* : OBLIQUE, BEVELED
²bevel *n* [(assumed) MF, fr. OF *baïf* with open mouth, fr. *baer* to yawn — more at ABEYANCE] **1 a** : the angle that one surface or line makes with another when they are not at right angles **b** : the slant or inclination of such a surface or line **2** : an instrument consisting of two rules or arms jointed together and opening to any angle for drawing angles or adjusting surfaces to be given a bevel **3** : the part of printing type extending from face to shoulder — see TYPE illustration
³bevel *vb* **-eled** *or* **-elled; -el·ing** *or* **-el·ling** \'bev-(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* : to cut or shape to a bevel ~ *vi* : INCLINE, SLANT
bevel gear *n* : one of a pair of toothed wheels whose working surfaces are inclined to nonparallel axes



bevel gears

bev·er·age \'bev-(ə-)rij\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *bevrage*, fr. *beivre* to drink, fr. L *bibere* — more at POTABLE] : a liquid for drinking; *esp* : one that is not water
bevy \'bev-ē\ *n, pl* **bev·ies** [ME *bevey*] **1** : a large group or collection ⟨a ~ of girls⟩ **2** : a group of animals and esp. quail together
be·wail \bi-'wā(ə)l\ *vt* **1** : to wail over **2** : to express deep sorrow for usu. by wailing and lamentation ⟨wringing her hands and ~*ing* her fate⟩ ***syn*** see DEPLORE
be·ware \bi-'wa(ə)r, -'we(ə)r\ *vb* [ME *been war*, fr. *been* to be + *war* careful — more at BE, WARE] *vi* : to be on one's guard ⟨~ of the dog⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to take care of **2** : to be wary of
be·whis·kered \-'hwis-kərd, -'wis-\ *adj* : wearing whiskers
be·wigged \bi-'wigd\ *adj* : wearing a wig
be·wil·der \bi-'wil-dər\ *vt* **be·wil·dered; be·wil·dering** \-d(ə-)riŋ\ **1** : to cause to lose one's bearings **2** : to perplex or confuse esp. by a complexity, variety, or multitude of objects or considerations ***syn*** see PUZZLE — **be·wil·dered·ly** *adv* — **be·wil·dered·ness** *n* — **be·wil·der·ing·ly** \-d(ə-)riŋ-lē\ *adv*
be·wil·der·ment \-dər-mənt\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of being bewildered **2** : a bewildering tangle or confusion
be·witch \bi-'wich\ *vt* **1 a** : to influence or affect esp. injuriously by witchcraft **b** : to cast a spell over **2** : to attract as if by the power of witchcraft ⟨~*ed* by her beauty⟩ ~ *vi* : to bewitch someone or something ***syn*** see ATTRACT — **be·witch·ery** \-(ə-)rē\ *n* — **be·witch·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
be·witch·ment \-'wich-mənt\ *n* **1 a** : the act or power of bewitching **b** : a spell that bewitches **2** : the state of being bewitched
be·wray \bi-'rā\ *vt* [ME *bewreyen*, fr. *be-* + *wreyen* to accuse, fr. OE *wrēgan*] *archaic* : DIVULGE, BETRAY
bey \'bā\ *n* [Turk, gentleman, chief] **1 a** : a provincial governor in the Ottoman Empire **b** : the former native ruler of Tunis or Tunisia **2** — formerly used as a courtesy title in Turkey and Egypt
¹be·yond \bē-'änd\ *adv* [ME, prep. & adv., fr. OE *begeondan*, fr. *be-* + *geondan* beyond, fr. *geond* yond — more at YOND] **1** : on or to the farther side : FARTHER **2** : in addition : BESIDES
²beyond *prep* **1** : on or to the farther side of : at a greater distance than **2 a** : out of the reach or sphere of **b** : in a degree or amount surpassing **c** : out of the comprehension of **3** : in addition to : over and above : BESIDES
³beyond *n* **1** : something that lies beyond **2** : something that lies outside the scope of ordinary experience; *specif* : ²HEREAFTER
be·zant \'bez-ᵊnt, bə-'zant\ *n* [ME *besant*, fr. MF, fr. ML *Byzantius* Byzantine, fr. *Byzantium*, ancient name of Istanbul] **1** : SOLIDUS 1 **2** : a flat disk used in architectural ornament
be·zel \'bē-zəl, 'bez-əl\ *n* [prob. F dial., alter. of F *biseau*] **1** : a sloping edge or face esp. on a cutting tool **2** : the oblique side or face of a cut gem; *specif* : the upper faceted portion of a brilliant projecting from the setting — see BRILLIANT illustration **3** : a rim that holds a transparent covering (as on a watch, clock, or headlight) or that is rotatable and has special markings (as on a watch)
be·zique \bə-'zēk\ *n* [F *bésique*] : a card game similar to pinochle that is played with a pack of 64 cards
be·zoar \'bē-ˌzō(ə)r, -ˌzȯ(ə)r\ *n* [F *bézoard*, fr. Sp *bezoar*, fr. Ar *bāzahr*, fr. Per *pād-zahr*, fr. *pād* protecting (against) + *zahr* poison] : any of various concretions found chiefly in the alimentary organs of ruminants and formerly believed to possess magical properties
bf *abbr* boldface
BF *abbr* **1** bachelor of forestry **2** board foot **3** brought forward
BFA *abbr* bachelor of fine arts
bg *abbr* **1** background **2** bag **3** beige **4** being
BG *abbr* brigadier general
B Gen *abbr* brigadier general
B–girl *n* [prob. fr. *bar* + *girl*] : a woman who entertains bar patrons and encourages them to spend freely
BH *abbr* **1** bill of health **2** Brinell hardness
Bha·don \'bäd-ˌōn\ *n* [Hindi *bhādō*, fr. Skt *bhādrapada*, fr. *Bhadrapadā*, a constellation] : a month of the Hindu year — see MONTH table
Bha·ga·vad Gi·ta \ˌbäg-ə-ˌväd-'gēt-ə\ *n* [Skt *Bhagavadgītā*, lit., song of the blessed one (Krishna)] : a Hindu devotional work in poetic form
bhak·ti \'bək-tē\ *n* [Skt, lit., portion] : devotion to a deity constituting a way to salvation in Hinduism
bhang \'baŋ\ *n* [Hindi *bhāg*] **1 a** : HEMP 1 **b** : the leaves and flowering tops of uncultivated hemp : CANNABIS — compare MARIJUANA **2** : an intoxicant product obtained from bhang — compare HASHISH
BHC \ˌbē-ˌāch-'sē\ *n* [*b*enzene *h*exachloride] : a compound $C_6H_6Cl_6$ that occurs in several stereoisomeric forms and is used as an insecticide — compare LINDANE
bhd *abbr* bulkhead
BHE *abbr* Bureau of Higher Education
BHL *abbr* **1** bachelor of Hebrew letters **2** bachelor of Hebrew literature
BHN *abbr* Brinell hardness number
Bhoj·puri \'bōj-ˌpůr-ē, 'bäj-, pə-rē\ *n* [Hindi *Bhojpurī*, fr. *Bhojpur*, village in Bihar] : the dialect of Bihari spoken in Western Bihar and the eastern United Provinces, India
B–horizon *n* : a soil layer immediately beneath the A-horizon from which it obtains organic matter chiefly by illuviation and is usu. distinguished by less weathering
bhp *abbr* bishop
BHT *abbr* butylated hydroxytoluene
bi \'bī\ *n or adj* : BISEXUAL
Bi *symbol* bismuth
¹bi- *prefix* [ME, fr. L; akin to OE *twi-*] **1 a** : two ⟨*bi*parous⟩ **b** : coming or occurring every two ⟨*bi*monthly⟩ ⟨*bi*weekly⟩ **c** : into two parts ⟨*bi*sect⟩ **2 a** : twice : doubly : on both sides ⟨*bi*convex⟩ ⟨*bi*serrate⟩ **b** : coming or occurring two times ⟨*bi*weekly⟩ — often disapproved in this sense because of the likelihood of confusion with sense 1b; compare SEMI- **3** : between, involving, or affecting two (specified) symmetrical parts ⟨*bi*aural⟩ **4 a** : containing one (specified) constituent in double the proportion of the other constituent or in double the ordinary proportion ⟨*bi*carbonate⟩ **b** : DI- 2 ⟨*bi*phenyl⟩
²bi- *or* **bio-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *bios* mode of life — more at QUICK] : life : living organisms or tissue ⟨*bio*ecology⟩ ⟨*bio*luminescence⟩
BIA *abbr* **1** bachelor of industrial arts **2** Braille Institute of America **3** Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bi·a·fran \bē-'af-rən, bī-, -'äf-\ *n* [*Biafra*, name adopted by Eastern Region of Nigeria during its secession, 1967–70] : a native or inhabitant of the secessionist Republic of Biafra — **Biafran** *adj*
bi·an·nu·al \(')bī-'an-yə(-wə)l\ *adj* : occurring twice a year — **bi·an·nu·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
¹bi·as \'bī-əs\ *n* [MF *biais*] **1** : a line diagonal to the grain of a fabric; *esp* : a line at a 45° angle to the selvage often utilized in the cutting of garments for smoother fit **2 a** : an inclination of temperament or outlook; *esp* : a highly personal and unreasoned distortion of judgment : PREJUDICE ⟨a ~ in favor of jolly fat men⟩ **b** : BENT, TENDENCY ⟨a man of antiquarian ~⟩ **c** (1) : deviation of the expected value of a statistical estimate from the quantity it estimates (2) : systematic error introduced into sampling or testing by selecting or encouraging one outcome or answer over others **3 a** : a peculiarity in the shape of a bowl that causes it to swerve when rolled on the green **b** : the tendency of a bowl to swerve; *also* : the impulse causing this tendency **c** : the swerve of the

bowl **4** : a voltage applied to a device (as the grid of an electron tube) to establish a reference level for operation ***syn*** see PREDILECTION — **on the bias** : ASKEW, OBLIQUELY

²bias *adj* : DIAGONAL, SLANTING — used chiefly of fabrics and their cut — **bi·as·ness** *n*

³bias *adv* **1** : in a slanting manner : DIAGONALLY ⟨cut cloth ~⟩ **2** *obs* : AWRY

⁴bias *vt* **bi·ased** *or* **bi·assed; bi·as·ing** *or* **bi·as·sing** **1** : to give a settled and often prejudiced outlook to ⟨his background ~*es* him against foreigners⟩ **2** : to apply a slight negative or positive voltage to (as an electron-tube grid) ***syn*** see INCLINE

bi·ased *adj* **1** : exhibiting or characterized by bias **2** : tending to yield one outcome more frequently than others in a statistical experiment ⟨a ~ coin⟩ **3** : having an expected value different from the quantity or parameter estimated ⟨a ~ estimate⟩

bi·ath·lon \bī-'ath-lən, -ˌlän\ *n* [*¹bi-* + Gk *athlon* contest — more at ATHLETE] : a composite athletic contest consisting of cross-country skiing and rifle sharpshooting

bi·ax·i·al \(')bī-'ak-sē-əl\ *adj* : having two axes ⟨a ~ crystal⟩ — **bi·ax·i·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*

¹bib \'bib\ *vb* **bibbed; bib·bing** [ME *bibben*] : DRINK

²bib *n* **1** : a cloth or plastic shield tied under a child's chin to protect the clothes **2** : the part of an apron or of overalls extending above the waist — **bibbed** \'bibd\ *adj* — **bib·less** \'bib-ləs\ *adj*

³bib *abbr* Bible; biblical

bib and tucker *n* : an outfit of clothing — usu. used in the phrase *best bib and tucker*

bibb \'bib\ *n* [alter. of *²bib*] : a side piece of timber bolted to the hounds of a ship's mast to support the trestletrees

bib·ber \'bib-ər\ *n* : one addicted to drinking : TIPPLER — **bib·bery** \'bib-ə-rē\ *n*

Bibb lettuce \'bib-\ *n* [Major John *Bibb*, 19th cent. Am grower] : lettuce of a variety that has a small head and dark green color

bib·cock \'bib-ˌkäk\ *also* **bibb cock** *n* : a faucet having a bent-down nozzle

bi·be·lot \'bē-bə-ˌlō\ *n, pl* **bibelots** \-ˌlō(z)\ [F] **1** : a small household ornament or decorative object : TRINKET **2** : a miniature book esp. of elegant design or format

bi·ble \'bī-bəl\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. ML *biblia*, fr. Gk, pl. of *biblion* book, dim. of *byblos* papyrus, book, fr. *Byblos*, ancient Phoenician city from which papyrus was exported] **1** *cap* **a** : the sacred scriptures of Christians comprising the Old Testament and the New Testament **b** : the sacred scriptures of some other religion (as Judaism) **2** *obs* : BOOK **3** *cap* : a copy or an edition of the Bible **4** : a publication that is preeminent esp. in authoritativeness ⟨the fisherman's ~⟩ **5** : something suggesting a book: as **a** : a small holystone **b** : OMASUM

Bible Belt *n* : an area chiefly in the southern U.S. believed to hold uncritical allegiance to the literal accuracy of the Bible; *broadly* : an area characterized by ardent religious fundamentalism

bib·li·cal \'bib-li-kəl\ *adj* [ML *biblicus*, fr. *biblia*] **1** : of, relating to, or being in accord with the Bible **2** : suggestive of the Bible or Bible times — **bib·li·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

bib·li·cism \'bib-lə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n, often cap* : adherence to the letter of the Bible — **bib·li·cist** \-lə-səst\ *n, often cap*

biblio- *comb form* [MF, fr. L, fr. Gk, fr. *biblion*] : book ⟨*bibliofilm*⟩

bib·li·og·ra·pher \ˌbib-lē-'äg-rə-fər\ *n* **1** : an expert in bibliography **2** : a compiler of bibliographies

bib·lio·graph·ic \ˌbib-lē-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj* : of or relating to bibliography — **bib·lio·graph·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **bib·lio·graph·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

bib·li·og·ra·phy \ˌbib-lē-'äg-rə-fē\ *n, pl* **-phies** [prob. fr. NL *bibliographia*, fr. Gk, the copying of books, fr. *biblio-* + *-graphia* -graphy] **1** : the history, identification, or description of writings or publications **2** **a** : a list often with descriptive or critical notes of writings relating to a particular subject, period, or author **b** : a list of works written by an author or printed by a publishing house **3** : the works or a list of the works referred to in a text or consulted by the author in its production

bib·li·ol·a·ter \ˌbib-lē-'äl-ət-ər\ *n* **1** : one overly devoted to books **2** : one having excessive reverence for the letter of the Bible — **bib·li·ol·a·trous** \-'äl-ə-trəs\ *adj* — **bib·li·ol·a·try** \-trē\ *n*

bib·li·ol·o·gy \ˌbib-lē-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* **1** : the history and science of books as physical objects : bibliography in its broadest sense **2** *often cap* : the study of the theological doctrine of the Bible

bib·lio·ma·nia \ˌbib-lē-ə-'mā-nē-ə, -nyə\ *n* [F *bibliomanie*, fr. *biblio-* + *manie* mania, fr. LL *mania*] : extreme preoccupation with collecting books — **bib·lio·ma·ni·ac** \-nē-ˌak\ *n or adj* — **bib·lio·ma·ni·a·cal** \-lē-ō-mə-'nī-ə-kəl\ *adj*

bib·li·op·e·gy \ˌbib-lē-'äp-ə-jē\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *biblio-* + *pēgnynai* to fasten together — more at PACT] : the art of binding books — **bib·li·o·pe·gic** \ˌbib-lē-ə-'pej-ik, -'pēj-\ *adj* — **bib·li·o·pe·gi·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **bib·li·op·e·gist** \ˌbib-lē-'äp-ə-jəst\ *n* — **bib·li·op·e·gis·tic** \-ˌäp-ə-'jis-tik\ *adj*

bib·lio·phile \'bib-lē-ə-ˌfīl\ *n* [F, fr. *biblio-* + *-phile*] : a lover of books esp. for qualities of format; *also* : a book collector — **bib·lio·phil·ic** \ˌbib-lē-ə-'fil-ik\ *adj* — **bib·li·oph·i·lism** \-äf-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* — **bib·li·oph·i·list** \-ləst\ *n* — **bib·li·oph·i·ly** \-lē\ *n*

bib·li·o·pole \'bib-lē-ə-ˌpōl\ *or* **bib·li·op·o·list** \ˌbib-lē-'äp-ə-ləst\ *n* [L *bibliopola* bookseller, fr. Gk *bibliopōlēs*, fr. *biblio-* + *pōlein* to sell] : a dealer esp. in rare or curious books — **bib·li·o·po·lic** \ˌbib-lē-ə-'pō-lik, -'päl-ik\ *adj*

bib·lio·the·ca \ˌbib-lē-ə-'thē-kə\ *n, pl* **-cas** *or* **-cae** \-ˌsē, -ˌkē\ [L, fr. Gk *bibliothēkē*, fr. *biblio-* + *thēkē* case; akin to Gk *tithenai* to put, place — more at DO] **1** : a collection of books **2** : a list of books — **bib·lio·the·cal** \-'thē-kəl\ *adj*

bib·li·ot·ics \ˌbib-lē-'ät-iks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*biblio-* + connective *-t-* + *-ics*] : the study of handwriting, documents, and writing materials esp. for determining genuineness or authorship — **bib·li·ot·ic** \-ik\ *adj* — **bib·li·o·tist** \'bib-lē-ə-təst\ *n*

bib·u·lous \'bib-yə-ləs\ *adj* [L *bibulus*, fr. *bibere* to drink — more at POTABLE] **1** : highly absorbent **2** **a** : inclined to drink **b** : of or relating to drink or drinking — **bib·u·lous·ly** *adv* — **bib·u·lous·ness** *n*

bi·cam·er·al \(')bī-'kam-(ə-)rəl\ *adj* : having, consisting of, or based on two legislative chambers ⟨a ~ legislature⟩ — **bi·cam·er·al·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n*

bi·cap·su·lar \(')bī-'kap-sə-lər\ *adj* [prob. fr. F *bicapsulaire*, fr. *bi-* + *capsulaire* capsular] : having two capsules or a 2-celled capsule

bi·car·bon·ate \(')bī-'kär-bə-ˌnāt, -nət\ *n* [ISV] : an acid carbonate

bicarbonate of soda : SODIUM BICARBONATE

bi·cen·te·na·ry \ˌbī-(ˌ)sen-'ten-ə-rē, (')bī-'sent-ᵊn-ˌer-ē, ˌbī-(ˌ)sen-'tē-nə-rē\ *n* : BICENTENNIAL — **bicentenary** *adj*

bi·cen·ten·ni·al \ˌbī-(ˌ)sen-'ten-ē-əl\ *n* : a 200th anniversary or its celebration — **bicentennial** *adj*

bi·cen·tric \(')bī-'sen-trik\ *adj* : having or involving two centers — **bi·cen·tric·i·ty** \ˌbī-(ˌ)sen-'tris-ət-ē\ *n*

bi·ceps \'bī-ˌseps\ *n* [NL *bicipit-*, *biceps*, fr. L, two-headed, fr. *bi-* + *capit-*, *caput* head — more at HEAD] : a muscle having two heads: as **a** : the large flexor muscle of the front of the upper arm **b** : the large flexor muscle of the back of the upper leg

bi·chlo·ride \(')bī-'klō(ə)r-ˌīd, -'klȯ(ə)r-\ *n* [ISV] **1** : DICHLORIDE **2** : MERCURIC CHLORIDE — called also *bichloride of mercury*

bi·chro·mate \(')bī-'krō-ˌmāt, 'bī-krō-\ *n* : DICHROMATE; *esp* : one of sodium or potassium — **bi·chro·mat·ed** \-ˌmāt-əd\ *adj*

bi·chrome \'bī-ˌkrōm\ *adj* : two-colored

bi·cip·i·tal \bī-'sip-ət-ᵊl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being a biceps

¹bick·er \'bik-ər\ *n* [ME *biker*] **1** : petulant quarreling : ALTERCATION **2** : a sound of or as if of bickering

²bicker *vi* **bick·ered; bick·er·ing** \-(ə-)riŋ\ **1** : to contend in petulant or petty altercation **2** **a** : to move quickly and unsteadily with a rapidly repeated noise **b** : QUIVER, FLICKER — **bick·er·er** \-ər-ər\ *n*

bi·col·or \'bī-ˌkəl-ər\ *adj* [L *bicolor*, fr. *bi-* + *color*] : two-colored — **bicolor** *n* — **bi·col·ored** \-'kəl-ərd\ *adj*

bicolor lespedeza *n* : an Asiatic leguminous shrub (*Lespedeza bicolor*) with purple flowers in axillary racemes widely used as an ornamental, as a source of wild-bird food, and in erosion control

bi·col·our *chiefly Brit var of* BICOLOR

bi·con·cave \ˌbī-(ˌ)kän-'kāv, (')bī-'kän-ˌ\ *adj* [ISV] : concave on both sides — **bi·con·cav·i·ty** \ˌbī-(ˌ)kän-'kav-ət-ē\ *n*

bi·con·di·tion·al \ˌbī-kən-'dish-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *n* : a two-way implication

BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

ROMAN CATHOLIC CANON	PROTESTANT CANON	ROMAN CATHOLIC CANON	PROTESTANT CANON
Genesis	Genesis	Wisdom	
Exodus	Exodus	Ecclesiasticus	
Leviticus	Leviticus	Isaias	Isaiah
Numbers	Numbers	Jeremias	Jeremiah
Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy	Lamentations	Lamentations
Josue	Joshua	Baruch	
Judges	Judges	Ezechiel	Ezekiel
Ruth	Ruth	Daniel	Daniel
1 & 2 Kings	1 & 2 Samuel	Osee	Hosea
3 & 4 Kings	1 & 2 Kings	Joel	Joel
1 & 2 Paralipomenon	1 & 2 Chronicles	Amos	Amos
		Abdias	Obadiah
1 Esdras	Ezra	Jonas	Jonah
2 Esdras	Nehemiah	Micheas	Micah
Tobias		Nahum	Nahum
Judith		Habacuc	Habakkuk
Esther	Esther	Sophonias	Zephaniah
Job	Job	Aggeus	Haggai
Psalms	Psalms	Zacharias	Zechariah
Proverbs	Proverbs	Malachias	Malachi
Ecclesiastes	Ecclesiastes	1 & 2 Machabees	
Canticle of Canticles	Song of Solomon		

JEWISH SCRIPTURE

Law	1 & 2 Kings	Nahum	Song of Songs
Genesis	Isaiah	Habakkuk	Ruth
Exodus	Jeremiah	Zephaniah	Lamentations
Leviticus	Ezekiel	Haggai	Ecclesiastes
Numbers	Hosea	Zechariah	Esther
Deuteronomy	Joel	Malachi	Daniel
Prophets	Amos	*Hagiographa*	Ezra
Joshua	Obadiah	Psalms	Nehemiah
Judges	Jonah	Proverbs	1 & 2 Chronicles
1 & 2 Samuel	Micah	Job	

PROTESTANT APOCRYPHA

1 & 2 Esdras	Wisdom of Solomon	Baruch	Susanna
Tobit	Ecclesiasticus or the Wisdom of Jesus Son of Sirach	Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Holy Children	Bel and the Dragon
Judith			The Prayer of Manasses
Additions to Esther			1 & 2 Maccabees

BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

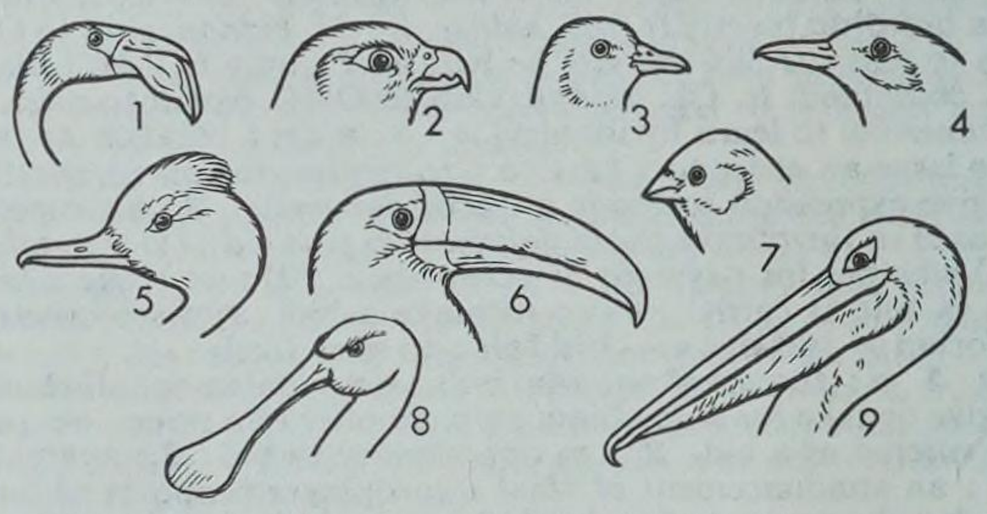
Matthew	Romans	1 & 2 Thessalonians	1 & 2 Peter
Mark	1 & 2 Corinthians	1 & 2 Timothy	1, 2, 3 John
Luke	Galatians	Titus	Jude
John	Ephesians	Philemon	Revelation (Roman Catholic canon: Apocalypse)
Acts of the Apostles	Philippians	Hebrews	
	Colossians	James	

bi·con·vex \ˌbī-(ˌ)kän-'veks, (')bī-'kän-ˌ, ˌbī-kən-'\ *adj* [ISV] : convex on both sides — **bi·con·vex·i·ty** \ˌbī-kən-'vek-sət-ē, -(ˌ)kän-\ *n*
bi·corne \'bī-ˌkȯ(ə)rn\ *n* [F, fr. L *bicornis* two-horned, fr. *bi-* + *cornu* horn — more at HORN] : COCKED HAT 2
bi·cor·nu·ate \(')bī-'kȯr-nyə-wət\ *adj* [*bi-* + L *cornu*] : having two horns or horn-shaped processes
bi·cul·tur·al·ism \(')bī-'kəlch(-ə)-rə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* : the existence of two distinct cultures in one nation ⟨Canada's ~⟩ — **bi·cul·tur·al** \-rəl\ *adj*
1bi·cus·pid \(')bī-'kəs-pəd\ *also* **bi·cus·pi·date** \-pə-ˌdāt\ *adj* [NL *bicuspid-, bicuspis,* fr. *bi-* + L *cuspid-, cuspis* point] : having or ending in two points ⟨~ teeth⟩ ⟨~ leaves⟩
2bicuspid *n* : a human premolar tooth — see TOOTH illustration
bicuspid valve *n* : a cardiac valve that consists of two triangular flaps and guards the orifice between the left auricle and ventricle — called also *mitral valve*
1bi·cy·cle \'bī-ˌsik-əl *also* -ˌsīk-\ *n* [F, fr. *bi-* + *-cycle* (as in *tricycle*)] : a vehicle with two wheels tandem, a steering handle, a saddle seat, and pedals by which it is propelled
2bicycle *vi* **bi·cy·cled; bi·cy·cling** \(-ə)-liŋ\ : to ride a bicycle — **bi·cy·cler** \-lər\ *n* — **bi·cy·clist** \-ləst\ *n*
bi·cy·clic \(')bī-'sī-klik, -'sik-lik\ *adj* [ISV] **1** : consisting of or arranged in two cycles **2** : containing two usu. fused rings in the structure of the molecule
1bid \'bid\ *vb* **bade** \'bad, 'bād\ *or* **bid; bid·den** \'bid-ᵊn\ *or* **bid** *also* **bade; bid·ding** [partly fr. ME *bidden,* fr. OE *biddan;* akin to OHG *bitten* to entreat, Skt *bādhate* he harasses; partly fr. ME *beden* to offer, command, fr. OE *bēodan;* akin to OHG *biotan* to offer, Gk *pynthanesthai* to learn by inquiry] *vt* **1 a** *obs* : BESEECH, ENTREAT **b** : to issue an order to : TELL **c** : to request to come : INVITE **2** : to give expression to ⟨*bade* a tearful farewell⟩ **3 a** : OFFER — usu. used in the phrase *to bid defiance* **b** *past bid* (1) : to offer (a price) whether for payment or acceptance (2) : to make a bid of or in (a suit at cards) ~ *vi* : to make a bid ***syn*** see COMMAND ***ant*** forbid — **bid·der** *n* — **bid fair** : to seem likely
2bid *n* **1 a** : the act of one who bids **b** : a statement of what one will give or take for something; *esp* : an offer of a price **c** : something offered as a bid **2** : an opportunity to bid **3** : INVITATION **4 a** : an announcement of what a cardplayer proposes to undertake **b** : the amount of such a bid **c** : a biddable bridge hand **5** : an attempt or effort to win, achieve, or attract
BID *abbr* **1** bachelor of industrial design **2** [L *bis in die*] twice a day
bid·da·ble \'bid-ə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : easily led, taught, or controlled : DOCILE **2** : capable of being bid — **bid·da·bil·i·ty** \ˌbid-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **bid·da·bly** \'bid-ə-blē\ *adv*
1bid·dy \'bid-ē\ *n, pl* **biddies** [perh. imit.] : HEN 1a; *also* : a young chicken
2biddy *n, pl* **biddies** [dim. of the name *Bridget*] **1** : a hired girl or cleaning woman **2** : WOMAN ⟨an eccentric old ~⟩
Bid·dy Basketball \ˌbit-ē-\ *n* [alter. of *2bitty*] : basketball designed to be played by youngsters and marked by the use of a smaller ball, a shorter court, and baskets at a height of 8½ feet
bide \'bīd\ *vb* **bode** \'bōd\ *or* **bid·ed; bided; bid·ing** [ME *biden,* fr. OE *bīdan;* akin to OHG *bītan* to wait, L *fidere* to trust, Gk *peithesthai* to believe] *vi* **1** : to continue in a state or condition **2** : to wait awhile : TARRY **3** : to continue in a place : SOJOURN ~ *vt* **1** *past usu bided* : to wait for — used chiefly in the phrase *bide one's time* **2** *archaic* : to await confidently or defiantly : WITHSTAND ⟨two men . . . might ~ the winter storm — W. C. Bryant⟩ **3** *chiefly dial* : to put up with : TOLERATE — **bid·er** *n*
bi·det \bi-'dā\ *n* [F, small horse, bidet, fr. MF, fr. *bider* to trot] : a fixture about the height of the seat of a chair used esp. for bathing the external genitals and the posterior parts of the body
bi·di·a·lec·tal·ism \ˌbī-ˌdī-ə-'lek-tᵊl-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : the constant oral use of two dialects of the same language — **bi·di·a·lec·tal** *adj*
bi·don·ville \ˌbē-ˌdōⁿ-'vē(ə)l\ *n* [F, fr. *bidon* tin can + *ville* city] : a settlement of jerry-built dwellings on the outskirts of a city (as in France)
bid up *vt* : to raise the price of (as property at auction) by a succession of offers
BIE *abbr* bachelor of industrial engineering
bield \'bē(ə)ld\ *vt or n* [ME *belden* to encourage, protect, fr. OE *bieldan* to encourage; akin to OE *beald* bold] *chiefly Scot* : SHELTER
bi·en·ni·al \(')bī-'en-ē-əl\ *adj* **1** : occurring every two years **2** : continuing or lasting for two years; *specif* : growing vegetatively during the first year and fruiting and dying during the second — **biennial** *n* — **bi·en·ni·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*
bi·en·ni·um \bī-'en-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ni·ums** *or* **-nia** \-ē-ə\ [L, fr. *bi-* + *annus* year — more at ANNUAL] : a period of two years
bier \'bi(ə)r\ *n* [ME *bere,* fr. OE *bær;* akin to OE *beran* to carry — more at BEAR] **1** *archaic* : a framework for carrying **2** : a stand on which a corpse or coffin is placed; *also* : a coffin together with its stand
bi·fa·cial \(')bī-'fā-shəl\ *adj* **1** : having opposite surfaces alike ⟨~ leaves⟩ **2** : having two fronts or faces
biff \'bif\ *n* [prob. imit.] : WHACK, BLOW — **biff** *vt*
bi·fid \'bī-ˌfid, -fəd\ *adj* [L *bifidus,* fr. *bi-* + *-fidus* -fid] : divided into two equal lobes or parts by a median cleft ⟨a ~ leaf⟩ — **bi·fid·i·ty** \bī-'fid-ət-ē\ *n* — **bi·fid·ly** \'bī-ˌfid-lē, -fəd-\ *adv*
bi·fi·lar \(')bī-'fī-lər\ *adj* [ISV *bi-* + L *filum* thread — more at FILE] **1** : involving two threads or wires ⟨~ suspension of a pendulum⟩ **2** : involving a single thread or wire doubled back upon itself ⟨a ~ resistor⟩ — **bi·fi·lar·ly** *adv*
bi·fla·gel·late \(')bī-'flaj-ə-lət, -ˌlāt; ˌbī-flə-'jel-ət\ *adj* : having two flagella
1bi·fo·cal \(')bī-'fō-kəl\ *adj* [ISV] **1** : having two focal lengths **2** : having one part that corrects for near vision and one for distant vision ⟨a ~ eyeglass lens⟩
2bifocal *n* **1** : a bifocal glass or lens **2** *pl* : eyeglasses with bifocal lenses
bi·form \'bī-ˌfȯrm\ *adj* [L *biformis,* fr. *bi-* + *forma* form] : combining the qualities or forms of two distinct kinds of individuals
bi·fur·cate \'bī-(ˌ)fər-ˌkāt, bī-'fər-\ *vi* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [ML *bifurcatus,* pp. of *bifurcare,* fr. L *bifurcus* two-pronged, fr. *bi-* + *furca* fork] : to divide into two branches or parts — **bi·fur·cate** \(')bī-'fər-kət, -ˌkāt; 'bī-(ˌ)fər-ˌkāt\ *adj* — **bi·fur·cate·ly** *adv*
bi·fur·ca·tion \ˌbī-(ˌ)fər-'kā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of bifurcating : the state of being bifurcated **2 a** : the point at which bifurcating occurs **b** : BRANCH
1big \'big\ *adj* **big·ger; big·gest** [ME, prob. of Scand origin; akin to Norw dial. *bugge* important man; akin to OE *bȳl* boil, Skt *bhūri* abundant] **1 a** *obs* : of great strength **b** : of great force ⟨a ~ storm⟩ **2 a** : large in dimensions, bulk, or extent ⟨a ~ house⟩; *also* : large in quantity, number, or amount ⟨a ~ fleet⟩ **b** : conducted on a large scale ⟨~ government⟩ **3 a** : PREGNANT; *esp* : nearly ready to give birth **b** : full to bursting : SWELLING ⟨~ with rage⟩ **c** *of the voice* : full and resonant **4 a** : CHIEF, PREEMINENT ⟨the ~ issue of the campaign⟩ **b** : outstandingly worthy or able ⟨a truly ~ man⟩ **c** : of great importance or significance ⟨the ~ moment⟩ **d** : IMPOSING, PRETENTIOUS; *also* : marked by or given to boasting ⟨~ talk⟩ **e** : MAGNANIMOUS, GENEROUS ⟨a ~ heart⟩ **5** : POPULAR ⟨soft drinks are very ~ in Mexico — Russ Leadabrand⟩ ***syn*** see LARGE ***ant*** little — **big·ly** *adv* — **big·ness** *n*
2big *adv* **1** : to a large amount or extent ⟨eats ~ at noon⟩ **2 a** : in an outstanding manner ⟨made it ~ in New York⟩ **b** : in a pretentious manner ⟨he talks ~⟩ **c** : in a magnanimous manner ⟨took his defeat ~⟩
big·a·mous \'big-ə-məs\ *adj* **1** : guilty of bigamy **2** : involving bigamy — **big·a·mous·ly** *adv*
big·a·my \'big-ə-mē\ *n* [ME *bigamie,* fr. ML *bigamia,* fr. L *bi-* + LL *-gamia* -gamy, fr. Gk, fr. *gamos* marriage; akin to L *gener* son-in-law] : the act of entering into a ceremonial marriage with one person while still legally married to another — **big·a·mist** \-məst\ *n*
Big·ar·reau \'big-ə-ˌrō\ *n* [F] : any of several cultivated sweet cherries with rather firm often light-colored globular fruits
big bang theory *n* : a theory in astronomy: the universe originated billions of years ago from the explosion of a single mass of material so that the pieces are still flying apart — compare STEADY STATE THEORY
big beat *n, often cap both B's* : music (as rock 'n' roll) characterized by a heavy persistent beat
Big Ben \-'ben\ *n* [after Sir *Benjamin* Hall †1867 E Chief Commissioner of Works] **1** : a large bell in the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament in London **2** : the tower that houses Big Ben; *also* : the clock in the tower
big brother *n* **1** : an older brother **2** : a man who befriends a delinquent or friendless boy **3** *cap both Bs* **a** : the leader of an authoritarian state or movement **b** : a seemingly benevolent but actually ruthless and all-powerful government ⟨proliferating data banks that tell *Big Brother* all about us —Herbert Brucker⟩
Big Broth·er·ism \-'brəth-ə-ˌriz-əm\ *n* : authoritarian attempts at complete control (as of a person or a nation)
Big Dipper *n* : DIPPER 2a
bi·gem·i·ny \bī-'jem-ə-nē\ *n* [*bigeminal* (double, paired), fr. LL *bigeminus,* fr. *bi-* + *geminus* twin] : the state of having a pulse characterized by two beats close together with a pause following each pair of beats — **bi·gem·i·nal** \-ən-ᵊl\ *adj*
bi·ge·ner·ic \ˌbī-jə-'ner-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or involving two genera ⟨a ~ hybrid⟩
big-eye \'big-ˌī\ *n* : either of two small widely distributed reddish to silvery percoid fishes (*Priacanthus cruentatus* and *P. arenatus*) of tropical seas
big game *n* **1** : large animals sought or taken by hunting or fishing for sport **2** : an important objective esp. when involving risk
big·ge·ty *or* **big·gi·ty** \'big-ət-ē\ *adj* [prob. irreg. fr. *big* + *-y*] **1** *South & Midland* : CONCEITED, VAIN **2** *South & Midland* : rudely self-important : IMPUDENT ⟨Mama never acted ~ in court, but she would bow her head only so low — Claude Brown⟩
1big·gin *or* **big·ging** \'big-ən\ *n* [ME *bigging,* fr. *biggen* to dwell, fr. ON *byggja;* akin to OE *bēon* to be] *archaic* : BUILDING
2biggin *n* [MF *beguin*] *archaic* : CAP: **a** : a child's cap **b** : NIGHTCAP
big·gish \'big-ish\ *adj* : somewhat big
big·head \'big-ˌhed\ *n* **1** : any of several diseases of animals marked by swelling about the head **2** : an exaggerated opinion of one's importance : CONCEIT — **big·head·ed** \-'hed-əd\ *adj*
big-heart·ed \-'härt-əd\ *adj* : being generous and kindly — **big-heart·ed·ly** *adv* — **big-heart·ed·ness** *n*
bighorn \'big-ˌhȯ(ə)rn\ *n, pl* **bighorn** *or* **bighorns** : a usu. grayish brown wild sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) of mountainous western No. America


bighorn

1bight \'bīt\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *byht;* akin to OE *būgan* to bend — more at BOW] **1** *obs* : a corner, bend, or angle esp. of a body part **2 a** : the middle part of a slack rope **b** : a loop esp. in a rope **3 a** : a bend esp. in a river or a mountain chain **b** : a bend in a coast forming an open bay; *also* : a bay formed by such a bend
2bight *vt* **1** : to lay or fasten (a rope) in bights **2** : to fasten with a bight
big league *n* **1** : MAJOR LEAGUE **2** : one that is outstanding of its kind — **big leagu·er** \-'lē-gər\ *n*
big-mouthed \'big-'maùthd, -'maùtht\ *adj*

1 : having a large mouth **2** : LOUDMOUTHED
big–name \-'nām\ *adj* **1** : of top rank in popular recognition **2** : of or involving a big-name person, organization, or product
big name *n* : a big-name performer or personage
big·no·nia \big-'nō-nē-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. J. P. *Bignon* †1743 F royal librarian] : any of a genus (*Bignonia*) of American and Japanese woody vines of the trumpet-creeper family with compound leaves and tubular flowers
big·ot \'big-ət\ *n* [MF, hypocrite, bigot] : one obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his own church, party, belief, or opinion — **big·ot·ed** \-ət-əd\ *adj* — **big·ot·ed·ly** *adv*
big·ot·ry \'big-ə-trē\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1** : the state of mind of a bigot **2** : acts or beliefs characteristic of a bigot
big shot \'big-ˌshät\ *n* : a person of consequence or prominence
big stick *n* : threat esp. of military or political intervention
big–tick·et \'big-'tik-ət\ *adj* : high-priced
big time \-ˌtīm\ *n* **1** : a high-paying vaudeville circuit requiring only two performances a day **2** : the top rank — **big–tim·er** \-ˌtī-mər\ *n*
big toe *n* : the innermost and largest digit of the foot
big top *n* **1** : the main tent of a circus **2** : CIRCUS 2a, 2b, 2c
big tree *n* : a California evergreen (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) of the pine family that sometimes exceeds 270 feet in height — called also *giant sequoia, sequoia*
big·wig \'big-ˌwig\ *n* : an important person
Bi·ha·ri \bi-'här-ē\ *n* : a group of Indic dialects spoken by the inhabitants of Bihar
bi·jou \'bē-ˌzhü\ *n, pl* **bijous** *or* **bi·joux** \-ˌzhü(z)\ [F, fr. Bret *bizou* ring, fr. *biz* finger; akin to W *bys* finger] : a small dainty usu. ornamental piece of delicate workmanship : JEWEL — **bijou** *adj*
bi·jou·te·rie \bi-'zhüt-ə-(ˌ)rē\ *n* [F, fr. *bijou*] : a collection of trinkets or ornaments : JEWELS; *also* : DECORATION
[1]bike \'bīk\ *n* [ME] **1** *chiefly Scot* : a nest of wild bees, wasps, or hornets **2** *chiefly Scot* : a crowd or swarm of people
[2]bike *n* [by shortening & alter.] **1** : BICYCLE **2** : MOTORCYCLE **3** : MOTORBIKE — **bik·er** *n*
[3]bike *vi* **biked; bik·ing** : to ride a bike
bike·way \'bī-ˌkwā\ *n* : a thoroughfare esp. suitable for bicycles
bi·ki·ni \bə-'kē-nē\ *n* [F, fr. *Bikini*, atoll of the Marshall islands] : a woman's scanty two-piece bathing suit — **bi·ki·nied** \-nēd\ *adj*
[1]bi·la·bi·al \(ˌ)bī-'lā-bē-əl\ *adj* [ISV] **1** *of a consonant* : produced with both lips **2** : of or relating to both lips
[2]bilabial *n* : a bilabial consonant
bi·la·bi·ate \-bē-ət\ *adj* : having two lips ⟨a ~ corolla of a mint⟩
bi·lat·er·al \(ˌ)bī-'lat-ə-rəl, -'la-trəl\ *adj* **1** : having two sides **2** : affecting reciprocally two sides or parties ⟨a ~ treaty⟩ **3** : having bilateral symmetry — **bi·lat·er·al·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* — **bi·lat·er·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv* — **bi·lat·er·al·ness** *n*
bilateral symmetry *n* : a pattern of animal symmetry in which similar parts are arranged on opposite sides of a median axis so that one and only one plane can divide the individual into essentially identical halves
bi·lay·er \'bī-ˌlā-ər, -ˌle(-ə)r\ *n* : a film or membrane with two molecular layers ⟨a ~ of phospholipid molecules⟩
bil·ber·ry \'bil-ˌber-ē\ *n* [*bil-* (prob. of Scand origin; akin to Dan *bølle* whortleberry) + *berry*] : any of several plants (genus *Vaccinium*) that differ from the typical blueberries in having their flowers arise solitary or in very small clusters from axillary buds; *also* : its sweet edible bluish fruit
[1]bil·bo *or* **bil·boa** \'bil-(ˌ)bō\ *n* [*Bilboa, Bilbao*, Spain] : a finely tempered sword
[2]bilbo *n* [perh. fr. *Bilboa*, Spain] : a long bar of iron with sliding shackles used to confine the feet of prisoners esp. on shipboard
bile \'bī(ə)l\ *n* [F, fr. L *bilis*; akin to W *bustl* bile] **1 a** : a yellow or greenish viscid alkaline fluid secreted by the liver and passed into the duodenum where it aids esp. in the digestion and absorption of fats **b** : either of two humors associated in old physiology with irascibility and melancholy **2** : inclination to anger : SPLEEN
bile acid *n* : a steroid acid (as cholic acid) of or derived from bile
bile duct *n* : a duct by which bile passes from the liver or gallbladder to the duodenum
bile salt *n* **1** : a salt of bile acid **2** *pl* : a dry mixture of the principal salts of the gall of the ox used as a liver stimulant and as a laxative
bi–lev·el \'bī-'lev-əl\ *adj* **1** : having two levels of freight or passenger space **2** : divided vertically into two ground-floor levels
[1]bilge \'bilj\ *n* [prob. modif. of MF *boulge, bouge* leather bag, curved part — more at BUDGET] **1** : the bulging part of a cask or barrel **2 a** : the part of the underwater body of a ship between the flat of the bottom and the vertical topsides **b** : the lowest point of a ship's inner hull **3** : stale or worthless remarks or ideas
[2]bilge *vi* **bilged; bilg·ing** **1** : to undergo damage (as a fracture) in the bilge **2** : to rest on the bilge
bilge keel *n* : a longitudinal projection like a fin secured for a distance along a ship near the turn of the bilge on either side to check rolling
bilge water *n* : water that collects by seepage or leakage in the bilge of a ship
bilgy \'bil-jē\ *adj* **bilg·i·er; -est** : resembling bilge water esp. in smell
bil·har·zia \bil-'här-zē-ə, -'härt-sē-\ *n* [NL, fr. Theodor *Bilharz* †1862 G zoologist] **1** : SCHISTOSOME **2** : SCHISTOSOMIASIS — **bil·har·zi·al** \-zē-əl, -sē-\ *adj*
bil·har·zi·a·sis \ˌbil-ˌhär-'zī-ə-səs, -ˌhärt-'sī-\ *n, pl* **-a·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *bilharzia* + *-iasis*] : SCHISTOSOMIASIS
bil·i·ary \'bil-ē-ˌer-ē\ *adj* [F *biliare*, fr. L *bilis*] : of, relating to, or conveying bile; *also* : affecting the bile-conveying structures ⟨~ disorders⟩
bi·lin·ear \(ˌ)bī-'lin-ē-ər\ *adj* : linear with respect to each of two mathematical variables; *specif* : of or relating to an algebraic form each term of which involves one variable to the first degree from each of two sets of variables
bi·lin·gual \(ˌ)bī-'liŋ-g(yə-)wəl\ *adj* [L *bilinguis*, fr. *bi-* + *lingua* tongue — more at TONGUE] **1** : of, containing, or expressed in two languages **2** : using or able to use two languages esp. with the fluency characteristic of a native speaker — **bilingual** *n* — **bi·lin·gual·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
bi·lin·gual·ism \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : the constant oral use of two languages
bil·ious \'bil-yəs\ *adj* [MF *bilieux*, fr. L *biliosus*, fr. *bilis*] **1 a** : of or relating to bile **b** : marked by or suffering from disordered liver function and esp. excessive secretion of bile **c** : appearing as though affected by a bilious disorder **2** : of a peevish ill-natured disposition — **bil·ious·ly** *adv* — **bil·ious·ness** *n*
bil·i·ru·bin \ˌbil-i-'rü-bən, 'bil-i-ˌ\ *n* [L *bilis* + *ruber* red — more at RED] : a reddish yellow pigment $C_{33}H_{36}N_4O_6$ occurring in bile, blood, urine, and gallstones
bil·i·ver·din \-'vərd-ᵊn, -ˌvərd-\ *n* [Sw, fr. L *bilis* + obs. F *verd* green] : a green pigment $C_{33}H_{34}N_4O_6$ occurring in bile
[1]bilk \'bilk\ *vt* [perh. alter. of [2]*balk*] **1** : to block the free development of : FRUSTRATE ⟨fate ~*s* their hopes⟩ **2 a** : to cheat out of what is due **b** : to evade payment of ⟨~*s* his creditors⟩ **3** : to slip away from : ELUDE ⟨~ his pursuers⟩ — **bilk·er** *n*
[2]bilk *n* : an untrustworthy tricky individual : CHEAT
[1]bill \'bil\ *n* [ME *bile*, fr. OE; akin to OE *bill* (weapon)] **1** : the jaws of a bird together with their horny covering **2** : a mouthpart (as the beak of a turtle) that resembles a bird's bill **3** : a projection of land like a beak **4** : the end of an anchor fluke or of a sail yard **5** : the visor of a cap



bills of birds: *1* flamingo, *2* hawk, *3* pigeon, *4* thrush, *5* duck (merganser), *6* toucan, *7* finch, *8* spoonbill, *9* pelican

[2]bill *vi* **1** : to touch and rub bill to bill **2** : to caress affectionately
[3]bill *n* [ME *bil*, fr. OE *bill*; akin to OHG *bill* pickax, Gk *phitros* log] **1** : a weapon in use up to the 18th century that consists of a long staff terminating in a hook-shaped blade **2** : BILLHOOK
[4]bill *n* [ME, fr. ML *billa*, alter. of *bulla*, fr. L, bubble, boss] **1 a** : a written document **b** : MEMORANDUM **c** : LETTER **2** *obs* : a formal petition **3** : a draft of a law presented to a legislature for enactment **4** : a declaration in writing stating a wrong a complainant has suffered from a defendant or stating a breach of law by some person ⟨a ~ of complaint⟩ **5** : a paper carrying a statement of particulars (as a list of men and their duties as part of a ship's crew) **6 a** : an itemized account of the separate cost of goods sold, services performed, or work done : INVOICE **b** : a statement in gross of a creditor's claim **c** : a statement of charges for food or drink : CHECK **7 a** : a written or printed advertisement posted or otherwise distributed to announce an event of interest to the public; *esp* : an announcement of a theatrical entertainment **b** : a programmed presentation (as a motion picture, play, or concert) **8 a** : a piece of paper money **b** : an individual or commercial note ⟨~*s* receivable⟩ **c** *slang* : one hundred dollars
[5]bill *vt* **1 a** : to enter in a book of accounts : prepare a bill of (charges) **b** : to submit a bill of charges to **c** : to enter (as freight) in a waybill **d** : to issue a bill of lading to or for **2 a** : to announce esp. by posters or placards **b** : to arrange for the presentation of **3** : ADVERTISE ⟨the book is ~*ed* as a "report" —P. G. Altbach⟩
bil·la·bong \'bil-ə-ˌbȯŋ, -ˌbäŋ\ *n* [native name in Australia] **1** *Austral* **a** : a blind channel leading out from a river **b** : a usu. dry stream bed that is filled seasonally **2** *Austral* : a backwater forming a stagnant pool
[1]bill·board \'bil-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a projection or ledge fixed on the bow of a vessel for the anchor to rest on
[2]billboard *n* [[4]*bill* + *board*] : a flat surface (as of a panel, wall, or fence) on which bills are posted; *specif* : a large panel designed to carry outdoor advertising
bill·bug \'bil-ˌbəg\ *n* [[1]*bill* + *bug*] : a weevil (esp. genus *Calendra*) having larvae that eat the roots of cereal and other grasses
-billed \'bild\ *adj comb form* : having (such) a bill ⟨hard-*billed*⟩
bill·er \'bil-ər\ *n* : one that bills: as **a** : a clerk who makes out bills **b** : a machine for making out bills
[1]bil·let \'bil-ət\ *n* [ME *bylet*, fr. MF *billette*, dim. of *bulle* document, fr. ML *bulla*] **1** *archaic* : a brief letter : NOTE **2 a** : an official order directing that a member of a military force be provided with board and lodging (as in a private home) **b** : quarters assigned by or as if by a billet **3** : POSITION, JOB ⟨a lucrative ~⟩
[2]billet *vt* **1** : to assign lodging to (as soldiers) by a billet : QUARTER **2** : to serve with a billet ⟨~ a householder⟩ ~ *vi* : to have quarters
[3]billet *n* [ME *bylet*, fr. MF *billette*, dim. of *bille* log, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *bile* sacred tree] **1 a** : a chunky piece of wood (as for firewood) : BOLT 5 **b** *obs* : CUDGEL **2 a** : a bar of metal **b** : a piece of semifinished iron or steel nearly square in section made by rolling an ingot or bloom **c** : a section of nonferrous metal ingot hot-worked by forging, rolling, or extrusion : a nonferrous casting suitable for rolling or extrusion
bil·let–doux \ˌbil-(ˌ)ā-'dü\ *n, pl* **bil·lets–doux** \-(ˌ)ā-'dü(z)\ [F *billet doux*, lit., sweet letter] : a love letter
bill·fish \'bil-ˌfish\ *n* : a fish (as a marlin or gar) with long slender jaws

bill·fold \-ˌfōld\ *n* [short for earlier *billfolder*] **1** : a folding pocketbook for paper money **2** : WALLET 2b
bill·head \-ˌhed\ *n* : a printed form usu. headed with a business address and used for billing charges
bill·hook \-ˌhu̇k\ *n* : a cutting tool consisting of a blade with a hooked point fitted with a handle and used esp. in pruning
bil·liard \'bil-yərd\ *n* [back-formation fr. *billiards*] **1** : CAROM 1a **2** — used as an attributive form of *billiards* ⟨~ ball⟩
bil·liards \-yərdz\ *n pl but sing in constr* [MF *billard* billiard cue, billiards, fr. *bille*] : any of several games played on an oblong table by driving small balls against one another or into pockets with a cue; *specif* : a game in which one scores by causing a cue ball to hit in succession two object balls — compare POOL
bill·ing \'bil-iŋ\ *n* [⁵*bill*] **1** : ADVERTISING ⟨advance ~⟩ **2** : total amount of business or investments (as of an advertising agency) within a given period **3** : the relative prominence given a name (as of an actor) in advertising programs ⟨top ~⟩
bil·lings·gate \'bil-iŋz-ˌgāt, *Brit usu* -git\ *n* [*Billingsgate*, old gate and fish market, London, England] : coarsely abusive language
syn see ABUSE
bil·lion \'bil(-yən\ *n* [F, fr. *bi-* + *-illion* (as in *million*)] **1** — see NUMBER table **2** : a very large number — **billion** *adj* — **bil·lionth** \-yən(t)th\ *adj or n*
bil·lion·aire \ˌbi(l)-yə-'na(ə)r, -'ne(ə)r, 'bi(l)-yə-ˌ\ *n* [*billion* + *-aire* (as in *millionaire*)] : one whose wealth is estimated at a billion or more (as of dollars or pounds)
bill of exchange : an unconditional written order from one person to another to pay a specified sum of money to a designated person
bill of fare **1** : MENU **2** : PROGRAM
bill of goods : a consignment of merchandise
bill of health **1** : a certificate given to the ship's master at the time of leaving port that indicates the state of health of a ship's company and of a port with regard to infectious diseases **2** : a report about a condition or situation ⟨gave the criticized textbook a clean *bill of health*⟩
bill of lading : a receipt listing goods shipped that is signed by the agent of the owner of a ship or issued by a common carrier
bill of rights *often cap B&R* : a summary of fundamental rights and privileges guaranteed to a people against violation by the state — used esp. of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution
bill of sale : a formal instrument for the conveyance or transfer of title to goods and chattels
bil·lon \'bil-ən\ *n* [F, fr. MF, fr. *bille* log — more at BILLET] **1** : an alloy of silver containing more than 50 percent of copper by weight **2** : gold or silver heavily alloyed with a less valuable metal
¹bil·low \'bil-(ˌ)ō, -ə(-w)\ *n* [prob. fr. ON *bylgja*; akin to OHG *balg* bag — more at BELLY] **1** : WAVE; *esp* : a great wave or surge of water **2** : a rolling mass (as of flame or smoke) that resembles a high wave — **bil·lowy** \'bil-ə-wē\ *adj*
²billow *vi* **1** : to rise or roll in waves or surges **2** : to bulge or swell out (as through action of the wind) ~ *vt* : to cause to billow
bill·post·er \'bil-ˌpō-stər\ *n* : one that posts advertising bills — called also *billsticker* — **bill·post·ing** \-stiŋ\ *n*
¹bil·ly \'bil-ē\ *n, pl* **billies** [prob. fr. the name *Billy*] : BILLY CLUB
²billy *n, pl* **billies** [prob. short for *billycan* (billy)] *chiefly Austral* : a can of metal or enamelware made with a lid and a wire bail and used for outdoor cooking or for carrying food or liquid
billy club *n* [¹*billy*] : a heavy usu. wooden club; *specif* : a policeman's club
bil·ly·cock \'bil-ē-ˌkäk\ *n* [origin unknown] *Brit* : a stiff felt hat
bil·ly goat \'bil-ē-\ *n* [fr. the name *Billy*] : a male goat
bi·lobed \'bī-'lōbd\ *adj* : divided into two lobes
bi·loc·u·lar \(')bī-'läk-yə-lər\ *or* **bi·loc·u·late** \-lət\ *adj* [*bi-* + NL *loculus*] : divided into two cells or compartments ⟨~ ovary⟩
bil·tong \'bil-ˌtȯŋ, -ˌtäŋ\ *n* [Afrik, fr. *bil* buttock + *tong* tongue] *chiefly So Afr* : jerked meat
bi·man·u·al \(')bī-'man-yə(-wə)l\ *adj* : done with or requiring the use of both hands — **bi·man·u·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
bi·mes·ter \(')bī-'mes-tər, 'bī-ˌ\ *n* [*bi-* + *-mester* (as in *semester*)] : a period of two months
bi·mes·tri·al \bī-'mes-trē-əl\ *adj* [L *bimestris*, fr. *bi-* + *mensis* month — more at MOON] : continuing for two months
bi·met·al \'bī-ˌmet-ᵊl\ *adj* : BIMETALLIC — **bimetal** *n*
bi·me·tal·lic \ˌbī-mə-'tal-ik\ *adj* **1** : relating to, based on, or using bimetallism **2** : composed of two different metals — often used of devices having a part in which two metals that expand differently are bonded together — **bimetallic** *n*
bi·met·al·lism \(')bī-'met-ᵊl-ˌiz-əm\ *n* [F *bimétallisme*, fr. *bi-* + *métal* metal] : the use of two metals (as gold and silver) jointly as a monetary standard with both constituting legal tender at a predetermined ratio — **bi·met·al·list** \-ᵊl-əst\ *n* — **bi·met·al·lis·tic** \ˌbī-ˌmet-ᵊl-'is-tik\ *adj*
bi·mil·le·na·ry \(')bī-'mil-ə-ˌner-ē, ˌbī-mə-'len-ə-rē\ *or* **bi·mil·len·ni·al** \ˌbī-mə-'len-ē-əl\ *n* **1** : a period of 2000 years **2** : a 2000th anniversary — **bimillenary** *adj*
bi·mod·al \(')bī-'mōd-ᵊl\ *adj* : having two statistical modes — **bi·mo·dal·i·ty** \ˌbī-mō-'dal-ət-ē\ *n*
bi·mo·lec·u·lar \ˌbī-mə-'lek-yə-lər\ *adj* [ISV] **1** : relating to or formed from two molecules **2** : being two molecules thick — **bi·mo·lec·u·lar·ly** *adv*
¹bi·month·ly \(')bī-'mən(t)th-lē\ *adj* **1** : occurring every two months **2** : occurring twice a month : SEMIMONTHLY
²bimonthly *n* : a bimonthly publication
³bimonthly *adv* **1** : once every two months **2** : twice a month
bi·mor·phe·mic \ˌbī-mȯr-'fē-mik\ *adj* : consisting of two morphemes
¹bin \'bin\ *n* [ME *binn*, fr. OE] : a box, frame, crib, or enclosed place used for storage
²bin *vt* **binned; bin·ning** : to put into a bin
bin- *comb form* [ME, fr. LL, fr. L *bini* two by two; akin to OE *twīn* twine] : ¹BI- ⟨*bin*aural⟩
¹bi·na·ry \'bī-nə-rē\ *adj* [LL *binarius*, fr. L *binī*] **1** : compounded or consisting of or marked by two things or parts **2** : composed of two chemical elements, an element and a radical that acts as an element, or two such radicals **3** **a** : relating to, being, or belonging to a system of numbers having 2 as its base ⟨the ~ digits 0 and 1⟩ **b** : involving a choice or condition of two alternatives (as on=off or yes-no) **4** : relating two logical elements ⟨~ operation⟩ **5** **a** : having two musical subjects or two complementary sections **b** : DUPLE — used of measure or rhythm
²binary *n, pl* **-ries** : something made of two things or parts
binary fission *n* : reproduction of a cell by division into two approximately equal parts ⟨the *binary fission* of protozoans⟩
binary star *n* : a system of two stars that revolve around each other under their mutual gravitation
bi·na·tion·al \(')bī-'nash-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* : of or relating to two nations ⟨a ~ board of directors⟩
bin·au·ral \(')bī-'nȯr-əl, (')bin-'ȯr-\ *adj* [ISV] **1** : of, relating to, or used with two or both ears **2** : of, relating to, or characterized by the placement of sound sources (as in sound transmission and recording) to achieve in sound reproduction an effect of hearing the sound sources in their original positions — **bin·au·ral·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*
¹bind \'bīnd\ *vb* **bound** \'baůnd\; **bind·ing** [ME *binden*, fr. OE *bindan*; akin to OHG *bintan* to bind, Gk *peisma* cable] *vt* **1** **a** : to make secure by tying **b** : to confine, restrain, or restrict as if with bonds **c** : to put under an obligation ⟨~s himself with an oath⟩ **d** : to constrain with legal authority **2** **a** : to wrap around with something so as to enclose or cover **b** : BANDAGE **3** : to fasten round about **4** : to tie together (as stocks of wheat) **5** **a** : to cause to stick together **b** : to take up and hold (as by chemical forces) : combine with **6** : CONSTIPATE **7** : to make firm or sure : SETTLE ⟨a deposit ~s the sale⟩ **8** : to protect, strengthen, or decorate by a band or binding **9** : to apply the parts of the cover to (a book) **10** : to set at work as an apprentice : INDENTURE **11** : to cause to be attached (as by gratitude) **12** : to fasten together **13** : to effect (an insurance policy) by an oral commitment or a written instrument ~ *vi* **1** : to form a cohesive mass **2** : to hamper free movement or natural action **3** : to become hindered from free operation **4** : to exert a restraining or compelling effect ⟨a promise that ~s⟩
²bind *n* **1** **a** : something that binds **b** : the act of binding : the state of being bound **c** : a place where binding occurs **2** **a** : TIE 3 **b** : SLUR 1a **3** : a position that restricts an opponent's freedom of action (as in chess) — **in a bind** : in trouble
bind·er \'bīn-dər\ *n* **1** : a person that binds something (as books) **2** **a** : something used in binding **b** : a usu. detachable cover (as for holding sheets of paper) **c** : the sheet of tobacco that binds the filler in a cigar **3** : something (as tar or cement) that produces or promotes cohesion in loosely assembled substances **4** : a receipt for money paid to secure the right to purchase real estate on agreed terms; *also* : the money itself
bind·ery \'bīn-d(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : a place where books are bound
¹bind·ing \'bīn-diŋ\ *n* **1** : the action of one that binds **2** : a material or device used to bind: as **a** : the cover and fastenings of a book **b** : a narrow fabric used to finish raw edges **c** : a set of ski fastenings for holding the boot firm on the ski
²binding *adj* **1** : that binds **2** : imposing an obligation — **binding·ly** \-diŋ-lē\ *adv* — **bind·ing·ness** *n*
binding energy *n* : the energy required to break up a molecule, atom, or atomic nucleus completely into its constituent particles
bind off *vt* : to cast off in knitting
bind over *vt* : to put under bonds to do something (as to appear in court)
bind·weed \'bīn-ˌdwēd\ *n* : any of various twining plants (esp. genus *Convolvulus* of the morning-glory family) that mat or interlace with plants among which they grow
bine \'bīn\ *n* [alter. of ²*bind*] : a twining stem or flexible shoot (as of the hop); *also* : a plant (as woodbine) whose shoots are bines
Bi·net–Si·mon scale \bi-ˌnā-sē-'mōⁿ-\ *n* [Alfred *Binet* †1911 and Théodore *Simon* †1961 F psychologists] : an intelligence test consisting orig. of tasks graded from the level of the average 3-year-old to that of the average 12-year-old but later extended in range
binge \'binj\ *n* [E dial. *binge* (to drink heavily)] **1** **a** : a drunken revel : SPREE **b** : an unrestrained indulgence ⟨a buying ~⟩ **2** : a social gathering : PARTY
bin·go \'biŋ-(ˌ)gō\ *n, pl* **bingos** [earlier *bingo* (interj. used to announce an unexpected event)] : a game of chance played with cards having numbered squares corresponding to numbered balls drawn at random and won by covering five such squares in a row
bin·na·cle \'bin-i-kəl\ *n* [alter. of ME *bitakle*, fr. OPg or OSp; OPg *bitácola* & OSp *bitácula*, fr. L *habitaculum* dwelling place, fr. *habitare* to inhabit — more at HABITATION] : a case, box, or stand containing a ship's compass and a lamp
¹bin·oc·u·lar \bī-'näk-yə-lər, bə-\ *adj* : of, relating to, using, or adapted to the use of both eyes ⟨~ vision⟩ — **bin·oc·u·lar·i·ty** \(ˌ)bī-ˌnäk-yə-'lar-ət-ē, bə-\ *n* — **bin·oc·u·lar·ly** \bī-'näk-yə-lər-lē, bə-\ *adv*
²bin·oc·u·lar \bə-'näk-yə-lər, bī-\ *n* **1** : a binocular optical instrument **2** : FIELD GLASS — usu. used in pl.
bi·no·mi·al \bī-'nō-mē-əl\ *n* [NL *binomium*, fr. ML, neut. of *binomius* having two names, alter. of L *binominis*, fr. *bi-* + *nomin-*, *nomen* name — more at NAME] **1** : a mathematical expression consisting of two terms connected by a plus sign or minus sign **2** : a biological species name consisting of two terms — **binomial** *adj* — **bi·no·mi·al·ly** \-mē-ə-lē\ *adv*
binomial coefficient *n* : a coefficient of a term in the expansion of the binomial $(x + y)^n$ according to the binomial theorem
binomial distribution *n* : a probability function each of whose values gives the probability that an outcome with constant proba-

bility of occurrence in a statistical experiment will occur a given number of times in a succession of repetitions of the experiment

binomial nomenclature *n* : a system of nomenclature in which each species of animal or plant receives a name of two terms of which the first identifies the genus to which it belongs and the second the species itself

binomial theorem *n* : a theorem that specifies the expansion of a binomial of the form $(x + y)^n$ in $n + 1$ terms of which the general term is of the form

$$\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}\, x^k\, y^{(n-k)}$$

bint \'bint\ *n* [Ar, girl, daughter] *slang Brit* : GIRL, WOMAN

bi·nu·cle·ate \(')bī-'n(y)ü-klē-ət\ *also* **bi·nu·cle·at·ed** \-klē-ˌāt-əd\ *adj* : having two nuclei

bio \'bī-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **bi·os** : BIOGRAPHY

bio- — see BI-

bio·as·say \ˌbī-(ˌ)ō-'as-ˌā, -a-'sā\ *n* [*bio*logical *assay*] : determination of the relative strength of a substance (as a drug) by comparing its effect on a test organism with that of a standard preparation — **bio·as·say** \-a-'sā, -'as-ˌā\ *vt*

bio·as·tro·nau·tics \ˌbī-ō-ˌas-trə-'nȯt-iks, -'nät-\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : the medical and biological aspect of astronautics — **bio·as·tro·nau·ti·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj*

bio·cat·a·lyst \ˌbī-ō-'kat-ᵊl-əst\ *n* : ENZYME

bio·ce·no·sis *or* **bio·coe·no·sis** \-sə-'nō-səs\ *n, pl* **-no·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. ²*bi-* + Gk *koinōsis* sharing, fr. *koinos* common — more at CO-] : an ecological community (as an oyster bed) esp. when forming a self-regulating unit — **bio·ce·not·ic** *or* **bio·coe·not·ic** \-'nät-ik\ *adj*

bio·chem·i·cal \ˌbī-ō-'kem-i-kəl\ *adj* [ISV] **1** : of or relating to biochemistry **2** : characterized by, produced by, or involving chemical reactions in living organisms — **biochemical** *n* — **bio·chem·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

biochemical oxygen demand *n* : the oxygen used in meeting the metabolic needs of aerobic microorganisms in water rich in organic matter (as water polluted with sewage) — called also *biological oxygen demand*

bio·chem·is·try \ˌbī-ō-'kem-ə-strē\ *n* [ISV] : chemistry that deals with the chemical compounds and processes occurring in organisms — **bio·chem·ist** \-əst\ *n*

bio·cide \'bī-ə-ˌsīd\ *n* : a substance (as DDT) that is destructive to many different organisms — **bio·cid·al** \ˌbī-ə-'sīd-ᵊl\ *adj*

bio·clean \'bī-ō-ˌklēn\ *adj* : free or almost free of harmful or potentially harmful organisms (as bacteria) ⟨a ~ room⟩

bio·cli·mat·ic \ˌbī-ō-klī-'mat-ik\ *adj* : of or relating to the relations of climate and living matter

bio·de·grad·able \-di-'grād-ə-bəl\ *adj* [²*bi-* + *degrade* + *-able*] : capable of being broken down esp. into innocuous products by the action of living beings (as microorganisms) — **bio·de·grad·abil·i·ty** \-ˌgrād-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **bio·deg·ra·da·tion** \-ˌdeg-rə-'dā-shən\ *n* — **bio·de·grade** \-di-'grād\ *vb*

bio·ecol·o·gy \ˌbī-ō-i-'käl-ə-jē\ *n* : ecology dealing with the interrelation of plants and animals with their common environment — **bio·eco·log·i·cal** \-ˌē-kə-'läj-i-kəl, -ˌek-ə-\ *adj* — **bio·ecol·o·gist** \-i-'käl-ə-jəst\ *n*

bio·elec·tric \-i-'lek-trik\ *or* **bio·elec·tri·cal** \-tri-kəl\ *adj* : of or relating to electric phenomena in animals and plants — **bio·elec·tric·i·ty** \-ˌlek-'tris-ət-ē, -'tris-tē\ *n*

bio·en·er·get·ics \-ˌen-ər-'jet-iks\ *n pl but sing in constr* : the biology of energy transformations and energy exchanges within and between living things and their environments — **bio·en·er·get·ic** \-'jet-ik\ *adj*

bio·en·gi·neer·ing \-ˌen-jə-'ni(ə)r-iŋ\ *n* : application to biological or medical science of engineering principles (as the theory of control systems in models of the nervous system) or engineering equipment (as in the construction of artificial organs)

bio·en·vi·ron·men·tal \-in-ˌvī-rən-'ment-ᵊl\ *adj* : concerned with the environment and esp. with deleterious factors in the environment of living beings

bio·feed·back \-'fēd-ˌbak\ *n* : the technique of making unconscious or involuntary bodily processes (as heartbeat or brain waves) perceptible to the senses (as by the use of an oscilloscope) in order to manipulate them by conscious mental control

bio·fla·vo·noid \-'flā-və-ˌnȯid\ *n* : a biologically active flavonoid — called also *vitamin P*

biog *abbr* biographer; biographical; biography

bio·gen·e·sis \ˌbī-ō-'jen-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] **1** : the development of life from preexisting life **2** : a supposed tendency for stages in the evolutionary history of a race to briefly recur during the development and differentiation of an individual of that race **3** : BIOSYNTHESIS — **bio·ge·net·ic** \-jə-'net-ik\ *adj*

bio·gen·ic \-'jen-ik\ *adj* : produced by living organisms

bio·geo·chem·is·try \-ˌjē-ō-'kem-ə-strē\ *n* [²*bi-* + *geochemistry*] : a science that deals with the relation of earth chemicals to plant and animal life in an area — **bio·geo·chem·i·cal** \-'kem-i-kəl\ *adj*

bio·ge·og·ra·phy \-jē-'äg-rə-fē\ *n* [ISV] : a branch of biology that deals with the geographical distribution of animals and plants — **bio·geo·graph·ic** \-ˌjē-ə-'graf-ik\ *or* **bio·geo·graph·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj*

bi·og·ra·phee \bī-ˌäg-rə-'fē, bē-\ *n* : a person about whom a biography is written

bi·og·ra·pher \-'äg-rə-fər\ *n* : a writer of a biography

bio·graph·i·cal \ˌbī-ə-'graf-i-kəl\ *or* **bio·graph·ic** \-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or constituting biography **2** : consisting of biographies ⟨a ~ dictionary⟩ **3** : relating to a list briefly identifying persons ⟨~ notes⟩ — **bio·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

bi·og·ra·phy \bī-'äg-rə-fē, bē-\ *n, pl* **-phies** [LGk *biographia*, fr. Gk *bi-* + *-graphia* -graphy] **1** : a usu. written history of a person's life **2** : biographical writings in general **3** : an account of the life of something (as an animal, a coin, or a building)

bio·in·stru·men·ta·tion \'bī-ō-ˌin-strə-mən-'tā-shən, -ˌmen-\ *n* : the development and use of instruments for recording and transmitting physiological data (as from astronauts in flight)

biol *abbr* biologic; biological; biologist; biology

¹bi·o·log·ic \ˌbī-ə-'läj-ik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to biology or to life and living processes **2** : used in or produced by applied biology — **bi·o·log·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **bi·o·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

²biologic *n* : a biological product used in medicine — **biological** *n*

biological clock *n* : an inherent timing mechanism responsible for various cyclical physiological and behavioral responses of living beings

biological control *n* : attack upon noxious organisms by interference with their ecological adjustment

biological oxygen demand *n* : BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND

biological warfare *n* : warfare involving the use of living organisms (as disease germs) or their toxic products against men, animals, or plants; *also* : warfare involving the use of synthetic chemicals harmful to plants

bi·ol·o·gism \bī-'äl-ə-ˌjiz-əm\ *n* : preoccupation with biological explanations in the analysis of social situations — **bi·ol·o·gis·tic** \-ˌäl-ə-'jis-tik\ *adj*

bi·ol·o·gy \bī-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* [G *biologie*, fr. *bi-* + *-logie* -logy] **1 a** : a branch of knowledge that deals with living organisms and vital processes **b** : ECOLOGY **2 a** : the plant and animal life of a region or environment **b** : the laws and phenomena relating to an organism or group — **bi·ol·o·gist** \-jəst\ *n*

bio·lu·mi·nes·cence \ˌbī-ō-ˌlü-mə-'nes-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* [ISV] : the emission of light from living organisms; *also* : the light so produced — **bio·lu·mi·nes·cent** \-ᵊnt\ *adj*

bio·mass \'bī-ō-ˌmas\ *n* : the amount of living matter (as in a unit area or volume of habitat)

bio·ma·te·ri·al \ˌbī-ō-mə-'tir-ē-əl\ *n* : material used for or suitable for use in prostheses that come in direct contact with living tissues

bi·ome \'bī-ˌōm\ *n* [²*bi-* + *-ome*] : a major ecological community type ⟨the grassland ~⟩

bio·med·i·cal \ˌbī-ō-'med-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to biomedicine **2** : of, relating to, or involving biological, medical, and physical science

bio·med·i·cine \-'med-ə-sən, *Brit usu* -'med-sən\ *n* : a branch of medical science concerned esp. with the capacity of human beings to survive and function in abnormally stressing environments and with the protective modification of such environments

bio·met·ric \-'me-trik\ *or* **bio·met·ri·cal** \-tri-kəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or concerned with biometry

bio·met·rics \-'me-triks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : BIOMETRY

bi·om·e·try \bī-'äm-ə-trē\ *n* [ISV] : the statistical analysis of biological observations and phenomena

bi·on·ics \bī-'än-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [²*bi-* + *-onics* (as in *electronics*)] : a science concerned with the application of data about the functioning of biological systems to the solution of engineering problems — **bi·on·ic** \-ik\ *adj*

bi·o·nom·ics \ˌbī-ə-'näm-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [*bionomic*, adj., prob. fr. F *bionomique*, fr. *bionomie* ecology, fr. *bi-* + *-nomie* -nomy] : ECOLOGY — **bi·o·nom·ic** \-ik\ *adj* — **bi·o·nom·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **bi·o·nom·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

-bi·ont \'bī-ˌänt\ *comb form* [prob. fr. G, modif. of Gk *biount-, biōn*, prp. of *bioun* to live, fr. *bios* life] : one having a (specified) mode of life ⟨haplo*biont*⟩

bio·phys·ics \ˌbī-ō-'fiz-iks\ *n* : a branch of knowledge concerned with the application of physical principles and methods to biological problems — **bio·phys·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **bio·phys·i·cist** \-'fiz-(ə-)səst\ *n*

bio·poly·mer \ˌbī-ō-'päl-ə-mər\ *n* : a polymeric substance (as a protein or polysaccharide) formed in a biological system

bi·op·sy \'bī-ˌäp-sē\ *n, pl* **-sies** [ISV *bi-* + Gk *opsis* appearance — more at OPTIC] : the removal and examination of tissue, cells, or fluids from the living body

bio·sat·el·lite \ˌbī-ō-'sat-ᵊl-ˌīt\ *n* : an artificial satellite for carrying a living human being, animal, or plant

bio·sci·ence \-'sī-ən(t)s\ *n* : BIOLOGY 1a — **bio·sci·en·tif·ic** \-ˌsī-ən-'tif-ik\ *adj* — **bio·sci·en·tist** \-'sī-ənt-əst\ *n*

-bi·o·sis \(ˌ)bī-'ō-səs, bē-\ *n comb form, pl* **-bi·o·ses** \-sēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *biōsis*, fr. *bioun* to live, fr. *bios*] : mode of life ⟨para*biosis*⟩

bio·sphere \'bī-ə-ˌsfi(ə)r\ *n* **1** : the part of the world in which life can exist **2** : living beings together with their environment

bio·syn·the·sis \ˌbī-ō-'sin(t)-thə-səs\ *n* [NL] : the production of a chemical compound by a living organism — **bio·syn·thet·ic** \-sin-'thet-ik\ *adj* — **bio·syn·thet·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

bio·sys·tem·at·ic \-ˌsis-tə-'mat-ik\ *adj* : of or relating to experimental taxonomy esp. as based on cytogenetics — **bio·sys·tem·a·tist** \-'tem-ət-əst\ *n* — **bio·sys·tem·a·ty** \-sis-'tem-ət-ē\ *n*

bi·o·ta \bī-'ōt-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *biotē* life; akin to Gk *bios*] : the flora and fauna of a region

bio·tech·nol·o·gy \ˌbī-ō-tek-'näl-ə-jē\ *n* : the aspect of technology concerned with the application of biological and engineering data to problems relating to man and the machine — **bio·tech·no·log·i·cal** \-ˌtek-nə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj*

bio·te·lem·e·try \-tə-'lem-ə-trē\ *n* : the remote detection and measurement of a condition, activity, or function relating to a man or animal — **bio·tel·e·met·ric** \-ˌtel-ə-'me-trik\ *adj*

bi·ot·ic \bī-'ät-ik\ *adj* [Gk *biōtikos*, fr. *bioun*] : of or relating to life; *esp* : caused or produced by living beings

-bi·ot·ic \(ˌ)bī-'ät-ik, bē-\ *adj comb form* [prob. fr. NL *-bioticus*, fr. Gk *biōtikos*] : having a (specified) mode of life ⟨endo*biotic*⟩

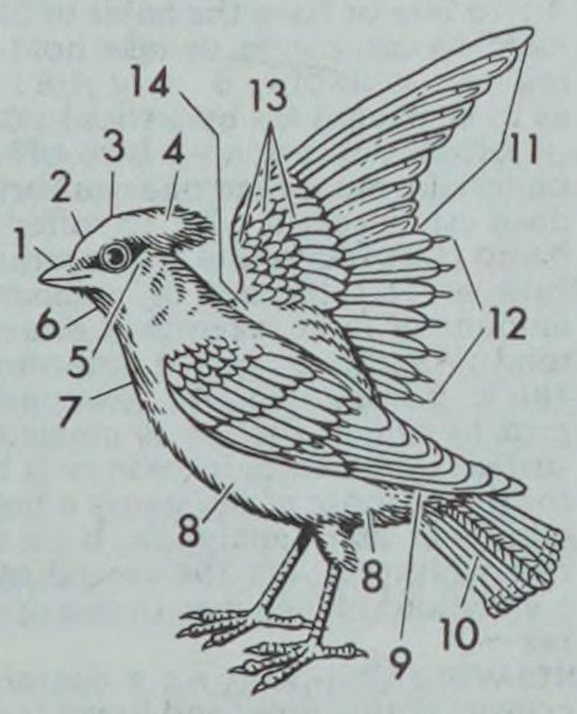
biotic potential *n* : the inherent capacity of an organism or species to reproduce and survive

bi·o·tin \'bī-ə-tən\ *n* [ISV, fr. Gk *biotos* life, sustenance; akin to Gk *bios*] : a colorless crystalline growth vitamin $C_{10}H_{16}N_2O_3S$ of the vitamin B complex found esp. in yeast, liver, and egg yolk

bi·o·tite \'bī-ə-ˌtīt\ *n* [G *biotit*, fr. Jean B. *Biot* †1862 F mathematician] : a generally black or dark green form of mica $K_2(Mg,Fe,Al)_6(Si,Al)_8O_{20}(OH)_4$ forming a constitutent of crystalline rocks and consisting of a silicate of iron, magnesium, potassium, and aluminum — **bi·o·tit·ic** \ˌbī-ə-'tit-ik\ *adj*

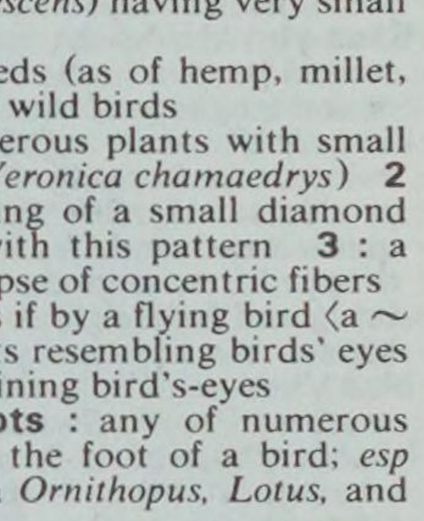
bio·tope \'bī-ə-ˌtōp\ *n* [²*bi-* + Gk *topos* place — more at TOPIC] : a region uniform in environmental conditions and in its populations of animals and plants for which it is the habitat

bio·trans·for·ma·tion \'bī-ō-ˌtran(t)s-fər-'mā-shən, -ˌfȯr-\ *n* : the transformation of chemical compounds within a living system
bio·tron \'bī-ə-ˌträn\ *n* [²*bi-* + *-tron* (as in *cyclotron*)] : a climate control chamber used to study the effect of specific environmental factors on living organisms
bio·type \-ˌtīp\ *n* [ISV] : the organisms sharing a specified genotype; *also* : the genotype shared or its distinguishing peculiarity — **bio·typ·ic** \ˌbī-ə-'tip-ik\ *adj*
bi·ovu·lar \(')bī-'äv-yə-lər, -'ōv-\ *adj, of fraternal twins* : derived from two ova
bi·pack \'bī-ˌpak\ *n* : a pair of films each sensitive to a different color used by simultaneous exposure one through the other
bi·pa·ren·tal \ˌbī-pə-'rent-ᵊl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or derived from two parents — **bi·pa·ren·tal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*
bi·par·ti·san \(')bī-'pärt-ə-zən, -sən\ *adj* : of, relating to, or involving members of two parties ⟨a ~ commission⟩ — **bi·par·ti·san·ism** \-zə-ˌniz-əm, -sə-\ *n* — **bi·par·ti·san·ship** \-zən-ˌship, -sən-\ *n*
bi·par·tite \(')bī-'pär-ˌtīt\ *adj* [L *bipartitus*, pp. of *bipartire* to divide in two, fr. *bi-* + *partire* to divide, fr. *part-, pars* part] **1 a** : being in two parts **b** : having two correspondent parts one for each party ⟨a ~ contract⟩ **c** : shared by two ⟨a ~ treaty⟩ **2** : divided into two parts almost to the base ⟨a ~ leaf⟩ — **bi·par·tite·ly** *adv* — **bi·par·ti·tion** \ˌbī-(ˌ)pär-'tish-ən\ *n*
bi·ped \'bī-ˌped\ *n* [L *biped-, bipes*, fr. *bi-* + *ped-, pes* foot — more at FOOT] : a two-footed animal — **biped** *or* **bi·ped·al** \(')bī-'ped-ᵊl\ *adj*
bi·phe·nyl \(')bī-'fen-ᵊl, -'fēn-\ *n* [ISV] : a white crystalline hydrocarbon $C_6H_5.C_6H_5$ used esp. as a heat-transfer medium
bi·pin·nate \-'pin-ˌāt\ *adj* : twice pinnate — **bi·pin·nate·ly** *adv*
bi·plane \'bī-ˌplān\ *n* : an airplane with two main supporting surfaces usu. placed one above the other
bi·pod \'bī-ˌpäd\ *n* [*bi-* + *-pod* (as in *tripod*)] : a two-legged support
bi·po·lar \(')bī-'pō-lər\ *adj* **1** : having or involving the use of two poles **2** : relating to or associated with the polar regions **3** : having or marked by two mutually repellent forces or diametrically opposed natures or views — **bi·po·lar·i·ty** \ˌbī-pō-'lar-ət-ē\ *n* — **bi·po·lar·iza·tion** \(ˌ)bī-ˌpō-lə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **bi·po·lar·ize** \(')bī-'pō-lə-ˌrīz\ *vt*
bi·pro·pel·lant \ˌbī-prə-'pel-ənt\ *n* : a rocket propellant consisting of separate fuel and oxidizer that come together only in a combustion chamber
bi·qua·drat·ic \ˌbī-kwä-'drat-ik\ *n* : a fourth power or equation involving a fourth power in mathematics — **biquadratic** *adj*
bi·ra·cial \(')bī-'rā-shəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or involving members of two races — **bi·ra·cial·ism** \-shə-ˌliz-əm\ *n*
bi·ra·di·al \(')bī-'rād-ē-əl\ *adj* : having both bilateral and radial symmetry
bi·ra·mous \(')bī-'rā-məs\ *adj* : having two branches
¹birch \'bərch\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *beorc;* akin to OHG *birka* birch, L *fraxinus* ash tree, OE *beorht* bright — more at BRIGHT] **1** : any of a genus (*Betula* of the family Betulaceae, the birch family) of monoecious deciduous usu. short-lived trees or shrubs having simple petioled leaves and typically a layered membranous outer bark that peels readily **2** : the hard pale close-grained wood of a birch **3** : a birch rod or bundle of twigs for flogging — **birch** *or* **birch·en** \'bər-chən\ *adj*
²birch *vt* : to beat with or as if with a birch : WHIP
birch·bark \'bərch-ˌbärk\ *n* : a canoe made of birch bark
Birch·er \'bər-chər\ *n* : a member or adherent of the John Birch Society — **Birch·ism** \'bər-ˌchiz-əm\ *n* — **Birch·ist** \-chəst\ *or* **Birch·ite** \-ˌchīt\ *n*
¹bird \'bərd\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *bridd*] **1** *archaic* : the young of a feathered vertebrate **2** : any of a class (Aves) of warm-blooded vertebrates distinguished by having the body more or less completely covered with feathers and the forelimbs modified as wings **3** : a game bird **4** : CLAY PIGEON **5 a** : FELLOW; *esp* : a peculiar person **b** *chiefly Brit* : GIRL **6** : SHUTTLECOCK **7 a** : a hissing or jeering expressive of disapproval **b** : dismissal from employment **8** : GUIDED MISSILE — **bird·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj* — **for the birds** : WORTHLESS, RIDICULOUS



bird 2 (waxwing): *1* bill, *2* forehead, *3* crown, *4* crest, *5* auricular region, *6* throat, *7* breast, *8* abdomen, *9* under-tail coverts, *10* tail, *11* primaries, *12* secondaries, *13* upper wing coverts, *14* scapulars

²bird *vi* : to observe or identify wild birds in their natural environment
bird·bath \'bərd-ˌbath, -ˌbȧth\ *n* : a usu. ornamental basin set up for birds to bathe in
bird·brain \-ˌbrān\ *n* **1** : a stupid person **2** : SCATTERBRAIN — **bird·brained** \-ˌbrānd\ *adj*
bird·call \-ˌkȯl\ *n* **1** : the note or cry of a bird; *also* : a sound imitative of it **2** : a device for imitating a birdcall
bird colonel *n* [fr. the eagle serving as his insignia] *slang* : COLONEL 1a
bird–dog \'bərd-ˌdȯg\ *vi* : to watch closely ~ *vt* : to seek out : FOLLOW, DETECT
bird dog *n* **1** : a gundog trained to hunt or retrieve birds **2 a** : one (as a canvasser or talent scout) who seeks out something for another **b** : one who steals another's date
bird–dog·ging *n* **1** : the action of one that bird-dogs **2** : the stealing of another's date (as at a party)
bird·er \'bərd-ər\ *n* **1** : a catcher or hunter of birds esp. for market **2** : one that birds
bird·house \'bərd-ˌhaus\ *n* : an artificial nesting site for birds; *also* : AVIARY
¹bird·ie \'bərd-ē\ *n* **1** : a little bird **2** : a golf score of one stroke less than par on a hole — compare EAGLE
²birdie *vt* **bird·ied; bird·ie·ing** : to shoot in one stroke under par
bird·lime \'bərd-ˌlīm\ *n* **1** : a sticky substance usu. made from the bark of a holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) that is smeared on twigs to snare small birds **2** : something that ensnares — **birdlime** *vt*
bird louse *n* : any of numerous wingless insects (order Mallophaga) that are mostly parasitic on birds
bird·man \'bərd-mən, *esp for 1 also* -ˌman\ *n* **1** : one who deals with birds **2** : AVIATOR
bird of paradise : any of numerous brilliantly colored plumed oscine birds (family Paradiseidae) of the New Guinea area
bird of passage **1** : a migratory bird **2** : a person who leads a wandering or unsettled life
bird of prey : a carnivorous bird that feeds wholly or chiefly on meat taken by hunting
bird pepper *n* : a capsicum (*Capsicum frutescens*) having very small oblong extremely pungent red fruits
bird·seed \'bərd-ˌsēd\ *n* : a mixture of seeds (as of hemp, millet, and sunflowers) used for feeding caged and wild birds
¹bird's–eye \'bərd-ˌzī\ *n* **1** : any of numerous plants with small bright-colored flowers; *esp* : a speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*) **2 a** : an allover pattern for textiles consisting of a small diamond with a center dot **b** : a fabric woven with this pattern **3** : a small spot in wood surrounded with an ellipse of concentric fibers
²bird's–eye *adj* **1 a** : seen from above as if by a flying bird ⟨a ~ view⟩ **b** : CURSORY **2** : marked with spots resembling birds' eyes **3** : of or relating to wood (as maple) containing bird's-eyes
bird's–foot \'bərdz-ˌfůt\ *n, pl* **bird's–foots** : any of numerous plants with leaves or flowers resembling the foot of a bird; *esp* : any of several legumes (as of the genera *Ornithopus, Lotus,* and *Trigonella*) with bent and jointed pods
bird's–foot trefoil *n* : a European legume (*Lotus corniculatus*) having claw-shaped pods and widely used esp. in the U.S. as a forage and fodder plant
bird–watch \'bərd-ˌwäch\ *vi* [back-formation fr. *bird-watcher*] : BIRD
bird–watch·er \-ər\ *n* : BIRDER 2
birdy·back *or* **bird·ie·back** \'bərd-ē-ˌbak\ *n* [*birdie* + *-back* (as in *piggyback*)] : the movement of loaded truck trailers by airplane
bi·re·frin·gence \ˌbī-ri-'frin-jən(t)s\ *n* [ISV] : the refraction of light in two slightly different directions to form two rays — **bi·re·frin·gent** \-jənt\ *adj*
bi·reme \'bī-ˌrēm\ *n* [L *biremis*, fr. *bi-* + *remus* oar — more at ROW] : a galley with two banks of oars common in the early classical period
bi·ret·ta \bə-'ret-ə\ *n* [It *berretta*, fr. OProv *berret* cap, irreg. fr. LL *birrus* cloak with a hood, of Celt origin; akin to MIr *berr* short] : a square cap with three ridges on top worn by clergymen esp. of the Roman Catholic Church

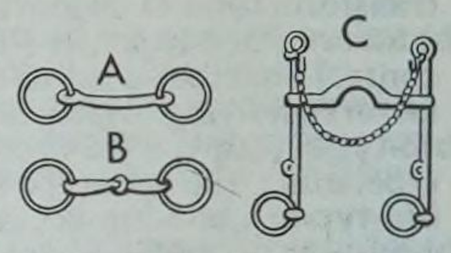

biretta

birk \'bi(ə)rk\ *n* [ME *birch, birk*] *chiefly Scot* : BIRCH
birk·ie \'bi(ə)r-kē, 'bər-\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** *Scot* : a lively smart assertive person **2** *Scot* : FELLOW, BOY
birl \'bər(-ə)l, *Scot also* 'bir(ə)l\ *vb* [ME *birlen*, fr. OE *byrelian;* akin to OE *beran* to carry — more at BEAR] *vt* **1** *chiefly Scot* **a** : POUR **b** : to ply with drink **2 a** : to cause (a floating log) to rotate by treading **b** : SPIN ~ *vi* **1** *chiefly Scot* : CAROUSE **2** : to progress by whirling — **birl·er** \'bər-lər, 'bi(ə)r-lər\ *n*
¹birr \'bər, 'bi(ə)r\ *n* [ME, strong wind, attack, fr. OE *byre* strong wind & ON *byrr* favoring wind; both akin to OE *beran*] **1 a** : force or onward rush (as of the wind) **b** : VIGOR **2** : WHIR
²birr *vi, chiefly Scot* : to make a whirring sound
³birr *n, pl* **birr** *or* **birrs** [Ar] — see MONEY table
birse \'bi(ə)rs, 'bərs\ *n* [(assumed) ME *birst*, fr. OE *byrst* — more at BRISTLE] **1** *chiefly Scot* : a bristle or tuft of bristles **2** *chiefly Scot* : ANGER
¹birth \'bərth\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. ON *byrth;* akin to OE *beran*] **1 a** : the emergence of a new individual from the body of its parent **b** : the act or process of bringing forth young from the womb **2** : a state resulting from being born esp. at a particular time or place ⟨a Southerner by ~⟩ **3 a** : LINEAGE, EXTRACTION ⟨marriage between equals in ~⟩ **b** : high or noble birth **4 a** *archaic* : one that is born **b** : BEGINNING, START ⟨the ~ of an idea⟩
²birth *vt* **1** *chiefly dial* : to bring forth **2** : to give rise to : ORIGINATE ~ *vi, dial* : to bring forth a child or young
birth certificate *n* : a copy of an official record of a person's date and place of birth and parentage
birth control *n* : control of the number of children born esp. by preventing or lessening the frequency of conception
birth·day \'bərth-ˌdā\ *n* **1 a** : the day of a person's birth **b** : a day of origin **2** : an anniversary of a birth ⟨her 21st ~⟩
birthday suit *n* : unclothed skin : NAKEDNESS
birth·mark \'bərth-ˌmärk\ *n* : an unusual mark or blemish on the skin at birth : NEVUS — **birthmark** *vt*
birth pang *n* **1** : one of the regularly recurrent pains that are characteristic of childbirth — usu. used in pl. **2** *pl* : disorder and distress incident esp. to a major social change

birth·place \'bərth-ˌplās\ *n* : place of birth or origin
birth·rate \'bər-ˌthrāt\ *n* : the ratio between births and individuals in a specified population and time often expressed as number of live births per hundred or per thousand population per year
birth·right \'bər-ˌthrīt\ *n* : a right, privilege, or possession to which a person is entitled by birth ***syn*** see HERITAGE
birth·root \'bər-ˌthrüt, -ˌthru̇t\ *n* : any of several trilliums with astringent roots used in folk medicine
birth·stone \'bərth-ˌstōn\ *n* : a gemstone associated symbolically with the month of one's birth
birth·wort \-ˌwərt, -ˌwȯ(ə)rt\ *n* : any of several plants (genus *Aristolochia* of the family Aristolochiaceae, the birthwort family) of herbs or woody vines with aromatic roots used in folk medicine to aid childbirth
bis \'bis\ *adv* [L, fr. OL *dvis;* akin to OHG *zwiro* twice, L *duo* two — more at TWO] **1** : AGAIN — used in music as a direction to repeat **2** : TWICE — used to point out the occurrence of an item twice (as in an account)
bis- \(ˌ)bis, 'bis\ *comb form* [L *bis*] : twice : doubled — esp. in complex chemical expressions ⟨*bis*-dithiocarbamate⟩
Bi·sa·yan \bə-'sī-ən\ *n* [Bisayan *Bisayâ*] **1** : a member of any of several peoples in the Visayan islands, Philippines **2** : the Austronesian language of the Bisayans
bis·cuit \'bis-kət\ *n* [ME *bisquite*, fr. MF *bescuit*, fr. (*pain*) *bescuit* twice-cooked bread] **1 a** : any of various hard or crisp dry baked products: (1) *Brit* : CRACKER 4 (2) *Brit* : COOKIE **b** : a small quick bread made from dough that has been rolled out and cut or dropped from a spoon **2** : earthenware or porcelain after the first firing and before glazing : BISQUE **3 a** : a light grayish yellowish brown **b** : a grayish yellow
bise \'bēz\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, of Gmc origin] : a cold dry north wind of southern France, Switzerland, and Italy
bi·sect \'bī-ˌsekt, bī-'\ *vt* : to divide into two usu. equal parts ~ *vi* : CROSS, INTERSECT — **bi·sec·tion** \'bī-ˌsek-shən, bī-'\ *n* — **bi·sec·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **bi·sec·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
bi·sec·tor \'bī-ˌsek-tər, bī-'\ *n* : one that bisects; *esp* : a straight line that bisects an angle or a line segment
bi·sex·u·al \(')bī-'seksh-(ə-)wəl, -'sek-shəl\ *adj* **1 a** : possessing characters of both sexes : HERMAPHRODITIC **b** : sexually oriented toward both sexes ⟨a ~ person who participates in both heterosexual and homosexual relationships⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or involving two sexes — **bisexual** *n* — **bi·sex·u·al·i·ty** \ˌbī-ˌsek-shə-'wal-ət-ē\ *n* — **bi·sex·u·al·ly** \(')bī-'seksh-(ə-)wə-lē, -(ə-)lē\ *adv*
bish·op \'bish-əp\ *n* [ME *bisshop*, fr. OE *bisceop*, fr. LL *episcopus*, fr. Gk *episkopos*, lit., overseer, fr. *epi-* + *skeptesthai* to look — more at SPY] **1** : one having spiritual or ecclesiastical supervision: as **a** : an Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, or Roman Catholic clergyman ranking above a priest, having authority to ordain and confirm, and typically governing a diocese **b** : any of various Protestant clerical officials who superintend other clergy **c** : a Mormon high priest presiding over a ward or over all other bishops and over the Aaronic priesthood **2** : either of two pieces of the same color in a set of chessmen having the power to move diagonally across any number of unoccupied squares **3** : a mulled beverage of port wine flavored with roasted orange and cloves
bish·op·ric \'bish-ə-(ˌ)prik\ *n* [ME *bisshopriche*, fr. OE *bisceoprīce*, fr. *bisceop* + *rīce* kingdom — more at RICH] **1** : DIOCESE **2** : the office of bishop **3** : a bishop's seat or residence **4** : the administrative body of a Mormon ward consisting of a bishop and two high priests as counselors
Bishops' Bible *n* [fr. its production by a number of bishops] : an officially commissioned English translation of the Bible published in 1568
bis·muth \'biz-məth\ *n* [obs. G *bismut* (now *wismut*), modif. of *wismut*, fr. *wise* meadow + *mut* claim to a mine] : a heavy brittle grayish white chiefly trivalent metallic element that is chemically like arsenic and antimony and that is used in alloys and pharmaceuticals — see ELEMENT table — **bis·mu·thic** \biz-'məth-ik, -'myü-thik\ *adj*
bi·son \'bīs-ᵊn, 'bīz-\ *n, pl* **bison** [L *bisont-, bison*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *wisant* aurochs; akin to OPruss *wis*sambrs aurochs] : any of several large shaggy-maned usu. gregarious recent or extinct bovine mammals (genus *Bison*) having a large head with short horns and heavy forequarters surmounted by a large fleshy hump: as **a** : WISENT **b** : BUFFALO b — **bi·son·tine** \-ᵊn-ˌtīn\ *adj*


bison

¹bisque \'bisk\ *n* [F] : odds allowed an inferior player: as **a** : a point taken when desired in a set of tennis **b** : an extra turn in croquet **c** : one or more strokes off a golf score
²bisque *n* [F] **1 a** : a thick cream soup made of shellfish or of the flesh of birds or rabbits **b** : a cream soup of pureed vegetables **2** : ice cream containing powdered nuts or macaroons
³bisque *n* [by shortening & alter.] : BISCUIT 2; *esp* : unglazed ceramic ware that is not to be glazed but is hard-fired and vitreous
bi·state \'bī-ˌstāt\ *adj* : of or relating to two states ⟨a ~ agency⟩
bis·ter *or* **bis·tre** \'bis-tər\ *n* [F *bistre*] **1** : a yellowish brown to dark brown pigment used in art **2** : a grayish to yellowish brown — **bis·tered** \-tərd\ *adj*
bis·tort \'bis-ˌtȯ(ə)rt, bis-'\ *n* [MF *bistorte*, fr. (assumed) ML *bistorta*, fr. L *bis-* + *torta*, fem. of *tortus*, pp. of *torquēre* to twist — more at TORTURE] : any of several polygonums; *esp* : a European herb (*Polygonum bistorta*) or a related American plant (*P. bistortoides*) with twisted roots used as astringents
bis·tro \'bēs-(ˌ)trō, 'bis-\ *n, pl* **bistros** [F] **1** : a small or unpretentious European wineshop or restaurant **2 a** : a small bar or tavern **b** : NIGHTCLUB — **bis·tro·ic** \bēs-'trō-ik, bis-\ *adj*
bi·sul·fate \(')bī-'səl-ˌfāt\ *n* [ISV] : an acid sulfate
bi·sul·fide \-ˌfīd\ *n* [ISV] : DISULFIDE
bi·sul·fite \-ˌfīt\ *n* [F, fr. *bi-* + *sulfite*] : an acid sulfite
¹bit \'bit\ *n* [ME *bitt*, fr. OE *bite* act of biting; akin to OE *bītan*] **1** : something bitten or held with the teeth: **a** : the usu. steel part of a bridle inserted in the mouth of a horse **b** : the rimmed mouth end on the stem of a pipe or cigar holder **2 a** (1) : the biting or cutting edge or part of a tool (2) : a replaceable part of a compound tool that actually performs the function (as drilling or boring) for which the whole tool is designed **b** *pl* : the jaws or nippers of tongs or pincers **3** : something that curbs or restrains **4** : the part of a key that enters the lock and acts on the bolt and tumblers



bits 1a: *A* bar bit, *B* snaffle, *C* curb

²bit *vt* **bit·ted; bit·ting** **1 a** : to put a bit in the mouth of (a horse) **b** : to control as if with a bit : CURB **2** : to form a bit on (a key)
³bit *n* [ME, fr. OE *bita;* akin to OE *bītan*] **1** : a small quantity of food; *esp* : a small delicacy **2 a** : a small piece or quantity of some material thing **b** (1) : a small coin (2) : a unit of value equal to ⅛ of a dollar ⟨four ~*s*⟩ **3** : something small or unimportant of its kind: as **a** : a brief period : WHILE **b** (1) : an indefinite usu. small degree, extent, or amount ⟨a ~ of a rascal⟩ ⟨every ~ as powerful⟩ (2) : the smallest or an insignificant amount or degree ⟨didn't feel a ~ sorry⟩ **c** (1) : a small part usu. with spoken lines in a theatrical performance (2) : a usu. short theatrical routine ⟨a corny comedy ~⟩ **4** : the aggregate of items, situations, or activities appropriate to a given style, genre, or role ⟨rejected the whole ~ about love-marriage-motherhood —Vance Packard⟩ — **a bit much** : a little more than one wants to endure — **bit by bit** : little by little : by degrees
⁴bit *n* [*bi*nary digi*t*] **1** : a unit of computer information equivalent to the result of a choice between two alternatives (as *yes* or *no, on* or *off*) **2** : the physical representation (as in a computer tape or memory) of a bit by an electrical pulse, a magnetized spot, or a hole whose presence or absence indicates data
bi·tar·trate \(')bī-'tär-ˌtrāt\ *n* [ISV] : an acid tartrate
¹bitch \'bich\ *n* [ME *bicche*, fr. OE *bicce;* akin to OE *bæc* back] **1** : the female of the dog or some other carnivorous mammals **2 a** : a lewd or immoral woman **b** : a malicious, spiteful, and domineering woman **3** : COMPLAINT **4** : something that is highly objectionable or unpleasant
²bitch *vt* **1** : SPOIL, BOTCH ⟨I must have ~*ed* up my life —Mavis Gallant⟩ **2** : to complain of or about ⟨was occasionally quite talkative about his wife . . . mostly he ~*ed* her, but not vehemently —Chandler Brossard⟩ **3** : CHEAT, DOUBLECROSS ~ *vi* : COMPLAIN ⟨wives ~ theatrically at their shrimpy husbands — Fred Powledge⟩
bitch·ery \'bich-ə-rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : malicious, spiteful, or domineering behavior; *also* : an instance of such behavior
bitch goddess *n* : SUCCESS; *esp* : material or worldly success
bitchy \'bich-ē\ *adj* **bitch·i·er; -est** : characterized by malicious, spiteful, or arrogant behavior — **bitch·i·ly** \'bich-ə-lē\ *adv* — **bitch·i·ness** \'bich-ē-nəs\ *n*
¹bite \'bīt\ *vb* **bit** \'bit\; **bit·ten** \'bit-ᵊn\ *also* **bit; bit·ing** \'bīt-iŋ\ [ME *biten*, fr. OE *bītan;* akin to OHG *bīzan* to bite, L *findere* to split] *vt* **1 a** : to seize esp. with teeth or jaws so as to enter, grip, or wound **b** : to wound, pierce, or sting esp. with a fang or a proboscis **2** : to cut or pierce with or as if with an edged weapon **3** : to cause sharp pain or stinging discomfort to **4** : to take hold of **5** : to eat into : CORRODE **6** *archaic* : to take in : CHEAT ~ *vi* **1** : to bite or have the habit of biting something **2** *of a weapon or tool* : to cut, pierce, or take hold **3** : to cause irritation or smarting **4** : CORRODE **5 a** *of fish* : to take a bait **b** : to respond so as to be caught (as by a trick) **6** : to take or maintain a firm hold — **bit·er** \'bīt-ər\ *n* — **bite off more than one can chew** : to undertake more than one can perform — **bite the dust** **1** : to fall dead esp. in battle **2** : to suffer humiliation or defeat — **bite the hand that feeds one** : to injure a benefactor maliciously
²bite *n* **1** : the act or manner of biting **2** : FOOD: **a** : the amount of food taken at a bite : MORSEL **b** : a small amount of food : SNACK **c** : a usu. impromptu meal **3** *archaic* **a** : CHEAT, TRICK **b** : SHARPER **4** : a wound made by biting **5** : the hold or grip by which friction is created or purchase is obtained **6** : a surface that creates friction or is brought into contact with another for the purpose of obtaining a hold **7 a** : a keen incisive quality ⟨the ~ of sharp analysis⟩ **b** : a sharp penetrating effect ⟨the ~ of raw whiskey⟩ **8** : the corroding of an etcher's plate by acid **9** : an amount taken usu. in one operation for one purpose : CUT ⟨the tax ~⟩
bite·wing \'bīt-ˌwiŋ\ *n* : a dental X-ray film designed to show the crowns of the upper and lower teeth simultaneously
bit·ing \'bīt-iŋ\ *adj* : having the power to bite ⟨a ~ wind⟩ ; *esp* : able to grip and impress deeply ⟨the report is ~ in its intolerance of deceit⟩ ***syn*** see INCISIVE — **bit·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
biting midge *n* : any of a family (Ceratopogonidae) of tiny biting two-winged flies of which some are vectors of filarial worms
bit·stock \'bit-ˌstäk\ *n* : a device for turning a bit by hand : BRACE
bit·sy \'bit-sē\ *adj* [*itsy-bitsy*] *dial* : TINY
¹bitt \'bit\ *n* [perh. fr. ON *biti* beam; akin to OE *bōt* boat] **1** : a single or double post of metal or wood fixed on the deck of a ship for securing lines **2** : BOLLARD 1
²bitt *vt* : to make (a cable) fast about a bitt
¹bit·ter \'bit-ər\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *biter;* akin to OHG *bittar* bitter, OE *bītan*] **1 a** : having or being a peculiarly acrid, astringent, or disagreeable taste suggestive of an infusion of hops that is one of the four basic taste sensations — compare SALT, SOUR, SWEET **b** : distasteful or distressing to the mind : GALLING ⟨a ~ sense of shame⟩ **2** : marked by intensity or severity: **a** : accompanied by severe pain or suffering ⟨a ~ death⟩ **b** : being relentlessly determined : VEHEMENT ⟨a ~ partisan⟩ **c** : exhibiting intense animosity ⟨~ enemies⟩ **d** (1) : harshly reproachful ⟨~ complaints⟩ (2)

: marked by cynicism and rancor ⟨~ contempt⟩ **e** : intensely unpleasant esp. in coldness or rawness **3** : expressive of severe pain, grief, or regret ⟨~ tears⟩ — **bit·ter·ish** \'bit-ə-rish\ *adj* — **bit·ter·ly** *adv* — **bit·ter·ness** *n*

²bitter *adv* : in a bitter manner ⟨it's ~ cold⟩

³bitter *n* **1** : bitter quality **2 a** *pl* : a usu. alcoholic solution of bitter and often aromatic plant products used esp. in preparing mixed drinks or as a mild tonic **b** *Brit* : a very dry heavily hopped ale

⁴bitter *vt* : to make bitter ⟨~*ed* ale⟩

bit·ter·brush \'bit-ər-ˌbrəsh\ *n* : a much-branched silvery shrub (*Purshia tridentata*) of arid western No. America that has 3≈ toothed leaves and yellow flowers and is valuable for forage

¹bitt·er end \ˌbit-ə-'rend\ *n* [*bitter* (a turn of cable around the bitts)] : the inboard end of a ship's anchoring cable

²bit·ter end \ˌbit-ə-'rend\ *n* [prob. fr. ¹*bitter end*] : the last extremity however painful or calamitous — **bit·ter–end·er** \-'ren-dər\ *n*

¹bit·tern \'bit-ərn\ *n* [ME *bitoure*, fr. MF *butor*] : any of various small or medium-sized nocturnal herons (*Botaurus* and related genera) with a characteristic booming cry

²bittern *n* [irreg. fr. ¹*bitter*] : the bitter mother liquor that remains in saltworks after the salt has crystallized out

bitter principle *n* : any of various neutral substances of strong bitter taste (as aloin) extracted from plants

bit·ter·root \'bit-ə(r)-ˌrüt, -ˌrůt\ *n* : a succulent Rocky mountain herb (*Lewisia rediviva*) of the purslane family with fleshy farinaceous roots and pink flowers

¹bit·ter·sweet \'bit-ər-ˌswēt\ *n* **1** : something that is bittersweet; *esp* : pleasure alloyed with pain **2 a** : a sprawling poisonous weedy nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*) with purple flowers and oval reddish orange berries **b** : a No. American woody climbing plant (*Celastrus scandens* of the family Celastraceae) having clusters of small greenish flowers succeeded by yellow capsules that open when ripe and disclose the scarlet aril

²bittersweet *adj* **1** : being at once bitter and sweet; *esp* : pleasant but including or marked by elements of suffering or regret ⟨a ~ ballad⟩ **2** : of or relating to a prepared chocolate containing little sugar — **bit·ter·sweet·ly** *adv* — **bit·ter·sweet·ness** *n*

bit·ter·weed \'bit-ər-ˌwēd\ *n* : any of several American plants containing a bitter principle: as **a** : HORSEWEED 1, 2 **b** : a sneezeweed (genus *Helenium*) **c** : an erect composite herb (*Actinea odorata*) of the southwestern U.S. having chiefly yellow terminal flowerheads and causing poisoning of livestock

bit·tock \'bit-ək\ *n, chiefly Scot* : a little bit

¹bit·ty \'bit-ē\ *adj* : made up of or containing bits ⟨the contributors are given space to develop their thoughts, and it is not a ~ anthology —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩

²bitty *adj, dial* : SMALL, TINY

bi·tu·men \bə-'t(y)ü-mən, bī-, *esp Brit also* 'bit-yə-\ *n* [ME *bithumen* mineral pitch, fr. L *bitumin-, bitumen*] **1** : an asphalt of Asia Minor used in ancient times as a cement and mortar **2** : any of various mixtures of hydrocarbons (as tar) often together with their nonmetallic derivatives that occur naturally or are obtained as residues after heat-refining naturally occurring substances (as petroleum); *specif* : such a mixture soluble in carbon disulfide — **bi·tu·mi·ni·za·tion** \bə-ˌt(y)ü-mə-nə-'zā-shən, bī-\ *n* — **bi·tu·mi·nize** \-t(y)ü-mə-ˌnīz\ *vt* — **bi·tu·mi·noid** \-ˌnȯid\ *adj*

bi·tu·mi·nous \bə-'t(y)ü-mə-nəs, bī-\ *adj* **1** : resembling, containing, or impregnated with bitumen **2** : of or relating to bituminous coal

bituminous coal *n* : a coal that when heated yields considerable volatile bituminous matter — called also *soft coal*

¹bi·va·lent \(')bī-'vā-lənt\ *adj* **1** : having a valence of two **2** : associated in pairs in synapsis

²bivalent *n* : a pair of synaptic chromosomes

¹bi·valve \'bī-ˌvalv\ *also* **bi·valved** \-ˌvalvd\ *adj* **1** : having a shell composed of two valves **2** : having or consisting of two corresponding movable pieces

²bivalve *n* : an animal (as a clam) with a 2-valved shell

bi·var·i·ate \(')bī-'ver-ē-ət, -'var-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or involving two variables ⟨a ~ frequency distribution⟩

¹biv·ouac \'biv(-ə)-ˌwak\ *n* [F, fr. LG *biwake*, fr. *bi* at + *wake* guard] **1** : a usu. temporary encampment under little or no shelter **2 a** : a camping out for a night **b** : a temporary shelter or settlement

²bivouac *vi* **-ouacked; -ouack·ing** : to make a bivouac : CAMP

¹bi·week·ly \(')bī-'wē-klē\ *adj* **1** : occurring every two weeks : FORTNIGHTLY **2** : occurring twice a week — **biweekly** *adv*

²biweekly *n* **1** : a publication issued every two weeks **2** : SEMIWEEKLY

bi·year·ly \(')bī-'yi(ə)r-lē\ *adj* **1** : BIENNIAL **2** : BIANNUAL

¹bi·zarre \bə-'zär\ *adj* [F, fr. It *bizzarro*] : strikingly out of the ordinary: as **a** : odd, extravagant, or eccentric in style or mode **b** : involving sensational contrasts or incongruities ***syn*** see FANTASTIC ***ant*** chaste, subdued — **bi·zarre·ly** *adv* — **bi·zarre·ness** *n*

²bizarre *n* : a flower with atypical striped marking

bi·zon·al \(')bī-'zōn-ᵊl\ *adj* : of or relating to the affairs of a zone governed or administered by two powers acting together — **bizone** \'bī-ˌzōn\ *n*

BJ *abbr* bachelor of journalism

bk *abbr* **1** bank **2** book **3** break **4** brook

Bk *symbol* berkelium

bkg *abbr* **1** banking **2** bookkeeping **3** breakage

bkgd *abbr* background

bks *abbr* barracks

bkt *abbr* **1** basket **2** bracket

bl *abbr* **1** bale **2** barrel **3** black **4** block **5** blue

BL *abbr* **1** bachelor of law **2** bachelor of letters **3** baseline **4** bats left **5** bill of lading **6** breath-length

¹blab \'blab\ *n* [ME *blabbe*; akin to ME *blaberen*] **1** *archaic* : one that blabs : TATTLETALE **2** : idle or excessive talk : CHATTER — **blab·by** \'blab-ē\ *adj*

²blab *vb* **blabbed; blab·bing** *vt* : to reveal esp. by talking without reserve or discretion ~ *vi* **1** : to reveal a secret esp. by indiscreet chatter **2** : to talk idly or thoughtlessly : PRATTLE

¹blab·ber \'blab-ər\ *vb* **blab·bered; blab·ber·ing** \-(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *blaberen*] *vi* : to talk foolishly or excessively : BABBLE ~ *vt* : to say indiscreetly

²blabber *n* : idle talk : BABBLE

³blabber *n* [²*blab*] : one that blabs

blab·ber·mouth \'blab-ər-ˌmaůth\ *n* : one who talks too much; *esp* : TATTLETALE

¹black \'blak\ *adj* [ME *blak*, fr. OE *blæc*; akin to OHG *blah* black, L *flagrare* to burn, Gk *phlegein*, OE *bǣl* fire — more at BALD] **1 a** : of the color black **b** (1) : very dark in color ⟨his face was ~ with rage⟩ (2) : having a very deep or low register ⟨a bass with a ~ voice⟩ (3) : HEAVY, SERIOUS ⟨the play was a ~ intrigue⟩ **2 a** : having dark skin, hair, and eyes : SWARTHY ⟨a ~ Irishman⟩ **b** (1) : of or relating to a group or race characterized by dark pigmentation; *esp* : of or relating to the Negro race ⟨~ Americans⟩ (2) : of or relating to the Afro-American people or culture ⟨~ literature⟩ ⟨~ theater⟩ ⟨~ pride⟩ **3** : dressed in black **4** : DIRTY, SOILED ⟨hands ~ with grime⟩ **5 a** : characterized by the absence of light ⟨a ~ night⟩ **b** : reflecting or transmitting little or no light ⟨~ water⟩ **c** : served without milk or cream ⟨~ coffee⟩ **6 a** : thoroughly sinister or evil : WICKED ⟨a ~ deed⟩ **b** : indicative of condemnation or discredit ⟨got a ~ mark for being late⟩ **7** : connected with or invoking the supernatural and esp. the devil ⟨a ~ curse⟩ **8 a** : very sad, gloomy, or calamitous ⟨~ despair⟩ **b** : marked by the occurrence of disaster ⟨~ Friday⟩ **9** : characterized by hostility or angry discontent : SULLEN ⟨~ resentment filled his heart⟩ **10** *chiefly Brit* : subject to boycott by trade-union members as employing or favoring nonunion workers or as operating under conditions considered unfair by the trade union ⟨declare a fish market ~⟩ **11** : showing a profit ⟨a ~ financial statement⟩ — compare RED **12 a** *of propaganda* : conducted so as to appear to originate within an enemy country and designed to weaken enemy morale — compare WHITE **b** : characterized by or connected with the use of black propaganda ⟨~ radio⟩ **13** : characterized by grim, distorted, or grotesque satire ⟨~ comedy⟩ ⟨~ humor⟩ — **black·ish** \'blak-ish\ *adj* — **black·ly** *adv* — **black·ness** *n*

²black *n* **1** : a black pigment or dye; *esp* : one consisting largely of carbon **2** : the achromatic object color of least lightness characteristically perceived to belong to objects that neither reflect nor transmit light **3** : something that is black: as **a** : black clothing ⟨looks good in ~⟩ **b** : a black animal (as a horse) **4 a** : a person belonging to a dark-skinned race or one stemming in part from such a race; *esp* : NEGRO **b** : AFRO-AMERICAN **5** : the pieces of a dark color in a two-handed board game (as chess) **6** : total or nearly total absence of light ⟨the ~ of night⟩ **7** : the condition of making a profit — usu. used with *the* ⟨operating in the ~⟩ — compare RED

³black *vi* : to become black ~ *vt* **1** : to make black **2** *chiefly Brit* : to declare (as a business or industry) subject to boycott by trade-union members

black·a·moor \'blak-ə-ˌmů(ə)r\ *n* [irreg. fr. *black* + *Moor*] : a dark-skinned person; *esp* : NEGRO

black–and–blue \ˌblak-ən-'blü\ *adj* : darkly discolored from blood effused by bruising

black–and–tan \-ən-'tan\ *adj* **1** : having a predominantly black color pattern with deep red or rusty tan on the feet, breeching, and cheek patches, above the eyes, and inside the ears **2** : favoring or practicing proportional representation of whites and blacks in politics — compare LILY-WHITE **3** : frequented by both blacks and whites ⟨a ~ bar⟩

black and tan *n* **1** : a member of a black-and-tan political organization (as in the southern U.S.) — compare LILY-WHITE **2** *cap B&T* [fr. the color of his uniform] : a recruit enlisted in England in 1920–21 for service in the Royal Irish Constabulary against the armed movement for Irish independence

black–and–tan coonhound *n* : any of an American breed of strong vigorous coonhounds that have black-and-tan markings

black–and–white \ˌblak-ən-'hwīt, -'wīt\ *adj* **1** : being in writing or print ⟨a ~ statement of the problem⟩ **2** : partly black and partly white in color ⟨a ~ cat⟩ **3** : executed in dark pigment on a light background or in light pigment on a dark ground ⟨a ~ drawing⟩ **4** : characterized by the reproduction or transmission of visual images in tones of gray rather than in colors ⟨~ film⟩ ⟨~ television⟩ **5 a** : sharply divided into good and evil groups, sides, or ideas **b** : evaluating or viewing things as either all good or all bad ⟨~ morality⟩ ⟨~ thinkers⟩

black and white *n* **1** : WRITING, PRINT **2** : a drawing or print done in black and white or in monochrome **3** : monochrome reproduction of visual images (as by photography or television)

black art *n* : magic practiced by or as if by conjurers and witches

black–a–vised \'blak-ə-ˌvīst\ *adj* [*black* + F *à vis* as to face] : dark-complexioned

¹black·ball \'blak-ˌbȯl\ *n* **1** : a small black ball for use as a negative vote in a ballot box **2** : an adverse vote esp. against admitting someone to membership in an organization

²blackball *vt* **1** : to vote against; *esp* : to exclude from membership by casting a negative vote **2 a** : to exclude socially : OSTRACIZE **b** : BOYCOTT

black bass *n* : any of several highly prized freshwater sunfishes (genus *Micropterus*) native to eastern and central No. America

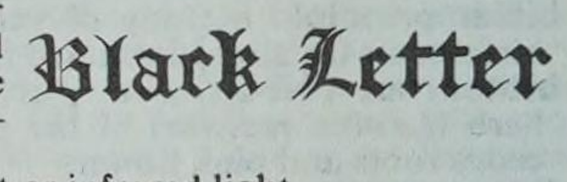
black beast *n* : BÊTE NOIRE

¹black belt \'blak-ˌbelt\ *n* **1** : an area characterized by rich black soil **2** *cap both Bs* : an area densely populated by blacks

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ə abut ᵊ kitten ər further a back ā bake ä cot, cart
aů out ch chin e less ē easy g gift i trip ī life
j joke ŋ sing ō flow ȯ flaw ȯi coin th thin t͟h this
ü loot ů foot y yet yü few yů furious zh vision

²black belt \-'belt\ *n* **1** : a rating of expert in various arts of self-defense (as judo and karate) **2** : one who holds a black belt
black·ber·ry \'blak-ˌber-ē\ *n* **1** : the usu. black or dark purple juicy but seedy edible fruit of various brambles (genus *Rubus*) of the rose family **2** : a plant that bears blackberries
black bile *n* : a humor of medieval physiology believed to be secreted by the kidneys or spleen and to cause melancholy
¹black·bird \'blak-ˌbərd\ *n* **1** : any of various birds of which the males are largely or entirely black: as **a** : a common and familiar British thrush (*Turdus merula*) that is black with orange bill and eye rim **b** : any of several American birds (family Icteridae) **2** : a Pacific islander kidnapped for use as a plantation laborer
²blackbird *vi* : to engage in the slave trade
black·bird·er *n* **1** : a person that blackbirds **2** : a ship used in blackbirding
black·board \'blak-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a hard smooth usu. dark surface used esp. in a classroom for writing or drawing on with chalk
black·body \'blak-'bäd-ē\ *n* : an ideal body or surface that completely absorbs all radiant energy falling upon it with no reflection
black book *n* : a book containing a blacklist
black box *n* **1** : a usu. complicated electronic device that can be inserted in or removed as a unit from a larger assembly of parts (as those constituting a spacecraft) **2** : a usu. electronic device whose internal mechanism is hidden from or mysterious to the user
black·cap \'blak-ˌkap\ *n* **1** : BLACK RASPBERRY **2** : any of several birds with black heads or crowns: as **a** : a small European warbler (*Sylvia atricapilla*) with a black crown **b** : CHICKADEE
black–capped \-'kapt\ *adj, of a bird* : having the top of the head black
black·cock \-ˌkäk\ *n* : BLACK GROUSE; *specif* : the male black grouse
black cohosh *n* : a bugbane (*Cimicifuga racemosa*) of the eastern U.S.
black crappie *n* : a silvery black-mottled sunfish (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*) of the Mississippi drainage and eastern U.S. having seven or eight protruding spines on the dorsal fins
black·damp \'blak-'damp\ *n* : a carbon dioxide mixture occurring as a mine gas and incapable of supporting life or flame
black death *n, often cap B&D* [fr. the black patches formed on the skin of its victims] : a form of plague epidemic in Europe and Asia in the 14th century
black diamond *n* **1** *pl* : COAL 3a **2** : ³CARBONADO **3** : dense black hematite
black·en \'blak-ən\ *vb* **black·ened; black·en·ing** \-(ə-)niŋ\ *vi* : to become dark or black ⟨the sky ~*s*⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to make black **2** : DEFAME, SULLY — **black·en·er** \-(ə-)nər\ *n*
black·en·ing \-(ə-)niŋ\ *n* : BLACKING
black eye *n* **1** : a discoloration of the skin around the eye from bruising **2** : a bad reputation
black–eyed pea \ˌblak-ˌīd-\ *n* : COWPEA
black–eyed Su·san \-'süz-ᵊn\ *n* : either of two No. American coneflowers (*Rudbeckia hirta* and *R. serotina*) having flower heads with deep yellow to orange rays and dark conical disks
black·face \'blak-ˌfās\ *n* **1** : makeup for a Negro role esp. in a minstrel show; *also* : an actor who plays this role **2** : BOLDFACE
black·fin \-ˌfin\ *n* : a whitefish (*Leucichthys nigripinnis*) of the Great Lakes used as a food fish
black·fish \-ˌfish\ *n* **1** : any of numerous dark-colored fishes: as **a** : TAUTOG **b** : a small food fish (*Dallia pectoralis*) of Alaska and Siberia that is remarkable for its ability to revive after being frozen for a long time **2** : any of several small toothed whales (genus *Globicephala*) related to the dolphins and found in the warmer seas
black–flag \-'flag\ *vt* : to signal (a race-car driver) to go immediately to the pits
black flag *n* : a pirate's flag usu. bearing a skull and crossbones
black·fly \'blak-ˌflī\ *n, pl* **-flies** *or* **-fly** : any of several small dark-colored insects; *esp* : a two-winged biting fly (*Simulium* or related genera) whose larvae usu. live in clear flowing streams
Black·foot \'blak-ˌfůt\ *n, pl* **Blackfeet** *or* **Blackfoot** **1** **a** *pl* : an Amerindian confederacy of Montana, Alberta, and Saskatchewan **b** : a member of any of the Blackfoot peoples **2** : the Algonquian language of the Blackfeet
black–foot·ed albatross \ˌblak-ˌfůt-əd-\ *n* : an albatross (*Diamedea nigripes*) of the Pacific that is chiefly blackish with dusky bill and black feet and legs — called also *gooney, gooney bird*
black–footed ferret *n* : an American weasel (*Mustela nigripes*) that is related to the European polecat and resembles a yellow mink with dark feet, tail, and mask
black gold *n* : PETROLEUM
black grouse *n* : a large grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*) of western Asia and Europe of which the male is black with white wing patches and the female is barred and mottled
¹black·guard \'blag-ərd, -ˌärd; 'blak-ˌgärd\ *n* **1** *obs* : the kitchen servants of a large household **2** **a** : a rude or unscrupulous person : SCOUNDREL **b** : one who uses foul or abusive language — **black·guard·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* — **black·guard·ly** \-lē\ *adj or adv*
²blackguard *vt* : to talk about or address in abusive terms
black gum *n* : a tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) of the eastern U.S. with light and soft but tough wood
black hand *n, often cap B&H* [*Black Hand*, a Sicilian and Italian-American society of the late 19th and 20th centuries] : a lawless secret society engaged in criminal activities (as terrorism or extortion) — **black·hand·er** \'blak-ˌhan-dər\ *n*
black·head \'blak-ˌhed\ *n* **1** : a small plug of sebum blocking the duct of a sebaceous gland esp. on the face **2** : a destructive disease of turkeys and related birds caused by a protozoan (*Histomonas meleagridis*) that invades the intestinal ceca and liver **3** : a larval clam or mussel attached to the skin or gills of a freshwater fish
black·heart \-ˌhärt\ *n* : a plant disease in which the central tissues blacken
black hole *n* : a hypothetical celestial body with a small diameter and intense gravitational field that is held to be a collapsed star
black·ing \'blak-iŋ\ *n* : a substance (as a paste or polish) that is applied to an object to make it black
¹black·jack \-ˌjak\ *n* **1** [*black* + *jack* (vessel)] : a tankard for beer or ale usu. of tar-coated leather **2** : SPHALERITE **3** : a hand weapon typically consisting of a piece of leather-enclosed metal with a strap or springy shaft for a handle **4** : a common often scrubby oak (*Quercus marilandica*) of the southeastern and southern U.S. with black bark **5** : a card game the object of which is to be dealt cards having a higher count than those of the dealer up to but not exceeding 21 — called also *twenty-one, vingt-et-un*
²blackjack *vt* **1** : to strike with a blackjack **2** : to coerce with threats or pressure
black knot *n* : a destructive disease of plum and cherry trees characterized by black excrescences on the branches and caused by a fungus (*Dibotryon morbosa*)
black·land \'blak-ˌland\ *n* **1** : a heavy sticky black soil such as that covering large areas in Texas **2** *pl* : a region of blackland
black lead *n* : GRAPHITE
black·leg \'blak-ˌleg, -ˌlāg\ *n* **1** : an enzootic usu. fatal toxemia esp. of young cattle **2** : a cheating gamester : SWINDLER **3** *chiefly Brit* : a worker hostile to trade unionism or acting in opposition to union policies : SCAB
black letter *n* : a style of type or lettering with a heavy face and angular outlines used esp. by the earliest European printers — called also *Gothic, Old English*



black light *n* : invisible ultraviolet or infrared light
black·light trap \ˌblak-ˌlīt-\ *n* : a trap for insects that uses a form of black light perceptible to particular insects as an attractant
¹black·list \'blak-ˌlist\ *n* : a list of persons who are disapproved of or are to be punished or boycotted
²blacklist *vt* : to put on a blacklist — **black·list·er** *n*
black locust *n* : a tall tree (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) of eastern No. America with pinnately compound leaves, drooping racemes of fragrant white flowers, and strong stiff wood
black lung *n* : a disease of the lungs caused by habitual inhalation of coal dust
black magic *n* : WITCHCRAFT
black·mail \'blak-ˌmāl\ *n* [*black* + ¹*mail*] **1** : a tribute anciently exacted on the Scottish border by freebooting chiefs for immunity from pillage **2** **a** : extortion by threats esp. of public exposure or criminal prosecution **b** : the payment that is extorted — **black·mail** *vt* — **black·mail·er** *n*
Black Ma·ria \ˌblak-mə-'rī-ə\ *n* : PATROL WAGON
black–mar·ket *vi* : to buy or sell goods in the black market ~ *vt* : to sell in the black market — **black marketer** *or* **black marketeer** *n*
black market *n* : illicit trade in goods or commodities in violation of official regulations; *also* : a place where such trade is carried on
Black Mass *n* : a travesty of the Christian mass ascribed to the reputed worshipers of Satan
Black Muslim *n* : a member of an exclusively black group that professes Islamic religious belief and advocates a strictly separate black community
black nationalist *n, often cap B&N* : a member of a group of militant blacks who advocate separatism from the whites and the formation of self-governing black communities — **black nationalism** *n, often cap B&N*
black·out \'blak-ˌau̇t\ *n* **1** **a** : a turning off of the stage lighting to separate scenes in a play, indicate that the play is over, or end a skit; *also* : a skit that ends with a blackout **b** : a period of darkness enforced as a precaution against air raids **c** : a period of darkness (as in a city) caused by a lack of illumination due to a failure of electrical power **2** : a transient dulling or loss of vision, consciousness, or memory ⟨an alcoholic ~⟩ **3** **a** : a wiping out or erasure : OBLITERATION ⟨a sudden ~ of his policy by the insurance company⟩ **b** : a blotting out by censorship : SUPPRESSION ⟨a ~ of news about the invasion⟩ **4** : a usu. temporary loss of radio signal due to a magnetic storm or to a local effect at the transmitter of a spacecraft upon reentry
black out \(')blak-'au̇t\ *vi* **1** : to become enveloped in darkness **2** : to undergo a temporary loss of vision, consciousness, or memory **3** : to extinguish or screen all lights for protection esp. against air attack ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to black out ⟨*black out* the stage⟩ **2** : to make inoperative or temporarily nonexistent : DESTROY ⟨falling trees *blacked out* electric power lines⟩ **3** **a** : to blot out or erase ⟨*blacked out* the event from his mind⟩ **b** : to suppress by censorship ⟨*black out* the news⟩
Black Panther *n* : a member of an organization of militant American Negroes
black pepper *n* : a pungent condiment that consists of the fruit of an East Indian plant (*Piper nigrum*) ground with the black husk still on
black perch *n* : any of various dark-colored fishes (as a bass)
black·poll \'blak-ˌpōl\ *n* : a No. American warbler (*Dendroica striata*) having the top of the head of the male bird black when in full plumage
black power *n* : the mobilization of the political and economic power of American Negroes esp. to further racial equality
black pudding *n, chiefly Brit* : BLOOD SAUSAGE
black racer *n* : an American blacksnake (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*) common in the eastern U.S.
black raspberry *n* : a raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) with a purplish black fruit that is native to eastern No. America and is the source of several cultivated varieties — called also *blackcap*
Black Rod *n* : the principal usher of the House of Lords
black rot *n* : a bacterial or fungous rot of plants marked by dark brown discoloration
black sheep *n* : a discreditable member of a respectable group
Black·shirt \'blak-ˌshərt\ *n* : a member of a fascist organization having a black shirt as a distinctive part of its uniform; *esp* : a member of the Italian Fascist party

black·smith \'blak-ˌsmith\ *n* [fr. his working with iron, known as black metal] : a smith who forges iron — **black·smith·ing** \-iŋ\ *n*
black·snake \-ˌsnāk\ *n* **1** : any of several snakes that are largely black or very dark in color; *esp* : either of two harmless snakes (*Coluber constrictor* and *Elaphe obsoleta*) of the U.S. **2** : a long tapering braided whip of rawhide or leather
black spot *n* : any of several plant diseases characterized by black spots or blotches
black studies *n pl* : studies (as history and literature) relating to American Negro culture
black·tail \'blak-ˌtāl\ *n* : BLACK-TAILED DEER
black–tailed deer \ˌblak-ˌtāl- 'di(ə)r\ *n* : MULE DEER; *specif* : one of a subspecies (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*) esp. of British Columbia, Oregon, and Washington — see DEER illustration
black tea *n* : tea that is dark in color from complete fermentation of the leaf before firing
black·thorn \'blak-ˌthȯ(ə)rn\ *n* **1** : a European spiny plum (*Prunus spinosa*) with hard wood and small white flowers **2** : any of several American hawthorns
black–tie *adj* : characterized by or requiring the wearing of semiformal evening dress by men ⟨a ~ dinner⟩ — compare WHITE-TIE
black·top \'blak-ˌtäp\ *n* : a bituminous material used esp. for surfacing roads; *also* : a surface paved with blacktop — **blacktop** *vt*
black vomit *n* **1** : vomitus consisting of dark-colored matter **2** : a condition characterized by black vomit; *esp* : YELLOW FEVER
Black·wall hitch \ˌblak-ˌwȯl-\ *n* [*Blackwall*, shipyard in London, England] : a hitch for securing a rope to a hook — see KNOT illustration
black walnut *n* : a walnut (*Juglans nigra*) of eastern No. America with hard strong heavy dark brown wood and oily edible nuts; *also* : its wood or nut
black·wash \'blak-ˌwȯsh, -ˌwäsh\ *vt* [*black* + *-wash* (as in *whitewash*)] : to uncover or bring to light : EXPOSE
black·wa·ter \'blak-ˌwȯt-ər, -ˌwät-\ *n* : any of several diseases of lower animals or man characterized by dark-colored urine
black widow *n* : a venomous New World spider (*Latrodectus mactans*) having the female black with an hourglass-shaped red mark on the underside of the abdomen
blad·der \'blad-ər\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *blǣdre*; akin to OHG *blātara* bladder, OE *blāwan* to blow] **1 a** : a membranous sac in animals that serves as the receptacle of a liquid or contains gas; *esp* : the urinary bladder **b** : VESICLE **2** : something (as the rubber bag inside a football) resembling a bladder — **blad·der·like** \-līk\ *adj*
blad·der·nut \'blad-ər-ˌnət\ *n* : an ornamental shrub or small tree (genus *Staphylea* of the family Staphyleaceae, the bladdernut family) with panicles of small white flowers followed by inflated capsules; *also* : one of the capsules
bladder worm *n* : a bladderlike larval tapeworm (as a cysticercus)
blad·der·wort \'blad-ər-ˌwərt, -ˌwȯ(ə)rt\ *n* : any of a genus (*Utricularia* of the family Lentibulariaceae, the bladderwort family) of chiefly aquatic plants with vesicular floats or insect traps
bladder wrack *n* : a common black rockweed (*Fucus vesiculosus*) used in preparing kelp and as a manure
blade \'blād\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *blæd*; akin to OHG *blat* leaf, L *folium*, Gk *phyllon*, OE *blōwan* to blossom — more at BLOW] **1 a** : LEAF 1a(1); *esp* : the leaf of an herb or a grass **b** : the flat expanded part of a leaf as distinguished from the petiole **2** : something resembling the blade of a leaf: as **a** : the broad flattened part of an oar or paddle **b** : an arm of a screw propeller, electric fan, or steam turbine **c** : the broad flat or concave part of a machine (as a bulldozer or snowplow) that comes into contact with the material to be moved **d** : a broad flat body part; *specif* : SCAPULA — used chiefly in naming cuts of meat **e** : the flat portion of the tongue immediately behind the tip; *also* : this portion together with the tip **f** : the expanded rear portion of the comb of a single-comb fowl — see COCK illustration **3 a** : the cutting part of an implement **b** (1) : SWORD (2) : SWORDSMAN (3) : a dashing lively man **c** : the runner of an ice skate
blad·ed \'blād-əd\ *adj* : having blades — often used in combination ⟨broad-*bladed* leaves⟩
blae \'blā\ *adj* [ME *bla*, *blo*, fr. ON *blār*; akin to OHG *blāo* blue — more at BLUE] *chiefly Scot* : dark blue or bluish gray
¹blah \'blä\ *also* **blah–blah** \-ˌblä\ *n* [imit.] **1** : silly or pretentious chatter or nonsense **2** *pl* [perh. influenced in meaning by *blasé*] : a feeling of boredom, discomfort, or general dissatisfaction
²blah *adj* : lacking interest : MEDIOCRE ⟨a ~ winter day⟩
blain \'blān\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *blegen*; akin to MLG *bleine* blain, OE *blāwan* to blow] : an inflammatory swelling or sore
blam·able \'blā-mə-bəl\ *adj* : deserving blame : REPREHENSIBLE *syn* see BLAMEWORTHY *ant* blameless — **blam·ably** \-blē\ *adv*
¹blame \'blām\ *vt* **blamed; blam·ing** [ME *blamen*, fr. OF *blamer*, fr. LL *blasphemare* to blaspheme, fr. Gk *blasphēmein*] **1** : to find fault with : CENSURE ⟨the right to praise or ~ a literary work⟩ **2 a** : to hold responsible ⟨~ him for everything⟩ **b** : to place responsibility for ⟨~*s* it on me⟩ *syn* see CRITICIZE — **blam·er** *n* — **to blame** : at fault : RESPONSIBLE
²blame *n* **1** : an expression of disapproval or reproach : CENSURE **2 a** : a state of being blameworthy : CULPABILITY **b** *archaic* : FAULT, SIN **3** : responsibility for something believed to deserve censure ⟨they must share the ~ for the crime⟩ — **blame·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **blame·less·ly** *adv* — **blame·less·ness** *n*
blame·ful \'blām-fəl\ *adj* : BLAMABLE — **blame·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv*
blame·wor·thy \-ˌwər-t͟hē\ *adj* : being at fault : deserving blame — **blame·wor·thi·ness** *n*

syn BLAMEWORTHY, BLAMABLE, GUILTY, CULPABLE *shared meaning element* : deserving reproach or punishment for some act or course of action. BLAMEWORTHY and BLAMABLE acknowledge the fact of censurable quality in what is described but in themselves imply nothing about the degree of reprehensibility involved ⟨though not criminal, his behavior was certainly *blameworthy*⟩ ⟨a person is only *blamable* for his own faults⟩ GUILTY implies responsibility for or consciousness of crime, sin, or, at the least, grave error or misdoing ⟨found *guilty* of murder⟩ ⟨suspicion always haunts the *guilty* mind; the thief doth fear each bush an officer — Shak.⟩ CULPABLE is weaker than *guilty* and is likely to connote malfeasance or errors of ignorance, omission, or negligence ⟨avaricious victims, almost as *culpable* as the confidence man who tricked them⟩ ⟨*culpable* neglect⟩ *ant* blameless

blanc fixe \'blaŋk-'fiks\ *n* [F, lit., fixed white] : barium sulfate prepared as a heavy white powder and used esp. as a filler in paper, rubber, and linoleum or as a pigment
blanch \'blanch\ *vb* [ME *blaunchen*, fr. MF *blanchir*, fr. OF *blanche*, fem. of *blanc*, adj., white] *vt* **1** : to take the color out of: **a** : to bleach by excluding light ⟨~ celery⟩ **b** : to scald or parboil in water or steam in order to remove the skin from, whiten, or stop enzymatic action in (as food for freezing) **c** : to clean (a coin blank) in an acid solution **d** : to cover (sheet iron or steel) with a coating of tin **2** : to make ashen or pale ⟨fear ~*es* the cheek⟩ ~ *vi* : to become white or pale *syn* see WHITEN — **blanch·er** *n*
blanc·mange \blə-'mänj, -'mäⁿzh\ *n* [ME *blancmanger*, fr. MF *blanc manger*, lit., white food] : a dessert made from gelatinous or starchy substances and milk usu. sweetened, flavored, and shaped in a mold
bland \'bland\ *adj* [L *blandus*] **1 a** : smooth and soothing in manner or quality ⟨a ~ smile⟩ **b** : exhibiting no personal concern or embarrassment : UNPERTURBED ⟨a ~ confession of guilt⟩ **2 a** : not irritating, stimulating, or invigorating : SOOTHING **b** : DULL, INSIPID ⟨~ stories with little plot or action⟩ *syn* **1** see SOFT *ant* piquant, savory **2** see SUAVE *ant* brusque — **bland·ly** \'blan-(d)lē\ *adv* — **bland·ness** \'blan(d)-nəs\ *n*
blan·dish \'blan-dish\ *vb* [ME *blandishen*, fr. MF *blandiss-*, stem of *blandir*, fr. L *blandiri*, fr. *blandus* mild, flattering] *vt* : to coax with flattery : CAJOLE ~ *vi* : to act or speak in a flattering or coaxing manner — **blan·dish·er** *n*
blan·dish·ment \-dish-mənt\ *n* : something that tends to coax or cajole : ALLUREMENT — often used in pl.
¹blank \'blaŋk\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *blanc*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *blanch* white; akin to L *flagrare* to burn — more at BLACK] **1** *archaic* : COLORLESS **2 a** : appearing or causing to appear dazed, confounded, or nonplussed ⟨stared in ~ dismay⟩ **b** : EXPRESSIONLESS ⟨a ~ stare⟩ **3 a** : lacking interest, variety, or change ⟨~ hours⟩ **b** : devoid of covering or content; *esp* : free from writing or marks ⟨~ paper⟩ **c** : having spaces to be filled in **d** : lacking any card : VOID ⟨a ~ suit at cards⟩ **4** : ABSOLUTE, UNQUALIFIED ⟨a ~ refusal⟩ **5** : UNFINISHED; *esp* : having a plain or unbroken surface where an opening is usual ⟨a ~ key⟩ ⟨a ~ arch⟩ *syn* see EMPTY — **blank·ly** *adv* — **blank·ness** *n*
²blank *n* **1 a** : an empty space (as on a paper) **b** : a paper with spaces for the entry of data ⟨a subscription ~⟩ **2 a** : an empty or featureless place or space ⟨my mind was a ~ during the test⟩ **b** : a vacant or uneventful period ⟨a long ~ in history⟩ **c** : something useless, valueless, or undesirable ⟨drew a ~⟩ **3** : the bull's-eye of a target **4** : a dash substituting for an omitted word **5 a** : a piece of material prepared to be made into something (as a key) by a further operation **b** : a cartridge loaded with powder but no bullet **6** : VOID 4
³blank *vt* **1 a** : OBSCURE, OBLITERATE ⟨~ out a line⟩ **b** : to stop access to : SEAL ⟨~ off a tunnel⟩ **2** : to keep (an opposing team) from scoring ⟨were ~*ed* for eight innings⟩ **3** : to cut with a die from a piece of stock ~ *vi* **1** : FADE — usu. used with *out* ⟨the music ~*ed* out⟩ **2** : to become confused or abstracted — often used with *out* ⟨his mind ~*ed* out momentarily⟩
blank check *n* **1** : a signed check with the amount unspecified **2** : complete freedom of action or control : CARTE BLANCHE
blank endorsement *n* : an endorsement of commercial paper without a qualifying phrase thus making the paper payable to the bearer
¹blan·ket \'blaŋ-kət\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *blankete*, fr. *blanc*] **1 a** : a large usu. oblong piece of woven fabric used as a bed covering **b** : a similar piece of fabric used as a body covering (as for an animal) ⟨a horse ~⟩ **2** : something that resembles a blanket; *esp* : a covering or enclosing layer ⟨a ~ of fog⟩ ⟨a ~ of gloom⟩ — **blan·ket·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj*
²blanket *vt* **1** : to cover with a blanket ⟨new grass ~*s* the slope⟩ **2 a** : to cover so as to obscure, interrupt, suppress, or extinguish ⟨~ a fire with foam⟩ **b** : to apply or cause to apply to uniformly despite wide separation or diversity among the elements included ⟨freight rates that ~ a region⟩ **c** : to cause to be included ⟨automatically ~*ed* into the insurance program⟩ **3** *archaic* : to toss in a blanket (as by way of punishment)
³blanket *adj* **1** : covering all members of a group or class ⟨a ~ wage increase⟩ **2** : effective or applicable in all instances
blan·ket·flow·er \'blaŋ-kət-ˌflau̇(-ə)r\ *n* : GAILLARDIA
blanket stitch *n* : a buttonhole stitch with spaces of variable width used on materials too thick to hem — **blanket–stitch** *vt*
blank verse *n* : unrhymed verse; *specif* : unrhymed iambic pentameter verse
¹blare \'bla(ə)r, 'ble(ə)r\ *vb* **blared; blar·ing** [ME *bleren*; akin to OE *blætan* to bleat] *vi* : to sound loud and strident ⟨radios *blaring*⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to sound or utter raucously ⟨sat *blaring* the car horn⟩ **2** : to proclaim flamboyantly ⟨headlines *blared* his defeat⟩
²blare *n* **1** : a loud strident noise **2** : dazzling often garish brilliance **3** : FLAMBOYANCE
blar·ney \'blär-nē\ *n* [*Blarney stone*, a stone in Blarney Castle, near Cork, Ireland, held to bestow skill in flattery on those who kiss it] **1** : skillful flattery : BLANDISHMENT **2** : NONSENSE, HUMBUG ⟨gave her some ~ about why he was late⟩ — **blarney** *vb*
bla·sé \blä-'zā\ *adj* [F] **1** : apathetic to pleasure or excitement as a result of excessive indulgence or enjoyment : WORLD-WEARY **2** : SOPHISTICATED, WORLDLY-WISE

blas·pheme \blas-'fēm\ *vb* **blas·phemed; blas·phem·ing** [ME *blasfemen*, fr. LL *blasphemare* — more at BLAME] *vt* **1** : to speak of or address with irreverence **2** : REVILE, ABUSE ~ *vi* : to utter blasphemy — **blas·phem·er** *n*

blas·phe·mous \'blas-fə-məs\ *adj* : impiously irreverent : PROFANE — **blas·phe·mous·ly** *adv* — **blas·phe·mous·ness** *n*

blas·phe·my \'blas-fə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** **1 a** : the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God **b** : the act of claiming the attributes of deity **2** : irreverence toward something considered sacred or inviolable

¹blast \'blast\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *blǣst;* akin to OHG *blāst* blast, OE *blāwan* to blow] **1 a** : a violent gust of wind **b** : the effect or accompaniment (as sleet) of such a gust **2** : the sound produced by an impulsion of air through a wind instrument or whistle **3** : something resembling a gust of wind: as **a** : a stream of air or gas forced through a hole **b** : a violent outburst ⟨the speaker's ~ against special privileges⟩ **c** : the continuous blowing to which a charge of ore or metal is subjected in a blast furnace **4 a** : a sudden pernicious influence or effect ⟨the ~ of a huge epidemic⟩ **b** : a disease that suggests the effects of a noxious wind; *esp* : one of plants that causes the foliage or flowers to wither **5 a** : an explosion or violent detonation **b** : the explosive charge used esp. for shattering rock **c** : the violent effect produced in the vicinity of an explosion that consists of a wave of increased atmospheric pressure followed by a wave of decreased atmospheric pressure **6** : SPEED, CAPACITY ⟨going full ~ down the road⟩ **7** : OPERATION, ACTIVITY ⟨the furnace must be kept in continual ~⟩ **8** : a riotous or exuberant occasion; *esp* : an enjoyable party **9** : HOME RUN

²blast *vi* **1** : to produce a strident sound ⟨music ~*ing* from the radio⟩ **2 a** : to use an explosive **b** : SHOOT **3** : to make a vigorous attack **4** : SHRIVEL, WITHER **5** : to hit a golf ball out of a sand trap with explosive force ~ *vt* **1 a** : to injure by or as if by the action of wind **b** : to affect with a blighting influence **2** : to shatter by or as if by an explosive : DEMOLISH **3 a** : to apply a forced draft to **b** : to strike with explosive force **4** : to cause to blast off ⟨will ~ themselves from the moon's surface⟩ **5** : to hit vigorously and effectively **6** : to cause to emerge like a blast of wind ⟨the tenor ~*s* out the high C's⟩ — **blast·er** *n* — **blast·ing** *n or adj*

blast- *or* **blasto-** *comb form* [G, fr. Gk, fr. *blastos*] : bud : budding : germ ⟨*blasto*disc⟩ ⟨*blast*ula⟩

-blast \ˌblast\ *n comb form* [NL *-blastus*, fr. Gk *blastos* bud, shoot; akin to OE *molda* top of the head, Skt *mūrdhan* head] : formative unit esp. of living matter : germ : cell : cell layer ⟨epi*blast*⟩

blast·ed *adj* **1 a** : BLIGHTED, WITHERED **b** : damaged by or as if by an explosive, lightning, or the wind : BATTERED ⟨a ~ apple tree⟩ **2** : CONFOUNDED, DETESTABLE ⟨this ~ weather⟩

blas·te·ma \bla-'stē-mə\ *n, pl* **-mas** *or* **-ma·ta** \-mət-ə\ [NL, fr. Gk *blastēma* offshoot, fr. *blastos*] : a mass of living substance capable of growth and differentiation — **blas·te·mat·ic** \ˌblas-tə-'mat-ik\ *or* **blas·te·mic** \bla-'stē-mik, -'stem-ik\ *adj*

blast furnace *n* : a furnace in which combustion is forced by a current of air under pressure; *esp* : one for the reduction of iron ore

-blas·tic \'blas-tik\ *adj comb form* [ISV, fr. *-blast*] : having (such or so many) buds, germs, cells, or cell layers ⟨diplo*blastic*⟩

blast·ie \'blas-tē\ *n* [Sc *blast* to wither, fr. ² *blast*] *Scot* : an ugly little creature

blast·ment \'blas(t)-mənt\ *n, archaic* : a blighting influence

blas·to·coel *or* **blas·to·coele** \'blas-tə-ˌsēl\ *n* [ISV] : the cavity of a blastula — see BLASTULA illustration — **blas·to·coe·lic** \ˌblas-tə-'sē-lik\ *adj*

blas·to·cyst \'blas-tə-ˌsist\ *n* : the modified blastula of a placental mammal

blas·to·derm \-ˌdərm\ *n* [G, fr. *blast-* + *-derm*] : a blastodisc after completion of cleavage and formation of the blastocoel — **blas·to·der·mat·ic** \ˌblas-tə-ˌdər-'mat-ik\ *or* **blas·to·der·mic** \-'dər-mik\ *adj*

blas·to·disc \'blas-tə-ˌdisk\ *n* : the embryo-forming portion of an egg with discoidal cleavage usu. appearing as a small disc on the upper surface of the yolk mass — see EGG illustration

blast–off \'blas-ˌtȯf\ *n* : a blasting off (as of a rocket)

blast off \(')blas-'tȯf\ *vi* : to take off — used esp. of rocket-propelled missiles and vehicles

blas·to·mere \'blas-tə-ˌmi(ə)r\ *n* [ISV] : a cell produced during cleavage of an egg — **blas·to·mer·ic** \ˌblas-tə-'mi(ə)r-ik, -'mer-\ *adj*

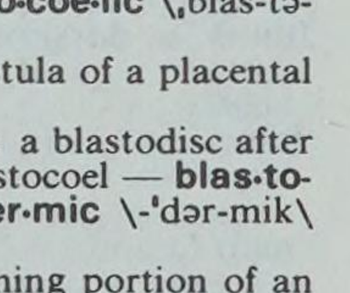
blas·to·my·cete \ˌblas-tə-'mī-ˌsēt, -ˌmī-'sēt\ *n* [deriv. of *blast-* + Gk *mykēt-, mykēs* fungus — more at MYC-] : any of a group (Blastomycetes) of pathogenic fungi growing typically like yeasts

blas·to·my·co·sis \-ˌmī-'kō-səs\ *n* : a disease caused by a blastomycete — **blas·to·my·cot·ic** \-'kät-ik\ *adj*

blas·to·pore \'blas-tə-ˌpō(ə)r, -ˌpȯ(ə)r\ *n* : the opening of the archenteron — **blas·to·por·al** \ˌblas-tə-'pōr-əl, -'pȯr- \ *or* **blas·to·por·ic** \-'pōr-ik, -'pȯr -\ *adj*

blas·to·sphere \'blas-tə-ˌsfi(ə)r\ *n* : BLASTULA — **blas·to·spher·ic** \ˌblas-tə-'sfi(ə)r-ik, -'sfer-\ *adj*

blas·tu·la \'blas-chə-lə\ *n, pl* **-las** *or* **-lae** \-ˌlē\ [NL, fr. Gk *blastos*] : an early metazoan embryo typically having the form of a hollow fluid-filled rounded cavity bounded by a single layer of cells — compare GASTRULA, MORULA — **blas·tu·lar** \-lər\ *adj* — **blas·tu·la·tion** \ˌblas-chə-'lā-shən\ *n*



section of blastula: *c* blastocoel, *ma* macromere, *mi* micromere, *a* animal pole, *v* vegetal pole

blat \'blat\ *vb* **blat·ted; blat·ting** [imit.] *vi* **1** : to cry like a calf or sheep : BLEAT **2 a** : to make a raucous noise **b** : BLAB ~ *vt* : to utter loudly or foolishly : BLURT — **blat** *n*

bla·tan·cy \'blāt-ᵊn-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the quality or state of being blatant **2** : something that is blatant

bla·tant \'blāt-ᵊnt\ *adj* [perh. fr. L *blatire* to chatter] **1** : noisy esp. in a vulgar or offensive manner : CLAMOROUS **2** : completely obvious, conspicuous, or obtrusive esp. in a crass or offensive manner : BRAZEN *syn* see VOCIFEROUS *ant* decorous, reserved — **bla·tant·ly** *adv*

blate \'blāt\ *adj* [ME] *chiefly Scot* : TIMID, SHEEPISH

¹blath·er \'blath-ər\ *vi* **blath·ered; blath·er·ing** \-(ə-)riŋ\ [ON *blathra;* akin to MHG *blōdern* to chatter] : to talk foolishly — **blath·er·er** \-ər-ər\ *n*

²blather *n* **1** : voluble or nonsensical talk **2** : STIR, COMMOTION

blath·er·skite \'blath-ər-ˌskīt\ *n* [*blather* + Sc dial. *skate* a contemptible person] **1** : a blustering talkative fellow **2** : NONSENSE, BLATHER

blat·ter \'blat-ər\ *vi* [perh. fr. L *blaterare* to chatter — more at BLATANT] *dial* : to talk noisily and fast : PRATTLE

blaw \'blȯ\ *vb* **blawed; blawn** \'blȯn\; **blaw·ing** [ME (northern dial.) *blawen*, fr. OE *blāwan*] *chiefly Scot* : BLOW

¹blaze \'blāz\ *n* [ME *blase*, fr. OE *blæse* torch; akin to OE *bǣl* fire — more at BALD] **1 a** : an intensely burning fire **b** : intense direct light often accompanied by heat ⟨the ~ of noon⟩ **c** : an active burning; *esp* : a sudden bursting forth of flame ⟨several ~*s* in the woods⟩ **2** : something that resembles the blaze of a fire: as **a** : a dazzling display **b** : a sudden outburst ⟨a ~ of fury⟩ **c** : BRILLIANCE ⟨the ~ of autumn⟩

syn BLAZE, FLAME, FLARE, GLARE, GLOW *shared meaning element* : a brightly burning light or fire or something suggesting this

²blaze *vi* **blazed; blaz·ing** **1 a** : to burn brightly ⟨the sun *blazed* overhead⟩ **b** : to flare up : FLAME ⟨he suddenly *blazed* with anger⟩ **2** : to be conspicuously brilliant or resplendent ⟨fields *blazing* with flowers⟩ **3** : to shoot rapidly and repeatedly ⟨~ away at the target⟩ — **blaz·ing·ly** \'blā-ziŋ-lē\ *adv*

³blaze *vt* **blazed; blaz·ing** [ME *blasen*, fr. MD *blāsen* to blow; akin to OHG *blāst* blast] : to make public or conspicuous : PROCLAIM

⁴blaze *n* [G *blas*, fr. OHG *plas;* akin to OE *blæse*] **1 a** : a white mark on the face of an animal **b** : a white or gray streak in the hair of the head **2** : a trail marker; *esp* : a mark made on a tree by chipping off a piece of the bark

⁵blaze *vt* **blazed; blaz·ing** **1** : to mark (as a trail) with blazes **2** : to lead or pioneer in some direction or activity — usu. used in the phrase *blaze the trail*

blaz·er \'blā-zər\ *n* **1** : one that blazes **2** : a sports jacket often with notched collar and patch pockets

blazing star *n* **1** *archaic* : COMET **2** *archaic* : a center of attraction : CYNOSURE **3** : any of several plants having conspicuous flower clusters: as **a** : a plant (*Chamaelirium luteum*) of the bunchflower family **b** : BUTTON SNAKEROOT 1

¹bla·zon \'blāz-ᵊn\ *n* [ME *blason*, fr. MF] **1 a** : armorial bearings : COAT OF ARMS **b** : the proper description or representation of heraldic or armorial bearings **2** : DESCRIPTION, SHOW; *esp* : ostentatious display

²blazon *vt* **bla·zoned; bla·zon·ing** \'blāz-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ **1** : to publish widely : PROCLAIM; *esp* : to boast of **2 a** : to describe (heraldic or armorial bearings) in technical terms **b** : to represent (armorial bearings) in drawing or engraving **3 a** : to depict or inscribe in colors **b** : DISPLAY **c** : DECK, ADORN ⟨forests ~*ed* with autumn colors⟩ — **bla·zon·er** \-nər, -ᵊn-ər\ *n* — **blazoning** *n*

bla·zon·ry \'blāz-ᵊn-rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1 a** : BLAZON 1b **b** : BLAZON 1a **2** : a dazzling display

bld *abbr* **1** blond **2** blood

bldg *abbr* building

Bldg E *abbr* building engineer

bldr *abbr* builder

¹bleach \'blēch\ *vb* [ME *blechen*, fr. OE *blǣcean;* akin to OE *blāc* pale, *bǣl* fire — more at BALD] *vt* **1** : to remove color or stains from **2** : to make whiter or lighter esp. by physical or chemical removal of color ~ *vi* : to grow white or lose color *syn* see WHITEN — **bleach·able** \'blē-chə-bəl\ *adj*

²bleach *n* **1** : the act or process of bleaching **2** : a preparation used in bleaching **3** : the degree of whiteness obtained by bleaching

bleach·er \'blē-chər\ *n* **1** : one that bleaches or is used in bleaching **2** : a usu. uncovered stand of tiered planks providing seating space for spectators — usu. used in pl.

bleach·er·ite \'blē-chə-ˌrīt\ *n* : one who sits in the bleachers

bleaching powder *n* : a white powder consisting chiefly of calcium hydroxide, calcium chloride, and calcium hypochlorite used as a bleach, disinfectant, or deodorant

¹bleak \'blēk\ *adj* [ME *bleke* pale; prob. akin to OE *blāc*] **1** : exposed and barren and often windswept **2** : COLD, RAW **3 a** : lacking in warmth or kindliness **b** : not hopeful or encouraging ⟨a ~ outlook⟩ **c** : severely simple or austere — **bleak·ish** \'blē-kish\ *adj* — **bleak·ly** *adv* — **bleak·ness** *n*

²bleak *n* [ME *bleke*] : a small European cyprinid river fish (*Alburnus lucidus*) with silvery scale pigment used in making artificial pearls

¹blear \'bli(ə)r\ *vt* [ME *bleren*] **1** : to make (the eyes) sore or watery **2** : DIM, BLUR

²blear *adj* **1** : dim with water or tears **2** : obscure to the view or imagination ⟨clarifies the ~ side of things⟩ — **blear–eyed** \-'īd\ *adj*

bleary \'bli(ə)r-ē\ *adj* **1** *of the eyes or vision* : dull or dimmed esp. from fatigue or sleep **2** : poorly outlined or defined : DIM **3** : tired to the point of exhaustion — **blear·i·ly** \'blir-ə-lē\ *adv* — **blear·i·ness** \'blir-ē-nəs\ *n*

¹bleat \'blēt\ *vb* [ME *bleten*, fr. OE *blǣtan;* akin to L *flēre* to weep, OE *bellan* to roar — more at BELLOW] *vi* **1 a** : to utter the natural cry of a sheep or goat **b** : to make a sound resembling this cry **c** : WHIMPER **2 a** : to talk complainingly or with a whine **b** : BLATHER ~ *vt* : to utter in a bleating manner — **bleat·er** *n*

²bleat *n* **1 a** : the cry of a sheep or goat **b** : a sound resembling this cry **2** : whining or foolish talk : BLATHER

bleb \'bleb\ *n* [perh. alter. of *blob*] **1** : a small blister **2** : BUBBLE — **bleb·by** \'bleb-ē\ *adj*

¹bleed \'blēd\ *vb* **bled** \'bled\; **bleed·ing** [ME *bleden*, fr. OE *blēdan*, fr. *blōd* blood] *vi* **1 a** : to emit or lose blood **b** : to sacrifice one's blood esp. in battle **2** : to feel anguish, pain, or sympathy ⟨a heart that ~*s* at a friend's misfortune⟩ **3** : to escape by

oozing or flowing (as from a wound) **4** : to give up some constituent (as sap or dye) by exuding or diffusing it **5 a** : to pay out or give money **b** : to have money extorted **6** : to be printed so as to run off one or more edges of a printed page or sheet after trimming — often used with *off* ~ *vt* **1** : to remove or draw blood from **2** : to get or extort money from **3** : to draw sap from (a tree) **4 a** : to extract or let out some or all of a contained substance from ⟨~ a tire⟩ **b** : to extract or cause to escape from a container **5** : to cause (as a printed illustration) to bleed; *also* : to trim (as a page) so that some of the printing bleeds — **bleed white** : to drain of blood or resources

²bleed *n* : an illustration or a page that bleeds or is bled; *also* : the part trimmed off in bleeding or the corresponding area of the printing plate

bleed·er *n* : one that bleeds; *esp* : HEMOPHILIAC

bleeding heart *n* **1** : a garden plant (*Dicentra spectabilis*) of the fumitory family with racemes of deep pink drooping heart-shaped flowers; *broadly* : any of several plants (genus *Dicentra*) **2** : one who shows extravagant sympathy esp. for an object of alleged persecution

¹bleep \'blēp\ *n* [imit.] : a short high-pitched sound (as from electronic equipment)

²bleep *vt* : BLIP

blel·lum \'blel-əm\ *n* [perh. blend of Sc *bleber* to babble and *skellum* rascal] *Scot* : a lazy talkative person

¹blem·ish \'blem-ish\ *vt* [ME *blemisshen*, fr. MF *blesmiss-*, stem of *blesmir* to make pale, wound, of Gmc origin; akin to G *blass* pale; akin to OE *blæse* torch — more at BLAZE] : to spoil by a flaw

²blemish *n* : a noticeable imperfection; *esp* : one that seriously impairs appearance

syn BLEMISH, DEFECT, FLAW *shared meaning element* : an imperfection that mars or damages ***ant*** immaculateness

¹blench \'blench\ *vi* [ME *blenchen* to deceive, blench, fr. OE *blencan* to deceive; akin to ON *blekkja* to impose on] : to draw back or turn aside from lack of courage : FLINCH ***syn*** see RECOIL

²blench *vb* [alter. of *blanch*] : BLEACH, WHITEN

¹blend \'blend\ *vb* **blend·ed** *also* **blent** \'blent\; **blend·ing** [ME *blenden*, modif. of ON *blanda;* akin to OE *blandan* to mix, Lith *blandus* thick (of soup)] *vt* **1** : MIX; *esp* : to combine or associate so that the separate constituents or the line of demarcation cannot be distinguished **2** : to prepare by thoroughly intermingling different varieties or grades **3** : to darken the tips of (a fur) with dye ~ *vi* **1 a** : to mingle intimately **b** : to combine into an integrated whole **2** : to produce a harmonious effect ***syn*** see MIX

²blend *n* : something produced by blending: as **a** : a product prepared by blending **b** : a word (as *brunch*) produced by combining other words or parts of words

blende \'blend\ *n* [G, fr. *blenden* to blind, fr. OHG *blenten;* akin to OE *blind*] **1** : SPHALERITE **2** : any of several minerals (as metallic sulfides) with somewhat bright but nonmetallic luster

blended whiskey *n* : whiskey consisting of either a blend of two or more straight whiskeys or a blend of whiskey and neutral spirits

blend·er \'blen-dər\ *n* : one that blends; *esp* : an electric appliance for grinding or mixing ⟨a food ~⟩

blending inheritance *n* : inheritance by the progeny of characters intermediate between those of the parents

blen·ny \'blen-ē\ *n, pl* **blennies** [L *blennius*, a sea fish, fr. Gk *blennos*] : any of numerous usu. small and elongated and often scaleless fishes (Blenniidae and related families) living about rocky shores

blephar- *or* **blepharo-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *blepharon*] **1** : eyelid ⟨*blepharo*spasm⟩ **2** : cilium : flagellum ⟨*blepharo*plast⟩

bleph·a·ro·plast \'blef-ə-rō-ˌplast\ n : a basal body esp. of a flagellated cell

bles·bok \'bles-ˌbäk\ *n* [Afrik, fr. *bles* blaze + *bok* male antelope] : a So. African antelope (*Damaliscus albifrons*) having a large white spot on the face

bless \'bles\ *vt* **blessed** \'blest\ *also* **blest** \'blest\; **bless·ing** [ME *blessen*, fr. OE *blētsian*, fr. *blōd* blood; fr. the use of blood in consecration] **1** : to hallow or consecrate by religious rite or word **2** : to hallow with the sign of the cross **3** : to invoke divine care for **4 a** : PRAISE, GLORIFY ⟨~ his holy name⟩ **b** : to speak gratefully of ⟨~*ed* him for his kindness⟩ **5** : to confer prosperity or happiness upon **6** *archaic* : PROTECT, PRESERVE

bless·ed \'bles-əd\ *also* **blest** \'blest\ *adj* **1 a** : held in reverence : VENERATED ⟨the ~ saints⟩ **b** : honored in worship : HALLOWED ⟨the ~ Trinity⟩ **c** : BEATIFIC ⟨a ~ visitation⟩ **2** : of or enjoying happiness; *specif* : enjoying the bliss of heaven — used as a title for a beatified person **3** : bringing pleasure or contentment **4** — used as an intensive ⟨no one gave us a ~ penny — *Saturday Rev.*⟩ — **bless·ed·ly** *adv* — **bless·ed·ness** *n*

Bless·ed Sacrament \ˌbles-əd-\ *n* : the Communion elements; *specif* : the consecrated Host

bless·ing *n* **1 a** : the act of one that blesses **b** : APPROVAL, ENCOURAGEMENT **2** : a thing conducive to happiness or welfare **3** : grace said at a meal

bleth·er \'bleth-ər\ *var of* BLATHER

blew *past of* BLOW

¹blight \'blīt\ *n* [origin unknown] **1 a** : a disease or injury of plants resulting in withering, cessation of growth, and death of parts without rotting **b** : an organism that causes blight **2** : something that frustrates plans or hopes **3** : something that impairs or destroys **4** : an impaired condition ⟨urban ~⟩

²blight *vt* **1** : to affect (as a plant) with blight **2** : to cause to deteriorate ~ *vi* : to suffer from or become affected with blight

blight·er \'blīt-ər\ *n* **1** : one that blights **2** *chiefly Brit* **a** : one who is held in low esteem **b** : FELLOW, GUY

blimp \'blimp\ *n* [imit.; fr. the sound made by striking the gas bag with the thumb] **1** : a nonrigid airship **2** *cap* : COLONEL BLIMP

blimp·ish \'blim-pish\ *adj, often cap* : of, relating to, or suggesting a Blimp ⟨a *Blimpish* colonel and his mousy, neglected wife —*Time*⟩ — **blimp·ish·ly** *adv* — **blimp·ish·ness** *n*

blin \'blin\ *n, pl* **bli·ni** \blə-'nē\ *or* **bli·nis** \blə-'nēz\ [Russ] : BLINTZE

¹blind \'blīnd\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *blint* blind, OE *blandan* to mix — more at BLEND] **1 a** (1) : SIGHTLESS (2) : having less than $^1/_{10}$ of normal vision in the more efficient eye when refractive defects are fully corrected by lenses **b** : of or relating to sightless persons **2 a** : unable or unwilling to discern or judge **b** : unsupported by evidence or plausibility ⟨~ faith⟩ **3 a** : having no regard to rational discrimination, guidance, or restriction ⟨~ choice⟩ **b** : lacking a directing or controlling consciousness ⟨~ chance⟩ **c** : marked by complete insensibility **d** : DRUNK **4** : made or done without sight of certain objects or knowledge of certain facts that could serve for guidance; *esp* : performed solely by the aid of instruments within an airplane ⟨a ~ landing⟩ **5** : DEFECTIVE: as **a** : lacking a growing point or producing leaves instead of flowers **b** : lacking a complete or legible address ⟨~ mail⟩ **6** : difficult to discern, make out, or discover: as **a** : ILLEGIBLE **b** : hidden from sight : COVERED ⟨~ seam⟩ **7** : having but one opening or outlet ⟨~ sockets⟩ **8** : having no opening for light or passage : BLANK ⟨~ wall⟩ — **blind·ly** \'blīn-(d)lē\ *adv* — **blind·ness** \'blīn(d)-nəs\ *n*

²blind *vt* **1 a** : to make blind **b** : DAZZLE **2 a** : to withhold light from **b** : HIDE, CONCEAL — **blind·ing·ly** \'blīn-diŋ-lē\ *adv*

³blind *n* **1** : something to hinder sight or keep out light: as **a** : a window shutter **b** : a roller window shade **c** : VENETIAN BLIND **d** : BLINDER **2** : a place of concealment; *esp* : a concealing enclosure from which one may shoot game or observe wildlife **3 a** : something put forward for the purpose of misleading : SUBTERFUGE **b** (1) : a person serving as an agent for another who keeps under cover (2) : one who acts as a decoy or distraction

⁴blind *adv* : BLINDLY: as **a** : to the point of insensibility ⟨~ drunk⟩ **b** : without seeing outside an airplane ⟨fly ~⟩

blind alley *n* : a fruitless or mistaken course or direction

blind date *n* **1** : a date between two persons who have not previously met **2** : either participant in a blind date

blind·er \'blīn-dər\ *n* **1** : either of two flaps on a horse's bridle to prevent sight of objects at his sides **2** *pl* : an obstruction to sight or discernment

blind·fish \'blīn(d)-ˌfish\ *n* : any of several small fishes with vestigial functionless eyes found usu. in the waters of caves

¹blind·fold \-ˌfōld\ *vt* [ME *blindfellen, blindfelden* to strike blind, blindfold, fr. *blind* + *fellen* to fell] **1** : to cover the eyes of with or as if with a bandage **2** : to hinder from seeing; *esp* : to keep from comprehension — **blindfold** *adj*

²blindfold *n* **1** : a bandage for covering the eyes **2** : something that obscures mental or physical vision

blind gut *n* : a digestive cavity open at only one end; *esp* : the cecum of the large intestine

blind·man's buff \ˌblīn(d)-ˌmanz-\ *n* : a group game in which a blindfolded player tries to catch and identify another player

blind pig *n* : BLIND TIGER

blind side *n* **1** : the side on which one that is blind in one eye cannot see **2** : the side away from which one is looking

blind spot *n* **1 a** : the point in the retina where the optic nerve enters that is not sensitive to light — see EYE illustration **b** : a portion of a field that cannot be seen or inspected with available equipment **2** : an area in which one fails to exercise judgment or discrimination **3** : a locality in which radio reception is markedly poorer than in the surrounding area

blind tiger *n* : a place that sells intoxicants illegally

blind·worm \'blīn-ˌdwərm\ n : a small burrowing limbless lizard with minute eyes; *esp* : a European lizard (*Anguis fragilis*) popularly believed to be blind — called also *slowworm*

¹blink \'bliŋk\ *vb* [ME *blinken* to open one's eyes] *vi* **1 a** *obs* : to look glancingly : PEEP **b** : to look with half-shut eyes **c** : to close and open the eyes involuntarily (as when struggling against drowsiness or when dazzled) **2** : to shine dimly or intermittently **3 a** : to look with too little concern **b** : to look with surprise or dismay ~ *vt* **1 a** : to cause to blink **b** : to remove (as tears) from the eye by blinking **2** : to deny recognition to ***syn*** see WINK

²blink *n* **1** *chiefly Scot* : GLIMPSE, GLANCE **2** : GLIMMER, SPARKLE **3** : a usu. involuntary shutting and opening of the eye **4 a** : a whiteness about the horizon caused by the reflection of light from ice at sea **b** : a dark appearance of the sky about the horizon caused by the absence of reflected light due to open water — **on the blink** : in or into a disabled or useless condition

¹blink·er \'bliŋ-kər\ *n* **1** : one that blinks; *esp* : a light that flashes off and on (as for the directing of traffic or the coded signaling of messages) **2 a** : BLINDER 1 **b** : a cloth hood with shades projecting at the sides of the eye openings used on skittish racehorses — usu. used in pl. **3** *pl* : BLINDER 2

²blinker *vt* : to put blinders on

blin·tze \'blin(t)-sə\ *or* **blintz** \'blin(t)s\ *n* [Yiddish *blintse*, fr. Russ *blinets*, dim. of *blin* pancake] : a thin rolled pancake with a filling usu. of cheese

¹blip \'blip\ *n* [imit.] **1** : a short crisp sound **2** : an image on a radar screen **3** : an interruption of the sound received in a television program as a result of blipping

²blip *vt* **blipped; blip·ping** : to remove (recorded sound) from a videotape so that there is an interruption of the sound in the received television program ⟨a censor *blipped* the swearwords⟩

bliss \'blis\ *n* [ME *blisse*, fr. OE *bliss;* akin to OE *blīthe* blithe] **1** : complete happiness **2** : PARADISE, HEAVEN

bliss·ful \'blis-fəl\ *adj* : full of, marked by, or causing bliss — **bliss·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **bliss·ful·ness** *n*

¹blis·ter \'blis-tər\ *n* [ME, modif. of OF or MD; OF *blostre* boil, fr. MD *bluyster* blister; akin to OE *blǣst* blast] **1** : an elevation of the epidermis containing watery liquid **2** : an enclosed raised

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spot (as in paint) resembling a blister **3** : an agent that causes blistering **4** : a disease of plants marked by large swollen patches on the leaves **5** : any of various structures (as a gunner's compartment on an airplane) that bulge out — **blis·tery** \-t(ə-)rē\ *adj*

²blister *vb* **blis·tered; blis·ter·ing** \-t(ə-)riŋ\ *vi* : to become affected with a blister ~ *vt* **1** : to raise a blister on **2** : to deal with severely ⟨~*ed* his opponent with charges of corruption⟩

blister beetle *n* : a beetle (as the Spanish fly) used medicinally dried and powdered to raise blisters on the skin; *broadly* : any of numerous soft-bodied beetles (family Meloidae)

blister copper *n* : metallic copper of a black blistered surface that is the product of converting copper matte and is about 98.5 to 99.5 percent pure

blis·ter·ing *adj* : extremely intense or severe — **blistering** *adv* — **blis·ter·ing·ly** \-t(ə-)riŋ-lē\ *adv*

blister rust *n* : any of several diseases of pines that are caused by rust fungi (genus *Cronartium*) in the aecial stage and that affect the sapwood and inner bark and produce blisters externally

blithe \'blīth, 'blīt͟h\ *adj* **blith·er; blith·est** [ME, fr. OE *blīthe;* akin to OHG *blīdi* joyous, OE *bǣl* fire — more at BALD] **1** : of a happy lighthearted character or disposition ⟨hail to thee, ~ spirit — P. B. Shelley⟩ **2** : CASUAL, HEEDLESS ⟨~ unconcern⟩ ***syn*** see MERRY ***ant*** morose, atrabilious — **blithe·ly** *adv*

blith·er \'blith-ər\ *vi* : BLATHER

blithe·some \'blīth-səm, 'blīt͟h-\ *adj* : GAY, MERRY — **blithe·some·ly** *adv*

BLitt *or* **BLit** *abbr* [ML *baccalaureus litterarum*] bachelor of letters; bachelor of literature

blitz \'blits\ *n* **1 a** : BLITZKRIEG 1 **b** (1) : an intensive aerial campaign (2) : AIR RAID **2 a** : an intensive nonmilitary campaign **b** : a rush of the passer by the defensive linebackers in football — **blitz** *vb*

blitz·krieg \-ˌkrēg\ *n* [G, lit., lightning war, fr. *blitz* lightning + *krieg* war] **1** : war conducted with great speed and force; *specif* : a violent surprise offensive by massed air forces and mechanized ground forces in close coordination **2** : a sudden overpowering bombardment

bliz·zard \'bliz-ərd\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : a long severe snowstorm **2** : an intensely strong cold wind filled with fine snow **3** : an overwhelming rush or deluge ⟨the ~ of mail at Christmas⟩ — **bliz·zardy** \-ē\ *adj*

blk *abbr* **1** black **2** block **3** bulk

¹bloat \'blōt\ *adj* [alter. of ME *blout*] : BLOATED, PUFFY

²bloat *vt* **1** : to make turgid or swollen **2** : to fill to capacity or overflowing ~ *vi* : SWELL

³bloat *n* **1** : one that is bloated **2** : a flatulent digestive disturbance of domestic animals and esp. cattle marked by abdominal bloating

bloat·ed *adj* **1** : being much larger than what is warranted ⟨a ~ estimate⟩ **2** : obnoxiously vain

¹bloat·er \'blōt-ər\ *n* [obs. *bloat* (to cure)] : a large fat herring or mackerel lightly salted and briefly smoked

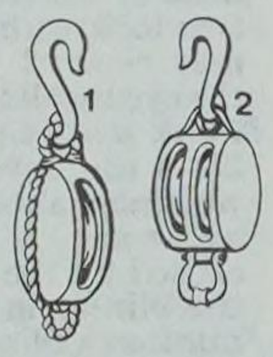
²bloater *n* [²*bloat*] : a small but common cisco (*Coregonus hoyi*) of the Great Lakes

¹blob \'bläb\ *n* [ME] **1 a** : a small drop or lump of something viscid or thick **b** : a daub or spot of color **2** : something ill-defined or amorphous

²blob *vt* **blobbed; blob·bing** : to mark with blobs : SPLOTCH

bloc \'bläk\ *n* [F, lit., block] **1 a** : a temporary combination of parties in a legislative assembly **b** : a group of legislators (as in a U.S. legislative assembly) who act together for some common purpose irrespective of party lines **2 a** : a combination of persons, groups, or nations forming a unit with a common interest or purpose **b** : a group of nations united by treaty or agreement for mutual support or joint action

¹block \'bläk\ *n, often attrib* [ME *blok*, fr. MF *bloc*, fr. MD *blok;* akin to OHG *bloh* block, MIr *blog* fragment] **1** : a compact usu. solid piece of substantial material esp. when worked or altered from its natural state to serve a particular purpose: as **a** : the piece of wood on which a person condemned to be beheaded lays his neck for execution **b** : a mold or form on which articles are shaped or displayed **c** : a hollow rectangular building unit usu. of artificial material **d** : a light weight usu. cubical and solid wooden or plastic building toy that is usu. provided in sets **e** : the casting that contains the cylinders of an internal-combustion engine **2** *slang* : HEAD 1 **3 a** : OBSTACLE **b** : an obstruction of an opponent's play in sports; *esp* : a halting or impeding of the progress or movement of an opponent in football by use of the body **c** : interruption of normal physiological function of a tissue or organ; *esp* : HEART BLOCK **d** : an instance or the result of psychological blockage or blocking **4** : a wooden or metal case enclosing one or more pulleys and having a hook, eye, or strap by which it may be attached **5** : a platform from which property is sold at auction; *broadly* : sale at auction **6 a** : a quantity, number, or section of things dealt with as a unit **b** (1) : a large building divided into separate functional units (2) : a line of row houses (3) : a part of a building or integrated group of buildings distinctive in some respect **c** (1) : a usu. rectangular space (as in a city) enclosed by streets and occupied by or intended for buildings (2) : the distance along one of the sides of such a block **d** : a length of railroad track of defined limits the use of which is governed by block signals **7** : a piece of material (as wood or linoleum) having on its surface a hand-cut design from which impressions are to be printed



blocks 4: *1* single block, *2* double block

²block *vt* **1 a** : to make unsuitable for passage or progress by obstruction **b** *archaic* : BLOCKADE **c** : to hinder the passage, progress, or accomplishment of by or as if by interposing an obstruction ⟨~ a kick⟩ **d** : to shut off from view ⟨forest canopy ~*ing* the sun⟩ **e** : to interfere usu. legitimately with (as an opponent) in various games or sports **f** : to prevent normal functioning of **g** : to prohibit conversion of (foreign-held funds) into foreign exchange; *also* : to limit the use to be made of (such funds) within the country **2** : to mark or indicate the outline or chief lines of ⟨~ out a design⟩ ⟨~ in a sketched figure⟩ **3** : to shape on, with, or as if with a block ⟨~ a hat⟩ **4** : to make (two or more lines of writing or type) flush at the left or at both left and right **5** : to secure, support, or provide with a block **6** : to work out or chart the movements of stage performers or of mobile television equipment ~ *vi* : to block an opponent in sports ***syn*** see HINDER — **block·er** *n*

¹block·ade \blä-'kād\ *n* **1** : the isolation by a warring nation of a particular enemy area (as a harbor) by means of troops or warships to prevent passage of persons or supplies; *broadly* : a restrictive measure designed to obstruct the commerce and communications of an unfriendly nation **2** : something that constitutes an obstacle **3** : interruption of normal physiological function (as transmission of nerve impulses) of a tissue or organ

²blockade *vt* **block·ad·ed; block·ad·ing** **1** : to subject to a blockade **2** : BLOCK, OBSTRUCT — **block·ad·er** *n*

block·ade–run·ner \-'kād-ˌrən-ər\ *n* : a ship or person that runs through a blockade — **block·ade–run·ning** \-ˌrən-iŋ\ *n*

block·age \'bläk-ij\ *n* : an act or instance of obstructing : the state of being blocked ⟨a ~ in the saltshaker⟩

block and tackle *n* : pulley blocks with associated rope or cable for hoisting or hauling

block·bust·er \'bläk-ˌbəs-tər\ *n* **1** : a huge high-explosive demolition bomb **2** : one that is notably effective or violent **3** : one who engages in blockbusting

block·bust·ing \-tiŋ\ *n* : profiteering by inducing property owners to sell hastily and often at a loss by appeals to fears of depressed values because of threatened minority encroachment and then reselling at inflated prices

block diagram *n* : a diagram (as of a system, process, or program) in which labeled figures (as rectangles) and interconnecting lines represent the relationship of parts

block·head \'bläk-ˌhed\ *n* : a stupid person

block·house \-ˌhau̇s\ *n* **1 a** : a structure of heavy timbers formerly used for military defense with sides loopholed and pierced for gunfire and often with a projecting upper story **b** : a small easily defended building for protection from enemy fire **2** : a building usu. of reinforced concrete serving as an observation point for an operation likely to be accompanied by heat, blast, or radiation hazard

block·ish \-ish\ *adj* : resembling a block — **block·ish·ly** *adv*

block letter *n* : an often hand-drawn bold simple capital letter composed of strokes of uniform thickness

block plane *n* : a small plane made with the blade set at a lower pitch than other planes and used chiefly on end grains of wood

block signal *n* : a fixed signal at the entrance of a block to govern railroad trains entering and using that block

block system *n* : a system by which a railroad track is divided into short sections and trains are run by guidance signals

blocky \'bläk-ē\ *adj* **block·i·er; -est** **1** : resembling a block in form or massiveness : CHUNKY **2** : filled with or made up of blocks or patches

bloke \'blōk\ *n* [origin unknown] *chiefly Brit* : MAN, FELLOW

¹blond *or* **blonde** \'bländ\ *adj* [F *blond*, masc., *blonde*, fem.] **1 a** : of a flaxen, golden, light auburn, or pale yellowish brown color ⟨~ hair⟩ **b** : of a pale white or rosy white color ⟨~ skin⟩ **c** : being a blond ⟨a pretty ~ secretary⟩ **2 a** : of a light color **b** : of the color blond **c** : made light-colored by bleaching ⟨a table of ~ walnut⟩

²blond *or* **blonde** *n* **1** : a person having blond hair and usu. a light complexion and blue or gray eyes **2** : a light yellowish brown to dark grayish yellow

blond·ish \'blän-dish\ *adj* : somewhat blond

¹blood \'bləd\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *blōd;* akin to OHG *bluot* blood] **1 a** : the fluid that circulates in the heart, arteries, capillaries, and veins of a vertebrate animal carrying nourishment and oxygen to and bringing away waste products from all parts of the body **b** : a comparable fluid of an invertebrate **c** : a fluid resembling blood **2 a** : LIFEBLOOD; *broadly* : LIFE **b** : human stock or lineage; *esp* : royal lineage ⟨a prince of the ~⟩ **c** : relationship by descent from a common ancestor : KINSHIP **d** : persons related through common descent : KINDRED **e** (1) : honorable or high birth or descent (2) : descent from parents of recognized breed or pedigree **3** : the shedding of blood; *also* : the taking of life **4 a** : blood regarded as the seat of the emotions : TEMPER **b** *obs* : LUST **c** : a gay showy foppish man : RAKE **5** : PERSONNEL

²blood *vt* **1** : BLEED 1a **2** : to stain or wet with blood **3** : to expose (a hunting dog) to sight, scent, or taste of the blood of its prey

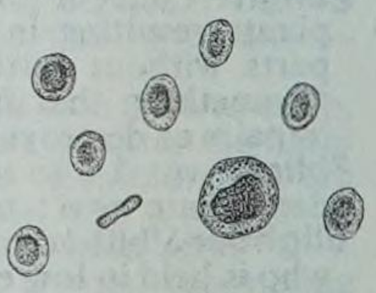
blood bank *n* : a place for storage of or an institution storing blood or plasma; *also* : blood so stored

blood·bath \'bləd-ˌbath, -ˌbȧth\ *n* : a great slaughter : MASSACRE

blood brother *n* **1** : a brother by birth **2** : one of two men pledged to mutual loyalty by a ceremonial use of each other's blood — **blood brotherhood** *n*

blood cell *n* : a cell normally present in blood

blood count *n* : the determination of the blood cells in a definite volume of blood; *also* : the number of cells so determined


blood cells

blood·cur·dling \'bləd-ˌkərd-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ *adj* : arousing horror ⟨~ screams⟩ — **blood·cur·dling·ly** \-ˌkərd-liŋ-lē\ *adv*

blood·ed \'bləd-əd\ *adj* : being entirely or largely of superior breed ⟨a herd of ~ stock⟩

-blooded *adj comb form* : having (such) blood or temperament ⟨cold-*blooded*⟩ ⟨warm-*blooded*⟩

blood feud *n* : a feud between different clans or families

blood·fin \'bləd-ˌfin\ *n* : a small silvery So. American fish (*Aphyocharax rubripinnis*) with deep-red fins

blood fluke *n* : SCHISTOSOME

blood group *n* : one of the classes into which human beings can be separated on the basis of the presence or absence in their blood of specific antigens — called also *blood type*
blood-guilt \'bləd-ˌgilt\ *n* : guilt resulting from bloodshed — **blood-guilt-i-ness** \-ˌgil-tē-nəs\ *n* — **blood-guilty** \-tē\ *adj*
blood heat *n* : a temperature approximating that of the human body
blood-hound \'bləd-ˌhau̇nd\ *n* **1** : a large powerful hound of a breed of European origin remarkable for acuteness of smell **2** : a person keen in pursuit
blood-less \'bləd-ləs\ *adj* **1** : deficient in or free from blood **2** : not accompanied by loss or shedding of blood ⟨a ~ victory⟩ **3** : lacking in spirit or vitality ⟨~ young people with no spirit of fun⟩ **4** : lacking in human feeling ⟨~ statistics⟩ — **blood-less-ly** *adv* — **blood-less-ness** *n*
blood-let-ting \-ˌlet-iŋ\ *n* **1** : PHLEBOTOMY **2** : BLOODSHED **3** : attrition of personnel or resources
blood-line \-ˌlīn\ *n* : a sequence of direct ancestors esp. in a pedigree; *also* : FAMILY, STRAIN
blood-mo-bile \-mō-ˌbēl\ *n* [*blood* + auto*mobile*] : an automotive vehicle staffed and equipped for collecting blood from donors
blood money *n* **1** : money obtained at the cost of another's life **2** : money paid by a manslayer or members of his family, clan, or tribe to the next of kin of a person killed by him
blood platelet *n* : one of the minute protoplasmic disks of vertebrate blood that assist in blood clotting
blood poisoning *n* : SEPTICEMIA
blood pressure *n* : pressure exerted by the blood upon the walls of the blood vessels and esp. arteries varying with the muscular efficiency of the heart, the blood volume and viscosity, the age and health of the individual, and the state of the vascular wall
blood-red \'bləd-'red\ *adj* : having the color of blood
blood-root \-ˌrüt, -ˌru̇t\ *n* : a plant (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) of the poppy family having a red root and sap and bearing a solitary lobed leaf and white flower in early spring
blood sausage *n* : very dark sausage containing a large proportion of blood — called also *blood pudding*
blood serum *n* : blood plasma from which the fibrin has been removed
blood-shed \'bləd-ˌshed\ *n* **1** : the shedding of blood **2** : the taking of life : SLAUGHTER
blood-shot \-ˌshät\ *adj, of an eye* : inflamed to redness
blood-stain \-ˌstān\ *n* : a discoloration caused by blood
blood-stained \-ˌstānd\ *adj* **1** : stained with blood **2** : involved with slaughter ⟨a ~ chronicle of war⟩
blood-stock \-ˌstäk\ *n* : horses of Thoroughbred breeding esp. when used for racing
blood-stone \-ˌstōn\ *n* : a green chalcedony sprinkled with red spots resembling blood
blood-stream \-ˌstrēm\ *n* **1** : the flowing blood in a circulatory system **2** : a mainstream of power or vitality ⟨introduce into the economic ~ a large amount of money — *Harper's*⟩
blood-suck-er \-ˌsək-ər\ *n* **1** : an animal that sucks blood; *esp* : LEECH **2** : a person who sponges or preys on another — **blood-suck-ing** \-iŋ\ *adj*
blood sugar *n* : the glucose in the blood; *also* : its concentration (as in milligrams per 100 milliliters)
blood test *n* : a test of the blood; *esp* : a serologic test for syphilis
blood-thirsty \'bləd-ˌthər-stē\ *adj* : eager for or marked by the shedding of blood — **blood-thirst-i-ly** \-stə-lē\ *adj* — **blood-thirst-i-ness** \-stē-nəs\ *n*
blood-type \-ˌtīp\ *vt* : to determine the blood group of
blood vessel *n* : a vessel in which blood circulates in an animal
blood-worm \'bləd-ˌwərm\ *n* **1** : any of various reddish annelid worms often used as bait **2** : the red aquatic larva of some midges
blood-wort \-ˌwərt, -ˌwȯ(ə)rt\ *n* : any of a family (Haemodoraceae, the bloodwort family) of perennial herbs with a deep red coloring matter in the roots
[1]bloody \'bləd-ē\ *adj*, **-blood-i-er; -est** **1 a** : containing or made up of blood **b** : of or contained in the blood **2** : smeared or stained with blood **3** : accompanied by or involving bloodshed; *esp* : marked by great slaughter **4 a** : MURDEROUS **b** : MERCILESS, CRUEL **5** : BLOODRED **6** — used as an intensive; sometimes considered vulgar — **blood-i-ly** \'bləd-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **blood-i-ness** \'bləd-ē-nəs\ *n*
[2]bloody *vt* **blood-ied; bloody-ing** : to make bloody or bloodred
[3]bloody *adv* — used as an intensive; sometimes considered vulgar
Bloody Mary *n, pl* **Bloody Marys** [prob. fr. *Bloody Mary*, appellation of Mary I of England] : a cocktail consisting essentially of vodka and tomato juice
bloody-mind-ed-ness \ˌbləd-ē-'mīn-dəd-nəs\ *n* **1** : willingness to accept violence or bloodshed **2** : CONTRARIETY, CANTANKEROUSNESS — **bloody-minded** *adj*
bloody shirt *n* : a means employed to stir up or revive party or sectional animosity
[1]bloom \'blüm\ *n* [ME *blome* lump of metal, fr. OE *blōma*] **1** : a mass of wrought iron from the forge or puddling furnace **2** : a bar of iron or steel hammered or rolled from an ingot
[2]bloom *n* [ME *blome*, fr. ON *blōm*; akin to OE *blōwan* to blossom — more at BLOW] **1 a** : FLOWER ⟨green leaves with large yellow ~*s*⟩ ⟨the apple trees had a very light ~ this spring⟩ **b** : the flowering state ⟨the roses in ~⟩ **c** : a period of flowering ⟨the spring ~⟩ **d** : an excessive growth of plankton **2** : a state or time of beauty, freshness, and vigor **3** : a surface coating or appearance: as **a** : a delicate powdery coating on some fruits and leaves **b** : a rosy appearance of the cheeks; *broadly* : an outward evidence of freshness or healthy vigor **c** : the grainy or powdery surface of a newly minted coin **d** : a cloudiness on a film of varnish or lacquer **e** : glare caused by an object reflecting too much light into a television camera **4** : BOUQUET 3a
[3]bloom *vi* **1 a** : to produce or yield flowers **b** : to support abundant plant life ⟨make the desert ~⟩ **2 a** : to flourish in youthful beauty, freshness or excellence **b** : to shine out : GLOW **3** : to appear or occur unexpectedly or in surprising quantity or degree **4** : to become densely populated with microorganisms and esp. plankton — used of bodies of water ~ *vt* **1** *obs* : to cause to bloom **2** : to give bloom to
[1]bloom-er \'blü-mər\ *n* **1** : a plant that blooms **2** : a person who reaches full competence or maturity **3** : a stupid blunder
[2]bloo-mer \'blü-mər\ *n* [Amelia *Bloomer* †1894 Am pioneer in feminism] **1** : a costume for women consisting of a short skirt and long loose trousers gathered closely about the ankles **2** *pl* **a** : full loose trousers gathered at the knee formerly worn by women for athletics **b** : underpants of similar design worn chiefly by girls


bloomer 1

bloom-ing \'blü-mən, -miŋ\ *adj* [prob. euphemism for *bloody*] *chiefly Brit* — used as a generalized intensive ⟨~ fool⟩
bloomy \'blü-mē\ *adj* **1** : full of bloom **2** : covered with bloom ⟨~ red plums —Elizabeth Bowen⟩ **3** : showing freshness or vitality ⟨all the ~ flush of life is fled —Oliver Goldsmith⟩
[1]bloop \'blüp\ *vt* [prob. fr. *bloop* (an unpleasing sound)] : to hit (a fly ball) usu. just beyond the infield in baseball ⟨~*ed* a single to center field⟩
[2]bloop *adj, of a baseball* : hit in the air just beyond the infield
bloop-er \'blü-pər\ *n* [*bloop* (an unpleasing sound)] **1** : an embarrassing public blunder **2 a** : a high baseball pitch lobbed to the batter **b** : a fly ball hit barely beyond a baseball infield
[1]blos-som \'bläs-əm\ *n* [ME *blosme*, fr. OE *blōstm*; akin to OE *blōwan*] **1 a** : the flower of a seed plant ⟨apple ~*s*⟩ **b** : the mass of bloom on a single plant; *also* : the state of bearing flowers **2** : a peak period or stage of development — **blos-somy** \-ə-mē\ *adj*
[2]blossom *vi* **1** : BLOOM **2 a** : to come into one's own : DEVELOP ⟨a ~*ing* talent⟩ **b** : to become evident : make an appearance
[1]blot \'blät\ *n* [ME] **1** : a soiling or disfiguring mark : SPOT **2** : a mark of reproach : moral flaw
[2]blot *vb* **blot-ted; blot-ting** *vt* **1** : to spot, stain, or spatter with a discoloring substance **2** : to make obscure : ECLIPSE — usu. used with *out* **3** *obs* : MAR; *esp* : to stain with infamy **4 a** : to dry with an absorbing agent (as blotting paper) **b** : to remove by blotting the surface ~ *vi* **1** : to make a blot **2** : to become marked with a blot — **blot one's copybook** : to do something that detracts from one's record or standing
[3]blot *n* [origin unknown] **1** : a backgammon man exposed to capture **2** *archaic* : a weak or exposed point
[1]blotch \'bläch\ *n* [prob. alter. of *botch*] **1** : IMPERFECTION, BLEMISH **2** : a spot or mark (as of color or ink) esp. when large or irregular — **blotch-i-ly** \'bläch-ə-lē\ — **blotchy** \'bläch-ē\ *adj*
[2]blotch *vt* : to mark or mar with blotches
blot out *vt* **1** : to make insignificant or inconsequential ⟨this one good act *blots out* many bad ones⟩ **2** : to wipe out : DESTROY ⟨one such bomb can *blot out* a city⟩ ***syn*** see ERASE
blot-ter \'blät-ər\ *n* **1** : a piece of blotting paper **2** : a book in which entries (as of transactions or occurrences) are made temporarily pending their transfer to permanent record books ⟨police ~⟩
blotting paper *n* : a soft spongy unsized paper used to absorb ink
[1]blouse \'blaus *also* 'blau̇z; *many say* 'blau̇s *but* 'blau̇-zəz\ *n* [F] **1** : a loose overgarment that resembles a shirt or smock, varies from hip-length to calf-length, and is worn esp. by workmen, artists, and peasants **2** : a usu. loose-fitting garment that covers the body from the neck to the waist and is worn esp. by women
[2]blouse *vb* **bloused; blous-ing** *vi* : to fall in a fold ⟨coats that ~ above the hip⟩ ~ *vt* : to cause to blouse ⟨trousers are *bloused* over the boots⟩
blou-son \'blau̇-ˌsän, 'blü-ˌzän\ *n* [F, fr. *blouse*] : a woman's garment (as a dress or blouse) having a close waistband with blousing of material over it
[1]blow \'blō\ *vb* **blew** \'blü\; **blown** \'blōn\; **blow-ing** [ME *blowen*, fr. OE *blāwan*; akin to OHG *blāen* to blow, L *flare*, Gk *phallos* penis] *vi* **1** *of air* : to move with speed or force **2** : to send forth a current of air or other gas **3 a** : to make a sound by or as if by blowing **b** *of a wind instrument* : SOUND **4 a** : BOAST **b** : to talk windily **5 a** : PANT, GASP ⟨the horse *blew* heavily⟩ **b** *of a cetacean* : to eject moisture-laden air from the lungs through the blowhole **6** : to move or be carried by or as if by wind **7** *of an electric fuse* : to melt when overloaded — usu. used with *out* **8** *of a tire* : to release the contained air through a spontaneous rupture — usu. used with *out* ~ *vt* **1 a** : to set (gas or vapor) in motion **b** : to act on with a current of gas or vapor **2** : to play or sound on (a wind instrument) **3 a** : to spread by report **b** : DAMN, DISREGARD ⟨~ the expense⟩ **4 a** : to drive with a current of gas or vapor **b** : to clear of contents by forcible passage of a current of air **5 a** : to distend with or as if with gas **b** : to produce or shape by the action of blown or injected air ⟨~*ing* bubbles⟩ ⟨~*ing* glass⟩ **6** *of insects* : to deposit eggs or larvae on or in **7** : to shatter, burst, or destroy by explosion **8 a** : to put out of breath with exertion **b** : to let (as a horse) pause to catch the breath **9 a** : to spend (money) recklessly **b** : to treat with unusual expenditure ⟨I'll ~ you to a steak⟩ **10** : to cause (a fuse) to blow **11** : to rupture by too much pressure ⟨*blew* a gasket⟩ **12** : to lose by failing to use an advantage : MUFF ⟨*blew* his chance⟩ **13** : to leave hurriedly ⟨*blew* town⟩ **14** : to propel with great force or speed ⟨*blew* a fast ball by the batter⟩ — **blow hot and cold** : to be favorable at one moment and adverse the next — **blow into** : to appear or arrive at casually or unexpectedly ⟨*blew* into town today⟩

— **blow one's cool** : to lose one's composure — **blow one's top** *or* **blow one's stack** **1** : to become violently angry **2** : to go crazy — **blow the mind of** : to overwhelm with wonder or bafflement — **blow the whistle on** **1** : to bring (something covert) into the open **2** : to inform against

²blow *n* **1** : a blowing of wind esp. when strong or violent **2** : BRAG, BOASTING **3** : an act or instance of blowing **4** **a** : the time during which air is forced through molten metal to refine it **b** : the quantity of metal refined during that time

³blow *vi* **blew** \'blü\; **blown** \'blōn\; **blow·ing** [ME *blowen*, fr. OE *blōwan*; akin to OHG *bluoen* to bloom, L *florēre* to bloom, *flor-*, *flos* flower] : FLOWER, BLOOM

⁴blow *n* **1** : ²BLOOM 1b ⟨lilacs in full ~⟩ **2** : BLOSSOMS ⟨peach ~⟩

⁵blow *n* [ME (northern dial.) *blaw*] **1** : a forcible stroke delivered with a part of the body or with an instrument **2** : a hostile act or state : COMBAT ⟨come to ~s⟩ **3** : a forcible or sudden act or effort : ASSAULT **4** : an unfortunate or calamitous happening ⟨failure to land the job came as a ~⟩

blow-by-blow \-bī-, -bə-\ *adj* : minutely detailed ⟨a ~ account⟩

blow·er \'blō(-ə)r\ *n* **1** : one that blows **2** : BRAGGART **3** : a device for producing a current of air or gas ⟨snow ~⟩

blow·fish \'blō-ˌfish\ *n* : PUFFER 2

blow·fly \-ˌflī\ *n* : any of various two-winged flies (family Calliphoridae) that deposit their eggs or maggots esp. on meat or in wounds; *esp* : a widely distributed bluebottle (*Calliphora vicina*)

blow·gun \-ˌgən\ *n* : a tube through which a projectile (as a dart) may be impelled by the force of the breath

blow·hard \-ˌhärd\ *n* : BRAGGART

blow·hole \-ˌhōl\ *n* **1** : a hole in metal caused by a bubble of gas captured during solidification **2** : a nostril in the top of the head of a whale or other cetacean **3** : a hole in the ice to which aquatic mammals (as seals) come to breathe

blow in *vi* : to arrive casually or unexpectedly

blown \'blōn\ *adj* [ME *blowen*, fr. pp. of *blowen* to blow] **1** : SWOLLEN: *esp* : afflicted with bloat **2** : FLYBLOWN **3** : being out of breath

blow off *vt* : to relieve by vigorous speech or action — **blow off steam** : to release pent-up emotions

blow·out \'blō-ˌau̇t\ *n* **1** : a festive social affair **2** **a** : a bursting of a container (as a tire) by pressure of the contents on a weak spot **b** : a hole made in a container by such bursting **3** : an uncontrolled eruption of an oil or gas well

blow out \(')blō-'au̇t\ *vi* **1** : to become extinguished by a gust **2** : to erupt out of control — used of an oil or gas well ~ *vt* **1** : to extinguish by a gust **2** : to dissipate (itself) by blowing — used of storms

blow over *vi* : to pass away without effect

blow·pipe \'blō-ˌpīp\ *n* **1** : a small tubular instrument for directing a jet of air or other gas into a flame so as to concentrate and increase the heat **2** : a tubular instrument used for revealing or cleaning a bodily cavity by forcing air into it **3** : BLOWGUN **4** : a long metal tube on the end of which a glassmaker gathers a quantity of molten glass and through which he blows to expand and shape it

blow·sy *also* **blow·zy** \'blau̇-zē\ *adj* [E dial. *blowse*, *blowze* (wench)] **1** : being coarse and ruddy of complexion **2** : having a sloppy appearance or aspect : FROWSY

blow·torch \'blō-ˌtȯrch\ *n* : a small burner having a device to intensify combustion by means of a blast of air or oxygen, usu. including a fuel tank pressurized by a hand pump, and used esp. in plumbing

blow·tube \-ˌt(y)üb\ *n* **1** : BLOWGUN **2** : BLOWPIPE 4

blow·up \'blō-ˌəp\ *n* : a blowing up: as **a** : EXPLOSION **b** : an outburst of temper **c** : a photographic enlargement

blow up \(')blō-'əp\ *vt* **1** : to rend apart, shatter, or destroy by explosion **2** : to build up or tout to an unreasonable extent ⟨advertisers *blowing up* their products⟩ **3** : to bring into existence by blowing of wind ⟨it may *blow up* a storm⟩ **4** : to fill up with a gas and esp. air ⟨*blow up* a balloon⟩ **5** : to make a photographic enlargement of ~ *vi* **1** **a** : EXPLODE **b** : to be disrupted or destroyed (as by explosion) **c** : to lose self-control; *esp* : to become violently angry **2** **a** : to become filled with a gas and esp. air **b** : to become expanded to unreasonable proportions **3** : to become or come into being by or as if by blowing of wind

blowy \'blō-ē\ *adj* **1** : WINDY ⟨a ~ March day⟩ **2** : readily blown about ⟨~ desert sand⟩

BLS *abbr* **1** bachelor of liberal studies **2** bachelor of library science **3** Bureau of Labor Statistics

BLT *n* : a bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwich

¹blub·ber \'bləb-ər\ *n* [ME *bluber* bubble, foam, prob. of imit. origin] **1** **a** : the fat of whales and other large marine mammals **b** : excessive fat on the body **2** : the action of blubbering

²blubber *vb* **blub·bered; blub·ber·ing** \'bləb-(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *blubren* to make a bubbling sound, fr. *bluber*] *vi* : to weep noisily ~ *vt* **1** : to swell, distort, or wet with weeping **2** : to utter while weeping

³blubber *adj* : puffed out : THICK ⟨~ lips⟩

¹blub·bery \'bləb-(ə-)rē\ *adj* : ³BLUBBER

²blubbery *adj* : having or characterized by blubber

blu·cher \'blü-chər *also* -kər\ *n* [G. L. von *Blücher*] : a shoe having the tongue and vamp cut in one piece and the quarters lapped over the vamp and laced together for closing

¹blud·geon \'bləj-ən\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : a short stick that usu. has one thick or loaded end and is used as a weapon **2** : something used to attack or bully ⟨the ~ of satire⟩

²bludgeon *vt* **1** : to hit with heavy impact **2** : to overcome by aggressive argument

¹blue \'blü\ *adj* **blu·er; blu·est** [ME, fr. OF *blou*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *blāo* blue; akin to L *flavus* yellow, OE *bǣl* fire — more at BALD] **1** : of the color blue **2** **a** : BLUISH **b** : LIVID ⟨~ with cold⟩ **c** : bluish gray ⟨~ cat⟩ **3** **a** : low in spirits : MELANCHOLY **b** : marked by low spirits : DEPRESSING ⟨a ~ funk⟩ ⟨things looked ~⟩ **4** : wearing blue **5** *of a woman* : LEARNED, INTELLECTUAL **6** : PURITANICAL **7** **a** : PROFANE, INDECENT ⟨~ language⟩ **b** : OFF-COLOR, RISQUÉ ⟨~ jokes⟩ **8** : of or relating to blues singing ⟨a ~ song⟩ — **blue in the face** : extremely exasperated — **blue·ly** *adv* — **blue·ness** *n*

²blue *n* **1** : a color whose hue is that of the clear sky or that of the portion of the color spectrum lying between green and violet **2** **a** : a pigment or dye that colors blue **b** : BLUING **3** **a** : blue clothing or cloth **b** *pl* : a blue costume or uniform **4** : one who wears a blue uniform: as **a** : a soldier in the Union army during the American Civil War **b** : the Union army **5** **a** (1) : SKY (2) : the far distance **b** : SEA **6** : a blue object **7** : BLUESTOCKING **8** : any of numerous small chiefly blue butterflies (family Lycaenidae) **9** : BLUEFISH — **out of the blue** : without advance notice : UNEXPECTEDLY ⟨a job offer that came *out of the blue*⟩

³blue *vb* **blued; blue·ing** *or* **blu·ing** *vt* : to make blue ~ *vi* : to turn blue

blue baby *n* : an infant with a bluish tint usu. from a congenital defect of the heart in which mingling of venous and arterial blood occurs

blue·beard \'blü-ˌbi(ə)rd\ *n* [*Bluebeard*, a fairy-tale character] : a man who marries and kills one wife after another

blue·bell \-ˌbel\ *n* **1** : any of various bellflowers; *esp* : HAREBELL 1 **2** : any of various plants bearing blue bell-shaped flowers: as **a** : the European wood hyacinth or grape hyacinth **b** : a low tufted New Zealand plant (*Wahlenbergia gracilis*, family Campanulaceae) **3** : a blue-flowered columbine

blue·ber·ry \'blü-ˌber-ē, -b(ə-)rē\ *n* : the edible blue or blackish berry of any of several plants (genus *Vaccinium*) of the heath family; *also* : a low or tall shrub producing these berries

blue·bird \-ˌbərd\ *n* : any of several small No. American songbirds (genus *Sialia*) related to the robin but more or less blue above

blue–black \-'blak\ *adj* : being of a dark bluish hue

blue blood *n* **1** \'blü-'bləd\ : membership in a noble or socially prominent family **2** \-ˌbləd\ : a member of a noble or socially prominent family — **blue–blood·ed** \-'bləd-əd\ *adj*

blue·bon·net \'blü-ˌbän-ət\ *n* **1** **a** : a wide flat round cap of blue wool formerly worn in Scotland **b** : one that wears such a cap; *specif* : SCOT **2** : a low-growing annual lupine of Texas with silky foliage and blue flowers usu. classified as a single variable species (*Lupinus subcarnosus*)

blue book *n* **1** : a book of specialized information often published under government auspices **2** : a register esp. of socially prominent persons **3** : a blue-covered booklet used for writing examinations

blue·bot·tle \'blü-ˌbät-ᵊl\ *n* **1** **a** : BACHELOR'S BUTTON **b** : GRAPE HYACINTH **2** : any of several blowflies that have the abdomen or the whole body iridescent blue in color and that make a loud buzzing noise in flight

blue cat *n* : a large bluish catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) of the Mississippi valley that may exceed 100 pounds in weight

blue cheese *n* : cheese ripened by and marked with veins of greenish blue mold

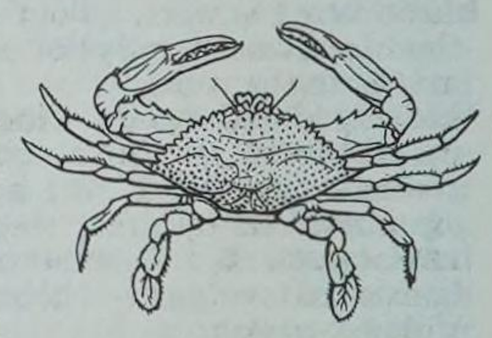
blue chip *n* **1** **a** : a stock issue of high investment quality that usu. pertains to a substantial well-established company and enjoys public confidence in its worth and stability **b** : a consistently successful and profitable venture or enterprise **2** : an outstandingly worthwhile or valuable property or asset — **blue–chip** *adj*

blue·coat \'blü-ˌkōt\ *n* : one that wears a blue coat: as **a** : a Union soldier during the Civil War **b** : POLICEMAN

blue cohosh *n* : a perennial herb (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*) of the barberry family that has greenish yellow or purplish flowers and large blue fruits like berries

blue–col·lar \'blü-'käl-ər\ *adj* : of, relating to, or constituting the class of wage earners whose duties call for the wearing of work clothes or protective clothing — compare WHITE-COLLAR

blue crab *n* : any of several largely blue swimming crabs; *esp* : an edible crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts



blue crab

blue curls *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : a mint (genus *Trichostema*) with irregular blue flowers

blue devils *n pl* : low spirits : DESPONDENCY

blue–eyed grass \ˌblü-ˌīd-\ *n* : a plant (genus *Sisyrinchium*) of the iris family with grasslike foliage and delicate blue flowers

blue·fin \'blü-ˌfin\ *n* : a very large tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*)

blue·fish \-ˌfish\ *n* **1** : an active voracious fish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) related to the pompanos that is bluish above and silvery below **2** : any of various dark or bluish fishes (as the pollack)

blue flag *n* : a blue-flowered iris; *esp* : a common iris (*Iris versicolor*) of the eastern U.S. with a root formerly used medicinally

blue·gill \'blü-ˌgil\ *n* : a common sunfish (*Lepomis machrochirus*) of the eastern and central U.S. sought for food and sport

blue·grass \-ˌgras\ *n* **1** : any of several grasses (genus *Poa*) of which some have bluish green culms; *esp* : KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS **2** [fr. the *Blue Grass Boys*, performing group, fr. *Bluegrass state*, nickname of Kentucky] : country music played at a rapid tempo on unamplified stringed instruments (as banjos, guitars, and fiddles) and usu. characterized by free improvisation

blue–green alga \ˌblü-ˌgrēn-\ *n* : any of a class (Myxophyceae) of algae having the chlorophyll masked by bluish green pigments

blue gum *n* : any of several Australian timber trees (genus *Eucalyptus*)

blue heron *n* : any of various herons with bluish or slaty plumage; *esp* : GREAT BLUE HERON

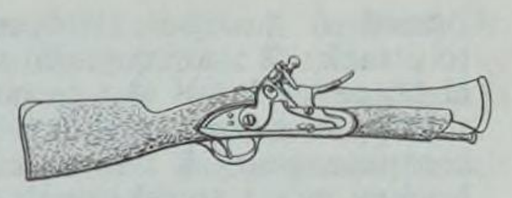
blue·jack \'blü-ˌjak\ *n* [*blue* + *jack* (as in *blackjack*)] : an oak (*Quercus cinerea*) of the southern U.S. with entire leaves and small acorns

blue·jack·et \-ˌjak-ət\ *n* : an enlisted man in the navy : SAILOR

blue jay \-ˌjā\ *n* : JAY 1b

blue jeans *n pl* : pants usu. made of blue denim

blue law *n* **1** : one of numerous extremely rigorous laws designed to regulate morals and conduct in colonial New England **2** : a statute regulating work, commerce, and amusements on Sundays
blue line *n* : either of two blue lines that divide an ice-hockey rink into three equal zones and that separate the offensive and defensive zones from the center-ice neutral zone
blue mold *n* **1** : a fungus (genus *Penicillium*) that produces blue or blue-green surface growths **2** : a disease of tobacco seedlings caused by a fungus (*Peronospora tabacina*) and characterized by yellowish spots and bluish gray mildew on the underside of the leaves
blue moon *n* : a very long period of time ⟨once in a *blue moon*⟩
blue·nose \'blü-ˌnōz\ *n* : one who advocates a rigorous moral code
blue note *n* [fr. its frequent use in blues music] : a flatted third or seventh note in a chord where a major interval would be expected
blue–pen·cil \'blü-'pen(t)-səl\ *vt* : to edit by corrective change or deletion — **blue pen·cil·ler** *n*
blue pe·ter \-'pēt-ər\ *n* : a blue signal flag with a white square in the center used to indicate that a merchant vessel is ready to sail
blue pike *n* : PIKE PERCH; *esp* : WALLEYE
blue plate *adj* : being a main course (as of a meat with vegetables) offered typically at a special price in a restaurant ⟨*blue plate* luncheon⟩
blue·point \'blü-ˌpȯint\ *n* [*Blue Point*, Long Island] : a small oyster typically from the south shore of Long Island
blue point \-ˌpȯint\ *n* : a Siamese cat having a bluish cream body and dark gray points
blue·print \-ˌprint\ *n* **1** : a photographic print in white on a bright blue ground used esp. for copying maps, mechanical drawings, and architects' plans **2** : a program of action ⟨a ~ for victory⟩ — **blueprint** *vt*
blue racer *n* : a blacksnake of a bluish green subspecies (*Coluber constrictor flaviventris*) occurring from Ohio to Texas
blue–ribbon *adj* : selected for quality, reputation, or authority ⟨a ~ committee⟩
blue ribbon *n* **1** : a blue ribbon awarded the first-place winner in a competition **2** : an honor or award gained for preeminence
blue–ribbon jury *n* : SPECIAL JURY
blues \'blüz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1** : low spirits : MELANCHOLY **2** : a song often of lamentation characterized by usu. 12-bar phrases, 3-line stanzas in which the words of the second line usu. repeat those of the first, and continual occurrence of blue notes in melody and harmony
blue–sky \'blü-'skī\ *adj* **1** : having little or no value ⟨~ stock⟩ **2** : having no practical application ⟨~ thinking⟩
blue–sky law *n* : a law providing for the regulation of the sale of securities (as stock)
blues·man \'blüz-mən\ *n* : one who plays or sings the blues
blue·stem \'blü-ˌstem\ *n* **1** : an important hay and forage grass (*Andropogon furcatus*) of the western U.S. with smooth bluish leaf sheaths and slender spikes borne in pairs or clusters **2** : LITTLE BLUESTEM
blue·stock·ing \-ˌstäk-iŋ\ *n* [*Bluestocking* society, 18th cent. literary clubs] : a woman having intellectual or literary interests
blue·stone \-ˌstōn\ *n* : a building or paving stone of bluish gray color; *specif* : a sandstone quarried near the Hudson river
blue streak *n* **1** : something that moves very fast **2** : a constant stream of words ⟨talked a *blue streak*⟩
bluesy \'blü-zē\ *adj* : characterized by the musical patterns of the blues
blu·et \'blü-ət\ *n* [prob. fr. ¹*blue*] : an American plant (*Houstonia caerulea*) of the madder family with bluish flowers and tufted stems
blue·tongue \'blü-ˌtəŋ\ *n* : a serious virus disease esp. of sheep characterized by hyperemia, cyanosis, and punctate hemorrhages and by swelling and sloughing of the epithelium esp. about the mouth and tongue
blue vitriol *n* : a hydrated copper sulfate $CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$
blue·weed \'blü-ˌwēd\ *n* **1** : a coarse prickly blue-flowered European weed (*Echium vulgare*) of the borage family naturalized in the U.S. **2** : a small perennial (*Helianthus ciliaris*) of the southwestern U.S. with blue-green or gray-green foliage
bluey \'blü-ē\ *n* [fr. the blue blanket commonly used to wrap the bundle] *Austral* : a swagman's bundle of personal effects; *broadly* : a bag of clothing carried in travel
¹bluff \'bləf\ *adj* [obs. D *blaf* flat; akin to MLG *blaff* smooth] **1 a** : having a broad flattened front **b** : rising steeply with a broad flat or rounded front **2** : good-naturedly frank and outspoken — **bluff·ly** *adv* — **bluff·ness** *n*
syn BLUFF, BLUNT, BRUSQUE, CURT, CRUSTY, GRUFF *shared meaning element* : abrupt and unceremonious in manner or speech ***ant*** smooth, suave
²bluff *n* : a high steep bank : CLIFF
³bluff *vb* [prob. fr. D *bluffen* to boast, play a kind of card game] *vt* **1** : to deceive (an opponent) in cards by a bold bet on an inferior hand with the result that the opponent withdraws a winning hand **2 a** : to deter or frighten by pretense or a mere show of strength **b** : DECEIVE **c** : FEIGN ~ *vi* : to bluff someone — **bluff·er** *n*
⁴bluff *n* **1 a** : an act or instance of bluffing **b** : the practice of bluffing **2** : one who bluffs
blu·ing *or* **blue·ing** \'blü-iŋ\ *n* : a preparation used in laundering to counteract yellowing of white fabrics
blu·ish \'blü-ish\ *adj* : somewhat blue : having a tinge of blue — **blu·ish·ness** *n*
¹blun·der \'blən-dər\ *vb* **blun·dered; blun·der·ing** \-d(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *blundren*] *vi* **1** : to move unsteadily or confusedly **2** : to make a mistake through stupidity, ignorance, or carelessness ~ *vt* **1** : to utter stupidly, confusedly, or thoughtlessly **2** : to make a stupid, careless, or thoughtless mistake in — **blun·der·er** \-dər-ər\ *n* — **blun·der·ing·ly** \-d(ə-)riŋ-lē\ *adv*
²blunder *n* : a gross error or mistake resulting usu. from stupidity, ignorance, or carelessness ***syn*** see ERROR
blun·der·buss \'blən-dər-ˌbəs\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. obs. D *donderbus*, fr. D *donder* thunder + obs. D *bus* gun] **1** : an obsolete short firearm having a large bore and usu. a flaring muzzle **2** : a blundering person


blunderbuss 1

¹blunt \'blənt\ *adj* [ME] **1 a** : slow or deficient in feeling : INSENSITIVE **b** : obtuse in understanding or discernment : DULL **2** : having an edge or point that is not sharp **3 a** : abrupt in speech or manner **b** : being straight to the point : DIRECT ***syn*** **1** see DULL ***ant*** keen, sharp **2** see BLUFF ***ant*** tactful, subtle — **blunt·ly** *adv* — **blunt·ness** *n*
²blunt *vt* : to make less sharp or definite ~ *vi* : to become blunt
¹blur \'blər\ *n* [perh. akin to ME *bleren* to blear] **1** : a smear or stain that obscures **2** : something that is vague or lacking definite outline or distinct character
²blur *vb* **blurred; blur·ring** *vt* **1** : to obscure or blemish by smearing **2** : SULLY **3** : to make dim, indistinct, or vague in outline or character **4** : to make cloudy or confused ~ *vi* **1** : to make blurs **2** : to become vague, indistinct, or indefinite — **blur·ring·ly** \'blər-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
blurb \'blərb\ *n* [coined by Gelett Burgess] : a short publicity notice (as on a book jacket)
blur·ry \'blər-ē\ *adj* **blur·ri·er; -est** : marked by blurring — **blur·ri·ly** \'blər-ə-lē\ *adv* — **blur·ri·ness** \'blər-ē-nəs\ *n*
blurt \'blərt\ *vt* [prob. imit.] : to utter abruptly and impulsively — usu. used with *out* — **blurt·er** *n*
¹blush \'bləsh\ *vi* [ME *blusshen*, fr. OE *blyscan* to redden, fr. *blȳsa* flame; akin to OHG *bluhhen* to burn brightly] **1** : to become red in the face esp. from shame, modesty, or confusion **2** : to feel shame or embarrassment **3** : to have a rosy or fresh color : BLOOM — **blush·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
²blush *n* [ME, prob. fr. *blusshen*] **1** : APPEARANCE, VIEW ⟨at first ~⟩ **2** : a reddening of the face esp. from shame, modesty, or confusion **3** : a red or rosy tint — **blush·ful** \-fəl\ *adj*
blush·er \'bləsh-ər\ *n* **1** : one that blushes **2** : a cosmetic applied to the face to give a usu. pink color or to accent the cheekbones
¹blus·ter \'bləs-tər\ *vb* **blus·tered; blus·ter·ing** \-t(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *blustren*, prob. fr. MLG *blüsteren*] *vi* **1 a** : to blow in stormy noisy gusts **b** : to be windy and boisterous **2** : to talk or act with noisy swaggering threats ~ *vt* **1** : to utter with noisy self-assertiveness **2** : to drive or force by blustering — **blus·ter·er** \-tər-ər\ *n* — **blus·ter·ing·ly** \-t(ə-)riŋ-lē\ *adv*
²bluster *n* **1** : a violent boisterous blowing **2** : violent commotion **3** : loudly boastful or threatening speech — **blus·ter·ous** \-t(ə-)rəs\ *adj* — **blus·tery** \-t(ə-)rē\ *adj*
blvd *abbr* boulevard
bm *abbr* beam
BM *abbr* **1** bachelor of medicine **2** bachelor of music **3** basal metabolism **4** bill of material **5** board measure **6** bowel movement **7** bronze medal
BME *abbr* **1** bachelor of mechanical engineering **2** bachelor of mining engineering **3** bachelor of music education
BMOC *abbr* big man on campus
BMR *abbr* basal metabolic rate
BMS *abbr* bachelor of marine science
BMT *abbr* bachelor of medical technology
bn *abbr* **1** baron **2** battalion **3** beacon **4** been
BN *abbr* **1** bachelor of nursing **2** bank note **3** Bureau of Narcotics
BNDD *abbr* Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs
BNS *abbr* bachelor of naval sciences
BO *abbr* **1** bad order **2** body odor **3** box office **4** branch office **5** buyer's option
boa \'bō-ə\ *n* [L, a water snake] **1** : a large snake (as the boa constrictor, anaconda, or python) that crushes its prey **2** : a long fluffy scarf of fur, feathers, or delicate fabric
boa constrictor *n* : a tropical American boa (*Constrictor constrictor*) that is light brown barred or mottled with darker brown and reaches a length of 10 feet or more; *broadly* : BOA 1
boar \'bō(ə)r, 'bȯ(ə)r\ *n* [ME *bor*, fr. OE *bār*; akin to OHG & OS *bēr* boar] **1 a** : an uncastrated male swine **b** : the male of any of several mammals (as a guinea pig or raccoon) **2** : the Old World wild hog (*Sus scrofa*) from which most domestic swine derive — **boar·ish** \-ish\ *adj*
¹board \'bō(ə)rd, 'bȯ(ə)rd\ *n* [ME *bord* piece of sawed lumber, border, ship's side, fr. OE; akin to OHG *bort* ship's side, Skt *bardhaka* carpenter] **1** *obs* : BORDER, EDGE **2 a** : the side of a ship **b** : the stretch that a ship makes on one tack in beating to windward **3 a** : a piece of sawed lumber of little thickness and a length greatly exceeding its width **b** *pl* : STAGE 2a(2) **4 a** *archaic* : TABLE 3a **b** : a table spread with a meal **c** : daily meals esp. when furnished for pay **d** : a table at which a council or magistrates sit **e** : a group of persons having managerial, supervisory, or investigatory powers ⟨~ of directors⟩ ⟨~ of examiners⟩ **f** : LEAGUE, ASSOCIATION **g** (1) : the exposed hands of all the players in a stud poker game (2) : an exposed dummy hand in bridge **5 a** : a flat usu. rectangular piece of material (as wood) designed for a special purpose: as (1) : BACKBOARD (2) : a diving board (3) : SURFBOARD **b** : a surface, frame, or device for posting notices or listing market quotations **c** : BLACKBOARD **d** : SWITCHBOARD **6 a** : any of various wood pulps or composition materials formed into stiff flat rectangular sheets **b** : PAPERBOARD **c** : the stiff foundation piece for the side of a book cover **7** : a securities or commodities exchange **8** *pl* : the low wooden wall enclosing a hockey rink — **board·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj* — **on board** : ABOARD

²board *vt* **1** *archaic* : to come up against or alongside (a ship) usu. to attack **2** : ACCOST, ADDRESS **3** : to go aboard (as a ship, train, airplane, or bus) **4** : to cover with boards ⟨~ up a window⟩ **5** : to provide with regular meals and often also lodging usu. for compensation **6** : to check (a player) against the rink boards in hockey ~ *vi* : to take one's meals usu. as a paying customer

board check *n* : a body check of an opposing player against the rink boards in ice hockey

board·er \'bōrd-ər, 'bȯrd-\ *n* : one that boards; *esp* : one that is provided with regular meals or regular meals and lodging

board foot *n* : a unit of quantity for lumber equal to the volume of a board 12 x 12 x 1 inches — abbr. *bd ft*

board game *n* : a game of strategy (as checkers, chess, or backgammon) played by moving pieces on a board

board·ing·house \'bōrd-iŋ-ˌhaùs, 'bȯrd-\ *n* : a lodging house at which meals are provided

boarding school *n* : a school at which meals and lodging are provided

board·man \'bō(ə)rd-mən, 'bȯ(ə)rd-, *esp for 2* -ˌman\ *n* **1** : one who works at a board **2** : a member of a board — **board·man·ship** *or* **boards·man·ship** \'bōrd(z)-mən-ˌship, 'bȯrd(z)-\ *n*

board measure *n* : measurement in board feet

board of education : SCHOOL BOARD

board of trade **1** *cap B&T* : a British governmental department concerned with commerce and industry **2** : an organization of businessmen for the protection and promotion of business interests **3** : a commodities exchange

board·room \'bō(ə)rd-ˌrüm, 'bȯ(ə)rd-, -ˌrùm\ *n* **1** : a room that is designated for meetings of a board **2** : a room (as in a broker's office) containing a board for the listing of transactions or prices

board·walk \'bō(ə)rd-ˌwȯk, 'bȯ(ə)rd-\ *n* **1** : a walk constructed of planking **2** : a walk constructed along a beach

boart \'bō(ə)rt, 'bȯ(ə)rt\ *var of* BORT

¹boast \'bōst\ *n* [ME *boost*] **1** : the act or an instance of boasting : BRAG **2** : a cause for pride — **boast·ful** \'bōst-fəl\ *adj* — **boast·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **boast·ful·ness** *n*

²boast *vi* **1** : to puff oneself up in speech : speak vaingloriously **2** *archaic* : GLORY, EXULT ~ *vt* **1** : to speak of or assert with excessive pride **2 a** : to possess and often call attention to (something that is a source of pride) ⟨their home ~*s* all the newest conveniences⟩ **b** : HAVE, CONTAIN ⟨a miserable roòm ~*ing* no more than a wobbly desk and a single chair⟩

syn BOAST, BRAG, VAUNT, CROW *shared meaning element* : to express pride in oneself or one's accomplishments. BOAST often suggests ostentation and exaggeration ⟨ready to *boast* of every trivial success⟩ but it may imply a claiming with proper and justifiable pride ⟨the town *boasts* one of the best hospitals in the area⟩ BRAG suggests crudity and artlessness in glorifying oneself ⟨boys *bragging* to each other⟩ VAUNT usually connotes more pomp and bombast than *boast* and less crudity or naiveté than *brag* ⟨charity *vaunteth* not itself, is not puffed up —1 Cor 13:4(AV)⟩ CROW usually implies exultant boasting or bragging ⟨loved to ~ about his ancestors⟩ ***ant*** depreciate (*as oneself*)

³boast *vt* [origin unknown] : to shape (stone) roughly with a broad chisel in sculpture and stonecutting as a preliminary to finer work

¹boat \'bōt\ *n* [ME *boot*, fr. OE *bāt;* akin to ON *beit* boat] **1** : a small vessel propelled by oars or paddles or by sail or power **2** : SHIP **3** : a boat-shaped utensil or device ⟨a gravy ~⟩ — **in the same boat** : in the same situation or predicament

²boat *vt* : to place in or bring into a boat ⟨catch and ~ a fish⟩ ~ *vi* : to go by boat

boa·tel \bō-'tel\ *n* [blend of *boat* and *hotel*] : a waterside hotel having docks to accommodate persons traveling by boat

boat·er \'bōt-ər\ *n* **1** : one who travels in a boat **2** : a stiff straw hat

boat hook *n* : a pole-handled hook with a point or knob on the back used esp. to pull or push a boat, raft, or log into place

boat·man \'bōt-mən\ *n* : a man who works on, deals in, or operates boats — **boat·man·ship** \-ˌship\ *or* **boats·man·ship** \'bōts-\ *n*

boat·swain \'bōs-ᵊn\ *n* [ME *bootswein*, fr. *boot* boat + *swein* boy, servant] **1** : a petty officer on a merchant ship having charge of hull maintenance and related work **2** : a naval warrant officer in charge of the hull and all related equipment

boat train *n* : an express train for transporting passengers between a port and a city

¹bob \'bäb\ *vb* **bobbed; bob·bing** [ME *boben*] *vt* **1** : to strike with a quick light blow : RAP **2** : to move up and down in a short quick movement ⟨~ the head⟩ **3** : to polish with a bob : BUFF ~ *vi* **1 a** : to move up and down briefly or repeatedly ⟨a cork *bobbed* in the water⟩ **b** : to emerge, arise, or appear suddenly or unexpectedly ⟨the question *bobbed* up again⟩ **2** : to nod or curtsy briefly **3** : to try to seize a suspended or floating object with the teeth ⟨~ for apples⟩

²bob *n* **1 a** : a short quick down-and-up motion **b** *Scot* : any of several folk dances **2** *obs* : a blow or tap esp. with the fist **3 a** : a modification of the order in change ringing **b** : a method of change ringing using a bob **4** : a small polishing wheel of solid felt or leather with rounded edges

³bob *vt* **bobbed; bob·bing** [ME *bobben*, fr. MF *bober*] **1** *obs* : DECEIVE, CHEAT **2** *obs* : to take by fraud : FILCH

⁴bob *n* [ME *bobbe*] **1 a** (1) : BUNCH, CLUSTER (2) *Scot* : NOSEGAY **b** : a knob, knot, twist, or curl esp. of ribbons, yarn, or hair **c** : a short haircut on a woman or child **2** : FLOAT 2a **3** : a hanging ball or weight (as on a plumb line or on the tail of a kite) **4** *archaic* : the refrain of a song; *specif* : a short and abrupt refrain often of two syllables **5** : a small insignificant piece : TRIFLE ⟨~*s* and trinkets⟩

⁵bob *vt* **bobbed; bob·bing** **1** : to cut shorter : CROP ⟨~ a horse's tail⟩ **2** : to cut (hair) in the style of a bob

⁶bob *n, pl* **bob** [perh. fr. the name *Bob*] *Brit* : SHILLING

⁷bob *n* **1** : BOBSLED **2** : SKIBOB

bob·ber \'bäb-ər\ *n* **1** : one that bobs **2** : one who rides or races on a bobsled

bob·bery \'bäb-ə-rē\ *n, pl* **-ber·ies** [Hindi *bāp re*, lit., oh father!] : HUBBUB

bob·bin \'bäb-ən\ *n* [origin unknown] **1 a** : any of various small round devices on which threads are wound for working handmade lace **b** : a cylinder or spindle on which yarn or thread is wound (as in a sewing machine) **c** : a coil of insulated wire or the reel it is wound on **2** : a narrow cotton cord formerly used by dressmakers for piping

bob·bi·net \'bäb-ə-ˌnet\ *n* [blend of *bobbin* and *net*] : a machine-made net of cotton, silk, or nylon usu. with hexagonal mesh

¹bob·ble \'bäb-əl\ *vb* **bob·bled; bob·bling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [freq. of ¹*bob*] **1** : ¹BOB **2** : FUMBLE

²bobble *n* **1** : a repeated bobbing movement **2** : a small ball of fabric; *esp* : one in a series used on an edging ⟨curtains . . . with plush ~*s* —H. E. Bates⟩ **3** : ERROR, MISTAKE; *esp* : a fumble in baseball or football

bob·by \'bäb-ē\ *n, pl* **bobbies** [*Bobby*, nickname for *Robert*, after Sir *Robert* Peel, who organized the London police force] *Brit* : POLICEMAN

bob·by pin \'bäb-ē-\ *n* [⁴*bob*] : a flat wire hairpin with prongs that press close together

bob·by socks *or* **bobby sox** \'bäb-ē-\ *n pl* [fr. the name *Bobby*] : girls' socks reaching above the ankle

bob·by–sox·er \-ˌsäk-sər\ *n* : an adolescent girl

bob·cat \'bäb-ˌkat\ *n* [⁴*bob;* fr. the stubby tail] : a common No. American lynx (*Lynx rufus*) typically rusty or reddish in base color



bobcat

bo·beche \bō-'besh, -'bāsh\ *n* [F *bobèche*] : a usu. glass collar on a candle socket to catch drippings or on a candlestick or chandelier to hold suspended glass prisms

bob·o·link \'bäb-ə-ˌliŋk\ *n* [imit.] : an American migratory songbird (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

bob·sled \'bäb-ˌsled\ *n* [perh. fr. ⁴*bob*] **1** : a short sled usu. used as one of a pair joined by a coupling **2** : a large usu. metal sled used in racing and equipped with two pairs of runners in tandem, a long seat for two or more people, a steering wheel, and a hand brake — **bobsled** *vi* — **bob·sled·der** *n*

bob·sled·ding \-ˌsled-iŋ\ *n* : the act, skill, or sport of riding or racing on a bobsled

bob·stay \'bäb-ˌstā\ *n* [prob. fr. ²*bob*] : a stay to hold a ship's bowsprit down

bob·tail \'bäb-ˌtāl\ *n* [⁴*bob*] **1 a** : a bobbed tail **b** : a horse or dog with a bobbed tail; *esp* : OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOG **2** : something curtailed or abbreviated — **bobtail** *or* **bob·tailed** \-ˌtāld\ *adj*

bob veal \'bäb-\ *n* [E dial. *bob* young calf] : the veal of a very young or unborn calf

bob·white \(')bäb-'(h)wīt\ *n* [imit.] : any of a genus (*Colinus*) of quail; *esp* : a favorite game bird (*C. virginianus*) of the eastern and central U.S. — called also *partridge*

bo·cac·cio \bə-'käch-(ē-ˌ)ō\ *n* [perh. deriv. of Sp *bocacha*, aug. of *boca* mouth] : a large rockfish (*Sebastes paucispinis*) of the Pacific coast locally important as a market fish

boc·cie *or* **boc·ci** *or* **boc·ce** \'bäch-ē\ *n* [It *bocce*, pl. of *boccia* ball, fr. (assumed) VL *bottia* boss] : a game of Italian origin similar to lawn bowling played on a long narrow usu. dirt court

bock \'bäk\ *n* [G, short for *bockbier*, by shortening & alter. fr. *Einbecker bier*, lit., beer from Einbeck, fr. *Einbeck*, Germany] : a heavy dark rich beer usu. sold in the early spring

bod \'bäd\ *n* : BODY

BOD *abbr* biochemical oxygen demand; biological oxygen demand

bo·da·cious \bō-'dā-shəs\ *adj* [back-formation fr. earlier *bodaciously* (thoroughly), alter. of earlier *bodyaciously*, perh. fr. *body* + *-aciously* (as in *graciously*)] **1** *South & Midland* : OUTRIGHT, UNMISTAKABLE **2** *South & Midland* : REMARKABLE, NOTEWORTHY ⟨I got some ~ gossip —Fred Lasswell⟩ — **bo·da·cious·ly** *adv*

¹bode \'bōd\ *vt* **bod·ed; bod·ing** [ME *boden*, fr. OE *bodian;* akin to OE *bēodan* to proclaim — more at BID] **1** *archaic* : to announce beforehand : FORETELL **2** : to indicate by signs : PRESAGE ⟨this controversy . . . will ~ ill for both of us —A. H. Lowe⟩

²bode *past of* BIDE

bo·de·ga \bō-'dā-gə\ *n* [Sp, fr. L *apotheca* storehouse — more at APOTHECARY] **1** : a storehouse for wine **2 a** : WINESHOP **b** : a combined wineshop and grocery store **c** : ¹BAR 5

bode·ment \'bōd-mənt\ *n* **1** : OMEN, FOREBODING **2** : PREDICTION, PROPHECY

bo·dhi·satt·va *or* **bod·dhi·satt·va** \ˌbōd-i-'sət-və\ *n* [Skt *bodhisattva* one whose essence is enlightenment, fr. *bodhi* enlightenment + *sattva* being] : a being that compassionately refrains from entering nirvana in order to save others and is worshiped as a deity in Mahayana Buddhism

bod·ice \'bäd-əs\ *n* [alter. of *bodies*, pl. of ¹*body*] **1** *archaic* : CORSET, STAYS **2** : the upper part of a woman's dress

-bodied \'bäd-ēd\ *adj comb form* : having a body of a specified nature ⟨full-*bodied*⟩ ⟨glass-*bodied*⟩

bodi·less \'bäd-i-ləs, 'bäd-ᵊl-əs\ *adj* : having no body : INCORPOREAL

¹bodi·ly \'bäd-ᵊl-ē\ *adj* **1** : having a body : PHYSICAL **2** : of or relating to the body ⟨~ comfort⟩ ⟨~ organs⟩

syn BODILY, PHYSICAL, CORPOREAL, CORPORAL, SOMATIC *shared meaning element* : of or relating to the human body

²bodily *adv* **1** : in the flesh **2** : as a whole : ALTOGETHER

bod·ing \'bōd-iŋ\ *n* : FOREBODING

bod·kin \'bäd-kən\ *n* [ME] **1 a** : DAGGER, STILETTO **b** : a sharp slender instrument for making holes in cloth **c** : an ornamental hairpin shaped like a stiletto **2** : a blunt needle with a large eye for drawing tape or ribbon through a loop or hem

¹body \'bäd-ē\ *n, pl* **bod·ies** [ME, fr. OE *bodig;* akin to OHG *botah* body] **1 a** : the organized physical substance of an animal or plant either living or dead: as (1) : the material part or nature of man (2) : the dead organism : CORPSE (3) : the person of a human being before the law **b** : a human being : PERSON **2 a** : the

main part of a plant or animal body esp. as distinguished from limbs and head : TRUNK **b** : the main, central, or principal part: as (1) : the nave of a church (2) : the bed or box of a vehicle on or in which the load is placed **3 a** : the part of a garment covering the body or trunk **b** : the main part of a literary or journalistic work : TEXT 2b **c** : the sound box or pipe of a musical instrument **4 a** : a mass of matter distinct from other masses ⟨a ~ of water⟩ **b** : one of the seven planets of the old astronomy **c** : something that embodies or gives concrete reality to a thing; *specif* : a sensible object in physical space **5** : a group of persons or things: as **a** : a fighting unit : FORCE **b** : a group of individuals organized for some purpose : CORPORATION ⟨a legislative ~⟩ **6 a** : VISCOSITY, CONSISTENCY — used esp. of oils and grease **b** : compactness or firmness of texture **c** : fullness or resonance of a musical tone **d** : richness of flavor — used of a beverage (as wine) **7** : the part of a printing type extending from foot to shoulder and underlying the bevel — see TYPE illustration

²body *vt* **bod·ied; body·ing** **1 a** : to give form or shape to : EMBODY **b** : REPRESENT, SYMBOLIZE — usu. used with *forth* **2** : to increase the viscosity of (an oil)

body cavity *n* : a cavity within an animal body; *specif* : COELOM

body check *n* : a blocking of an opposing player with the body (as in ice hockey or lacrosse)

body corporate *n* : CORPORATION

body English *n* : the instinctive attempt of a person to influence the movement of a propelled object (as a ball or puck) by contorting his body in the desired direction

body·guard \'bäd-ē-ˌgärd\ *n* : a man or group of men whose duty is to protect a person from bodily harm

body louse *n* : a louse feeding primarily on the body; *esp* : a sucking louse (*Pediculus humanus*) feeding on the body and living in the clothing of man

body mechanics *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : systematic exercises (as for women) designed esp. to develop coordination, endurance, and poise

body politic *n* **1** *archaic* : CORPORATION 2 **2** : a group of persons politically organized under a single governmental authority **3** : a people considered as a collective unit

body shirt *n* **1** : a woman's close-fitting top made with a sewn-in or snapped crotch **2** : a close-fitting shirt or blouse

body shop *n* : a shop where automotive bodies are made or repaired

body snatcher *n* : one that without authority takes corpses from graves usu. for dissection

body stocking *n* : a sheer close-fitting one-piece garment for the torso that often has sleeves and legs

body·surf \'bäd-ē-ˌsərf\ *vi* : to ride on a wave without a surfboard by planing on the chest and stomach — **body·surf·er** *n*

body wall *n* : the external surface of the body in animals consisting of ectoderm and mesoderm and enclosing the body cavity

body·work \'bäd-ē-ˌwərk\ *n* **1** : a vehicle body **2** : the act or process of making or repairing vehicle bodies

boehm·ite \'bām-ˌīt, 'bə(r)m-\ *n* [G *böhmit*, fr. J. *Böhm* (*Boehm*), 20th cent. G scientist] : a mineral consisting of an orthorhombic form of aluminum oxide and hydroxide AlO(OH) found in bauxite

Boer \'bō(ə)r, 'bȯ(ə)r, 'bu̇(ə)r\ *n* [D, lit., farmer — more at BOOR] : a South African of Dutch or Huguenot descent

boff \'bäf\ *or* **bof·fo** \'bäf-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **boffs** *or* **boffos** [prob. fr. *box office*] **1** : a hearty laugh **2** : a gag or line that produces a hearty laugh **3** : something that is conspicuously successful : HIT

bof·fin \'bäf-ən\ *n* [origin unknown] *chiefly Brit* : a scientific expert

bof·fo \'bäf-(ˌ)ō\ *adj* : extraordinarily successful : SENSATIONAL

bof·fo·la \bä-'fō-lə\ *n* [irreg. fr. *boff*] : BOFF

Bo·fors gun \ˌbō-ˌfȯrz-, ˌbü-\ *n* [*Bofors*, munition works in Sweden] : a double-barreled automatic antiaircraft gun

¹bog \'bäg, 'bȯg\ *n* [prob. fr. IrGael *bogach* (fr. *bog* soft, fr. OIr *bocc*) & ScGael *boglach* (fr. *bog* soft); akin to OE *būgan* to bend — more at BOW] : wet spongy ground; *esp* : a poorly drained usu. acid area rich in plant residues, frequently surrounding a body of open water, and having a characteristic flora (as of sedges, heaths, and sphagnum) — **bog·gy** \'bäg-ē, 'bȯg-\ *adj*

²bog *vb* **bogged; bog·ging** *vt* : to cause to sink into or as if into a bog : IMPEDE — usu. used with *down* ~ *vi* : to become impeded — usu. used with *down*

bog asphodel *n* : either of two bog herbs (*Narthecium ossifragum* of Europe and *N. americanum* of the U.S.) of the lily family

¹bo·gey *also* **bo·gy** *or* **bo·gie** *n, pl* **bogeys** *also* **bogies** [prob. alter. of *bogle*] **1** \'bu̇g-ē, 'bō-gē, 'bü-gē\ : SPECTER, PHANTOM **2** \'bō-gē *also* 'bu̇g-ē *or* 'bü-gē\ : a source of fear, perplexity, or harassment **3** \'bō-gē\ **a** *chiefly Brit* : an average golfer's score used as a standard for a particular hole or course **b** : one stroke over par on a hole in golf **4** \'bō-gē\ : a numerical standard of performance set up as a mark to be aimed at in competition **5** \'bu̇g-ē, 'bō-gē, 'bü-gē\ *slang* : an unidentified flying object

²bo·gey \'bō-gē\ *vt* **bo·geyed; bo·gey·ing** : to shoot (a hole in golf) in one over par

bo·gey·man \'bu̇g-ē-ˌman, 'bō-gē-, 'bü-gē-, 'bu̇g-ər-\ *n* : a monstrous imaginary figure used in threatening children; *broadly* : a terrifying person or thing : BUGBEAR

bog·gle \'bäg-əl\ *vb* **bog·gled; bog·gling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [perh. fr. *bogle*] *vi* **1** : to start with fright or amazement : be overwhelmed ⟨the mind ~*s* at the amount of research yet to be done⟩ **2** : to hesitate because of doubt, fear, or scruples **3** : BUNGLE ~ *vt* : to overwhelm with wonder or bewilderment — **boggle** *n*

bo·gie *also* **bo·gey** *or* **bo·gy** \'bō-gē\ *n, pl* **bogies** *also* **bogeys** [origin unknown] **1** : a low strongly built cart **2 a** *chiefly Brit* : a swiveling railway truck **b** : the driving-wheel assembly consisting of the rear four wheels of a 6-wheel automotive truck **3** : one of the weight-carrying wheels on the inside perimeter of the tread of a tank serving to keep the treads in line

bo·gle \'bō-gəl\ *also* **bog·gle** \'bäg-əl\ *n* [E dial. (Sc & northern), terrifying apparition; akin to ME *bugge* scarecrow — more at BUG] *dial Brit* : GOBLIN, SPECTER; *also* : an object of fear or loathing

Bo·go·mil *also* **Bo·go·mile** \ˌbəg-ə-'mē(ə)l\ *n* [Russ *bogomil*, fr. OSlav *Bogomilŭ* Bogomil, 10th cent. Bulg priest, founder of the sect] : a member of a medieval Bulgarian sect holding that God is the father of two sons, the rebellious Satan and the obedient Jesus

bo·gus \'bō-gəs\ *adj* [*bogus* (a machine for making counterfeit money)] : not genuine : COUNTERFEIT, SHAM

bo·hea \bō-'hē\ *n, often cap* [Chin (Pek) *wu³-i²*, hills in China where it was grown] : a black tea

bo·he·mia \bō-'hē-mē-ə\ *n, often cap* [trans. of F *bohème*] : a community of bohemians : the world of bohemians

Bo·he·mi·an \-mē-ən\ *n* **1 a** : a native or inhabitant of Bohemia **b** : the group of Czech dialects used in Bohemia **2** *often not cap* **a** : VAGABOND, WANDERER; *esp* : GYPSY **b** : a person (as a writer or an artist) living an unconventional life usu. in a colony with others — **bohemian** *adj, often cap*

Bohemian Brethren *n pl* : a Christian body originating in Bohemia in 1467 and forming a parent body of the Moravian Brethren

bo·he·mi·an·ism \bō-'hē-mē-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n, often cap* : the unconventional way of life of bohemians

Bohr theory \'bō(ə)r-, 'bȯ(ə)r-\ *n* [Niels *Bohr*] : a theory in physical chemistry: an atom consists of a positively charged nucleus about which revolves one or more electrons

¹boil \'bȯi(ə)l\ *n* [alter. of ME *bile*, fr. OE *bȳl* — more at BIG] : a localized swelling and inflammation of the skin resulting from infection in a skin gland, having a hard central core, and forming pus

²boil *vb* [ME *boilen*, fr. OF *boillir*, fr. L *bullire* to bubble, fr. *bulla* bubble] *vi* **1 a** : to generate bubbles of vapor when heated — used of a liquid **b** : to come to the boiling point **2** : to become agitated like boiling water : SEETHE **3** : to be moved, excited, or stirred up ⟨his blood ~*s* at the mention of it⟩ **4 a** : to rush headlong ⟨came ~*ing* through the door⟩ **b** : to burst forth : ERUPT ⟨water ~*ing* from a spring⟩ **5** : to undergo the action of a boiling liquid ~ *vt* **1** : to subject to the action of a boiling liquid ⟨~ eggs⟩ **2** : to heat to the boiling point ⟨~ water⟩ **3** : to form or separate (as sugar or salt) by boiling

³boil *n* **1** : the act or state of boiling **2** : a swirling upheaval (as of water)

boil down *vt* **1** : to reduce in bulk by boiling **2** : CONDENSE, SUMMARIZE ⟨*boil down* a report⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to undergo reduction in bulk by boiling **2** : to be equivalent in summary : AMOUNT ⟨his speech *boiled down* to a plea for more money⟩

boiled oil *n* : a fatty oil (as linseed oil) whose drying properties have been improved by heating usu. with driers

boil·er \'bȯi-lər\ *n* **1** : one that boils **2 a** : a vessel used for boiling **b** : the part of a steam generator in which water is converted into steam and which consists usu. of metal shells and tubes **c** : a tank in which water is heated or hot water is stored

boil·er·mak·er \'bȯi-lər-ˌmā-kər\ *n* **1** : a workman who makes, assembles, or repairs boilers **2** : whiskey with a beer chaser

boiler suit *n* : COVERALL

¹boil·ing \'bȯi-liŋ\ *adj* **1 a** : heated to the boiling point **b** : TORRID ⟨a ~ sun⟩ **2** : intensely agitated, excited, or stirred up ⟨a ~ sea⟩

²boiling *adv* : to an extreme degree : VERY ⟨~ mad⟩ ⟨~ hot⟩

boiling point *n* **1** : the temperature at which a liquid boils **2 a** : the point at which a person loses his temper **b** : the point at which decisive action becomes imperative : HEAD 18b ⟨matters had reached the *boiling point*⟩

boil over *vi* **1** : to overflow while boiling **2** : to become so incensed as to lose one's temper

bois d'arc \'bō-ˌdä(r)k\ *n, pl* **bois d'arcs** *or* **bois d'arc** [F, lit., bow wood] : OSAGE ORANGE

bois·ter·ous \'bȯi-st(ə-)rəs\ *adj* [ME *boistous* rough] **1** *obs* **a** : DURABLE, STRONG **b** : COARSE **c** : MASSIVE **2 a** : noisily turbulent : ROWDY **b** : marked by or expressive of exuberance and high spirits **3** : STORMY, TUMULTUOUS ***syn*** see VOCIFEROUS — **bois·ter·ous·ly** *adv* — **bois·ter·ous·ness** *n*

boîte \'bwät\ *n* [F, lit., box] : NIGHTCLUB

Bok·mål \'bu̇k-ˌmȯl, 'bōk-\ *n* [Norw, lit., book language] : a literary form of Norwegian developed by the gradual reform of written Danish — compare NYNORSK

bo·la \'bō-lə\ *or* **bo·las** \-ləs\ *n, pl* **bolas** \-ləz\ *also* **bo·las·es** [AmerSp *bolas*, fr. Sp *bola* ball] : a weapon consisting of two or more stone or iron balls attached to the ends of a cord for hurling at and entangling an animal



bola

bold \'bōld\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *beald*; akin to OHG *bald* bold] **1 a** : fearless before danger : INTREPID **b** : showing or requiring a fearless daring spirit ⟨a ~ plan⟩ **2** : IMPUDENT, PRESUMPTUOUS **3** *obs* : ASSURED, CONFIDENT **4** : SHEER, STEEP ⟨~ cliffs⟩ **5** : ADVENTUROUS, DARING ⟨a ~ thinker⟩ **6** : standing out prominently : CONSPICUOUS **7** : being or set in boldface — **bold·ly** \'bōl-(d)lē\ *adv* — **bold·ness** \'bōl(d)-nəs\ *n*

bold·face \'bōl(d)-ˌfās\ *n* : a heavy-faced type; *also* : printing in boldface — **bold·faced** \-'fāst\ *adj*

bold–faced \'bōl(d)-'fāst\ *adj* : bold in manner or conduct : IMPUDENT ⟨a fine, gay, ~ ruffian —Sir Walter Scott⟩

bole \'bōl\ *n* [ME, fr. ON *bolr*] : the trunk of a tree

bo·le·ro \bə-'le(ə)r-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-ros** [Sp] **1** : a Spanish dance characterized by sharp turns, stamping of the feet, and sudden pauses in a position with one arm arched over the head; *also* : music in ¾ time

for or suitable for a bolero **2** : a loose waist-length jacket open at the front

bo·le·tus \bō-'lēt-əs\ *n, pl* **-tus·es** *or* **-ti** \-'lēt-ˌī\ [NL, genus name, fr. L, a fungus, fr. Gk *bōlitēs*] : any of a genus (*Boletus*) of soft pore fungi some of which are poisonous and others edible

bo·li·var \bə-'lē-ˌvär, 'bäl-ə-vər\ *n, pl* **-vars** *or* **-va·res** \ˌbäl-ə-'vär-ˌās, ˌbō-li-\ [AmerSp *bolívar*, fr. Simón *Bolívar*] — see MONEY table

bo·li·vi·a·no \bə-ˌliv-ē-'än-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-nos** [Sp] : a former monetary unit of Bolivia replaced in 1963 by the peso

boll \'bōl\ *n* [ME] : the pod or capsule of a plant (as cotton)

bol·lard \'bäl-ərd\ *n* [perh. irreg. fr. *bole*] **1** : a post of metal or wood on a wharf around which to fasten mooring lines **2** : BITT 1

bol·lix \'bäl-iks\ *vt* [alter. of *ballocks*, pl. of *ballock* (testis), fr. ME, fr. OE *bealluc* — more at BALL] : to throw into disorder; *also* : BUNGLE — usu. used with *up* — **bollix** *n*

boll weevil *n* : a grayish weevil (*Anthonomus grandis*) about 1/4 inch long that infests the cotton plant and feeds on the squares and bolls both as a larva and an adult

boll·worm \'bōl-ˌwərm\ *n* : CORN EARWORM; *also* : any of several other moth larvae that feed on cotton bolls

bo·lo \'bō-(ˌ)lō\ *n, pl* **bolos** [Sp] : a long heavy single-edged knife of Philippine origin

bo·lo·gna \bə-'lō-nē *also* -n(y)ə\ *n* [short for *Bologna sausage*, fr. *Bologna*, Italy] : a large smoked sausage of beef, veal, and pork

bo·lom·e·ter \bō-'läm-ət-ər\ *n* [Gk *bolē* + E *-o-* + *-meter*] : a very sensitive resistance thermometer used in the detection and measurement of feeble thermal radiation and esp. adapted to the study of infrared spectra — **bo·lo·met·ric** \ˌbō-lə-'me-trik\ *adj* — **bo·lo·met·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

bo·lo·ney \bə-'lō-nē\ *var of* BALONEY

bo·lo tie \ˌbō-lō-\ *or* **bo·la tie** \-lə-\ *n* [prob. fr. *bola*] : a cord fastened around the neck with an ornamental clasp and worn as a necktie

Bol·she·vik \'bōl-shə-ˌvik, 'bȯl-, 'bäl-, -ˌvēk\ *n, pl* **Bolsheviks** *also* **Bol·she·vi·ki** \ˌbōl-shə-'vik-ē, ˌbȯl-, ˌbäl-, -'vē-kē\ [Russ *bol'shevik*, fr. *bol'she* larger] **1** : a member of the extremist wing of the Russian Social Democratic party that seized supreme power in Russia by the Revolution of November 1917 **2** : COMMUNIST 3 — **Bolshevik** *adj*

bol·she·vism \'bōl-shə-ˌviz-əm, 'bȯl-, 'bäl-\ *n, often cap* **1** : the doctrine or program of the Bolsheviks advocating violent overthrow of capitalism **2** : Russian communism

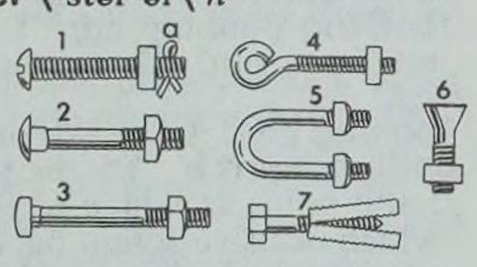
Bol·she·vist \-vəst\ *n or adj* : BOLSHEVIK

bol·she·vize \-ˌvīz\ *vt* **-vized; -viz·ing** : to make Bolshevist — **Bol·she·vi·za·tion** \ˌbōl-shə-və-'zā-shən, ˌbȯl-, ˌbäl-\ *n*

¹bol·ster \'bōl-stər\ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OE *belg* bag — more at BELLY] **1** : a long pillow or cushion **2** : a structural part designed to eliminate friction or provide support or bearing; *esp* : the horizontal connection between the volutes of an Ionic capital

²bolster *vt* **bol·stered; bol·ster·ing** \-st(ə-)riŋ\ **1** : to support with or as if with a bolster : REINFORCE **2** : to give a boost to ⟨news that ~*ed* his spirits⟩ — **bol·ster·er** \-stər-ər\ *n*

¹bolt \'bōlt\ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *bolz* crossbow bolt, Lith *beldėti* to beat] **1 a** : a shaft or missile designed to be shot from a crossbow or catapult; *esp* : a short stout usu. blunt-headed arrow **b** : a lightning stroke : THUNDERBOLT **2 a** : a wood or metal bar or rod used to fasten a door **b** : the part of a lock that is shot or withdrawn by the key **3 a** : a roll of cloth of specified length **b** : a roll of wallpaper of specified length **4** : a metal rod or pin for fastening objects together that usu. has a head at one end and a screw thread at the other and is secured by a nut **5 a** : a block of timber to be sawed or cut **b** : a short round section of a log **6** : the breech closure of a breech-loading firearm



bolts 4: *1* stove bolt with cotter pin *a*, *2* carriage bolt, *3* machine bolt, *4* eyebolt, *5* U bolt, *6* plow bolt, *7* expansion bolt

²bolt *vi* **1** : to move suddenly or nervously : START **2** : to move rapidly : DASH **3 a** : to dart off or away : FLEE **b** : to break away from control or a set course **4** : to break away from or oppose one's political party ~ *vt* **1 a** *archaic* : SHOOT, DISCHARGE **b** : FLUSH, START ⟨~ rabbits⟩ **2** : to say impulsively : BLURT **3** : to secure with a bolt **4** : to attach or fasten with bolts **5** : to swallow hastily or without chewing **6** : to break away from

³bolt *adv* **1** : in an erect or straight-backed position : RIGIDLY ⟨sat ~ upright⟩ **2** *archaic* : DIRECTLY, STRAIGHT

⁴bolt *n* : the act or an instance of bolting: as **a** : DASH, RUN **b** : a refusal to support one's usual political party or its candidate or platform

⁵bolt *vt* [ME *bulten*, fr. OF *buleter*, of Gmc origin; akin to MHG *biuteln* to sift, fr. *biutel* bag, fr. OHG *būtil*] **1** : to sift (as flour) usu. through fine-meshed cloth **2** *archaic* : SIFT 2

¹bolt·er \'bōl-tər\ *n* : a machine for bolting flour; *also* : the operator of such a machine

²bolter *n* **1** : a horse given to running away **2** : a voter who bolts his party

bolt–operated *adj, of a firearm* : utilizing a sliding bolt to operate the action

bolt·rope \'bōlt-ˌrōp\ *n* : a strong rope stitched to the edges of a sail to strengthen it

bo·lus \'bō-ləs\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *bōlos* lump] : a rounded mass: as **a** : a large pill **b** : a soft mass of chewed food

¹bomb \'bäm\ *n* [F *bombe*, fr. It *bomba*, prob. fr. L *bombus* deep hollow sound, fr. Gk *bombos*, of imit. origin] **1 a** : an explosive device fused to detonate under specified conditions **b** : ATOM BOMB — usu. used with *the* **2** : a vessel for compressed gases: as **a** : a pressure vessel for conducting chemical experiments **b** : a small dispenser for a substance (as paint or an insecticide) stored under pressure **3** : a rounded mass of lava exploded from a volcano **4** : a lead-lined container for radioactive material **5** : a long pass in football **6** : FAILURE, FLOP ⟨the play was awful — a complete ~⟩ **7** *slang Brit* : a large sum of money

²bomb *vt* **1** : to attack with or as if with bombs : BOMBARD **2 a** : to score heavily against (an opponent) **b** : to defeat decisively ~ *vi* : to fall flat : FAIL

¹bom·bard \'bäm-ˌbärd\ *n* [ME *bombarde*, fr. MF, prob. fr. L *bombus*] : a cannon used in late medieval times chiefly to hurl large stones

²bom·bard \bäm-'bärd *also* bəm-\ *vt* **1** : to attack esp. with artillery or bombers **2** : to assail vigorously or persistently (as with questions) **3** : to subject to the impact of rapidly moving particles (as electrons or alpha rays) ***syn*** see ATTACK — **bom·bard·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

bom·bar·dier \ˌbäm-bə(r)-'di(ə)r\ *n* **1 a** *archaic* : ARTILLERYMAN **b** : a noncommissioned officer in the British artillery **2** : a bomber-crew member who uses the bombsight and releases the bombs

bom·bar·don \'bäm-bər-ˌdōn, bäm-'bärd-ᵊn\ *n* [F, fr. It *bombardone*] **1** : the bass member of the shawm family **2** : a bass tuba

bom·bast \'bäm-ˌbast\ *n* [MF *bombace*, fr. ML *bombac-*, *bombax* cotton, alter. of L *bombyc-*, *bombyx* silkworm, silk, fr. Gk *bombyk-*, *bombyx*] : pretentious inflated speech or writing — **bombast** *adj* — **bom·bast·er** \-ˌbas-tər\ *n* — **bom·bas·tic** \bäm-'bas-tik\ *adj* — **bom·bas·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

syn BOMBAST, RHAPSODY, RANT, FUSTIAN *shared meaning element* : speech or writing marked by high-flown pomposity or pretentiousness

bom·ba·zine \ˌbäm-bə-'zēn\ *n* [MF *bombasin*, fr. ML *bombacinum*, *bombycinum* silken texture, fr. L, neut. of *bombycinus* of silk, fr. *bombyc-*, *bombyx*] **1** : a silk fabric in twill weave dyed black **2** : a twilled fabric with silk warp and worsted filling

bomb bay *n* : a bomb-carrying compartment on the underside of a combat airplane

bombe \'bäm, 'bōⁿ(m)b\ *n* [F, lit., bomb] : a frozen dessert made by lining a round or melon-shaped mold with one mixture and filling it with another

bombed \'bämd\ *adj, slang* : affected by alcohol or drugs

bomb·er \'bäm-ər\ *n* : one that bombs; *specif* : an airplane designed for bombing

bom·bi·nate \'bäm-bə-ˌnāt\ *vi* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [NL *bombinatus*, pp. of *bombinare*, alter. of L *bombilare*, fr. *bombus*] : BUZZ, DRONE — **bom·bi·na·tion** \ˌbäm-bə-'nā-shən\ *n*

bomb·proof \'bäm-'prüf\ *adj* : safe from the force of bombs

bomb run *n* : the part of a bomber's attack during which the actual sighting for and release of bombs occurs

bomb·shell \'bäm-ˌshel\ *n* **1** : BOMB 1a **2** : one that stuns, amazes, or is devastatingly upsetting ⟨the book was a political ~⟩

bomb·sight \-ˌsīt\ *n* : a sighting device for aiming bombs

bona fide \'bō-nə-ˌfīd, 'bän-ə-; ˌbō-nə-'fīd-ē, -'fīd-ə\ *adj* [L, in good faith] **1** : made in good faith without fraud or deceit ⟨a *bona fide* offer to purchase a farm⟩ **2** : made with earnest intent : SINCERE **3** : neither specious nor counterfeit : GENUINE ⟨a *bona fide* antique⟩ ***syn*** see AUTHENTIC ***ant*** counterfeit, bogus

bo·na fi·des \ˌbō-nə-'fīd-ˌēz\ *n* [L, good faith] : lack of fraud or deceit : SINCERITY ⟨a man on whom suspicion had never rested and whose *bona fides* was unshakeable —Victor Canning⟩

bo·nan·za \bə-'nan-zə\ *n* [Sp, lit., calm, fr. ML *bonacia*, alter. of L *malacia* calm at sea, fr. Gk *malakia*, lit., softness, fr. *malakos* soft] **1** : an exceptionally large and rich ore shoot or pocket in veins carrying gold and silver **2 a** : something that is considered very valuable, profitable, or rewarding ⟨achieved a box-office ~⟩ **b** : an extremely large amount ⟨expected a ~ of sympathy⟩

Bo·na·part·ism \'bō-nə-ˌpärt-ˌiz-əm\ *n* **1** : support of the French emperors Napoleon I, Napoleon III, or their dynasty **2** : a political movement associated chiefly with authoritarian rule usu. by a military leader ostensibly supported by a popular mandate — **Bo·na·part·ist** \-ˌpärt-əst\ *n or adj*

bon·bon \'bän-ˌbän\ *n* [F, (baby talk), redupl. of *bon* good, fr. L *bonus* — more at BOUNTY] : a candy with chocolate or fondant coating and fondant center that sometimes contains fruits and nuts

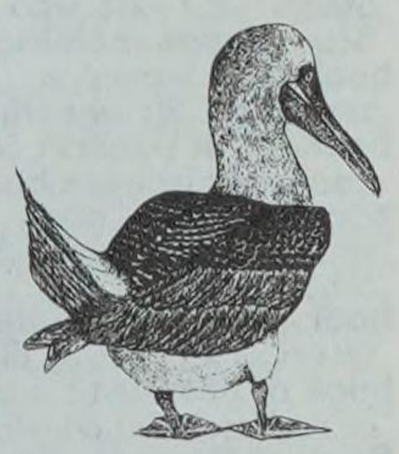
¹bond \'bänd\ *adj* [ME *bonde*, fr. *bonde* peasant, serf, fr. OE *bōnda* householder, fr. ON *bōndi*] *archaic* : bound in slavery

²bond *n* [ME *band, bond* — more at BAND] **1** : something that binds or restrains : FETTER **2** : a binding agreement : COVENANT **3 a** : a band or cord used to tie something **b** : a material or device for binding **c** : a mechanism by means of which atoms, ions, or groups of atoms are held together in a molecule or crystal — usu. represented in formulas by a line or dot **d** : an adhesive, cementing material, or fusible ingredient that combines, unites, or strengthens **4** : a uniting or binding element or force ⟨the ~*s* of friendship⟩ **5 a** : an obligation made binding by a money forfeit; *also* : the amount of the money guarantee **b** : one who acts as bail or surety **c** : an interest-bearing certificate of public or private indebtedness ⟨a 20-year ~ issue to finance a new courthouse⟩ **d** : an insurance agreement pledging surety for financial loss caused to another by the act or default of a third person or by some contingency over which the third person may have no control **6** : the systematic lapping of brick in a wall **7** : the state of goods manufactured, stored, or transported under the care of bonded agencies until the duties or taxes on them are paid **8** : a 100-proof straight whiskey that has been aged at least four years under government supervision before being bottled — called also *bonded whiskey*

³bond *vt* **1** : to lap (as brick) for solidity of construction **2 a** : to secure payment of duties and taxes on (goods) by giving a bond **b** : to convert into a debt secured by bonds **c** : to provide a bond for or cause to provide such a bond ⟨~ an employee⟩ **3 a** : to cause to adhere firmly **b** : to embed in a matrix **c** : to hold together in a molecule or crystal by chemical bonds ~ *vi* : to hold together or solidify by or as if by means of a bond or binder : COHERE — **bond·able** \'bän-də-bəl\ *adj* — **bond·er** *n*

bond·age \'bän-dij\ *n* **1** : the tenure or service of a villein, serf, or slave **2** : a state of being bound usu. by compulsion (as of law or mastery): as **a** : CAPTIVITY, SERFDOM ⟨the ~ of the Israelites in Egypt⟩ **b** : servitude or subjugation to a controlling person or force ⟨young people in ~ to drugs⟩ ***syn*** see SERVITUDE

bond·ed \'bänd-əd\ *adj* : composed of two or more layers of the same or different fabrics held together by an adhesive : LAMINATED ⟨~ jersey⟩
bond·er·ize \'bän-də-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** [back-formation fr. *Bonderized*, a trademark] : to coat (steel) with a patented phosphate solution for protection against corrosion
bond·hold·er \'bänd-ˌhōl-dər\ *n* : one that holds a government or corporation bond
bond·maid \'bän(d)-ˌmād\ *n, archaic* : a female slave or bond servant
bond·man \'bän(d)-mən\ *n* : SLAVE, SERF
bond paper *n* : a strong durable paper orig. used for documents
bond servant *n* : one bound to service without wages; *also* : SLAVE
[1]bonds·man \'bän(d)z-mən\ *n* : BONDMAN
[2]bondsman *n* : one who assumes the responsibility of a bond : SURETY
bond·stone \'bän(d)-ˌstōn\ *n* : a stone long enough to extend through the full thickness of a wall to bind it together
bond·wom·an \'bän-ˌdwu̇m-ən\ *n* : a female slave
[1]bone \'bōn\ *n, often attrib* [ME *bon*, fr. OE *bān*; akin to OHG & ON *bein* bone] **1 a** : one of the hard parts of the skeleton of a vertebrate **b** : any of various hard animal substances or structures (as baleen or ivory) akin to or resembling bone **c** : the hard largely calcareous connective tissue of which the adult skeleton of most vertebrates is chiefly composed **2 a** : ESSENCE, CORE ⟨cut expenses to the ~⟩ ⟨a conservative to the ~⟩ **b** : the most deeply ingrained part : HEART — usu. used in pl. ⟨knew in his ~s that it was an evil deed⟩ **3** *pl* **a** (1) : SKELETON (2) : BODY ⟨ran as fast as his ~s would carry him⟩ (3) : CORPSE ⟨inter a person's ~s⟩ **b** : the basic design or framework (as of a play or novel) **4** : MATTER, SUBJECT ⟨a ~ of contention⟩ **5 a** *pl* : thin bars of bone, ivory, or wood held in pairs between the fingers and used to produce musical rhythms **b** : a strip of whalebone or steel used to stiffen a corset or dress **c** *pl* : DICE **6** : the bow wave of a ship when under way and esp. when traveling at a good speed — usu. used with the phrase *in her teeth* **7** *pl but sing or pl in constr, often cap* : an end man in a minstrel show who may perform on the bones **8** : something that is designed to placate : SOP ⟨throw a ~ to angry workers with a small pay increase⟩ **9** : a light beige — **boned** \'bōnd\ *adj* — **bone·less** \'bōn-ləs\ *adj* — **bone to pick** : a matter to argue or complain about
[2]bone *vb* **boned; bon·ing** *vt* **1** : to remove the bones from ⟨~ a fish⟩ **2** : to provide (a garment) with stays ~ *vi* **1** : to study hard : GRIND ⟨~ through medical school⟩ **2 a** : to try to master necessary information in a short time : CRAM — used with *up* ⟨better ~ up on those theories before the exam⟩ **b** : to renew one's skill or refresh one's memory — used with *up* ⟨~ up on the libretto before going to the opera⟩
[3]bone *adv* : ABSOLUTELY, UTTERLY ⟨~ tired⟩
bone ash *n* : the white porous residue chiefly of tribasic calcium phosphate from bones calcined in air used esp. in making pottery and glass and in cleaning jewelry
bone black *n* : the black residue chiefly of tribasic calcium phosphate and carbon from bones calcined in closed vessels used esp. as a pigment or as a decolorizing adsorbent in sugar manufacturing — called also *bone char*
bone china *n* : translucent white china made with bone ash or calcium phosphate and characterized by whiteness
bone–dry \'bōn-'drī\ *adj* **1** : very dry **2 a** : marked by the absence of intoxicating beverages ⟨the wedding reception was ~⟩ **b** : opposed to the sale of intoxicating beverages
bone·fish \'bōn-ˌfish\ *n* **1 a** : a slender silvery small-scaled fish (*Albula vulpes*) that is a notable sport and food fish of warm seas **b** : any of several fish of the same family (Albulidae) as the bonefish **2** : LADYFISH 2
bone·head \-ˌhed\ *n* : a stupid person : NUMSKULL — **bone·headed** \-'hed-əd\ *adj*
bone meal *n* : fertilizer or feed made of crushed or ground bone
bon·er \'bō-nər\ *n* **1** : one that bones **2** : BLUNDER, HOWLER
bone·set \'bōn-ˌset\ *n* : any of several composite herbs (genus *Eupatorium*); *esp* : a perennial (*E. perfoliatum*) with opposite perfoliate leaves and white-rayed flower heads used in folk medicine
bone·set·ter \-ˌset-ər\ *n* : a person and usu. not a licensed physician who sets broken or dislocated bones
bone·yard \-ˌyärd\ *n* : a place where worn-out or irreparably damaged objects (as cars) are collected to await disposal
bon·fire \'bän-ˌfī(ə)r\ *n* [ME *bonefire* a fire of bones, fr. *bon* bone + *fire*] : a large fire built in the open air
[1]bong \'bäŋ, 'bȯŋ\ *n* [imit.] : the deep resonant sound esp. of a bell
[2]bong *vb* : RING
bon·go \'bäŋ-(ˌ)gō, 'bȯŋ-\ *n, pl* **bongos** *also* **bongoes** [AmerSp *bongó*] : one of a pair of small tuned drums played with the hands — **bon·go·ist** \-ˌgō-əst\ *n*
bon·ho·mie \ˌbän-ə-'mē, ˌbō-nə-\ *n* [F *bonhomie*, fr. *bonhomme* good-natured man, fr. *bon* good + *homme* man] : good-natured easy friendliness : GENIALITY
bon·i·face \'bän-ə-fəs, -ˌfās\ *n* [*Boniface*, innkeeper in *The Beaux' Stratagem* (1707) by George Farquhar] : the proprietor of a hotel, nightclub, or restaurant
boning knife *n* : a short knife with a narrow blade and a sharp point for boning meat or fish
bo·ni·to \bə-'nēt-(ˌ)ō, -'nēt-ə\ *n, pl* **-tos** *or* **-to** [Sp, fr. *bonito* pretty, fr. L *bonus* good] : any of various medium-sized tunas (esp. genera *Sarda* and *Euthynnus*) intermediate between the smaller mackerels and the larger tunas
bon·kers \'bäŋ-kərz, 'bȯŋ-\ *adj* [origin unknown] : CRAZY, MAD ⟨if I don't work, I go ~ —Zoe Caldwell⟩
bon mot \bōⁿ-'mō\ *n, pl* **bons mots** \bōⁿ-'mō(z)\ *or* **bon mots** \-'mō(z)\ [F, lit., good word] : a clever remark : WITTICISM
bonne \'bȯn\ *n* [F, fr. fem. of *bon*] : a French nursemaid or maidservant
[1]bon·net \'bän-ət\ *n* [ME *bonet*, fr. MF, fr. ML *abonnis*] **1 a** (1) *chiefly Scot* : a man's or boy's cap (2) : a brimless Scotch cap of seamless woolen fabric — compare TAM-O'-SHANTER 2 **b** : a cloth or straw hat tied under the chin and worn by women and small children **2 a** : an additional piece of canvas laced to the foot of a jib or foresail **b** *Brit* : an automobile hood **c** : a cover for an open fireplace or a cowl or hood to increase the draft of a chimney **d** : a metal covering for valve chambers, hydrants, or ventilators
[2]bonnet *vt* : to provide with or dress in a bonnet
bon·ny \'bän-ē\ *adj* **bon·ni·er; -est** [ME *bonie*, fr. OF *bon* good, fr. L *bonus* — more at BOUNTY] *chiefly Brit* : ATTRACTIVE, EXCELLENT — **bon·ni·ly** \'bän-ə-lē\ *adv*
bon·ny·clab·ber \'bän-ē-ˌklab-ər\ *n* [IrGael *bainne clabair*, fr. *bainne* milk + *clabair*, gen. of *clabar* sour thick milk] *North & Midland* : [1]CLABBER
bon·sai \(')bōn-'sī, 'bōn-ˌ\ *n, pl* **bonsai** [Jap] : a potted plant (as a tree) dwarfed by special methods of culture; *also* : the art of growing such a plant
bon·spiel \'bän-ˌspēl\ *n* [perh. fr. D *bond* league + *spel* game] : a match or tournament between curling clubs
bon ton \(')bän-'tän, 'bän-ˌ\ *n* [F, lit., good tone] **1 a** : fashionable manner or style ⟨admired the worldliness and *bon ton* of the characters⟩ **b** : the fashionable or proper thing ⟨it was considered *bon ton* to go to the event⟩ **2** : high society
bo·nus \'bō-nəs\ *n* [L, good — more at BOUNTY] **1** : something given in addition to what is usual or strictly due **2 a** *Brit* : DIVIDEND 1b **b** : money or an equivalent given in addition to an employee's usual compensation **c** : a premium (as of stock) given by a corporation to a purchaser of its securities, to a promoter, or to an employee **d** (1) : a government subsidy to an industry (2) : a government payment to war veterans **e** : a sum in excess of salary given an athlete for signing with a professional team **3** : a sum of money in addition to interest or royalties charged for the granting of a loan or privilege to a company or for the lease or transfer of property
bon vi·vant \ˌbän-vē-'vänt, ˌbōⁿ-vē-'väⁿ\ *n, pl* **bons vivants** \ˌbän-vē-'vän(t)s, ˌbōⁿ-vē-'väⁿ(z)\ *or* **bon vivants** *same*\ [F, lit., good liver] : a person having cultivated, refined, and sociable tastes esp. in respect to pleasures of the table ***syn*** see EPICURE
bon voy·age \ˌbōⁿv-ˌwī-'äzh, -ˌwä-'yäzh; ˌbōⁿ-ˌvȯi-'äzh, ˌbän-\ *n* [F] : FAREWELL — often used interjectionally
bony *or* **bon·ey** \'bō-nē\ *adj* **bon·i·er; -est** **1 a** : consisting of bone **b** : resembling bone **2 a** : full of bones ⟨a ~ piece of fish⟩ **b** : having prominent bones ⟨a rugged ~ face⟩ **3 a** : SKINNY, SCRAWNY **b** : BARREN, LEAN
bony fish *n* : TELEOST
bony labyrinth *n* : the cavity in the temporal bone that contains the membranous labyrinth of the ear
bonze \'bänz\ *n* [F, fr. Pg *bonzo*, fr. Jap *bonsō*] : a Buddhist monk
[1]boo \'bü\ *interj* [ME *bo*] — used to express contempt or disapproval or to startle or frighten
[2]boo *n, pl* **boos** **1** : a shout of disapproval or contempt **2** : any sound at all — usu. used in negative constructions ⟨never said ~⟩
[3]boo *vi* : to deride esp. by uttering *boo* ~ *vt* : to express disapproval of by booing ⟨the crowd ~*ed* the referee⟩
[4]boo *n* [origin unknown] : MARIJUANA
boob \'büb\ *n* [short for *booby*] **1** : a stupid awkward person : SIMPLETON **2** : BOOR, PHILISTINE **3** : BREAST — often considered vulgar
boob·oi·sie \ˌbüb-ˌwä-'zē\ *n* [*boob* + *-oisie* (as in *bourgeoisie*)] : a class of the general public that is composed of boobs
boo–boo \'bü-(ˌ)bü\ *n, pl* **boo–boos** [prob. baby-talk alter. of *boohoo*, imitation of the sound of weeping] **1** : a usu. trivial physical injury (as a bruise or scratch) esp. on a child **2** : a foolish mistake : BLUNDER
boob tube *n* : TELEVISION; *specif* : a television set
[1]boo·by \'bü-bē\ *n, pl* **boobies** [modif. of Sp *bobo*, fr. L *balbus* stammering, prob. of imit. origin] **1** : an awkward foolish person : DOPE **2** : any of several small gannets (genus *Sula*) of tropical seas **3** : the poorest performer or lowest scorer in a group



booby 2

[2]boo·by \'büb-ē, 'büb-\ *n, pl* **boobies** [alter. of *bubby*, perh. imit. of the noise made by a sucking infant] : BREAST — often considered vulgar
booby hatch *n* **1** : an insane asylum **2** : a place thought to resemble a booby hatch
booby prize *n* **1** : an award for the poorest performance in a game or competition **2** : an acknowledgment of notable inferiority
booby trap *n* **1** : a trap for the unwary or unsuspecting : PITFALL **2** : a concealed explosive device contrived to go off when some harmless-looking object is touched — **boo·by–trap** *vt*
boo·dle \'büd-ᵊl\ *n* [D *boedel* estate, lot, fr. MD; akin to ON *būth* booth] **1** : a collection or lot of persons : CABOODLE **2 a** : bribe money **b** : a large amount esp. of money
boog·er \'bu̇g-ər\ *n* [alter. of E dial. *buggard*, *boggart*, fr. [1]*bug* + *-ard*] : BOGEYMAN
boo·gey·man \'bu̇g-ē-ˌman, 'bü-gē-\ *or* **boog·er·man** \'bu̇g-ər-\ *n* [*boogey*, alter. of *booger* + *man*] : BOGEYMAN
boo·gie–woo·gie \ˌbu̇g-ē-'wu̇g-ē, ˌbü-gē-'wü-gē\ *n* [origin unknown] : a percussive style of playing blues on the piano characterized by a steady rhythmic ground bass of eighth notes in quadruple time and a simple often improvised melody — called also *boogie*
[1]book \'bu̇k\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bōc*; akin to OHG *buoh* book, OE *bōc* beech; prob. fr. the early Germanic practice of carving runic char-

acters on beech wood tablets — more at BEECH] **1 a** : a set of written sheets of skin or paper or tablets of wood or ivory **b** : a set of written, printed, or blank sheets bound together into a volume **c** : a long written or printed literary composition **d** : a major division of a treatise or literary work **e** : a volume of business records (as a ledger or journal) — often used in pl. ⟨their ~*s* show a profit⟩ **2** *cap* : BIBLE **3** : something regarded as a source of enlightenment or instruction ⟨her face was an open ~⟩ **4 a** : the total available knowledge and experience that can be brought to bear on a task or problem ⟨tried every trick in the ~ to win the election⟩ **b** : the standards or authority relevant in a situation ⟨the factory is run according to the ~⟩ **5 a** : all the charges that can be made against an accused person ⟨they threw the ~ at him⟩ **b** : a position from which one must answer for certain acts : ACCOUNT ⟨the police try to bring criminals to ~⟩ **6 a** : LIBRETTO **b** : the script of a play **c** : the repertory of an orchestra or a musician **7** : a packet of commodities bound together ⟨a ~ of matches⟩ **8 a** (1) : BOOKMAKER (2) : a bookmaker's business or base of operations **b** : the bets registered by a bookmaker **9** : the number of tricks a card player or side must win before any trick can have scoring value — **book·ful** \-ˌfu̇l\ *n* — **in one's book** : in one's own opinion — **in one's good books** : in favor with one — **one for the book** : an act or occurrence worth noting — **on the books** : on the records

²book *vt* **1 a** : to enter, write, or register so as to engage transportation or reserve lodgings ⟨he is ~*ed* to sail Monday⟩ **b** : to schedule engagements for ⟨~ the band for a week⟩ **c** : to set aside time for **d** : to reserve in advance ⟨~ two seats at the theater⟩ **2** : to enter charges against in a police register ~ *vi* **1** : to reserve something in advance ⟨~ through your travel agent⟩ **2** *chiefly Brit* : to register in a hotel — **book·er** *n*

³book *adj* **1** : derived from books and not from practical experience ⟨~ farming⟩ **2** : shown by books of account

book·bind·ing \ˈbu̇k-ˌbīn-diŋ\ *n* **1** : the binding of a book **2** : the art or trade of binding books — **book·bind·er** \-ˌbīn-dər\ *n* — **book·bind·ery** \-d(ə-)rē\ *n*

book·case \-ˌkās\ *n* : a piece of furniture consisting of shelves to hold books

book·end \-ˌend\ *n* : a support placed at the end of a row of books

book·ie \ˈbu̇k-ē\ *n* [by shortening & alter.] : BOOKMAKER 2

book·ing \ˈbu̇k-iŋ\ *n* **1** : the act of one that books **2** : an engagement or scheduled performance ⟨she has ~*s* for several concerts⟩ **3** : RESERVATION; *esp* : one for transportation, entertainment, or lodging

booking office *n, chiefly Brit* : a ticket office; *esp* : one in a railroad station

book·ish \ˈbu̇k-ish\ *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to books **b** : fond of books and reading **2 a** : inclined to rely on book knowledge rather than practical experience **b** : literary and formal as opposed to colloquial and informal ⟨many English words derived from Latin have a ~ flavor⟩ **c** : given to literary or scholarly pursuits; *also* : affectedly learned ***syn*** see PEDANTIC — **book·ish·ly** *adv* — **book·ish·ness** *n*

book·keep·er \ˈbu̇k-ˌkē-pər\ *n* : one who records the accounts or transactions of a business — **book·keep·ing** \-piŋ\ *n*

book·let \ˈbu̇k-lət\ *n* : a little book; *esp* : PAMPHLET

book louse *n* : a minute wingless insect (order Corrodentia); *esp* : an insect (as *Liposcelis divinatorius*) injurious esp. to books

book lung *n* : a saccular breathing organ in many arachnids containing numerous thin folds of membrane arranged like the leaves of a book

book·mak·er \ˈbu̇k-ˌmā-kər\ *n* **1 a** : a printer, binder, or designer of books **b** : one who compiles books from the writings of others **2** : one who determines odds and receives and pays off bets — **book·mak·ing** \-kiŋ\ *n*

book·man \-mən\ *n* **1** : one who is interested in books; *esp* : LITTERATEUR **2** : one who sells books

book·mark \-ˌmärk\ *or* **book·mark·er** \-ˌmär-kər\ *n* : a marker for finding a place in a book

book–match \-ˌmach\ *vt* : to match the grains of (as two sheets of veneer) so that one sheet seems to be the mirrored image of the other

book·mo·bile \ˈbu̇k-mō-ˌbēl\ *n* [*book* + auto*mobile*] : a truck that serves as a traveling library

book of account : a book of business records (as a ledger, journal, or register) that constitutes an integral part of a system of accounts

Book of Common Prayer : the service book of the Anglican Communion

book of original entry : that one of the books of account of an organization (as a cashbook or register of sales) in which transactions are first recorded

book·plate \ˈbu̇k-ˌplāt\ *n* : a book owner's identification label that is usu. pasted to the inside front cover of a book

book review *n* : a usu. written critical estimate of a book

book·sell·er \ˈbu̇k-ˌsel-ər\ *n* : one who sells books; *esp* : the proprietor of a bookstore — **book·sell·ing** \-ˌsel-iŋ\ *n*

book·shelf \-ˌshelf\ *n* : an open shelf for holding books

book·stall \-ˌstȯl\ *n* **1** : a stall where books are sold **2** *chiefly Brit* : NEWSSTAND

book·store \-ˌstō(ə)r, -ˌstȯ(ə)r\ *n* : a place of business where books are the main item offered for sale — called also *bookshop*

book value *n* : the value of something as shown by the books of account of the business owning it; *esp* : a value of a share of capital stock consisting of its equity in corporate assets usu. exclusive of goodwill less its share in corporate liabilities

book·worm \ˈbu̇k-ˌwərm\ *n* **1** : any of various insect larvae (as of a beetle) that feed on the binding and paste of books **2** : a person unusually devoted to reading and study

Bool·ean \ˈbü-lē-ən\ *adj* [George *Boole* †1864 E mathematician] : of, relating to, or being a logical combinatorial system that represents symbolically relationships (as those implied by the linguistic operators AND, OR, and NOT) between entities (as sets, propositions, or on-off computer circuit elements) ⟨~ algebra⟩ ⟨~ expression⟩ ⟨~ search strategy for information retrieval⟩

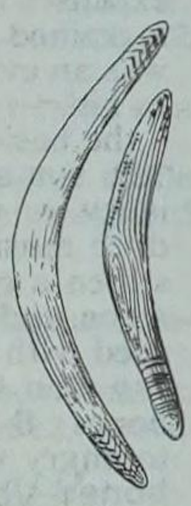
¹boom \ˈbüm\ *n* [D, tree, beam; akin to OHG *boum* tree — more at BEAM] **1** : a long spar used to extend the foot of a sail or facilitate handling of cargo or mooring **2 a** : a long beam projecting from the mast of a derrick to support or guide an object to be lifted or swung **b** : a long movable arm used to manipulate a microphone **3** : a line of connected floating timbers across a river or enclosing an area of water to keep sawlogs together; *also* : the enclosed logs **4** : a chain cable or line of spars extended across a river or the mouth of a harbor to defend it by obstructing navigation **5** : a spar or outrigger connecting the tail surfaces and the main supporting structure of an airplane

²boom *vb* [imit.] *vi* **1** : to make a deep hollow sound **2 a** : to increase in importance or esteem **b** : to experience a sudden rapid growth and expansion usu. with an increase in prices ⟨business was ~*ing*⟩ **c** : to develop rapidly in population and importance ⟨California ~*ed* when gold was discovered there⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to resound — often used with *out* ⟨his voice ~*s* out the lyrics⟩ **2** : to cause a rapid growth or increase of : BOOST

³boom *n* **1** : a booming sound or cry **2** : a rapid expansion or increase: as **a** : a general movement in support of a candidate for office **b** : rapid settlement and development of a town or district **c** : a rapid widespread expansion of economic activity

boom·er *n* **1** : one that booms **2** : one that joins a rush of settlers to a boom area **3** : a transient worker (as a bridge builder)

boo·mer·ang \ˈbü-mə-ˌraŋ\ *n* [native name in Australia] **1** : a bent or angular throwing club which can be thrown so as to return near the starting point **2** : an act or utterance that backfires on its originator — **boomerang** *vi*



boomerangs 1

boom·let \ˈbüm-lət\ *n* : a small boom; *specif* : a sudden often short-term increase or expansion ⟨a stock market ~⟩

boomy \ˈbü-mē\ *adj* **boom·i·er; -est** **1** : of, relating to, or characterized by an economic boom **2** : having an excessive accentuation on the tones of lower pitch in reproduced sound

¹boon \ˈbün\ *n* [ME, fr. ON *bōn* petition; akin to OE *bēn* prayer, *bannan* to summon — more at BAN] **1** : BENEFIT, FAVOR; *esp* : one that is given in answer to a request **2** : a timely benefit : BLESSING

²boon *adj* [ME *bon*, fr. MF, good — more at BONNY] **1** *archaic* : BOUNTEOUS, BENIGN **2** : MERRY, CONVIVIAL ⟨a ~ companion⟩

boon·docks \ˈbün-ˌdäks\ *n pl* [Tag *bundok* mountain] **1** : rough country filled with dense brush : JUNGLE **2** : a rural area : STICKS

boon·dog·gle \ˈbün-ˌdäg-əl, -ˌdȯg-\ *n* [coined by Robert H. Link †1957 Am scoutmaster] **1** : a handicraft article made of leather or wicker **2** : a trivial, useless, or wasteful project or activity — **boondoggle** *vi* — **boon·dog·gler** \-(ə-)lər\ *n*

boon·ies \ˈbü-nēz\ *n pl, slang* : BOONDOCKS 2

boor \ˈbu̇(ə)r\ *n* [D *boer;* akin to OE *būan* to dwell — more at BOWER] **1** : PEASANT **2** : BOER **3 a** : YOKEL **b** : a rude or insensitive person

boor·ish \ˈbu̇(ə)r-ish\ *adj* : resembling or befitting a boor (as in crude insensitivity) — **boor·ish·ly** *adv* — **boor·ish·ness** *n*
syn BOORISH, CHURLISH, LOUTISH, CLOWNISH *shared meaning element* : uncouth in manner or appearance ***ant*** gentlemanly

¹boost \ˈbüst\ *vb* [origin unknown] *vt* **1** : to push or shove up from below **2 a** : INCREASE, RAISE ⟨plans to ~ production by 30 percent next year⟩ **b** : to aid or assist esp. towards progress or increase ⟨an extra holiday to ~ morale⟩ **3** : to promote the cause or interests of : PLUG ⟨a campaign to ~ the new fashions⟩ **4** : to increase in force, pressure, or amount; *esp* : to raise the voltage of or across (an electric circuit) **5** *slang* : STEAL, SHOPLIFT ~ *vi, slang* : SHOPLIFT ***syn*** see LIFT

²boost *n* **1** : a push upwards **2** : an increase in amount **3** : an act that brings help or encouragement

boost·er \ˈbü-stər\ *n* **1** : one that boosts **2** : an enthusiastic supporter **3** : an auxiliary device for increasing force, power, or pressure **4** : a radio-frequency amplifier for a radio or television receiving set **5** : the first stage of a multistage rocket providing thrust for the launching and the initial part of the flight **6** : a substance that increases the effectiveness of a medicament; *esp* : a supplementary dose of an immunizing agent to increase immunity **7** *slang* : SHOPLIFTER

boost·er·ism \-ə-ˌriz-əm\ *n* : the activities and attitudes characteristic of boosters

¹boot \ˈbüt\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bōt* remedy; akin to OE *bet*era better] **1** *archaic* : DELIVERANCE **2** *chiefly dial* : something to equalize a trade **3** *obs* : AVAIL — **to boot** : BESIDES

²boot *vb, archaic* : AVAIL, PROFIT

³boot *n* [ME, fr. MF *bot*?] **1** : a covering of leather or rubber for the foot and leg **2** : an instrument of torture used to crush the leg and foot **3** : a sheath or casing resembling a boot that provides a protective covering for the foot or leg or for an object or part resembling a leg; *also* : a thick patch for the inside of a tire casing **4** : a sheath enclosing the inflorescence **5** *Brit* : an automobile trunk **6 a** : a blow delivered by or as if by a booted foot : KICK; *also* : a rude discharge or dismissal **b** : pleasure or enjoyment esp. of a momentary kind : BANG ⟨got a big ~ out of the joke⟩ **7** : a navy or marine recruit undergoing basic training

⁴boot *vt* **1** : to put boots on **2 a** : KICK **b** : to eject or discharge summarily — often used with *out* ⟨was ~*ed* out of office⟩ **3** : to make an error on (a grounder in baseball)

⁵boot *n* [¹*boot*] *archaic* : BOOTY, PLUNDER

boot·black \ˈbüt-ˌblak\ *n* : one who shines shoes

boot camp *n* : a navy or marine camp for basic training

boot·ed \ˈbüt-əd\ *adj* : wearing boots

boo·tee *or* **boo·tie** \bü-ˈtē, *of infants' footwear* ˈbüt-ē\ *n* : a boot or sock with a short leg; *esp* : an infant's knitted or crocheted sock

Bo·ö·tes \bō-ˈōt-ēz\ *n* [L (gen. *Boötis*), fr. Gk *Boōtēs*, lit., plowman, fr. *bous* head of cattle — more at COW] : a northern constellation containing the bright star Arcturus

booth \'büth, *esp Brit* 'büth\ *n, pl* **booths** \'büthz, 'büths\ [ME *bothe*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *būth* booth; akin to OE *būan* to dwell — more at BOWER] **1** : a temporary shelter for livestock or field workers **2 a** : a stall or stand (as at a fair) for the sale or exhibition of goods **b** (1) : a small enclosure affording privacy for one person at a time ⟨a telephone ~⟩ (2) : a small enclosure that separates its occupant from patrons or customers ⟨a ticket ~⟩ **c** : a restaurant seating arrangement consisting of a table between two backed benches

boot·jack \'büt-ˌjak\ *n* : a metal or wood device with a V-shaped opening for pulling off boots

boot·lace \-ˌlās\ *n, Brit* : SHOELACE

[1]boot·leg \-ˌleg, -ˌlāg\ *n* **1** : the upper part of a boot **2** : something bootlegged; *specif* : MOONSHINE **3** : a football play in which the quarterback fakes a handoff, hides the ball on his hip, and rolls out — compare DRAW 8 — **bootleg** *adj*

[2]bootleg *vt* **1 a** : to carry (alcoholic liquor) on one's person illegally **b** : to manufacture, sell, or transport for sale (alcoholic liquor) contrary to law **2 a** : to produce or sell illicitly **b** (1) : SMUGGLE (2) : to obtain secretly or illicitly ~ *vi* **1** : to engage in bootlegging **2** : to run a bootleg play in football

boot·less \'büt-ləs\ *adj* : USELESS, UNPROFITABLE — **boot·less·ly** *adv* — **boot·less·ness** *n*

boot·lick \-ˌlik\ *vt* : to fawn on obsequiously ~ *vi* : to attempt to gain favor by a cringing or flattering manner — **bootlick** *n* — **boot·lick·er** *n*

boot·print \-ˌprint\ *n* : an impression made by a boot

boots \'büts\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [fr. pl. of *[3]boot*] *Brit* : a servant who shines shoes esp. in a hotel

[1]boot·strap \'büt-ˌstrap\ *n* **1** : a looped strap sewed at the side or the rear top of a boot to help in pulling it on **2** *pl* : unaided efforts — often used in the phrase *by one's own bootstraps*

[2]bootstrap *adj* **1** : carried out with minimum resources or advantages : SELF-RELIANT ⟨the city recovered from the flood by the ~ method⟩ **2** : using its own action to initiate or sustain itself ⟨a ~ operation to load a computer⟩

boo·ty \'büt-ē\ *n, pl* **booties** [modif. of MF *butin*, fr. MLG *būte* exchange] **1** : plunder taken (as in war); *esp* : plunder taken on land as distinguished from prizes taken at sea **2** : a rich gain or prize ***syn*** see SPOIL

[1]booze \'büz\ *vi* **boozed; booz·ing** [ME *bousen*, fr. MD or MFlem *būsen*; akin to MHG *būs* swelling] : to drink intoxicating liquor to excess — **booz·er** \'bü-zər\ *n* — **booz·i·ly** \-zə-lē\ *adv* — **boozy** \-zē\ *adj*

[2]booze *n* **1** : intoxicating drink; *esp* : hard liquor **2** : a drinking spree

[1]bop \'bäp\ *vt* **bopped; bop·ping** [imit.] : HIT, SOCK

[2]bop *n* : a blow (as with the fist or a club) that strikes a person

[3]bop *n* [short for *bebop*] : jazz characterized by unusual chord structures, accents on the upbeat, a lengthened melodic line, and harmonic complexity and innovation — **bop·per** *n*

BOQ *abbr* bachelor officers' quarters

bor *abbr* borough

bo·ra \'bōr-ə, 'bȯr-\ *n* [It. dial., fr. L *boreas*] : a violent cold northerly wind of the Adriatic

bo·rac·ic acid \bə-ˌras-ik-\ *n* [ML *borac-, borax* borax] : BORIC ACID

bor·age \'bȯr-ij, 'bär-\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *bourage*] : a coarse hairy blue-flowered European herb (*Borago officinalis* of the family Boraginaceae, the borage family) used medicinally and in salads

bo·rane \'bō(ə)r-ˌān, 'bȯ(ə)r-\ *n* [ISV, fr. *boron*] : a compound of boron and hydrogen or a derivative of such a compound

bo·rate \-ˌāt\ *n* : a salt or ester of a boric acid

bo·rat·ed \-ˌāt-əd\ *adj* : mixed or impregnated with borax or boric acid

bo·rax \'bō(ə)r-ˌaks, 'bȯ(ə)r-, -əks\ *n* [ME *boras*, fr. MF, fr. ML *borac-, borax*, fr. Ar *būraq*, fr. Per *būrah*] : a white crystalline compound that consists of a hydrated sodium borate $Na_2B_4O_7 \cdot 10H_2O$, that occurs as a mineral or is prepared from other minerals, and that is used esp. as a flux, cleansing agent, and water softener and as a preservative

Bo·ra·zon \'bōr-ə-ˌzän, 'bȯr-\ *trademark* — used for a boron nitride abrasive

Bor·deaux \bȯr-'dō\ *n, pl* **Bor·deaux** \-'dōz\ : white or red wine of the Bordeaux region of France

bor·deaux mixture \bȯr-'dō-, 'bȯrd-ˌō-\ *n, often cap B* : a fungicide made by reaction of copper sulfate, lime, and water

bor·del \'bȯrd-ᵊl\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *borde* hut, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *bord* board] *archaic* : BROTHEL

bor·del·lo \bȯr-'del-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-los** [It, fr. OF *bordel*] : BROTHEL

[1]bor·der \'bȯrd-ər\ *n* [ME *bordure*, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *border* to border, fr. *bort* border, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *bord*] **1** : an outer part or edge **2** : BOUNDARY, FRONTIER ⟨crossed the ~ into Italy⟩ **3** : a narrow bed of planted ground along the edge of a garden or walk ⟨a ~ of tulips⟩ **4** : an ornamental design at the edge of a fabric or rug **5** : a plain or decorative margin around printed matter — **bor·dered** \-ərd\ *adj*

syn BORDER, MARGIN, VERGE, EDGE, RIM, BRIM, BRINK *shared meaning element* : a line or outer part that marks the limit of something

[2]border *vb* **bor·dered; bor·der·ing** \'bȯrd-(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* **1** : to put a border on ⟨~ a bedspread with fringe⟩ **2** : to touch at the edge or boundary : BOUND ⟨an airport ~*s* the city on the south⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to lie on the border ⟨the U.S. ~*s* on Canada⟩ **2** : to approach the nature of a specified thing : VERGE ⟨his devotion to his dog ~*s* on the ridiculous⟩ — **bor·der·er** \-ər-ər\ *n*

bor·de·reau \ˌbȯrd-ə-'rō\ *n, pl* **-reaux** \-'rō(z)\ [F] : a detailed note or memorandum of account; *esp* : one containing an enumeration of documents

bor·der·land \'bȯrd-ər-ˌland\ *n* **1 a** : territory at or near a border : FRONTIER **b** : an outlying region : FRINGE ⟨lives on the ~ of society⟩ **2** : a vague intermediate state or region ⟨the ~ between fantasy and reality⟩

bor·der·line \-ˌlīn\ *adj* **1** : situated at or near a border line **2 a** : situated between two points or states : INTERMEDIATE **b** : not quite average, standard, or normal ⟨a person of ~ intelligence⟩ **c** : not quite meeting accepted patterns (as of morality or good taste); *esp* : verging on the indecent ⟨a ~ joke⟩ **d** : having only marginal certainty or validity ⟨the new theory is of ~ value⟩

border line *n* : a line of demarcation

Border terrier *n* : a small terrier of British origin with a harsh dense coat and close undercoat

bor·dure \'bȯr-jər\ *n* [ME] : a border surrounding a heraldic shield

[1]bore \'bō(ə)r, 'bȯ(ə)r\ *vb* **bored; bor·ing** [ME *boren*, fr. OE *borian*; akin to OHG *borōn* to bore, L *forare* to bore, *ferire* to strike] *vt* **1** : to pierce with or as if with a rotary tool **2** : to form or construct by boring ~ *vi* **1 a** : to make a hole by boring **b** : to sink a mine shaft or well **2 a** : to make one's way laboriously ⟨we *bored* through the jostling crowd⟩ **b** : to move ahead steadily ⟨the sturdy ship continued to ~ through towering waves⟩

[2]bore *n* **1** : a hole made by or as if by boring **2 a** : an interior lengthwise cylindrical cavity **b** : the interior tube of a gun **3 a** : the size of a hole **b** : the interior diameter of a tube : CALIBER, GAUGE **c** : the diameter of an engine cylinder

[3]bore *past of* BEAR

[4]bore *n* [(assumed) ME *bore* wave, fr. ON *bāra*] : a tidal flood with a high abrupt front

[5]bore *n* [origin unknown] : one that causes boredom: as **a** : a tiresome person **b** : something that is devoid of interest

[6]bore *vt* **bored; bor·ing** : to weary with ennui or tedium ⟨a good entertainer never ~*s* his audience⟩

bo·re·al \'bōr-ē-əl, 'bȯr-\ *adj* [ME *boriall*, fr. LL *borealis*, fr. L *boreas* north wind, north, fr. Gk, fr. *Boreas*] **1** : of, relating to, or located in northern regions **2** *cap* : of, relating to, or growing in northern and mountainous parts of the northern hemisphere

Bo·re·as \-ē-əs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk] **1** : the god of the north wind in Greek mythology **2** : the north wind personified

bore·dom \'bō(ə)rd-əm, 'bȯ(ə)rd-\ *n* : the state of being bored : ENNUI

bor·er \'bōr-ər, 'bȯr-\ *n* : one that bores: as **a** : a worker who bores holes **b** : a tool used for boring **c** (1) : SHIPWORM **c** (2) : an insect that as larva or adult bores in the woody parts of plants

bo·ric \'bōr-ik, 'bȯr-\ *adj* : of or containing boron

boric acid *n* : a white crystalline acid H_3BO_3 easily obtained from its salts and used esp. as a weak antiseptic

bo·ride \'bō(ə)r-ˌīd, 'bȯ(ə)r-\ *n* : a binary compound of boron usu. with a more electropositive element or radical

bor·ing \'bō(ə)r-iŋ, 'bȯ(ə)r-\ *adj* : causing boredom : TIRESOME — **bor·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv* — **bor·ing·ness** *n*

born \'bȯ(ə)rn\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *boren*, pp. of *beran* to carry — more at BEAR] **1 a** : brought forth by or as if by birth **b** : NATIVE — usu. used in combination ⟨American-*born*⟩ **c** : deriving or resulting from — usu. used in combination ⟨poverty-*born* crime⟩ **2 a** : having from birth specified qualities ⟨a ~ leader⟩ **b** : being in specified circumstances from birth ⟨nobly ~⟩ **3** : destined from or as if from birth ⟨~ to succeed⟩

borne *past part of* BEAR

bor·ne·ol \'bȯr-nē-ˌōl, -ˌōl\ *n* [ISV, fr. *Borneo*, island in the Malay archipelago] : a cystalline cyclic alcohol $C_{10}H_{17}OH$ that is known in three optically different forms, is found in essential oils, and is used esp. in perfumery

born·ite \'bȯ(ə)r-ˌnīt\ *n* [G *bornit*, fr. Ignaz von *Born* †1791 Austrian mineralogist] : a brittle metallic-looking mineral Cu_5FeS_4 consisting of a sulfide of copper and iron and constituting a valuable ore of copper

bo·ron \'bō(ə)r-ˌän, 'bȯ(ə)r-\ *n* [*borax* + *-on* (as in *carbon*)] : a trivalent metalloid element found in nature only in combination and used in metallurgy and in nucleonics — see ELEMENT table — **bo·ron·ic** \bȯr-'än-ik, bōr-\ *adj*

bo·ro·sil·i·cate \ˌbōr-ō-'sil-ə-ˌkāt, ˌbȯr-, -'sil-i-kət\ *n* [ISV *boron* + *silicate*] : a silicate containing boron in the anion and occurring naturally

bor·ough \'bər-(ˌ)ō, 'bə-(ˌ)rō, -ə(-w), -rə(-w)\ *n* [ME *burgh*, fr. OE *burg* fortified town; akin to OHG *burg* fortified place, OE *beorg* mountain — more at BARROW] **1 a** : a medieval fortified group of houses forming a town with special duties and privileges **b** : a town or urban constituency in Great Britain that sends a member to Parliament **c** : an urban area in Great Britain incorporated for purposes of self-government **2 a** : a municipal corporation proper in some states (as New Jersey and Minnesota) corresponding to the incorporated town or village of the other states **b** : one of the five constituent political divisions of New York City **3** : a civil division of the state of Alaska corresponding to a county in most other states

borough English *n* : a custom formerly existing in parts of England by which the lands of a tenant intestate descend to the youngest son

bor·row \'bär-(ˌ)ō, 'bȯr-, -ə(-w)\ *vb* [ME *borwen*, fr. OE *borgian*; akin to OE *beorgan* to preserve — more at BURY] *vt* **1** : to receive with the implied or expressed intention of returning the same or an equivalent ⟨~ a book⟩ **2 a** : to appropriate for one's own use ⟨~ a metaphor⟩ **b** : DERIVE, ADOPT **3** : to take (one) from a figure of the minuend in arithmetical subtraction in order to add as 10 to the next lower denomination **4** : to introduce into one language from another **5** : to dig from a borrow pit **6** *dial* : LEND ~ *vi* : to borrow something — **bor·row·er** \-ə-wər\ *n*

bor·row·ing \'bär-ə-wiŋ, 'bȯr-\ *n* : something borrowed; *esp* : a word or phrase adopted from one language into another

borrow pit *n* : an excavated area where material has been dug for use as fill at another location

Bors \'bȯ(ə)rz\ *n* : a knight of the Round Table and nephew of Lancelot in Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*
borscht *or* **borsch** \'bȯ(ə)rsh(t)\ *n* [Russ *borshch*] : a soup made primarily of beets and served hot or cold often with sour cream
borscht circuit *or* **borsch circuit** *n, often cap B&C* [fr. the popularity of borscht on menus of the resorts] : the theaters and nightclubs associated with the Jewish summer resorts in the Catskills — called also *borscht belt*
bor·stal \'bȯr-stᵊl\ *n* [*Borstal*, E village where the first such institution was set up] *Brit* : a reformatory for delinquent boys and girls between the ages of 16 and 21
bort \'bȯ(ə)rt\ *n* [prob. fr. D *boort*] : imperfectly crystallized diamond or diamond fragments used as an abrasive
bor·zoi \'bȯr-ˌzȯi\ *n* [Russ *borzoĭ*, fr. *borzoĭ* swift; akin to L *festinare* to hasten] : any of a breed of large long-haired dogs of greyhound type developed in Russia esp. for pursuing wolves
bos·cage *also* **bosk·age** \'bäs-kij\ *n* [ME *boskage*, fr. MF *boscage*, fr. OF, fr. *bois, bosc* forest, perh. of Gmc origin; akin to ME *bush*] : a growth of trees or shrubs : THICKET
bosh \'bäsh\ *n* [Turk *boş* empty] **1** : foolish talk or activity : NONSENSE **2** : something worthless or trifling
bosk *or* **bosque** \'bäsk\ *n* [prob. back-formation fr. *bosky*] : a small wooded area
bosk·et *or* **bos·quet** \'bäs-kət\ *n* [F *bosquet*, fr. It *boschetto*, dim of *bosco* forest, perh. of Gmc origin; akin to ME *bush*] : THICKET
Bos·kop man \ˌbäs-ˌkäp-\ *n* [*Boskop*, locality in the Transvaal] : a late Pleistocene southern African man prob. ancestral to modern Bushmen and Hottentots — **bos·kop·oid** \'bäs-kə-ˌpȯid\ *adj*
bosky \'bäs-kē\ *adj* [E dial. *bosk* bush, fr. ME *bush, bosk*] **1** : having abundant trees or shrubs **2** : of or relating to a woods
bo·s'n *or* **bo'·s'n** *or* **bo·sun** *or* **bo'·sun** \'bōs-ᵊn\ *var of* BOATSWAIN
¹bo·som \'bu̇z-əm *also* 'büz-\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bōsm;* akin to OHG *buosam* bosom, Skt *bhūri* abundant — more at BIG] **1** : the front of the human chest; *esp* : the female breasts **2 a** : the anatomical center of secret thoughts and emotions **b** : close relationship ⟨lived in the ~ of her family⟩ **3 a** : a broad surface **b** : an inmost recess **4 a** : the part of a garment covering the breast **b** : the space between the breast and the garment covering it
²bosom *vt* **1** : to enclose or carry in the bosom **2** : EMBRACE
³bosom *adj* : CLOSE, INTIMATE ⟨~ friends⟩
-bo·somed \-əmd\ *adj comb form* : having (such) a bosom ⟨flat-*bosomed*⟩
bo·somy \-ə-mē\ *adj* **1** : swelling upward or outward ⟨~ hills⟩ **2** : having prominent well-developed breasts
bo·son \'bō-ˌsän\ *n* [Satyendranath *Bose b*1894 Indian physicist + E ²*-on*] : a particle (as a photon, meson, or alpha particle) whose spin is zero or an integral number
¹boss \'bäs, 'bȯs\ *n* [ME *boce*, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *bottia*] **1 a** : a protuberant part or body ⟨a ~ of granite⟩ ⟨a ~ on an animal's horn⟩ **b** : a raised ornamentation : STUD **c** : an ornamental projecting block used in architecture **2** : a soft pad used in ceramics and glassmaking **3 a** : the enlarged part of a shaft on which a wheel is mounted **b** : the hub of a propeller

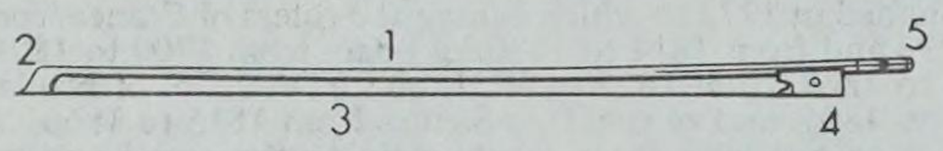


boss 1c

²boss *vt* **1** : to ornament with bosses : EMBOSS **2** : to treat (as the surface of porcelain) with a boss
³boss \'bȯs\ *n* [D *baas* master; akin to Fris *baes* master] **1** : one who exercises control or authority; *specif* : one who directs or supervises workers **2 a** : a politician who controls votes in a party organization or dictates appointments or legislative measures **b** : an official with dictatorial authority over an organization — **boss·dom** \-dəm\ *n* — **boss·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n*
⁴boss \'bȯs\ *adj* **1** : being in charge : having authority **2** *slang* : EXCELLENT ⟨a beautiful blazer, a ~ piece of stitching —*N.Y. Times*⟩
⁵boss \'bȯs\ *vt* **1** : to act as director or supervisor of **2** : ORDER
⁶boss \'bȯs, 'bäs\ *n* [E dial., young cow] : COW, CALF
bos·sa no·va \ˌbäs-ə-'nō-və\ *n* [Pg, lit., new trend] **1** : a Brazilian dance characterized by the sprightly step pattern of the samba and a subtle bounce **2** : music resembling the samba with jazz interpolations
boss man *n* : BOSS
¹bossy \'bäs-ē, 'bȯ-sē\ *adj* **1** : marked by a swelling or roundness **2** : marked by bosses : STUDDED
²bossy \'bȯ-sē, 'bäs-ē\ *n, pl* **boss·ies** : COW, CALF
³bossy \'bȯ-sē\ *adj* **boss·i·er; -est** : inclined to domineer : DICTATORIAL — **boss·i·ness** *n*
Bos·ton \'bȯ-stən\ *n* [F, fr. *Boston*, Mass.] **1** : a card game for four players with two decks of cards **2** : a dance somewhat like a waltz
Boston bag *n* : a traveling bag or utility bag that is held together at the top opening by two handles
Boston cream pie *n* : a round cake that is split and filled with a custard or cream filling
Boston fern *n* : a luxuriant fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata bostoniensis*) often with drooping much-divided fronds
Boston ivy *n* : a woody Asiatic vine (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) of the grape family with 3-lobed leaves
Boston terrier *n* : any of a breed of small smooth-coated terriers originating as a cross of the bulldog and bullterrier and being brindle or black with white markings — called also *Boston bull*
Bos·well \'bäz-ˌwel, -wəl\ *n* [James *Boswell*] : one who records in detail the conversation and activities of a usu. famous contemporary — **Bos·well·ize** \-wəl-ˌīz, -ˌwel-\ *vb*
¹bot *also* **bott** \'bät\ *n* [perh. modif. of ScGael *boiteag* maggot] : the larva of a botfly; *esp* : one infesting the horse
²bot *abbr* **1** botanical; botany; botanist **2** bottle **3** bottom **4** bought
botan *abbr* botanical
¹bo·tan·i·cal \bə-'tan-i-kəl\ *adj* [F *botanique*, fr. Gk *botanikos* of herbs, fr. *botanē* pasture, herb, fr. *boskein* to feed; akin to Lith *gauja* herd] **1** : of or relating to plants or botany **2** : derived from plants **3** : SPECIES ⟨~ tulips⟩ — **bo·tan·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
²botanical *n* : a vegetable drug esp. in the crude state
bot·a·nist \'bät-ᵊn-əst, 'bät-nəst\ *n* : a specialist in botany or in a branch of botany : a professional student of plants
bot·a·nize \-ᵊn-ˌīz\ *vb* **-nized; -niz·ing** *vi* : to collect plants for botanical investigation; *also* : to study plants esp. on a field trip ~ *vt* : to explore for botanical purposes
bot·a·ny \'bät-ᵊn-ē, 'bät-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [back-formation fr. *botanical*] **1** : a branch of biology dealing with plant life **2 a** : plant life **b** : the properties and life phenomena exhibited by a plant, plant type, or plant group **3** : a botanical treatise or study; *esp* : a particular system of botany
¹botch \'bäch\ *n* [ME *boche*, fr. ONF, fr. (assumed) VL *bottia* boss] : an inflammatory sore
²botch *vt* [ME *bocchen*] **1** : to repair or patch ineptly **2** : to foul up hopelessly : BUNGLE **3** : to assemble or construct in a makeshift way — **botch·er** *n*
³botch *n* **1** : something that is botched : MESS **2** : PATCHWORK, HODGEPODGE — **botchy** \-ē\ *adj*
botch·work \'bäch-ˌwərk\ *n* : clumsy or careless work
bo·tel \bō-'tel\ *var of* BOATEL
bot·fly \'bät-ˌflī\ *n* : any of various stout two-winged flies (group Oestroidea) with larvae parasitic in cavities or tissues of various mammals including man
¹both \'bōth\ *adj* [ME *bothe*, fr. ON *bāthir;* akin to OHG *beide* both] : being the two : affecting or involving the one and the other ⟨~ feet⟩ ⟨~ his eyes⟩ ⟨~ these armies⟩
²both *pron, pl in constr* : the one as well as the other ⟨~ of us⟩ ⟨~ of the books⟩ ⟨we are ~ well⟩
³both *conj* — used as a function word to indicate and stress the inclusion of each of two or more things specified by coordinated words, phrases, or clauses ⟨~ New York and London⟩ ⟨spoke with ~ kindness and understanding⟩
¹both·er \'bäth-ər\ *vb* **both·ered; both·er·ing** \-(ə-)riŋ\ [perh. fr. IrGael *bodhar* bothered] *vt* **1 a** : to cause to be nervous : FLUSTER **b** : PUZZLE, MYSTIFY **2 a** : to annoy esp. by petty provocation : IRK **b** : to intrude upon : PESTER **c** : to cause to be anxious or concerned : TROUBLE ~ *vi* **1** : to feel mild concern or anxiety **2** : to take pains : take the trouble **3** : to stir up petty trouble ***syn*** see ANNOY ***ant*** comfort
²bother *n* **1 a** : a state of petty discomfort, annoyance, or worry **b** : something that causes petty annoyance or worry **2** : FUSS
both·er·ation \ˌbäth-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of bothering : the state of being bothered **2** : something that bothers
both·er·some \'bäth-ər-səm\ *adj* : causing bother : VEXING
bot·o·née *or* **bot·on·née** \ˌbät-ᵊn-'ā\ *adj* [MF *botonné*] *of a heraldic cross* : having a cluster of three balls or knobs at the end of each arm — see CROSS illustration
bo tree \'bō-\ *n* [Sinhalese *bō*, fr. Skt *bodhi*] : PIPAL
bot·ry·oi·dal \ˌbä-trē-'ȯid-ᵊl\ *also* **bot·ry·oid** \'bä-trē-ˌȯid\ *adj* [Gk *botryoeidēs*, fr. *botrys* bunch of grapes] : having the form of a bunch of grapes ⟨~ garnets⟩
¹bot·tle \'bät-ᵊl\ *n, often attrib* [ME *botel*, fr. MF *bouteille*, fr. ML *butticula*, dim. of LL *buttis* cask] **1 a** : a rigid or semirigid container typically of glass or plastic having a comparatively narrow neck or mouth and usu. no handle **b** : a bag made of skin **c** : the quantity held by a bottle **2 a** : intoxicating drink ⟨hit the ~⟩ **b** : bottled milk used in place of mother's milk — **bot·tle·ful** \-ˌfu̇l\ *n*
²bottle *vt* **bot·tled; bot·tling** \'bät-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ **1** : to put into a bottle **2** : to confine as if in a bottle : RESTRAIN — usu. used with *up* ⟨*bottling* up their anger⟩ — **bot·tler** \-lər, -ᵊl-ər\ *n*
bottle club *n* : a usu. private establishment at which patrons are served alcoholic drinks after normal legal closing hours from supplies they have previously purchased or reserved
bottled gas *n* : gas under pressure in portable cylinders
bot·tle–feed \'bät-ᵊl-ˌfēd\ *vt* **-fed; -feed·ing** : to feed (as an infant) with a bottle
bottle gourd *n* : a common cultivated gourd (*Lagenaria siceraria*) with a variably shaped fruit that is sometimes used as a container
¹bot·tle·neck \'bät-ᵊl-ˌnek\ *n* **1 a** : a narrow route **b** : a point of traffic congestion **2 a** : a condition or situation that retards or halts free movement and progress **b** : IMPASSE **3** : a style of guitar playing using an object (as a metal bar or the neck of a bottle) pressed against the strings for a glissando effect
²bottleneck *vt* : to slow or halt by causing a bottleneck
³bottleneck *adj* : NARROW ⟨~ harbors⟩
bot·tle–nosed dolphin \ˌbät-ᵊl-ˌnōz-\ *n* : any of various moderately large stout-bodied toothed whales (genus *Tursiops* and esp. *T. truncatus*) with a prominent beak and falcate dorsal fin — called also *bottle-nosed porpoise*
¹bot·tom \'bät-əm\ *n* [ME *botme*, fr. OE *botm;* akin to OHG *bodam* bottom, L *fundus*, Gk *pythmēn*] **1 a** : the undersurface of something : UNDERSIDE **b** : a surface designed to support something resting on it **c** : the posterior end of the trunk : BUTTOCKS, RUMP **2** : the surface on which a body of water lies **3 a** : the part of a ship's hull lying below the water **b** : BOAT, SHIP **4 a** : the lowest part or place **b** : the remotest or inmost point **c** : the lowest or last place in point of precedence ⟨started work at the ~⟩ **d** : the trousers or short pants of pajamas — usu. used in pl. **e** : the last half of an inning of baseball **5** : low-lying grassland along a watercourse — usu. used in pl. **6** : BASIS, SOURCE **7** : capacity (as of a horse) to endure strain **8** : the main plowing mechanism of a plow **9** : a foundation color applied to textile fibers before dyeing — **bot·tomed** \-əmd\ *adj* — **at bottom** : REALLY, BASICALLY
²bottom *vt* **1** : to furnish with a bottom **2** : to provide a foundation for **3** : to bring to the bottom **4** : to get to the bottom of ~ *vi* **1** : to become based **2** : to reach the bottom — **bot·tom·er** *n*

[3]bottom *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or situated at the bottom ⟨~ rock⟩ **2** : frequenting the bottom ⟨~ fishes⟩
bot·tom·land \'bät-əm-ˌland\ *n* : BOTTOM 5
bot·tom·less \-ləs\ *adj* **1** : having no bottom ⟨a ~ chair⟩ **2 a** : extremely deep **b** : impossible to comprehend : UNFATHOMABLE ⟨a ~ mystery⟩ **c** : BOUNDLESS, UNLIMITED **3 a** [fr. the absence of lower as well as upper garments] : NUDE ⟨~ dancers⟩ **b** : featuring nude entertainers ⟨a ~ nightclub⟩ — **bot·tom·less·ly** *adv* — **bot·tom·less·ness** *n*
bot·tom·most \'bät-əm-ˌmōst\ *adj* **1 a** : situated at the very bottom : LOWEST, DEEPEST **b** : LAST ⟨the ~ part of the day —Alfred Kazin⟩ **2** : most basic ⟨the ~ problems facing the world⟩
bottom out *vi, of a security market* : to decline to a point where demand begins to exceed supply and a rise in prices is imminent
bottom round *n* : meat (as steak) from the outer part of a round of beef
bot·tom·ry \'bät-əm-rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [modif. of D *bodermerij*, fr. *bodem* bottom, ship; akin to OHG *bodam*] : a contract by which a ship is hypothecated as security for repayment of a loan at the end of a successful voyage
bot·u·lin \'bäch-ə-lən\ *n* [prob. fr. NL *botulinus*] : a toxin that is formed by the botulinum and is the direct cause of botulism
bot·u·li·num \ˌbäch-ə-'lī-nəm\ *also* **bot·u·li·nus** \-nəs\ *n* [NL, fr. L *botulus* sausage] : a spore-forming bacterium (*Clostridium botulinum*) that secretes botulin — **bot·u·li·nal** \-'līn-ᵊl\ *adj*
bot·u·lism \'bäch-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* : acute food poisoning caused by botulin in food
bou·clé *or* **bou·cle** \bü-'klā\ *n* [F *bouclé* curly, fr. pp. of *boucler* to curl, fr. *bocle* buckle, curl] **1** : an uneven yarn of three plies one of which forms loops at intervals **2** : a textile fabric of bouclé yarn
bou·doir \'büd-ˌwär, 'büd-\ *n* [F, fr. *bouder* to pout] : a woman's dressing room, bedroom, or private sitting room
bouf·fant \bü-'fänt, 'bü-ˌ\ *adj* [F, fr. MF, fr. prp. of *bouffer* to puff] : puffed out ⟨~ hairdos⟩ ⟨a ~ veil⟩
bou·gain·vil·lea *or* **bou·gain·vil·laea** \ˌbüg-ən-'vil-yə, ˌbōg-, ˌbůg-, -'vē-(y)ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Louis Antoine de *Bougainville*] : any of a genus (*Bougainvillaea*) of the four-o'clock family of ornamental tropical American woody vines with brilliant purple or red floral bracts
bough \'baů\ *n* [ME, shoulder, bough, fr. OE *bōg;* akin to OHG *buog* shoulder, Gk *pēchys* forearm] : a branch of a tree; *esp* : a main branch — **boughed** \'baůd\ *adj*
bought \'bȯt\ *adj* [pp. of *buy*] : READY-MADE ⟨~ clothes⟩
bought·en \-ᵊn\ *adj* [*bought* + *-en* (as in *forgotten*)] *chiefly dial* : BOUGHT ⟨the only ~ carpet in the region —H. W. Thompson⟩
bou·gie \'bü-ˌzhē, -ˌjē\ *n* [F, fr. *Bougie*, seaport in Algeria] **1** : a wax candle **2 a** : a tapering cylindrical instrument for introduction into a tubular passage of the body **b** : SUPPOSITORY
bouil·la·baisse \ˌbü-yə-'bās\ *n* [F] : a highly seasoned fish stew made of at least two kinds of fish
bouil·lon \'bůl-ˌyän, -yən; 'bü-yän, 'bů-\ *n* [F, fr. OF *boillon*, fr. *boillir* to boil] : a clear seasoned soup made usu. from lean beef
bouillon cube *n* : a cube of evaporated seasoned meat extract
boul·der \'bōl-dər\ *n* [short for *boulder stone*, fr. ME *bulder ston*, part trans. of a word of Scand origin; akin to Sw dial. *bullersten* large stone in a stream, fr. *buller* noise + *sten* stone] : a detached and rounded or much-worn mass of rock — **boul·dered** \-dərd\ *adj* — **boul·dery** \-d(ə-)rē\ *adj*
[1]bou·le \'bü-(ˌ)lē, bü-'lā\ *n* [Gk *boulē*, lit., will, fr. *boulesthai* to wish] : a legislative council of ancient Greece consisting first of an aristocratic advisory body and later of a representative senate
[2]boule \'bül\ *n* [F, ball — more at BOWL] : a pear-shaped mass (as of sapphire) formed synthetically in a special furnace with the atomic structure of a single crystal
bou·le·vard \'bůl-ə-ˌvärd, 'bül-\ *n* [F, modif. of MD *bolwerc* bulwark] : a broad often landscaped thoroughfare
bou·le·vard·ier \ˌbůl-ə-ˌvär-'dyā, ˌbül-, -'di(ə)r\ *n* [F, fr. *boulevard* + *-ier* -er] : a frequenter of the Parisian boulevards; *broadly* : MAN-ABOUT-TOWN
bou·le·ver·se·ment \bül-(ə-)ver-sə-mäⁿ\ *n* [F] **1** : REVERSAL **2** : a violent disturbance : DISORDER
boulle \'bül, 'byü(ə)l\ *n* [André Charles *Boulle* †1732 F cabinetmaker] : inlaid decoration of tortoiseshell, yellow metal, and white metal in cabinetwork
[1]bounce \'baůn(t)s\ *vb* **bounced; bounc·ing** [ME *bounsen*] *vt* **1** *obs* : BEAT, BUMP **2** : to cause to rebound ⟨~ a ball⟩ **3 a** : DISMISS, FIRE **b** : to expel precipitately from a place ~ *vi* **1** : to rebound after striking **2** : to recover from a blow or a defeat quickly — usu. used with *back* **3** : to be returned by a bank as no good ⟨his checks ~⟩ **4 a** : to leap suddenly : BOUND **b** : to walk with springing steps **5** : to hit a baseball so that it hits the ground before it reaches an infielder
[2]bounce *n* **1 a** : a sudden leap or bound **b** : REBOUND **2** : BLUSTER **3** : VERVE, LIVELINESS
bounc·er \'baůn(t)-sər\ *n* : one that bounces: as **a** : one employed to restrain or eject disorderly persons **b** : a batted baseball that bounces
bounc·ing \-siŋ\ *adj* **1** : enjoying good health : ROBUST **2** : LIVELY, ANIMATED — **bounc·ing·ly** \-siŋ-lē\ *adv*
bouncing bet \-'bet\ *n, often cap 2d B* [fr. *Bet*, nickname for *Elizabeth*] : a European perennial herb (*Saponaria officinalis*) of the pink family that is widely naturalized in the U.S. and has pink or white flowers and leaves which yield a detergent when bruised — called also *soapwort*
bouncy \'baůn(t)-sē\ *adj* **bounc·i·er; -est** **1** : BUOYANT, EXUBERANT **2** : RESILIENT **3** : marked by or producing bounces — **bounc·i·ly** \-sə-lē\ *adv*
[1]bound \'baůnd\ *adj* [ME *boun*, fr. ON *būinn*, pp. of *būa* to dwell, prepare; akin to OHG *būan* to dwell — more at BOWER] **1** *archaic* : READY **2** : intending to go : GOING ⟨~ for home⟩ ⟨college-*bound*⟩
[2]bound *n* [ME, fr. OF *bodne*, fr. ML *bodina*] **1 a** : a limiting line : BOUNDARY — usu. used in pl. **b** : something that limits or restrains ⟨beyond the ~s of decency⟩ **2** *usu pl* **a** : BORDERLAND **b** : the land within certain bounds
[3]bound *vt* **1** : to set limits to : CONFINE **2** : to form the boundary of : ENCLOSE **3** : to name the boundaries of
[4]bound *adj* [ME *bounden*, fr. pp. of *binden* to bind] **1 a** : fastened by or as if by a band : CONFINED ⟨desk-*bound*⟩ **b** : CERTAIN, SURE ⟨~ to rain soon⟩ **2** : placed under legal or moral restraint or obligation : OBLIGED ⟨duty-*bound*⟩ **3** : made costive : CONSTIPATED **4** *of a book* **a** : secured to the covers by cords or tapes **b** : cased in **5** : DETERMINED, RESOLVED **6** : held in chemical or physical combination ⟨~ water in a molecule⟩ **7** : always occurring in combination with another linguistic form ⟨*un-* in *unknown* and *-er* in *speaker* are ~ forms⟩ — compare FREE
[5]bound *n* [MF *bond*, fr. *bondir* to leap, fr. (assumed) VL *bombitire* to hum, fr. L *bombus* deep hollow sound — more at BOMB] **1** : LEAP, JUMP **2** : the action of rebounding : BOUNCE
[6]bound *vi* **1** : to move by leaping **2** : REBOUND, BOUNCE
bound·ary \'baůn-d(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-aries** : something that indicates or fixes a limit or extent; *specif* : a bounding or separating line
boundary layer *n* : a region of retarded fluid near the surface of a body which moves through a fluid or past which a fluid moves
bound·en \'baůn-dən\ *adj* [ME] **1** *archaic* : being under obligation : BEHOLDEN **2** : made obligatory : BINDING ⟨our ~ duty⟩
bound·er \-dər\ *n* **1** : one that bounds **2** : a man of objectionable social behavior : CAD
bound·er·ish \-də-rish\ *adj* : resembling or typical of a bounder — **bound·er·ish·ly** *adv*
bound·less \'baůn-dləs\ *adj* : having no boundaries : VAST — **bound·less·ly** *adv* — **bound·less·ness** *n*
bound up *adj* : closely involved or associated — usu. used with *with*
boun·te·ous \'baůnt-ē-əs\ *adj* [ME *bountevous*, fr. MF *bontif* kind, fr. OF, fr. *bonté*] **1** : giving or disposed to give freely **2** : liberally bestowed — **boun·te·ous·ly** *adv* — **boun·te·ous·ness** *n*
boun·tied \'baůnt-ēd\ *adj* **1** : having the benefit of a bounty **2** : rewarded or rewardable by a bounty
boun·ti·ful \'baůnt-i-fəl\ *adj* **1** : liberal in bestowing gifts or favors **2** : given or provided abundantly : PLENTIFUL ⟨a ~ harvest⟩ ***syn*** see LIBERAL ***ant*** niggardly — **boun·ti·ful·ly** \-f(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **boun·ti·ful·ness** \-fəl-nəs\ *n*
boun·ty \'baůnt-ē\ *n, pl* **bounties** [ME *bounte* goodness, fr. OF *bonté*, fr. L *bonitat-, bonitas*, fr. *bonus* good, fr. OL *duenos;* akin to MHG *zwīden* to grant, L *bene* well] **1** : liberality in giving : GENEROSITY **2** : something that is given generously **3** : yield esp. of a crop **4** : a reward, premium, or subsidy esp. when offered or given by a government: as **a** : an extra allowance to induce entry into the armed services **b** : a grant to encourage an industry **c** : a payment to encourage the destruction of noxious animals **d** : a payment for the capture of an outlaw
bounty hunter *n* **1** : one that hunts predatory animals for the reward offered **2** : one that tracks down and captures outlaws for whom a reward is offered
bou·quet \bō-'kā, bü-\ *n* [F, fr. MF, thicket, fr. ONF *bosquet*, fr. OF *bosc* forest — more at BOSCAGE] **1 a** : flowers picked and fastened together in a bunch : NOSEGAY **b** : a large flight of fireworks **2** : COMPLIMENT **3 a** : a distinctive and characteristic fragrance (as of wine) **b** : a subtle aroma or quality (as of an artistic performance or a piece of writing) ***syn*** see FRAGRANCE
bour·bon \'bů(ə)r-bən, 'bō(ə)r-, 'bȯ(ə)r-; *usu* 'bər- *in sense 4*\ *n* [*Bourbon*, seigniory in France] **1** *cap* : a member of a French family founded in 1272 to which belong the rulers of France from 1589 to 1793 and from 1814 to 1830, of Spain from 1700 to 1808, from 1814 to 1868, from 1875 to 1931, and from 1975, of Naples from 1735 to 1805, and of the Two Sicilies from 1815 to 1860 **2** *often cap* : a person who clings obstinately to the social and political ideas of the old order of things; *specif* : an extremely conservative member of the U.S. Democratic party usu. from the South **3** [*Bourbon* (now Réunion), French island in the Indian ocean] : a rose (*Rosa borboniana*) of compact upright growth with shining leaves, prickly branches, and clustered flowers **4** [*Bourbon* county, Kentucky] : a whiskey distilled from a mash made up of not less than 51 percent corn plus malt and rye — compare CORN WHISKEY — **bour·bon·ism** \-bə-ˌniz-əm\ *n, often cap*
bour·don \'bů(ə)rd-ᵊn\ *n* [ME *burdoun*, fr. MF *bourdon* bass pipe, of imit. origin] : a drone bass (as in a bagpipe)
bourg \'bů(ə)r(g)\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OF *borc*, fr. L *burgus* fortified place, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *burg* fortitied place — more at BOROUGH] : TOWN, VILLAGE: as **a** : one neighboring a castle **b** : a market town
[1]bour·geois \'bů(ə)rzh-ˌwä, bůrzh-'\ *n, pl* **bourgeois** \-ˌwä(z), -'wä(z)\ [MF, fr. OF *borjois*, fr. *borc*] **1 a** : BURGHER **b** : a middle-class person **2** : one with social behavior and political views held to be influenced by private-property interest : CAPITALIST **3** *pl* : BOURGEOISIE
[2]bourgeois *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the townsman or of the social middle class **2** : marked by a concern for material interests and respectability and a tendency toward mediocrity **3** : dominated by commercial and industrial interests : CAPITALISTIC — **bour·geois·ify** \bůrzh-'wäz-ə-ˌfī\ *vb*
bour·geoise \'bů(ə)rzh-ˌwäz, bůrzh-\ *n* [F, fem. of *bourgeois*] **1** : a woman of the middle class **2** : BOURGEOIS
bour·geoi·sie \ˌbůrzh-ˌwä-'zē\ *n* [F, fr. *bourgeois*] **1** : MIDDLE CLASS **2** : a social order dominated by bourgeois
bour·geon \'bər-jən\ *var of* BURGEON
[1]bourn *or* **bourne** \'bō(ə)rn, 'bȯ(ə)rn, 'bů(ə)rn\ *n* [ME *burn, bourne* — more at BURN] : STREAM, BROOK
[2]bourn *or* **bourne** *n* [MF *bourne*, fr, OF *bodne* — more at BOUND] **1** *archaic* : BOUNDARY, LIMIT **2** *archaic* : GOAL, DESTINATION

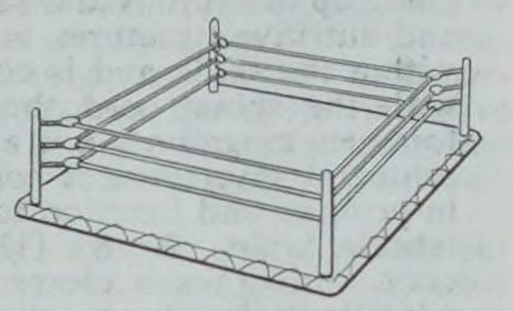
bour·rée \bu̇-'rā, 'bü-,\ *n* [F] **1** : a 17th century French dance usu. in duple time beginning with an upbeat; *also* : a musical composition with the rhythm of this dance **2** : PAS DE BOURRÉE
bourse \'bu̇(ə)rs\ *n* [F, lit., purse, fr. ML *bursa* — more at PURSE] **1** : EXCHANGE 5a; *specif* : a European stock exchange **2** : a sale of numismatic or philatelic items on tables (as at a convention)
bour·tree \'bu̇(ə)r-(,)trē\ *n* [ME *bourtre*] *Brit* : the common large black-fruited elder (*Sambucus nigra*) of Europe and Asia
bouse \'ba u̇z\ *vb* **boused; bous·ing** [origin unknown] *vt* : to haul by means of a tackle ~ *vi* : to bouse something
bou·stro·phe·don \,bü-strə-'fēd-,än, -ᵊn\ *adj* [Gk *boustrophēdon*, adv., lit., turning like oxen in plowing, fr. *bous* ox, cow + *strephein* to turn — more at COW, STROPHE] : having alternate lines written in opposite directions (as from left to right and from right to left); *also* : of, relating to, or using boustrophedon writing
bout \'ba u̇t\ *n* [E dial., a trip going and returning in plowing, fr. ME *bought* bend] : a spell of activity: as **a** : an athletic match (as of boxing) **b** : OUTBREAK, ATTACK **c** : SESSION
bou·tique \bü-'tēk\ *n* [F, shop] : a small fashionable specialty shop; *also* : a small shop within a large department store
bou·ton·niere \,büt-ᵊn-'i(ə)r, ,bü-tən-'ye(ə)r\ *n* [F *boutonnière* buttonhole, fr. MF, fr. *bouton* button] : a flower or bouquet worn in a buttonhole
Bou·vi·er des Flan·dres \,bü-vē-,ād-ə-'flan-dərz, -'flänᵈrᵊ\ *n* [F, lit., cowherd of Flanders] : any of a breed of large powerfully built rough-coated dogs originating in Belgium and used esp. for herding and in guard work
bou·zou·ki *also* **bou·sou·ki** \bu̇-'zü-kē\ *n* [NGk *mpouzouki*; prob. fr. Turk *büyük* large] : a long-necked stringed instrument of Greek origin that resembles a mandolin
[1]bo·vine \'bō-,vīn, -,vēn\ *adj* [LL *bovinus*, fr. L *bov-*, *bos* ox, cow — more at COW] **1** : of, relating to, or resembling the ox or cow **2** : having qualities (as sluggishness or patience) characteristic of oxen or cows — **bo·vine·ly** *adv* — **bo·vin·i·ty** \bō-'vin-ət-ē\ *n*
[2]bovine *n* : an ox (genus *Bos*) or a closely related animal
[1]bow \'ba u̇\ *vb* [ME *bowen*, fr. OE *būgan*; akin to OHG *biogan* to bend, Skt *bhujati* he bends] *vi* **1** : to suffer defeat in a contest : SUBMIT, YIELD **2** : to bend the head, body, or knee in reverence, submission, or shame **3** : to incline the head or body in salutation or assent or to acknowledge applause ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to incline **2** : to incline (as the head) esp. in respect or submission **3** : to crush with a heavy burden **4 a** : to express by bowing **b** : to usher in or out with a bow
[2]bow *n* : a bending of the head or body in respect, submission, assent, or salutation
[3]bow \'bō\ *n* [ME *bowe*, fr. OE *boga*; akin to OE *būgan*] **1 a** : something bent into a simple curve : BEND, ARCH **b** : RAINBOW **2** : a weapon that is made of a strip of flexible material (as wood) with a cord connecting the two ends and holding the strip bent and that is used to propel an arrow **3** : ARCHER **4 a** : a metal ring or loop forming a handle (as of a key) **b** : a knot formed by doubling a ribbon or string into two or more loops **c** : BOW TIE **d** : a frame for the lenses of eyeglasses; *also* : the curved sidepiece of the frame passing over the ear **5 a** : a resilient wooden rod with horsehairs stretched from end to end used in playing an instrument of the viol or violin family **b** : a stroke of such a bow



violin bow: *1* stick, *2* head, *3* hair, *4* frog, *5* screw

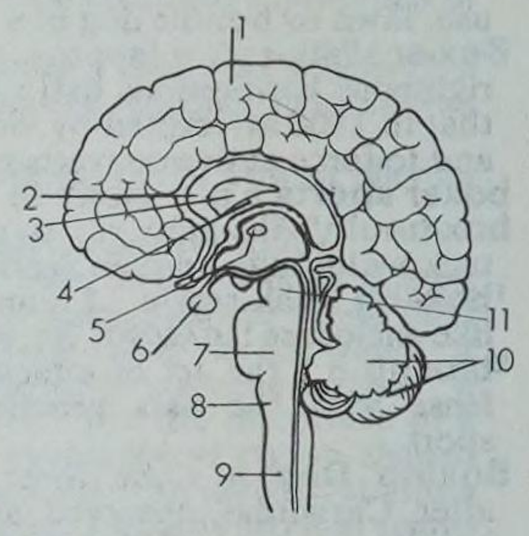
[4]bow \'bō\ *vi* **1** : to bend into a curve **2** : to play a stringed musical instrument with a bow ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to bend into a curve **2** : to play (a stringed instrument) with a bow
[5]bow \'ba u̇\ *n* [prob. fr. Dan *bov* shoulder, bow, fr. ON *bōgr*; akin to OE *bōg* bough] **1** : the forward part of a ship **2** : [2]BOWMAN
Bow bells \'bō-\ *n pl* : the bells of the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow in London
bowd·ler·iza·tion \,bōd-lə-rə-'zā-shən, ,ba u̇d-\ *n* : the act or result of bowdlerizing
bowd·ler·ize \'bōd-lə-,rīz, 'ba u̇d-\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** [Thomas *Bowdler* †1825 E editor] : to expurgate (as a book) by omitting or modifying parts considered vulgar — **bowd·ler·iz·er** *n*
[1]bowed \'ba u̇d\ *adj* [pp. of [1]*bow*] **1** : bent downward and forward ⟨listened with ~ heads⟩ **2** : having the back and head inclined
[2]bowed \'bōd\ *adj* [partly fr. [3]*bow* + *-ed*; partly fr. pp. of [4]*bow*] : furnished with or shaped like a bow
bow·el \'ba u̇(-ə)l\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *boel*, fr. ML *botellus*, fr. L, dim. of *botulus* sausage] **1** : INTESTINE : one of the divisions of the intestines : GUT — usu. used in pl. except in medical use ⟨the large ~⟩ ⟨move your ~*s*⟩ **2** *archaic* : the seat of pity, tenderness, or courage — usu. used in pl. **3** *pl* : the interior parts; *esp* : the deep or remote parts ⟨~*s* of the earth⟩ — **bow·el·less** \'ba u̇(-ə)l-ləs\ *adj*
[1]bow·er \'ba u̇(-ə)r\ *n* [ME *bour* dwelling, fr. OE *būr*; akin to OE & OHG *būan* to dwell, OE *bēon* to be] **1** : an attractive dwelling or retreat **2** : a lady's private apartment in a medieval hall or castle **3** : a shelter (as in a garden) made with tree boughs or vines twined together : ARBOR — **bow·ery** \-ē\ *adj*
[2]bower *vt* : EMBOWER, ENCLOSE
[3]bower *n* : an anchor carried at the bow of a ship
bow·er·bird \'ba u̇(-ə)r-,bərd\ *n* : any of various passerine birds (family Paradisaeidae) of the Australian region in which the male builds a chamber or passage arched over with twigs and grasses, often adorned with bright-colored objects, and used esp. to attract the female
bow·ery \'ba u̇(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** [D *bouwerij*, fr. *bouwer* farmer, fr. *bouwen* to till; akin to OHG *būan* to dwell] **1** : a colonial Dutch plantation or farm **2** [*Bowery*, street in New York City] : a city district notorious for cheap bars and homeless derelicts
bow·fin \'bō-,fin\ *n* : a predaceous dull-green iridescent American freshwater ganoid fish (*Amia calva*) of little value for food or sport
bow·front \-,frənt\ *adj* **1** : having an outward curving front ⟨~ furniture⟩ **2** : having a bow window in front ⟨~ houses⟩
bow·head \-,hed\ *n* : the whalebone whale (*Balaena mysticetus*) of the Arctic
bow·ie knife \'bü-ē-, 'bō-\ *n* [James *Bowie* †1836 Am soldier] : a stout single-edged hunting knife with part of the back edge curved concavely to a point and sharpened
bow·ing \'bō-iŋ\ *n* : the technique of managing the bow in playing a stringed musical instrument
bow·knot \'bō-,nät, -'nät\ *n* : a knot with decorative loops
[1]bowl \'bōl\ *n* [ME *bolle*, fr. OE *bolla*; akin to OHG *bolla* blister, OE *blāwan* to blow] **1** : a concave usu. hemispherical vessel used esp. for holding liquids; *specif* : a drinking vessel (as for wine) **2** : the contents of a bowl **3** : a bowl-shaped or concave part: as **a** : the hollow of a spoon or tobacco pipe **b** : the receptacle of a toilet **4 a** : a natural formation or geographical region shaped like a bowl **b** : a bowl-shaped structure; *esp* : an athletic stadium **5** : a postseasonal football game between specially invited teams — **bowled** \'bōld\ *adj* — **bowl·ful** \-,ful\ *n*
[2]bowl *n* [ME *boule*, fr. MF, fr. L *bulla* bubble] **1 a** : a ball (as of lignum vitae) weighted or shaped to give it a bias when rolled in lawn bowling **b** *pl but sing in constr* : LAWN BOWLING **2** : a delivery of the ball in bowling **3** : a cylindrical roller or drum (as for a mechanical device)
[3]bowl *vi* **1 a** : to participate in a game of bowling **b** : to roll a ball in bowling **2** : to travel in a vehicle smoothly and rapidly ~ *vt* **1 a** : to roll (a ball) in bowling **b** (1) : to complete by bowling ⟨~ a string⟩ (2) : to score by bowling ⟨~*s* 150⟩ **2** : to strike with a swiftly moving object **3** : to overwhelm with surprise
bowlder *var of* BOULDER
bow·leg \'bō-,leg, -,lāg, 'bō-'\ *n* : a leg bowed outward at or below the knee — **bow·legged** \'bō-'leg(-ə)d, -'lāg(-ə)d\ *adj*
[1]bowl·er \'bō-lər\ *n* : one that bowls; *specif* : the player that delivers the ball to the batsman in cricket
[2]bow·ler \'bō-lər\ *n* [*Bowler*, 19th cent. family of E hatters] : a derby hat
bow·line \'bō-lən, -,līn\ *n* [ME *bouline*, perh. fr. *bowe* bow + *line*] **1** : a rope used to keep the weather edge of a square sail taut forward **2** : a knot used to form a loop that neither slips nor jams — see KNOT illustration
bowl·ing \'bō-liŋ\ *n* : any of several games in which balls are rolled on a green or down an alley at an object or group of objects
[1]bow·man \'bō-mən\ *n* : ARCHER
[2]bow·man \'ba u̇-mən\ *n* : a boatman, oarsman, or paddler stationed in the front of a boat
Bow·man's capsule \,bō-mənz-\ *n* [Sir William *Bowman* †1892 E surgeon] : a thin membranous double-walled capsule surrounding the glomerulus of a vertebrate nephron
bow out \(')ba u̇-\ *vi* : RETIRE, WITHDRAW
bow saw \'bō-\ *n* : a saw having a narrow blade held under tension by a light bow-shaped frame
bowse \'ba u̇z\ *var of* BOUSE
bow·sprit \'ba u̇-,sprit, 'bō-\ *n* [ME *bouspret*, prob. fr. MLG *bōchsprēt*, fr. *bōch* bow + *sprēt* pole] : a large spar projecting forward from the stem of a ship
bow·string \'bō-,striŋ\ *n* : a waxed or sized cord joining the ends of a shooting bow
bowstring hemp *n* : any of various Asiatic and African sansevierias; *also* : its soft tough leaf fiber used esp. in cordage
bow tie \'bō-\ *n* : a short necktie tied in a bowknot
bow window \'bō-\ *n* : a usu. curved bay window
bow·wow \'ba u̇-,wa u̇, ba u̇-'\ *n* [imit.] **1** : the bark of a dog; *also* : DOG **2** : noisy clamor **3** : arrogant dogmatic manner
bow·yer \'bō-yər\ *n* : one that makes shooting bows
[1]box \'bäks\ *n, pl* **box** *or* **box·es** [ME, fr. OE, fr. L *buxus*, fr. Gk *pyxos*] : an evergreen shrub or small tree (genus *Buxus* of the family Buxaceae, the box family) with opposite entire leaves and capsular fruits; *esp* : a widely cultivated shrub (*B. sempervirens*) used for hedges, borders, and topiary figures
[2]box *n* [ME, fr. OE, fr. LL *buxis*, fr. Gk *pyxis*, fr. *pyxos*] **1 a** : a rigid typically rectangular receptacle often with a cover **b** : something having a flat bottom and four upright sides **c** : the contents of a box as a measure of quantity **d** : the driver's seat on a carriage or coach **e** *slang* : GUITAR **f** *slang* : RECORD PLAYER **2** *Brit* : a gift in a box **3 a** : a small compartment (as for a group of spectators in a theater) **b** : PENALTY BOX **4 a** : a boxlike receptacle (as for a bearing) **b** : a signaling apparatus with its enclosing case ⟨a police ~⟩ **5** : a square or oblong division or compartment **6** : a square or oblong hollow space or recess **7** : a small simple sheltering or enclosing structure **8 a** : printed matter enclosed by rules or white space **b** : FRAME 6b(1) **9** : any of six spaces on a baseball diamond where the batter, coaches, pitcher, and catcher stand **10** : PREDICAMENT, FIX — **box·ful** \-,fu̇l\ *n*
[3]box *vt* **1** : to furnish (as a wheel hub) with a box **2** : to enclose in or as if in a box **3** : BOXHAUL **4** : to enclose with boarding or lathing so as to bring to a required form **5** : to mix (paint) by pouring back and forth between two containers **6** : to hem in (as an opponent) — usu. used with *in*, *out*, or *up* ⟨~*ed* out the opposing tackle⟩ — **box the compass** **1** : to name the 32 points of the compass in their order **2** : to make a complete reversal
[4]box *n* [ME] : a punch or slap esp. on the ear
[5]box *vt* **1** : to hit (as the ears) with the hand **2** : to engage in boxing with ~ *vi* : to fight with the fists : engage in boxing
box calf *n* : calfskin that is tanned with chromium salts and has square markings on the grain
box camera *n* : a camera of simple box shape with a simple lens and rotary shutter
box·car \'bäk-,skär\ *n* : a roofed freight car usu. with sliding doors in the sides
box coat *n* **1** : a heavy overcoat formerly worn for driving **2** : a loose coat usu. fitted at the shoulders

box elder *n* : a No. American maple (*Acer negundo*) with compound leaves
[1]box·er \'bäk-sər\ *n* : one that engages in the sport of boxing
[2]boxer *n* : one that makes boxes or packs things in boxes
[3]boxer *n* [G, fr. E [1]*boxer*] : a compact medium-sized short-haired usu. fawn or brindle dog of a breed originating in Germany
Box·er \'bäk-sər\ *n* [approx. trans. of Chin (Pek.) *i⁴ho²ch'üan²*, lit., righteous harmonious fist] : a member of a Chinese secret society that in 1900 attempted by violence to drive foreigners out of China and to force native converts to renounce Christianity
boxer shorts *n pl* : SHORT 4b
box·haul \'bäks-ˌhȯl\ *vt* : to put (a square-rigged ship) on the other tack by luffing and then veering short round on the heel
[1]box·ing \'bäk-siŋ\ *n* **1** : an act of enclosing in a box **2** : a box-like enclosure : CASING **3** : material used for boxes and casings
[2]boxing *n* : the art of attack and defense with the fists practiced as a sport


boxing ring

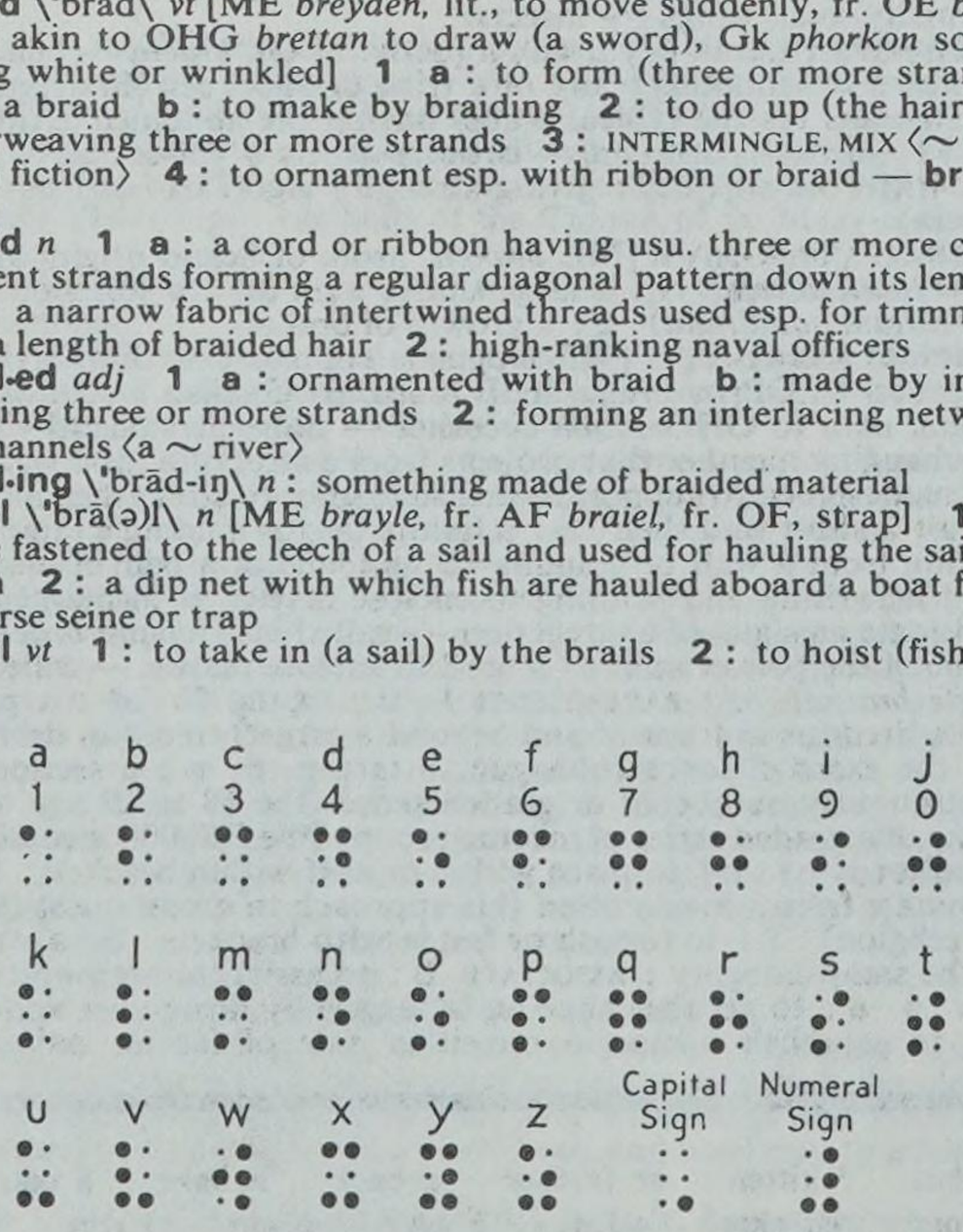
Boxing Day *n* : the first weekday after Christmas observed as a legal holiday in parts of the British Commonwealth and marked by the giving of Christmas boxes to service workers (as postmen)
boxing glove *n* : one of a pair of leather mittens heavily padded on the back and worn in boxing
box kite *n* : a tailless kite consisting of two or more open-ended connected boxes
box·like \'bäk-ˌslīk\ *adj* : resembling a box esp. in shape
box lunch *n* : a lunch packed in a container (as a box)
box office *n* **1** : an office (as in a theater) where tickets of admission are sold **2** : success (as of a show) in attracting ticket buyers; *also* : something that enhances such success
box pleat *n* : a pleat made by forming two folded edges one facing right and the other left
box score *n* [fr. its arrangement in a newspaper box] : a printed score of a game (as baseball) giving the names and positions of the players and a record of the play arranged in tabular form; *broadly* : total count : SUMMARY
box seat *n* **1** : the driver's seat on a coach **2 a** : a seat in a box (as in a theater or grandstand) **b** : a position favorable for viewing something
box social *n* : a fund-raising affair at which box lunches or suppers are auctioned to the highest bidder
box spring *n* : a bedspring that consists of spiral springs attached to a foundation and enclosed in a cloth-covered frame
box stall *n* : an individual enclosure within a barn or stable in which an animal may move about freely without a restraining device (as a tether)
box·thorn \'bäks-ˌthȯ(ə)rn\ *n* : MATRIMONY VINE
box turtle *n* : any of several No. American land tortoises (genus *Terrapene*) capable of withdrawing entirely within the shell and closing it by hinged joints in the lower shell — called also *box tortoise*
box·wood \'bäk-ˌswu̇d\ *n* **1** : the very close-grained heavy tough hard wood of the box (*Buxus*); *also* : a wood of similar properties **2** : a plant producing boxwood
boxy \'bäk-sē\ *adj* **box·i·er; -est** : resembling a box — **box·i·ness** *n*
boy \'bȯi\ *n, often attrib* [ME; akin to Fris *boi* boy] **1 a** : a male child from birth to puberty **b** : SON **c** : an immature male : YOUTH **d** : SWEETHEART, BEAU **2 a** : one native to a given place ⟨local ~⟩ **b** : FELLOW, PERSON ⟨the ~*s* at the office⟩ — often used interjectionally ⟨~, what a game⟩ **3** : a male servant — sometimes taken to be offensive — **boy·hood** \-ˌhu̇d\ *n* — **boy·ish** \-ish\ *adj* — **boy·ish·ly** *adv* — **boy·ish·ness** *n*
bo·yar *also* **bo·yard** \bō-'yär\ *n* [Russ *boyarin*, fr. OSlav *boljarinŭ*] : a member of a Russian aristocratic order next in rank below the ruling princes until its abolition by Peter the Great
[1]boy·cott \'bȯi-ˌkät\ *vt* [Charles C. *Boycott* †1897 E land agent in Ireland who was ostracized for refusing to reduce rents] : to engage in a concerted refusal to have dealings with (as a person, store, or organization) usu. to express disapproval or to force acceptance of certain conditions — **boy·cot·ter** *n*
[2]boycott *n* : the process or an instance of boycotting
boy·friend \'bȯi-ˌfrend\ *n* **1** : a male friend **2** : a frequent or regular male companion of a girl or woman **3** : a male lover
Boyg \'bȯig\ *n* [Norw *bøig* bugbear] : a formless or pervasive obstacle, problem, or enemy
boyo \'bȯi-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **boy·os** [*boy* + *-o*] *Irish* : BOY, LAD
boy scout *n* **1** : a member of the Boy Scouts of America **2** : one who performs a service for or gives assistance to others
boy·sen·ber·ry \'bȯiz-ᵊn-ˌber-ē, 'bȯis-\ *n* [Rudolph *Boysen* †1950 Am horticulturist + E *berry*] : a large bramble fruit with a raspberry flavor; *also* : the trailing hybrid bramble yielding this fruit and developed by crossing several blackberries and raspberries
boy wonder *n* : a young man whose achievements arouse admiration
bo·zo \'bō-(ˌ)zō\ *n, pl* **bozos** [origin unknown] *slang* : FELLOW, GUY
bp *abbr* **1** baptized **2** birthplace **3** bishop
BP *abbr* **1** before the present **2** blood pressure **3** blueprint **4** boiling point
BPD *abbr* barrels per day
BPE *abbr* **1** bachelor of petroleum engineering **2** bachelor of physical education
BPh *abbr* bachelor of philosophy
bpi *abbr* bits per inch; bytes per inch
bpl *abbr* birthplace
BPOE *abbr* Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
BPW *abbr* **1** Board of Public Works **2** Business and Professional Women's Clubs
br *abbr* **1** branch **2** brass **3** brown
[1]Br *abbr* British
[2]Br *symbol* bromine
BR *abbr* **1** bats right **2** bedroom **3** bills receivable
bra \'brä\ *n* : BRASSIERE
brab·ble \'brab-əl\ *vi* **brab·bled; brab·bling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [MD *brabbelen*, of imit. origin] : SQUABBLE — **brabble** *n*
[1]brace \'brās\ *n, pl* **brac·es** [ME, pair, clasp, fr. MF, two arms, fr. L *bracchia*, pl. of *bracchium* arm, fr. Gk *brachiōn*, fr. compar. of *brachys* short — more at BRIEF] **1** *or pl* **brace** : two of a kind ⟨several ~ of quail⟩ **2** : something (as a clasp) that connects or fastens **3** : a crank-shaped instrument for turning a bit **4** : something that transmits, directs, resists, or supports weight or pressure: as **a** : a diagonal piece of structural material that serves to strengthen something (as a framework) **b** : a rope rove through a block at the end of a ship's yard to swing it horizontally **c** *pl* : SUSPENDERS **d** : an appliance for supporting a body part **e** *pl* : dental appliances used to exert pressure to straighten misaligned teeth **5 a** : a mark { or } used to connect words or items to be considered together **b** (1) : this mark connecting two or more musical staffs the parts on which are to be performed simultaneously (2) : the staffs so connected **c** : BRACKET 3a **6** : an exaggerated position of rigidly erect bearing **7** : something that arouses energy or strengthens morale
[2]brace *vb* **braced; brac·ing** *vt* **1** *archaic* : to fasten tightly : BIND **2 a** : to prepare for use by making taut **b** : PREPARE, STEEL ⟨~ yourself for the shock⟩ **c** : INVIGORATE, FRESHEN **3** : to turn (a sail yard) by means of a brace **4 a** : to furnish or support with a brace ⟨heavily *braced* because of polio⟩ **b** : to make stronger : REINFORCE **5** : to put or plant firmly ⟨~*s* his foot in the stirrup⟩ **6** : to waylay esp. with demands or questions ~ *vi* **1** : to take heart — used with *up* **2** : to get ready (as for an attack)
brace·let \'brā-slət\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, dim. of *bras* arm, fr. L *bracchium*] **1** : an ornamental band or chain worn around the wrist **2** : something (as handcuffs) resembling a bracelet
[1]bra·cer \'brā-sər\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *braciere*, fr. OF, fr. *braz* arm, fr. L *bracchium*] : an arm or wrist protector esp. for use by an archer
[2]brac·er \'brā-sər\ *n* **1** : one that braces, binds, or makes firm **2** : a drink (as of liquor) taken as a stimulant
bra·ce·ro \brä-'se(ə)r-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-ros** [Sp, laborer, fr. *brazo* arm, fr. L *brachium*] : a Mexican laborer admitted to the U.S. esp. for seasonal contract labor in agriculture — compare WETBACK
brace root *n* : PROP ROOT
bra·chi·ate \'brā-kē-ˌāt\ *vi* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *bracchium*] : to progress by swinging from one hold to another by the arms ⟨*brachiating* gibbon⟩ — **bra·chi·a·tion** \ˌbrā-kē-'ā-shən\ *n*
bra·chio·pod \'brā-kē-ə-ˌpäd\ *n* [deriv. of L *bracchium* + Gk *pod-, pous* foot — more at FOOT] : any of a phylum (Brachiopoda) of marine invertebrates with bivalve shells within which is a pair of arms bearing tentacles by which a current of water is made to bring microscopic food to the mouth — **brachiopod** *adj*
bra·chi·um \'brā-kē-əm\ *n, pl* **-chia** \-kē-ə\ [L *bracchium, brachium* arm] **1** : the upper part of the arm or forelimb from shoulder to elbow **2** : a process of an invertebrate comparable to an arm — **bra·chi·al** \-əl\ *adj*
brachy- *comb form* [Gk, fr. *brachys* — more at BRIEF] : short ⟨*brachy*dactylous⟩
brachy·ce·phal·ic \ˌbrak-i-sə-'fal-ik\ *adj* [NL *brachycephalus*, fr. Gk *brachy-* + *kephalē* head — more at CEPHALIC] : short-headed or broad-headed with a cephalic index of over 80 — **brachy·ceph·a·ly** \-'sef-ə-lē\ *n*
brachy·ceph·a·li·za·tion \-ˌsef-ə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n* : transition toward a more brachycephalic condition ⟨the increasing ~ of Europe⟩
brachy·dac·ty·lous \ˌbrak-i-'dak-tə-ləs\ *adj* : having abnormally short digits — **brachy·dac·ty·ly** \-lē\ *n*
bra·chyp·ter·ous \bra-'kip-tə-rəs\ *adj* [Gk *brachypteros*, fr. *brachy-* + *pteron* wing — more at FEATHER] : having rudimentary or abnormally small wings ⟨~ insects⟩
brachy·uran \ˌbrak-ē-'yu̇r-ən\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *brachy-* + *oura* tail — more at SQUIRREL] : any of a tribe or suborder (Brachyura) of crustaceans (as the typical crabs) having the abdomen greatly reduced — **brachyuran** *adj* — **brachy·urous** \-'yu̇r-əs\ *adj*
brac·ing \'brā-siŋ\ *adj* : giving strength, vigor, or freshness ⟨a ~ breeze⟩
brack·en \'brak-ən\ *n* [ME *braken*, prob. of Scand origin; akin to OSw *brækne* fern] **1** : a large coarse fern; *esp* : a common brake (*Pteridium aquilinum*) **2** : a growth of brakes
[1]brack·et \'brak-ət\ *n* [MF *braguette* codpiece, fr. dim. of *brague* breeches, fr. OProv *braga*, fr. L *braca*, fr. Gaulish *brāca*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *bruoh* breeches — more at BREECH] **1** : an overhanging member that projects from a structure (as a wall) and is usu. designed to support a vertical load or to strengthen an angle **2 a** : a short wall shelf **b** : a fixture (as for holding a lamp) projecting from a wall or column **3 a** : one of a pair of marks [ ] used in writing and printing to enclose matter or in mathematics and logic as signs of aggregation — called also *square bracket* **b** : one of the pair of marks ⟨ ⟩ used to enclose matter — called also *angle bracket* **c** : PARENTHESIS 3 **d** : BRACE 5b **4** : a pair of shots fired (as in front of and beyond a target) to aid in determining the exact distance from gun to target **5 a** : a section of a continuously numbered or graded series ⟨the 18 to 22 age ~⟩ **b** : one of a graded series of income groups ⟨the $20,000 income ~⟩
[2]bracket *vt* **1 a** : to place within or as if within brackets **b** : to eliminate from consideration ⟨his approach to moral questions ~*s* off religion⟩ **2** : to furnish or fasten with brackets **3 a** : to put in the same category : ASSOCIATE **b** : to assign to a group : CLASSIFY **4 a** : to get the range on (a target) by firing over and short **b** : to establish a margin on either side of (as an estimation)

brack·et·ed *adj, of a serif* : joined to the stroke by a curved line
bracket fungus *n* : a basidiomycete that forms shelflike sporophores
brack·ish \'brak-ish\ *adj* [D *brac* salty; akin to MLG *brac* salty] **1** : somewhat salty **2 a** : not appealing to the taste ⟨~ tea⟩ **b** : REPULSIVE — **brack·ish·ness** *n*
bract \'brakt\ *n* [NL *bractea*, fr. L, thin metal plate] **1** : a leaf from the axil of which a flower or floral axis arises **2** : a leaf borne on a floral axis; *esp* : one subtending a flower or flower cluster — see COMPOSITE illustration — **brac·te·al** \'brak-tē-əl\ *adj* — **brac·te·ate** \-tē-ət, -ˌāt\ *adj* — **bract·ed** \-təd\ *adj*
brac·te·ole \'brak-tē-ˌōl\ *n* [NL *bracteola*, fr. L, dim. of *bractea*] : a small bract esp. on a floral axis — **brac·te·o·late** \ brak-'tē-ə-lət, 'brak-tē-ə-ˌlāt\ *adj*
[1]brad \'brad\ *n* [ME, fr. ON *broddr* spike; akin to OE *byrst* bristle — more at BRISTLE] **1** : a thin nail of the same thickness throughout but tapering in width and having a slight projection at the top of one side instead of a head **2** : a slender wire nail with a small barrel-shaped head
[2]brad *vt* **brad·ded; brad·ding** : to fasten with brads
brad·awl \'brad-ˌȯl\ *n* : an awl with chisel edge used to make holes for brads or screws
bra·dy·car·dia \ˌbrād-i-'kärd-ē-ə *also* ˌbrad-\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *bradys* slow + NL *-cardia*] : relatively slow heart action whether physiological or pathological — compare TACHYCARDIA
bra·dy·ki·nin \-'kī-nən\ *n* [Gk *bradys* slow] : a kinin that is formed in injured tissue, acts in vasodilation of small arterioles, is considered to play a part in inflammatory processes, and is composed of nine amino acids
brae \'brā\ *n* [ME *bra*, fr. ON *brā* eyelash; akin to OE *bregdan* to move quickly — more at BRAID] *chiefly Scot* : a hillside esp. along a river
[1]brag \'brag\ *adj* **brag·ger; brag·gest** [ME] : FIRST-RATE
[2]brag *n* **1** : a pompous or boastful statement **2** : arrogant talk or manner : COCKINESS **3** : BRAGGART
[3]brag *vb* **bragged; brag·ging** *vi* : to talk boastfully : engage in self-glorification ~ *vt* : to assert boastfully ***syn*** see BOAST ***ant*** apologize — **brag·ger** \'brag-ər\ *n* — **brag·gy** \'brag-ē\ *adj*
brag·ga·do·cio \ˌbrag-ə-'dō-s(h)ē-ˌō, -(ˌ)shō\ *n, pl* **-cios** [*Braggadochio*, personification of boasting in *Faerie Queene* by Edmund Spenser] **1** : BRAGGART **2 a** : empty boasting **b** : arrogant pretension : COCKINESS
brag·gart \'brag-ərt\ *n* : a loud arrogant boaster — **braggart** *adj*
brah·ma \'brām-ə, 'bräm-, 'bram-\ *n* [*Brahmaputra* river, India] : any of an Asian breed of large domestic fowls with feathered legs
[1]Brah·ma \'bräm-ə\ *n* [Skt *brahman*] **1** : the ultimate ground of all being in Hinduism **2** : the creator god of the Hindu sacred triad — compare SIVA, VISHNU
[2]Brah·ma \'brā-mə, 'bräm-ə, 'bram-\ *n* : BRAHMAN 2
Brah·man *or* **Brah·min** \'bräm-ən; *2 is* 'brām-, 'bräm-, 'bram-\ *n* [Skt *brāhmana*, lit., having to do with prayer, fr. *brahman*, neut., prayer] **1 a** : a Hindu of the highest caste traditionally assigned to the priesthood **b** : [1]BRAHMA 1 **2** : any of an Indian breed of humped cattle : ZEBU; *esp* : a large vigorous heat-resistant and tick-resistant usu. silvery gray animal developed in the southern U.S. by interbreeding Indian cattle and used chiefly for crossbreeding — **Brah·man·ic** \brä-'man-ik\ *adj*
Brah·man·ism \'bräm-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* : orthodox Hinduism adhering to the pantheism of the Vedas and to the ancient sacrifices and family ceremonies
Brah·min \'bräm-ən\ *n* [var. of *Brahman*] : an intellectually and socially cultivated person regarded as aloof; *esp* : such a person from one of the older New England families ⟨Boston ~*s*⟩ — **Brah·min·i·cal** \brä-'min-i-kəl\ *adj* — **Brah·min·ism** \'bräm-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*
[1]braid \'brād\ *vt* [ME *breyden*, lit., to move suddenly, fr. OE *bregdan*; akin to OHG *brettan* to draw (a sword), Gk *phorkon* something white or wrinkled] **1 a** : to form (three or more strands) into a braid **b** : to make by braiding **2** : to do up (the hair) by interweaving three or more strands **3** : INTERMINGLE, MIX ⟨~ fact with fiction⟩ **4** : to ornament esp. with ribbon or braid — **braid·er** *n*
[2]braid *n* **1 a** : a cord or ribbon having usu. three or more component strands forming a regular diagonal pattern down its length; *esp* : a narrow fabric of intertwined threads used esp. for trimming **b** : a length of braided hair **2** : high-ranking naval officers
braid·ed *adj* **1 a** : ornamented with braid **b** : made by intertwining three or more strands **2** : forming an interlacing network of channels ⟨a ~ river⟩
braid·ing \'brād-iŋ\ *n* : something made of braided material
[1]brail \'brā(ə)l\ *n* [ME *brayle*, fr. AF *braiel*, fr. OF, strap] **1** : a rope fastened to the leech of a sail and used for hauling the sail up or in **2** : a dip net with which fish are hauled aboard a boat from a purse seine or trap
[2]brail *vt* **1** : to take in (a sail) by the brails **2** : to hoist (fish) by means of a brail
braille \'brā(ə)l\ *n, often cap* [Louis *Braille*] : a system of writing for the blind that uses characters made up of raised dots — **braille** *vt*
braille·writ·er \-ˌrīt-ər\ *n, often cap* : a machine for writing braille
[1]brain \'brān\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *brægen*; akin to MLG *bregen* brain, Gk *brechmos* front part of the head] **1 a** : the portion of the vertebrate central nervous system that constitutes the organ of thought and neural coordination, includes all the higher nervous centers receiving stimuli from the sense organs and interpreting and correlating them to formulate the motor impulses, is made up of neurons and supporting and nutritive structures, is enclosed within the skull, and is continuous with the spinal cord through the foramen magnum **b** : a nervous center in invertebrates comparable in position and function to the vertebrate brain **2 a** (1) : INTELLECT, MIND ⟨has a clever ~⟩ (2) : intellectual endowment : INTELLIGENCE — often used in pl. ⟨plenty of ~*s* in that family⟩ **b** (1) : a very intelligent or intellectual person (2) : the chief planner of an organization or enterprise — usu. used in pl. **3** : an automatic device (as a computer) that performs one or more of the functions of the human brain for control or computation



brain 1a: *1* cerebral hemisphere, *2* corpus callosum, *3* ventricle, *4* fornix, *5* thalamus, *6* pituitary gland, *7* pons, *8* medulla oblongata, *9* spinal cord, *10* cerebellum, *11* midbrain

[2]brain *vt* **1** : to kill by smashing the skull **2** : to hit on the head
brain·case \'brān-ˌkās\ *n* : the cranium enclosing the brain
brain·child \-ˌchīld\ *n* : a product of one's creative imagination
brain drain *n* : a migration of professional people (as scientists, professors, or physicians) from one country to another usu. for higher salaries or better living conditions
-brained \'brānd\ *adj comb form* : having (such) a brain ⟨big~*brained*⟩ ⟨feather*brained*⟩
brain hormone *n* : a hormone that is secreted by neurosecretory cells of the insect brain and that stimulates the prothoracic glands to secrete ecdysone
brain·ish \'brā-nish\ *adj, archaic* : IMPETUOUS, HOTHEADED ⟨and in this ~ apprehension kills the unseen good old man —Shak.⟩
brain·less \'brān-ləs\ *adj* : devoid of intelligence : STUPID — **brain·less·ly** *adv* — **brain·less·ness** *n*
brain·pan \'brān-ˌpan\ n : BRAINCASE
brain–pick·ing \-ˌpik-iŋ\ *n* : the act of picking information from another's mind — **brain–pick·er** *n*
brain·pow·er \-ˌpau̇(-ə)r\ *n* **1** : intellectual ability **2** : people with developed intellectual ability
brain·sick \-ˌsik\ *adj* **1** : mentally disordered **2** : arising from mental disorder ⟨a ~ frenzy⟩ — **brain·sick·ly** *adv*
brain stem *n* : the part of the brain composed of the mesencephalon, pons, and medulla oblongata and connecting the spinal cord with the forebrain and cerebrum
brain·storm \-ˌstȯ(ə)rm\ *n* **1** : a violent transient fit of insanity **2 a** : a sudden bright idea **b** : a harebrained idea
brain·storm·ing \-ˌstȯr-miŋ\ *n* : a group problem-solving technique that involves the spontaneous contribution of ideas from all members of the group — **brain·storm** *vt* — **brain·storm·er** *n*
brains trust *n, chiefly Brit* : BRAIN TRUST
brain·teas·er \-ˌtē-zər\ *n* : something (as a puzzle) that demands mental effort and acuity for its solution
brain trust *n* : expert advisers concerned esp. with planning and strategy who often lack official or acknowledged status — **brain trust·er** \-ˌtrəs-tər\ *n*
brain·wash·ing \'brān-ˌwȯsh-iŋ, -ˌwäsh-\ *n* [trans. of Chin (Pek) *hsi*[3] *nao*[3]] **1** : a forcible indoctrination to induce someone to give up basic political, social, or religious beliefs and attitudes and to accept contrasting regimented ideas **2** : persuasion by propaganda or salesmanship — **brain·wash** *vt* — **brainwash** *n* — **brain·wash·er** *n*
brain wave *n* **1 a** : rhythmic fluctuations of voltage between parts of the brain resulting in the flow of an electric current **b** : a current produced by brain waves **2** : BRAINSTORM 2a
brainy \'brā-nē\ *adj* **brain·i·er; -est** : having a well-developed intellect : INTELLIGENT ⟨he was ~ enough to outmaneuver the intransigents —W. V. Shannon⟩ — **brain·i·ness** *n*
braise \'brāz\ *vt* **braised; brais·ing** [F *braiser*] : to cook slowly in fat and little moisture in a closed pot
[1]brake \'brāk\ *archaic past of* BREAK
[2]brake \'brāk\ *n* [ME, fern] : any of a genus (*Pteridium*) of tall ferns with ternately compound fronds
[3]brake *n* [ME, fr. MLG; akin to OE *brecan* to break] **1** : a toothed instrument or machine for separating out the fiber of flax or hemp by breaking up the woody parts **2** : a machine for bending, flanging, folding, and forming sheet metal
[4]brake *n* [ME] **1** : a device for arresting the motion of a mechanism usu. by means of friction **2** : something used to slow down or stop movement or activity ⟨interest rates acting as a ~ on expenditures⟩ — **brake·less** \'brā-kləs\ *adj*
[5]brake *vb* **braked; brak·ing** *vt* : to retard or stop by a brake ~ *vi* **1** : to operate or manage a brake; *esp* : to apply the brake on a vehicle **2** : to become checked by a brake
[6]brake *n* [ME *-brake*] : rough or marshy land overgrown usu. with one kind of plant — **braky** \'brā-kē\ *adj*
brake·man \'brāk-mən\ *n* **1** : a freight or passenger train crew member who inspects the train and assists the conductor **2** : the end man on a bobsled team who operates the brake
bram·ble \'bram-bəl\ *n* [ME *brembel*, fr. OE *brēmel*; akin to OE *brōm* broom] : any of a genus (*Rubus*) of usu. prickly shrubs of the



braille alphabet

rose family including the raspberries and blackberries; *broadly* : a rough prickly shrub or vine — **bram·bly** \-b(ə-)lē\ *adj*

bran \'bran\ *n* [ME, fr. OF] : the broken coat of the seed of cereal grain separated from the flour or meal by sifting or bolting

¹branch \'branch\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OF *branche*, fr. LL *branca* paw] **1** : a natural subdivision of a plant stem; *esp* : a secondary shoot or stem (as a bough) arising from a main axis (as of a tree) **2** : something that extends from or enters into a main body or source: as **a** (1) : a stream that flows into another usu. larger stream : TRIBUTARY (2) *South & Midland* : CREEK 2 **b** : a side road or way **c** : a slender projection (as the tine of an antler) **d** : a part of a mathematical curve separated from others **e** : a part of a computer program executed as a result of a program decision **3** : a part of a complex body: as **a** : a division of a family descending from a particular ancestor **b** : an area of knowledge that may be considered apart from related areas ⟨pathology is a ~ of medicine⟩ **c** (1) : a division of an organization (2) : a separate but dependent part of a central organization ⟨the neighborhood ~ of the city library⟩ **d** : a language group less inclusive than a family ⟨the Germanic ~ of the Indo-European language family⟩ — **branched** \'brancht\ *adj* — **branch·less** \'branch-ləs\ *adj* — **branchy** \'bran-chē\ *adj*

²branch *vi* **1** : to put forth branches : RAMIFY **2** : to spring out (as from a main stem) : DIVERGE **3** : to be an outgrowth — used with *from* ⟨poetry that ~*ed* from religious prose⟩ **4** : to extend activities — usu. used with *out* ⟨the business is ~*ing* out all over the state⟩ **5** : to follow one of two or more branches (as in a computer program) ~ *vt* **1** : to ornament with designs of branches **2** : to divide up : SECTION

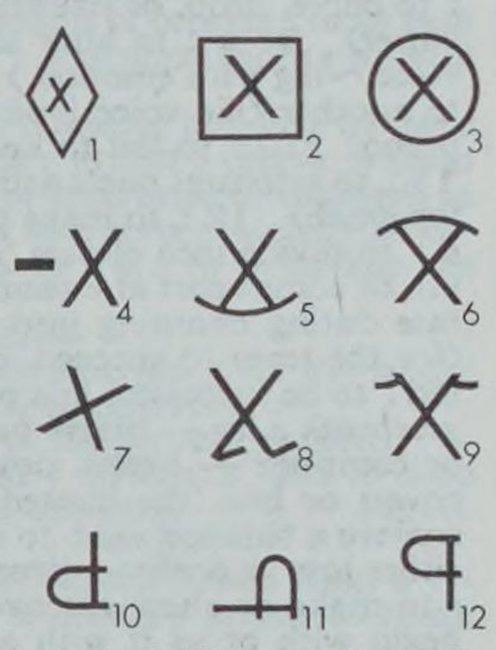
bran·chia \'braŋ-kē-ə\ *n, pl* **-chi·ae** \-kē-ˌē, -ˌī\ [L, sing., fr. Gk, pl. of *branchion* gill; akin to Gk *bronchos* trachea — more at CRAW] : ²GILL — **bran·chi·al** \-kē-əl\ *adj* — **bran·chi·ate** \-kē-ət, -ˌāt\ *adj*

bran·chio·pod \'braŋ-kē-ə-ˌpäd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *branchia* gills + *pod-, pous* foot — more at FOOT] : any of a group (Branchiopoda) of aquatic crustaceans typically having a long body, a carapace, and many pairs of leaflike appendages — **branchiopod** *adj* — **bran·chi·op·o·dan** \ˌbraŋ-kē-'äp-əd-ən\ *adj* — **bran·chi·op·o·dous** \-əd-əs\ *adj*

branch·let \'branch-lət\ *n* : a small usu. terminal branch

branch water *n* [¹*branch* (creek)] : plain water ⟨bourbon and *branch water*⟩

¹brand \'brand\ *n* [ME, torch, sword, fr. OE; akin to OE *bærnan* to burn] **1 a** : a charred piece of wood **b** : FIREBRAND 1 **c** : something (as lightning) that resembles a firebrand **2** : SWORD **3 a** (1) : a mark made by burning with a hot iron to attest manufacture or quality or to designate ownership (2) : a mark made with a stamp or stencil for similar purposes : TRADEMARK **b** (1) : a mark put on criminals with a hot iron (2) : a mark of disgrace : STIGMA ⟨the ~ of poverty⟩ **4 a** : a class of goods identified by name as the product of a single firm or manufacturer : MAKE **b** : a characteristic or distinctive kind : VARIETY ⟨a lively ~ of theater⟩ **5** : a tool used to produce a brand



brands 3a(1) for cattle: *1* diamond X, *2* box X, *3* circle X, *4* bar X, *5* rocking X, *6* swinging X, *7* tumbling X, *8* walking X, *9* flying X, *10* crazy P, *11* lazy P, *12* reverse P

²brand *vt* **1** : to mark with a brand **2** : to mark with disapproval : STIGMATIZE **3** : to impress indelibly ⟨~ the lesson on his mind⟩ — **brand·er** *n*

¹bran·dish \'bran-dish\ *vt* [ME *braundisshen*, fr. MF *brandiss-*, stem of *brandir*, fr. OF, fr. *brand* sword, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *brand*] **1** : to shake or wave (as a weapon) menacingly **2** : to exhibit in an ostentatious or aggressive manner ***syn*** see SWING

²brandish *n* : an act or instance of brandishing

brand·ling \'bran-(d)liŋ\ *n* : a small yellowish earthworm (*Eisenia foetida*) with brownish purple rings that is found in dunghills

brand name *n* : TRADE NAME 1b

brand–new \'bran-'n(y)ü\ *adj* : conspicuously new and unused

¹bran·dy \'bran-dē\ *n, pl* **brandies** [short for *brandywine*, fr. D *brandewijn*, fr. MD *brantwijn*, fr. *brant* distilled + *wijn* wine] : an alcoholic liquor distilled from wine or fermented fruit juice (as of apples)

²brandy *vt* **bran·died; bran·dy·ing** : to flavor, blend, or preserve with brandy

brank \'braŋk\ *n* [origin unknown] : an instrument made of an iron frame surrounding the head and a sharp metal bit entering the mouth and formerly used to punish scolds — usu. used in pl.

bran·ni·gan \'bran-i-gən\ *n* [prob. fr. the name *Brannigan*] **1** : a drinking spree **2** : SQUABBLE

brant \'brant\ *n, pl* **brant** *or* **brants** [origin unknown] : a wild goose; *esp* : any of several small dark geese (genus *Branta*) that breed in the Arctic and migrate southward

¹brash \'brash\ *n* [obs. E *brash* to breach a wall] : a mass of fragments (as of ice)

²brash *adj* [origin unknown] **1** : BRITTLE ⟨~ wood⟩ **2 a** : tending to act in headlong fashion : IMPETUOUS ⟨the ~ young man darted into the traffic⟩ **b** : done in haste without regard for consequences : RASH ⟨~ acts⟩ **3** : uninhibitedly energetic or demonstrative : BUMPTIOUS ⟨a delightfully ~ comedian⟩ **4 a** : lacking restraint and discernment : TACTLESS ⟨made a ~ speech about his wife's bad habits⟩ **b** : aggressively self-assertive : IMPUDENT ⟨a man ~ to the point of arrogance⟩ **5** : piercingly sharp : HARSH ⟨a ~ squeal of brakes⟩ — **brash·ly** *adv* — **brash·ness** *n*

brass \'bras\ *n* [ME *bras*, fr. OE *bræs*; akin to MLG *bras* metal] **1** : an alloy consisting essentially of copper and zinc in variable proportions **2 a** : the brass instruments of an orchestra or band — often used in pl. **b** : a usu. brass memorial tablet **c** : bright metal fittings or utensils **d** : a brass, bronze, or gunmetal lining for a bearing **e** : empty fired cartridge shells **3** : brazen self-assurance : GALL **4** : BRASS HATS — **brass** *adj*

bras·sard \brə-'särd, 'bras-ˌärd\ *n* [F *brassard*, fr. MF *brassal*, fr. OIt *bracciale*, fr. *braccio* arm, fr. L *bracchium* — more at BRACE] **1** : armor for protecting the arm — see ARMOR illustration **2** : a cloth band worn around the upper arm usu. bearing an identifying mark

brass band *n* : a band consisting chiefly or solely of brass and percussion instruments

brass·bound \'bras-ˌbau̇nd, -'bau̇nd\ *adj* **1** : having trim made of brass or a metal resembling brass **2 a** (1) : tradition-bound and opinionated (2) : making no concessions : INFLEXIBLE **b** : BRAZEN, PRESUMPTUOUS

brass–collar \-'käl-ər\ *adj* : invariably voting the straight party ticket ⟨~ Democrats⟩

bras·se·rie \ˌbras-(ə-)'rē\ *n* [F, fr. MF *brasser* to brew, fr. OF *bracier*, fr. L *braces* spelt] : a restaurant that sells beer

brass hat *n* **1** : a high-ranking military officer **2** : a person in a high position in civilian life

bras·si·ca \'bras-i-kə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, cabbage] : any of a large genus (*Brassica*) of Old World temperate zone herbs (as cabbages) with beaked cylindrical pods

bras·siere \brə-'zi(ə)r *also* ˌbras-ē-'e(ə)r\ *n* [obs. F *brassière* bodice, fr. OF *braciere* arm protector, fr. *bras* arm — more at BRACELET] : a woman's close-fitting undergarment with cups for bust support

brass instrument *n* : one of a group of wind instruments (as a French horn, trombone, trumpet, or tuba) that is usu. characterized by a long cylindrical or conical metal tube commonly curved two or more times and ending in a flared bell, that produces tones by the vibrations of the player's lips against a usu. cup-shaped mouthpiece, and that usu. has valves or a slide by which the player may produce all the tones within the instrument's range

brass knuckles *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : KNUCKLE 4

brass tacks *n pl* : details of immediate practical importance — usu. used in the phrase *get down to brass tacks*

brassy \'bras-ē\ *adj* **brass·i·er; -est** **1 a** : being shamelessly bold **b** : OBSTREPEROUS **2** : resembling brass esp. in color **3** : resembling the sound of a brass instrument — **brass·i·ly** \'bras-ə-lē\ *adv* — **brass·i·ness** \'bras-ē-nəs\ *n*

brat \'brat\ *n* [perh. fr. E dial. *brat* (coarse garment)] : CHILD; *specif* : an ill-mannered annoying child — **brat·ti·ness** \'brat-ē-nəs\ *n* — **brat·tish** \'brat-ish\ *adj* — **brat·ty** \-ē\ *adj*

brat·tice \'brat-əs, 'brat-ish\ *n* [ME *bretais* parapet, fr. OF *bretesche*, fr. ML *breteschia*] : an often temporary partition of planks or cloth used esp. in a mine to control ventilation — **brattice** *vt*

¹brat·tle \'brat-ᵊl\ *n* [prob. imit.] *chiefly Scot* : CLATTER, SCAMPER

²brattle *vi* **brat·tled; brat·tling** *chiefly Scot* : to make a clattering or rattling sound

brat·wurst \'brät-(ˌ)wərst, -ˌvu̇(ə)rst, -ˌvu̇s(h)t\ *n* [G, fr. OHG *brātwurst*, fr. *brāt* meat without waste + *wurst* sausage] : fresh pork sausage for frying

braun·schweig·er \'brau̇n-ˌs(h)wī-gər\ *n* [G *Braunschweiger (wurst)*, lit., Brunswick sausage] : smoked liverwurst

bra·va \'bräv-(ˌ)ä, brä-'vä\ *n* [It, fem. of *bravo*] : BRAVO — used interjectionally in applauding a woman

bra·va·do \brə-'väd-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-does** *or* **-dos** [MF *bravade* & OSp *bravata*, fr. OIt *bravata*, fr. *bravare* to challenge, show off, fr. *bravo*] **1 a** : blustering swaggering conduct **b** : a pretense of bravery **2** : the quality or state of being foolhardy

¹brave \'brāv\ *adj* **brav·er; brav·est** [MF, fr. OIt & OSp *bravo* courageous, wild, fr. L *barbarus* barbarous] **1** : having courage : DAUNTLESS **2** : making a fine show : COLORFUL ⟨~ banners flying in the wind⟩ **3** : EXCELLENT, SPLENDID ⟨the ~ fire I soon had going —J. F. Dobie⟩ — **brave·ly** *adv*

²brave *vb* **braved; brav·ing** *vt* **1** : to face or endure with courage **2** *obs* : to make showy ~ *vi, archaic* : to make a brave show — **brav·er** *n*

³brave *n* **1** *archaic* : BRAVADO **2** : one who is brave; *specif* : an American Indian warrior **3** *archaic* : BULLY, ASSASSIN

brav·ery \'brāv-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1 a** : fine clothes **b** : showy display **2** : the quality or state of being brave : COURAGE

¹bra·vo \'bräv-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **bravos** *or* **bravoes** [It, fr. *bravo*, brave] : VILLAIN, DESPERADO; *esp* : a hired assassin

²bra·vo \'bräv-(ˌ)ō, brä-'vō\ *n, pl* **bravos** : a shout of approval — often used interjectionally in applauding a performance

³bra·vo \'bräv-(ˌ)ō, brä-'vō\ *vt* **bra·voed; bra·vo·ing** : to applaud by shouts of *bravo*

Bra·vo \'bräv-(ˌ)ō\ — a communications code word for the letter *b*

bra·vu·ra \brə-'v(y)u̇r-ə\ *n* [It, lit., bravery, fr. *bravare*] **1** : a florid brilliant style **2** : a musical passage requiring exceptional agility and technical skill in execution **3** : a show of daring or brilliance

braw \'brȯ, 'brä\ *adj* [modif. of MF *brave*] **1** *chiefly Scot* : GOOD, FINE **2** *chiefly Scot* : well dressed

¹brawl \'brȯl\ *vi* [ME *brawlen*] **1** : to quarrel or fight noisily : WRANGLE **2** : to make a loud confused noise ⟨the river ~*ing* by⟩ — **brawl·er** *n*

²brawl *n* **1** : a noisy quarrel or fight **2** : a loud tumultuous noise

brawly \'brȯ-lē\ *adj* **brawl·i·er; -est** **1** : inclined to brawl **2** : characterized by brawls or brawling

brawn \'brȯn\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *braon* muscle, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *brǣd* flesh] **1 a** : full strong muscles esp. of the arm or leg **b** : muscular strength **2 a** *Brit* : the flesh of a boar **b** : HEADCHEESE

brawny \'brȯ-nē\ *adj* **brawn·i·er; -est** **1** : MUSCULAR, STRONG **2** : being swollen and hard ⟨a ~ infected foot⟩ — **brawn·i·ly** \-nə-lē\ *adv* — **brawn·i·ness** \-nē-nəs\ *n*

¹bray \'brā\ *vb* [ME *brayen*, fr. OF *braire* to cry, fr. (assumed) VL *bragere*, of Celt origin; akin to MIr *braigid* he breaks wind; akin to L *frangere* to break — more at BREAK] *vi* : to utter the characteristic loud harsh cry of a donkey ~ *vt* : to utter or play loudly, harshly, or discordantly — **bray** *n*

²bray *vt* [ME *brayen*, fr. MF *broiier*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *brehhan* to break — more at BREAK] **1** : to crush or grind fine ⟨~ seeds in a mortar⟩ **2** : to spread thin ⟨~ printing ink⟩

bray·er \'brā-ər\ *n* : a printer's hand inking roller

Braz *abbr* Brazil; Brazilian

¹braze \'brāz\ *vt* [irreg. fr. *brass*] *archaic* : HARDEN

²braze *vt* **brazed; braz·ing** [prob. fr. F *braser*, fr. OF, to burn, fr. *brese* live coals] : to solder with a nonferrous alloy that melts at a lower temperature than that of the metals being joined — **braz·er** *n*

¹bra·zen \'brāz-ᵊn\ *adj* [ME *brasen*, fr. OE *bræsen*, fr. *bræs* brass] **1** : made of brass **2** **a** : sounding harsh and loud like struck brass **b** : of the color of polished brass **3** : marked by contemptuous boldness — **bra·zen·ly** *adv* — **bra·zen·ness** \'brāz-ᵊn-(n)əs\ *n*

²brazen *vt* **bra·zened; bra·zen·ing** \'brāz-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ : to face with defiance or impudence — usu. used in the phrase *brazen it out*

bra·zen-faced \ˌbrāz-ᵊn-ˈfāst\ *adj* : marked by insolence and bold disrespect ⟨~ assertions⟩

¹bra·zier \'brā-zhər\ *n* [ME *brasier*, fr. *bras* brass] : one that works in brass

²brazier *n* [F *brasier*, fr. OF, fire of hot coals, fr. *brese*] **1** : a pan for holding burning coals **2** : a utensil in which food is exposed to heat through a wire grill

Bra·zil nut \brə-ˌzil-\ *n* [*Brazil*, So. America] : a tall So. American tree (*Bertholletia excelsa* of the family Lecythidaceae) that bears large globular capsules each containing several closely packed roughly triangular oily edible nuts; *also* : its nut

bra·zil·wood \brə-ˈzil-ˌwu̇d\ *n* [Sp *brasil*, fr. *brasa* live coals; fr. its color] : the heavy wood of any of various tropical leguminous trees (esp. genus *Caesalpinia*) that is used as red and purple dyewood and in cabinetwork

BRE *abbr* bachelor of religious education

¹breach \'brēch\ *n* [ME *breche*, fr. OE *bryce;* akin to OE *brecan* to break] **1** : infraction or violation of a law, obligation, tie, or standard **2** **a** : a broken, ruptured, or torn condition or area **b** : a gap (as in a wall) made by battering **3** **a** : a break in accustomed friendly relations **b** : a temporary gap in continuity : HIATUS **4** : a leap esp. of a whale out of water

²breach *vt* **1** : to make a breach in ⟨~ the city walls⟩ **2** : BREAK, VIOLATE ⟨~ an agreement⟩ ~ *vi* : to leap out of water ⟨a whale ~*ing*⟩

breach of promise : violation of a promise esp. to marry

¹bread \'bred\ *n* [ME *breed*, fr. OE *brēad;* akin to OHG *brōt* bread, OE *brēowan* to brew] **1** : a usu. baked and leavened food made of a mixture whose basic constituent is flour or meal **2** : FOOD, SUSTENANCE ⟨our daily ~⟩ **3** **a** : LIVELIHOOD ⟨earns his ~ as a laborer⟩ **b** *slang* : MONEY — **bread upon the waters** : resources chanced or charitable deeds performed without expectation of return

²bread *vt* : to cover with bread crumbs ⟨a ~*ed* pork chop⟩

bread-and-butter *adj* **1** **a** : being as basic as the earning of one's livelihood ⟨small paychecks, inadequate housing, and other ~ issues⟩ **b** : that can be depended upon ⟨a football team's ~ play⟩ ⟨the ~ repertoire of an orchestra⟩ **2** : sent or given as thanks for hospitality ⟨a ~ letter⟩

bread and butter *n* : a means of sustenance or livelihood

bread and circuses *n pl* [trans. of L *panis et circenses*] : a palliative offered esp. to avert potential discontent

bread·bas·ket \'bred-ˌbas-kət\ *n* **1** *slang* : STOMACH **2** : a major cereal-producing region

¹bread·board \'bred-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* **1** : a board on which dough is kneaded or bread cut **2** : a board on which electric or electronic circuit diagrams may be laid out

²breadboard *vt* : to make an experimental arrangement of (as an electronic circuit or a mechanical system) to test feasibility

bread·fruit \'bred-ˌfrüt\ *n* : a round usu. seedless fruit that resembles bread in color and texture when baked; *also* : a tall tropical tree (*Artocarpus altilis*) of the mulberry family that bears this fruit

bread·stuff \-ˌstəf\ *n* **1** : a cereal product (as grain or flour) **2** : BREAD

breadth \'bredth, 'bretth\ *n* [obs. E *brede* breadth (fr. ME, fr. OE *brǣdu*, fr. *brād* broad) + *-th* (as in *length*)] **1** : distance from side to side : WIDTH **2** **a** : something of full width **b** : a wide expanse ⟨~*s* of grass⟩ **3** **a** : comprehensive quality : SCOPE ⟨the remarkable ~ of his learning⟩ **b** : liberality of views or taste

breadth·ways \-ˌwāz\ *adv or adj* : in the direction of the breadth ⟨a course of bricks laid ~⟩

breadth·wise \-ˌwīz\ *adv or adj* : BREADTHWAYS

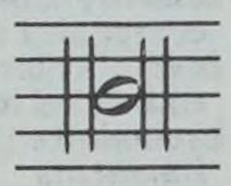
bread·win·ner \'bred-ˌwin-ər\ *n* **1** : a member of a family whose wages supply its livelihood **2** : a means of livelihood — **bread·win·ning** \-ˌwin-iŋ\ *n*

¹break \'brāk\ *vb* **broke** \'brōk\; **bro·ken** \'brō-kən\; **break·ing** [ME *breken*, fr. OE *brecan;* akin to OHG *brehhan* to break, L *frangere*] *vt* **1** **a** : to separate into parts with suddenness or violence **b** : FRACTURE ⟨~ an arm⟩ **c** : MAIM, MUTILATE **d** : RUPTURE ⟨~ the skin⟩ **e** : to cut into and turn over the surface of : PLOW **2** **a** : VIOLATE, TRANSGRESS ⟨~ the law⟩ **b** : to invalidate (a will) by action at law **3** **a** *archaic* : to force entry into **b** : to burst and force a way through **c** : to escape by force from ⟨~ jail⟩ **d** : to make or effect by cutting, forcing, or pressing through ⟨~ a trail through the woods⟩ **4** : to make ineffective as a binding force : SUNDER ⟨~*ing* his chains⟩ **5** **a** : to disrupt the order or compactness of ⟨~ ranks⟩ **b** : to end, close, or destroy by dispersing ⟨~ up the partnership⟩ **6** **a** : to defeat utterly and end as an effective force : DESTROY **b** : to crush the spirit of **c** : to make tractable or submissive: as (1) : to train (an animal) to adjust to the service or convenience of man (2) : INURE, ACCUSTOM **d** : to exhaust in health, strength, or capacity **7** **a** : to ruin financially **b** : to reduce in rank **8** **a** : to check the force or intensity of ⟨the bushes will ~ his fall⟩ **b** : to cause failure and discontinuance of (a strike) by measures outside bargaining processes **9** **a** : EXCEED, SURPASS ⟨~ a speed record⟩ **b** : to score less than (a specified total) ⟨golfer trying to ~ 90⟩ **10** : to ruin the prospects of ⟨could make or ~ her career⟩ **11** : to demonstrate the falsity of ⟨~ an alibi⟩ **12** : to cause a sharp reduction in the price of ⟨news likely to ~ the market sharply⟩ **13** **a** : to stop or bring to an end suddenly : HALT ⟨~ a deadlock⟩ **b** : INTERRUPT, SUSPEND ⟨~ the silence with a cry⟩ **c** : to open and bring about suspension of operation ⟨~ an electric circuit⟩ **d** : to destroy unity or completeness of ⟨~ a dining room set by buying a chair⟩ **e** : to change the appearance of uniformity of ⟨a dormer ~*s* the level roof⟩ **f** : to split the surface of ⟨fish ~*ing* water⟩ **g** : to cause to discontinue a habit ⟨tried to ~ him of smoking⟩ **14** : to make known : TELL ⟨~ the bad news gently⟩ **15** **a** : to find an explanation or solution for : SOLVE ⟨the detective will ~ the case⟩ **b** : to discover the essentials of (a code or cipher system) **16** : to split into smaller units, parts, or processes : DIVIDE ⟨~ a $5 bill⟩ — often used with *up* or *down* **17** : to make (a propelled ball) curve, drop, or rise sharply **18** : to open the action of (a gun) ~ *vi* **a** : to escape with sudden forceful effort — often used with *out* ⟨~ out of jail⟩ **b** : to come into being by or as if by bursting forth ⟨day was ~*ing*⟩ **c** : to give vent to expression with abruptness ⟨~*ing* into tears⟩ ⟨his face ~*s* out into a smile⟩ **d** : to effect a penetration ⟨~ through security lines⟩ **e** : to emerge through the surface of the water **f** : to come to pass : OCCUR ⟨report news stories as they ~⟩ **g** : to take a different course : DEPART ⟨~ away from tradition⟩ **h** : to make a sudden dash ⟨~ for cover⟩ **i** : to separate after a clinch in boxing **2** **a** : to come apart or split into pieces : BURST, SHATTER **b** : to open spontaneously or by pressure from within ⟨his boil finally *broke*⟩ **c** *of a wave* : to curl over and fall apart in surf or foam **3** : to become fair : CLEAR ⟨when the weather ~*s*⟩ **4** : to give way in disorderly retreat **5** **a** : to fail in health, strength, vitality, or control ⟨may ~ under questioning⟩ **b** : to become inoperative because of damage, wear, or strain **6** : to undergo a sudden marked decrease in price or value ⟨rail stocks may ~ sharply⟩ **7** : to end a relationship, connection, accord, or agreement — usu. used with *with* **8** **a** : to swerve suddenly **b** : to curve, drop, or rise sharply ⟨a fastball that ~*s* away from the batter⟩ **9** **a** : to alter sharply in tone, pitch, or intensity ⟨his voice ~*ing* with emotion ⟩ **b** : to shift abruptly from one register to another ⟨his voice *broke* from his new bass to his original soprano⟩ **10** : to fail to keep a prescribed gait — used of a horse **11** : to interrupt one's activity or occupation for a brief period ⟨~ for lunch⟩ **12** : to make the opening shot of a game of pool **13** **a** : to divide into classes, categories, or types **b** : to fold, bend, lift, or come apart at a seam, groove, or joint **c** *of cream* : to separate during churning into liquid and fat **14** : HAPPEN, DEVELOP ⟨for the team to succeed, everything has to ~ right⟩ — **break a leg** : to be successful in a performance — used in the phrase *I hope you break a leg* — **break camp** : to pack up gear and leave a camp or campsite — **break cover** *or* **break covert** : to start from a covert or lair ⟨the hunted fox *broke cover*⟩ — **break even** : to achieve a balance; *esp* : to operate a business or enterprise without either loss or profit — **break ground** **1** : to begin excavating **2** : to make or show discoveries : PIONEER — **break into** **1** : to begin with or as if with a sudden throwing off of restraint ⟨the horse *breaks into* a gallop⟩ **2** : to make entry or entrance ⟨trying to *break into* show business⟩ **3** : INTERRUPT ⟨*break into* a TV program with a news flash⟩ — **break one's heart** : to crush emotionally with sorrow — **break one's wrists** : to turn the wrists as part of the swing of a club or bat — **break service** *or* **break one's service** : to win a point against an opponent's service in a racket game — **break the back** : to subdue the main force ⟨*break the back* of inflation⟩ — **break the ice** **1** : to make a beginning **2** : to get through the first difficulties in starting a conversation or discussion — **break through** : to make a penetration — **break wind** : to expel gas from the intestine

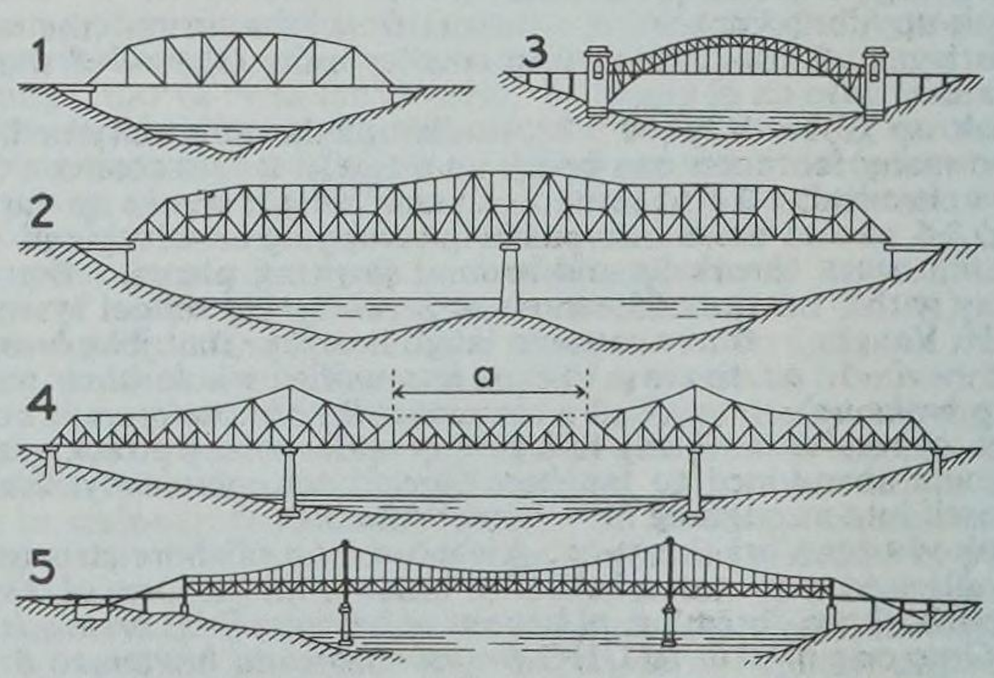
²break *n* **1** **a** : an act or action of breaking **b** : the opening shot in a game of pool or billiards **c** : the process of opening a gap in an electrical circuit **2** **a** : a condition produced by or as if by breaking : GAP ⟨a ~ in the clouds⟩ **b** : a gap in an otherwise continuous electric circuit **3** : the action or act of breaking in, out, or forth ⟨convicts planning a jail ~⟩ **4** **a** : DASH, RUSH ⟨a base runner making a ~ for home⟩ **b** : FAST BREAK **5** **a** : the start of a race **b** : the act of separating after a clinch in boxing **6** : an interruption in continuity ⟨a ~ in the weather⟩: as **a** : a notable change of subject matter, attitude, or treatment **b** (1) : an abrupt, significant, or noteworthy change or interruption in a continuous process, trend, or surface (2) : a respite from work or duty (3) : a planned interruption in a radio or television program ⟨a ~ for the commercial⟩ **c** : deviation of a pitched baseball from a straight line **d** *mining* : DISLOCATION, FAULT **e** : failure of a horse to maintain the prescribed gait **f** : an abrupt change in the quality or pitch of musical tone **g** : a notable variation in pitch, intensity, or tone in the voice **h** : the action or an instance of breaking service **7** **a** : a rupture in previously agreeable relations ⟨a ~ between the two countries⟩ **b** : an abrupt split or difference with something previously adhered to or followed ⟨a sharp ~ with tradition⟩ **8** : a sequence of successful shots in billiards : RUN **9** : a place or situation at which a break occurs: **a** : the point where one musical register changes to another **b** : a short ornamental passage interpolated between phrases in jazz **c** : the place at which a word is divided esp. at the end of a line of print or writing **d** : a pause or interruption (as a caesura or diaeresis) within or at the end of a verse **e** : a failure to make a strike or a spare on a frame in bowling **10** : a sudden and abrupt decline of prices or values **11** : an awkward social blunder **12** : a stroke of luck and esp. of good luck ⟨a bad ~⟩ ⟨got a ~⟩ **13** : BREAKDOWN b ⟨suffered a mental ~⟩

break·able \'brā-kə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being broken — **break·able** *n*
break·age \'brā-kij\ *n* **1 a** : the action of breaking **b** : a quantity broken **2** : allowance for things broken
[1]break·away \'brā-kə-ˌwā\ *n* **1 a** : one that breaks away **b** : an act or instance of breaking away (as from a group or tradition) **2** : an object made to shatter or collapse under pressure or impact
[2]breakaway *adj* **1** : favoring independence from an affiliation : SECEDING ⟨a ~ faction formed a new party⟩ **2** : made to break, shatter, or bend easily ⟨~ road signs for highway safety⟩
break ball *n* : a ball that must be pocketed before the cue ball breaks the rack in some forms of pool
break·bone fever \ˌbrāk-ˌbōn-\ *n* : DENGUE
break·down \'brāk-ˌdaůn\ *n* : the action or result of breaking down: as **a** : a failure to function **b** : a physical, mental, or nervous collapse **c** : failure to progress or have effect : DISINTEGRATION ⟨a ~ of negotiations⟩ **d** : the process of decomposing ⟨~ of food during digestion⟩ **e** : division into categories : CLASSIFICATION; *also* : an account analyzed into categories
break down \(')brāk-'daůn\ *vt* **1 a** : to cause to fall or collapse by breaking or shattering **b** : to make ineffective ⟨*break down* legal barriers⟩ **2 a** : to divide into parts or categories **b** : to separate (as a chemical compound) into simpler substances : DECOMPOSE **c** : to take apart esp. for storage or shipment and for later reassembling ~ *vi* **1 a** : to become inoperative through breakage or wear **b** : to become inapplicable or ineffective : DETERIORATE ⟨relations began to *break down*⟩ **2 a** : to be susceptible to analysis or subdivision ⟨the outline *breaks down* into three parts⟩ **b** : to undergo decomposition ***syn*** see ANALYZE
[1]break·er \'brā-kər\ *n* **1 a** : one that breaks **b** : a machine or plant for breaking rocks or coal **2** : a wave breaking into foam (as against the shore) **3** : a strip of fabric under the tread of a tire for extra protection of the carcass
[2]brea·ker \'brā-kər\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. Sp *barrica*] : a small water cask
break–even \brā-'kē-vən\ *adj* : having equal loss and profit ⟨the ~ point in a business venture⟩
break·fast \'brek-fəst\ *n* **1** : the first meal of the day esp. when taken in the morning **2** : the food prepared for a breakfast ⟨eat your ~⟩ — **breakfast** *vb* — **break·fast·er** *n*
break·front \'brāk-ˌfrənt\ *n* : a large cabinet or bookcase whose center section projects beyond the flanking end sections
break–in \'brā-ˌkin\ *n* **1** : the act or action of breaking in ⟨a rash of ~*s* at the new apartment house⟩ **2** : a performance or a series of performances serving as a trial run
break in \(')brā-'kin\ *vi* **1** : to enter a house or building by force **2 a** : to interrupt in a conversation **b** : INTRUDE ⟨*break in* upon his privacy⟩ **3** : to start in an activity or enterprise ⟨*breaking in* as a cub reporter⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to accustom to a certain activity or occurrence ⟨*break in* the new quarterback⟩ **2** : to overcome the stiffness of (a new article)
breaking and entering *n* : HOUSEBREAKING
breaking point *n* **1** : the point at which a person gives way under stress **2** : the point at which a situation becomes crucial
break·neck \ˌbrāk-ˌnek\ *adj* : very fast or dangerous ⟨~ speed⟩
break off *vi* **1** : to become detached : SEPARATE **2** : to stop abruptly ⟨*break off* in the middle of a sentence⟩ ~ *vt* : DISCONTINUE ⟨*break off* diplomatic relations⟩
break·out \'brā-ˌkaůt\ *n* : a violent or forceful break from a restraining condition or situation; *esp* : a military attack to break from encirclement
break out \(')brā-'kaůt\ *vi* **1** : to become affected with a skin eruption **2** : to develop or emerge with suddenness and force ⟨a riot *broke out*⟩ ~ *vt* **1 a** : to take from shipboard stowage preparatory to using **b** : to make ready for action or use ⟨*break out* the tents and make camp⟩ **c** : to produce for consumption ⟨*break out* a bottle⟩ **2 a** : to display flying and unfurled **b** : DISLODGE
break·point \'brāk-ˌ pȯint\ *n* : a point (as in a process) at which an interruption can be made
break·through \-ˌthrü\ *n* **1** : an act or point of breaking through an obstruction **2** : an offensive thrust that penetrates and carries beyond a defensive line in warfare **3** : a sudden advance esp. in knowledge or technique ⟨a medical ~⟩
break·up \'brā-ˌkəp\ *n* **1** : DISSOLUTION, DISRUPTION ⟨the ~ of a marriage⟩ **2** : a division into smaller units ⟨the ~ of the large estates⟩
break up \(')brā-'kəp\ *vt* **1** : to disrupt the continuity or flow of ⟨too many footnotes can *break up* a text⟩ **2** : DECOMPOSE ⟨*break up* a chemical⟩ **3** : to bring to an end ⟨a fight *breaks up* the meeting⟩ **4 a** : to break into pieces in scrapping or salvaging : SCRAP **b** : CRUMBLE ⟨*break up* soil around growing plants⟩ **5** : to do away with : DESTROY ⟨the move to *break up* big school systems — F. H. Vaughn⟩ **6** : to cause to laugh heartily ⟨that joke *breaks* me *up*⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to cease to exist as a unified whole ⟨their partnership *broke up*⟩ **b** : to end a romance **2** : to lose morale, composure, or resolution ⟨likely to *break up* under enemy attack⟩; *esp* : to become abandoned to laughter ⟨*breaks up* completely, laughing himself into a coughing fit —Gene Williams⟩
break·wa·ter \'brā-ˌkwȯt-ər, -ˌkwät-\ *n* : an offshore structure (as a wall) used to protect a harbor or beach from the force of waves
[1]bream \'brim, 'brēm\ *n, pl* **bream** *or* **breams** [ME *breme*, fr. MF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *brahsima* bream, *brettan* to draw (a sword) — more at BRAID] **1** : a European freshwater cyprinid fish (*Abramis brama*); *broadly* : any of various related fishes **2 a** : a porgy or related fish (family Sparidae) **b** : any of various freshwater sunfishes (*Lepomis* and related genera); *esp* : BLUEGILL
[2]bream \'brēm\ *vt* [prob. fr. D *brem* furze] : to clean (a ship's bottom) by heating and scraping
[1]breast \'brest\ *n* [ME *brest*, fr. OE *brēost;* akin to OHG *brust* breast, Russ *bryukho* belly] **1** : either of two protuberant milk-producing glandular organs situated on the front of the chest in the human female and some other mammals; *broadly* : a discrete mammary gland **2** : the fore or ventral part of the body between the neck and the abdomen **3** : the seat of emotion and thought : BOSOM ⟨caused little concern in official ~*s*⟩ **4 a** : something (as a front, swelling, or curving part) resembling a breast **b** : FACE 6
[2]breast *vt* **1** : to contend with resolutely : CONFRONT ⟨~ the rush traffic⟩ **2** *chiefly Brit* : CLIMB, ASCEND **3** : to thrust the chest against ⟨the sprinter ~*ed* the tape⟩
breast–beat·ing \'brest-ˌbēt-iŋ\ *n* : noisy demonstrative protestation (as of grief, anger, or self-recrimination)
breast·bone \'bres(t)-'bōn, -ˌbōn\ *n* : STERNUM
breast drill *n* : a portable drill with a plate that is pressed by the breast in forcing the drill against the work
breast–feed \'brest-ˌfēd\ *vt* : to feed (a baby) from a mother's breast rather than from a bottle
breast·plate \'bres(t)-ˌplāt\ *n* **1** : a metal plate worn as defensive armor for the breast — see ARMOR illustration **2** : a vestment worn in ancient times by a Jewish high priest and set with 12 gems bearing the names of the tribes of Israel **3** : a piece against which the workman presses his breast in operating a breast drill or similar tool **4** : PLASTRON 2
breast·stroke \'bres(t)-ˌstrōk\ *n* : a swimming stroke executed in a prone position by extending the arms in front of the head while drawing the knees forward and outward and then sweeping the arms back with palms out while kicking outward and backward — **breast·stroke·er** \-ˌstrō-kər\ *n*
breast·work \'bres-ˌtwərk\ *n* : a temporary fortification
breath \'breth\ *n* [ME *breth*, fr. OE *brǣth;* akin to OHG *brādam* breath, OE *beorma* yeast —more at BARM] **1 a** : air filled with a fragrance or odor **b** : a slight indication : SUGGESTION ⟨the faintest ~ of scandal⟩ **2 a** : the faculty of breathing ⟨recovering his ~ after the race⟩ **b** : an act of breathing ⟨fought to his last ~⟩ **c** : opportunity or time to breathe : RESPITE **3** : a slight breeze **4 a** : air inhaled and exhaled in breathing ⟨bad ~⟩ **b** : something (as moisture on a cold surface) produced by breath or breathing **5** : a spoken sound : UTTERANCE **6** : SPIRIT, ANIMATION **7** : expiration of air with the glottis wide open (as in the formation of \f\ and \s\ sounds) — **in one breath** *or* **in the same breath** : almost simultaneously — **out of breath** : breathing very rapidly (as from strenuous exercise)
breath·able \'brē-thə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : suitable for breathing ⟨~ air⟩ **2** : allowing air to pass through : POROUS ⟨a ~ synthetic fabric⟩ — **breath·abil·i·ty** \ˌbrē-thə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*
breathe \'brēth\ *vb* **breathed; breath·ing** [ME *brethen*, fr. *breth*] *vi* **1 a** *obs* : to emit a fragrance or aura **b** : to become perceptible **2 a** : to draw air into and expel it from the lungs : RESPIRE; *broadly* : to take in oxygen and give out carbon dioxide through natural processes **b** : to inhale and exhale freely **3** : LIVE **4** : to pause and rest before continuing **5** : to blow softly **6** *of an internal-combustion engine* : to use air to support combustion ~ *vt* **1 a** : to send out by exhaling **b** : to instill by or as if by breathing ⟨~ new life into the movement⟩ **2 a** : UTTER, EXPRESS ⟨don't ~ a word of it to anyone⟩ **b** : to make manifest : EVINCE ⟨the novel ~*s* despair⟩ **3** : to give rest from exertion to **4** : to take in in breathing ⟨~ the scent of pines⟩ — **breathe down one's neck** **1** : to threaten esp. in attack or pursuit **2** : to keep one under close or constant surveillance ⟨parents always *breathing down his neck*⟩ — **breathe easily** *or* **breathe freely** : to enjoy relief (as from pressure or danger)
breathed \'bretht\ *adj* : VOICELESS 2
breath·er \'brē-thər\ *n* **1** : one that breathes **2** : a break in activity for rest or relief **3** : a small vent in an otherwise airtight enclosure
breath·ing \'brē-thiŋ\ *n* **1** : BREATHER 2 **2** : either of the marks ‘ and ’ used in writing Greek to indicate aspiration or its absence
breathing space *n* : a period of inactivity esp. for rest and mustering up strength for subsequent efforts
breath·less \'breth-ləs\ *adj* **1 a** : not breathing **b** : DEAD **2 a** : panting or gasping for breath **b** : leaving one breathless ⟨drove at a ~ speed⟩ **c** : holding one's breath from emotion ⟨~ in anticipation⟩ **d** : GRIPPING, INTENSE ⟨~ tension⟩ **3** : STALE, STUFFY ⟨~ air in the attic⟩ — **breath·less·ly** *adv* — **breath·less·ness** *n*
breath·tak·ing \'breth-ˌtā-kiŋ\ *adj* **1** : making one out of breath **2 a** : EXCITING, THRILLING ⟨a ~ stock car race⟩ **b** : ASTONISHING ⟨his ~ ignorance⟩ — **breath·tak·ing·ly** \-kiŋ-lē\ *adv*
breathy \'breth-ē\ *adj* **breath·i·er; -est** : characterized by or accompanied with the audible passage of breath
brec·cia \'brech-(ē-)ə\ *n* [It] : a rock consisting of sharp fragments embedded in a fine-grained matrix (as sand or clay)
brec·ci·ate \'brech-ē-ˌāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** **1** : to break (rock) into fragments **2** : to form (rock) into breccia — **brec·ci·a·tion** \ˌbrech-ē-'ā-shən\ *n*
Breck *abbr* Brecknockshire
brede \'brēd\ *n* [alter. of *braid*] *archaic* : EMBROIDERY
bred–in–the–bone \ˌbred-ᵊn-thə-'bōn\ *adj* **1** : very deeply inculcated ⟨~ honesty⟩ **2** : marked by an inveterate or lasting quality ⟨a ~ gambler⟩
bree \'brē\ *n* [ME *bre*] *chiefly Scot* : BROTH, LIQUOR
breech \'brēch; "*breeches*" (*garment*) *is usu* 'brich-əz\ *n* [ME, breeches, fr. OE *brēc*, pl. of *brōc* leg covering; akin to OHG *bruoh* breeches, OE *brecan* to break] **1** *pl* **a** : short trousers covering the hips and thighs and fitting snugly at the lower edges at or just below the knee **b** : TROUSERS **2** : the hind end of the body : BUTTOCKS **3 a** : the part of a firearm at the rear of the bore **b** : the bottom of a pulley block
breech·block \'brēch-ˌbläk\ *n* : the block in breech-loading firearms that closes the rear of the bore against the force of the charge
breech·clout \'brēch-ˌklaůt, 'brich-\ *or* **breech·cloth** \-ˌklȯth\ *n* : LOINCLOTH

breech·es buoy \'brē-chəz- *also* 'brich-əz-\ *n* : a canvas seat in the form of breeches hung from a life buoy running on a hawser and used to haul persons from one ship to another or from ship to shore esp. in rescue operations
breech·ing \'brē-chiŋ, 'brich-iŋ\ *n* **1** : the part of a harness that passes around the breech of a draft animal **2** : the short coarse wool on the breech and hind legs of a sheep or goat; *also* : the hair on the corresponding part of a dog
breech·load·er \'brēch-'lōd-ər\ *n* : a firearm that receives its ammunition at the breech — **breech–load·ing** \-'lōd-iŋ\ *adj*
¹breed \'brēd\ *vb* **bred** \'bred\; **breed·ing** [ME *breden*, fr. OE *brēdan;* akin to OE *brōd* brood] *vt* **1** : to produce (offspring) by hatching or gestation **2 a** : BEGET 1 **b** : PRODUCE, ENGENDER ⟨despair often ~*s* violence⟩ **3** : to propagate (plants or animals) sexually and usu. under controlled conditions ⟨*bred* several strains of corn together to produce a new high-lysine variety⟩ **4 a** : to bring up : NURTURE ⟨born and *bred* in the country⟩ **b** : to inculcate by training ⟨~ good manners into one's children⟩ **5 a** : to mate with : INSEMINATE **b** : IMPREGNATE **6** : to produce (a fissionable element) by bombarding a nonfissionable element with neutrons from a radioactive element so that more fissionable material is produced than is used up ~ *vi* **1** : to produce offspring by sexual union **2** : to propagate animals or plants
²breed *n* **1** : a group of animals or plants presumably related by descent from common ancestors and visibly similar in most characters; *esp* : such a group differentiated from the wild type under the influence of man **2** : a number of persons of the same stock **3** : CLASS, KIND ⟨a new ~ of radicals⟩
breed·er *n* : one that breeds: as **a** : an animal or plant kept for propagation **b** : one engaged in the breeding of a specified organism
breed·ing *n* **1** : the action or process of bearing or generating **2** : ANCESTRY **3 a** *archaic* : EDUCATION ⟨she had her ~ at my father's charge —Shak.⟩ **b** : training in or observance of the proprieties **4** : the sexual propagation of plants or animals
breeding ground *n* **1** : the place to which animals go to breed **2** : a place or set of circumstances considered favorable esp. to the propagation of certain ideas or conditions
breed of cat : TYPE, SORT — usu. used with *new* or *different*
breeks \'brēks, 'briks\ *n pl* [ME (northern dial.) *breke*, fr. OE *brēc*] *chiefly Scot* : BREECHES
¹breeze \'brēz\ *n* [ME *brise*] **1 a** : a light gentle wind **b** : a wind of from 4 to 31 miles an hour **2** : something easily done : CINCH — **breeze·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **in a breeze** : EASILY ⟨won the talent contest *in a breeze*⟩
²breeze *vi* **breezed; breez·ing** **1** : to move swiftly and airily ⟨she *breezed* in wearing chiffon⟩ **2** : to make progress quickly and easily ⟨~ through the book⟩
³breeze *n* [prob. modif. of F *braise* cinders] : residue from the making of coke or charcoal
breeze·way \'brēz-ˌwā\ *n* : a roofed often open passage connecting two buildings (as a house and garage) or halves of a building
breezy \'brē-zē\ *adj* **breez·i·er; -est** **1** : swept by breezes **2** : BRISK, LIVELY — **breez·i·ly** \-zə-lē\ *adv* — **breez·i·ness** \-zē-nəs\ *n*
breg·ma \'breg-mə\ *n, pl* **-ma·ta** \-mət-ə\ [NL *bregmat-, bregma*, fr. LL, front part of the head, fr. Gk; akin to Gk *brechmos* front part of the head — more at BRAIN] : the point of junction of the coronal and sagittal sutures of the skull — **breg·mat·ic** \breg-'mat-ik\ *adj*
brems·strah·lung \'brem(p)sh-ˌshträl-əŋ\ *n* [G, lit., decelerated radiation] : the electromagnetic radiation produced by the sudden retardation of an electrical particle in an intense electric field
brent \'brent\ *var of* BRANT
breth·ren \'breth-(ə-)rən, -ərn\ *pl of* BROTHER — used chiefly in formal or solemn address or in referring to the members of a profession, society, or sect
Brethren *n pl* : members of various sects originating chiefly in 18th century German Pietism; *esp* : DUNKERS
Bret·on \'bret-ᵊn\ *n* [F, fr. ML *Briton-, Brito*, fr. L, Briton] **1** : a native or inhabitant of Brittany **2** : the Celtic language of the Breton people — **Breton** *adj*
breve \'brēv, 'brev\ *n* [L, neut. of *brevis* brief — more at BRIEF] **1** : a curved mark ˘ used to indicate a short vowel or a short or unstressed syllable **2** : a note equivalent to four half notes


breve 2

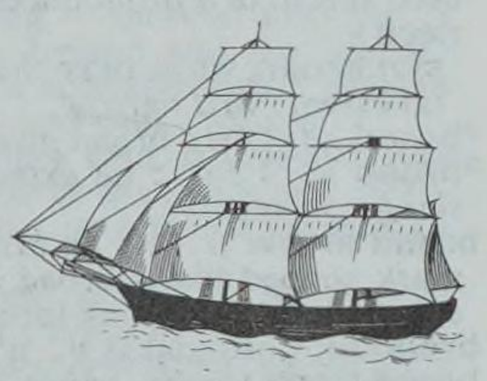
¹bre·vet \bri-'vet, *chiefly Brit* 'brev-it\ *n* [ME, an official message, fr. MF, fr. OF, dim. of *brief* letter — more at BRIEF] : a commission giving a military officer higher nominal rank than that for which he receives pay
²brevet *vt* **bre·vet·ted** *or* **brev·et·ed; bre·vet·ting** *or* **brev·et·ing** : to confer rank upon by brevet
bre·via·ry \'brē-v(y)ə-rē, -vē-ˌer-ē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [L *breviarium*, fr. *brevis* — more at BRIEF] **1** : a brief summary : ABRIDGMENT **2** *often cap* [ML *breviarium*, fr. L] **a** : a book containing the prayers, hymns, psalms, and readings for the canonical hours **b** : DIVINE OFFICE
brev·i·ty \'brev-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [L *brevitas*, fr. *brevis*] **1** : shortness of duration **2** : expression in few words : CONCISENESS
¹brew \'brü\ *vb* [ME *brewen*, fr. OE *brēowan;* akin to L *fervēre* to boil — more at BURN] *vt* **1** : to prepare (as beer or ale) by steeping, boiling, and fermentation or by infusion and fermentation **2 a** : to bring about : FOMENT ⟨~ trouble⟩ **b** : CONTRIVE, PLOT **3** : to prepare (as tea) by infusion in hot water ~ *vi* **1** : to brew beer or ale **2** : to be in the process of formation ⟨a storm is ~*ing* in the east⟩ — **brew·er** \'brü-ər, 'brü(-ə)r\ *n*
²brew *n* **1 a** : a brewed beverage **b** (1) : a cup of coffee or tea (2) : a glass of beer **c** : a product of brewing **2** : the process of brewing
brew·age \'brü-ij\ *n* : BREW
brewer's yeast *n* : a yeast used or suitable for use in brewing; *specif* : the dried pulverized cells of such a yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) used esp. as a source of B-complex vitamins
brew·ery \'brü-ə-rē, 'brü(-ə)r-ē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : a plant where malt liquors are manufactured
brewis \'brüz, 'brü-əs\ *n* [ME *brewes*, fr. OF *broez*, nom. sing. acc. pl. of *broet*, dim. of *breu* broth, of Gmc origin] *dial* : BROTH
¹bri·ar \'brī(-ə)r\ *var of* BRIER
²briar *n* : a tobacco pipe made from the root of a brier
bri·ard \brē-'ärd\ *n* [F, fr. *Brie*, district in France] : any of an old French breed of large strong usu. black dogs
¹bribe \'brīb\ *vb* **bribed; brib·ing** *vt* : to induce or influence by or as if by bribery ~ *vi* : to practice bribery — **brib·able** \'brī-bə-bəl\ *adj* — **brib·er** *n*
²bribe *n* [ME, something stolen, fr. MF, bread given to a beggar] **1** : money or favor given or promised to a person in a position of trust to influence his judgment or conduct **2** : something that serves to induce or influence
brib·ery \'brī-b(ə-)rē\ *n* : the act or practice of giving or taking a bribe
bric–a–brac \'brik-ə-ˌbrak\ *n, pl* **bric–a–brac** [F *bric-à-brac*] **1** : a miscellaneous collection of small articles commonly of ornamental or sentimental value : CURIOS **2** : something suggesting bric-a-brac esp. in extraneous decorative quality
¹brick \'brik\ *n, often attrib* [ME *bryke*, fr. MF *brique*, fr. MD *bricke;* akin to OE *brecan* to break] **1** *pl* **bricks** *or* **brick** : a handy-sized unit of building or paving material typically being rectangular and about $2\frac{1}{4}$ x $3\frac{3}{4}$ x 8 inches and of moist clay hardened by heat **2** : a good-hearted person **3** : a rectangular compressed mass (as of ice cream) **4** : a semisoft cheese with numerous small holes, smooth texture, and usu. mild flavor
²brick *vt* : to close, face, or pave with bricks — usu. used with *up*
brick·bat \'brik-ˌbat\ *n* **1** : a fragment of a hard material (as a brick); *esp* : one used as a missile **2** : an uncomplimentary remark
brick·field \-ˌfēld\ *n, Brit* : BRICKYARD
brick·lay·er \'brik-ˌlā-ər, -ˌle(-ə)r\ *n* : one who lays brick — **brick·lay·ing** \-ˌlā-iŋ\ *n*
brick·le \'brik-əl\ *adj* [ME *brekyl*] *dial* : BRITTLE
brick red *n* : a variable color averaging a moderate reddish brown
brick·work \'brik-ˌwərk\ *n* : work of or with bricks and mortar
brick·yard \-ˌyärd\ *n* : a place where bricks are made
¹brid·al \'brīd-ᵊl\ *n* [ME *bridale*, fr. OE *brȳdealu*, fr. *brȳd* + *ealu* ale — more at ALE] : a nuptial festival or ceremony : MARRIAGE
²bridal *adj* **1** : of or relating to a bride or a wedding : NUPTIAL **2** : intended for a newly married couple ⟨a ~ suite⟩
bridal wreath *n* : a spirea (*Spiraea prunifolia*) widely grown for its umbels of small white flowers borne in spring
bride \'brīd\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *brȳd;* akin to OHG *brūt* bride] : a woman just married or about to be married
bride·groom \'brīd-ˌgrüm, -ˌgrùm\ *n* [ME *bridegome*, fr. OE *brȳdguma;* akin to OHG *brūtigomo* bridegroom; both fr. a prehistoric NGmc-WGmc compound whose constituents are represented by OE *brȳd* and by OE *guma* man — more at HOMAGE] : a man just married or about to be married
brides·maid \'brīdz-ˌmād\ *n* : a woman attendant of a bride
bride·well \'brī-ˌdwel, -dwəl\ *n* [*Bridewell*, London jail] : PRISON
¹bridge \'brij\ *n* [ME *brigge*, fr. OE *brycg;* akin to OHG *brucka* bridge, OSlav *brŭvŭno* beam] **1 a** : a structure carrying a pathway or roadway over a depression or obstacle **b** : a time, place, or means of connection or transition **2** : something resembling a bridge in form or function: as **a** : the upper bony part of the nose; *also* : the part of a pair of glasses that rests upon it **b** : an arch serving to raise the strings of a musical instrument **c** : a raised transverse platform on a ship from which it is conned **d** : GANTRY 2b **e** : the hand as a rest for a billiards or pool cue; *also* : a device used as a cue rest **f** : the position of a wrestler on his back with his body arched so that he is supported usu. by his head and feet **3 a** : something (as a partial denture anchored to adjacent teeth) that fills a gap **b** : a connection (as an atom or bond) that joins two different parts of a molecule (as opposite sides of a ring) **4** : an electrical instrument or network for measuring or comparing resistances, inductances, capacitances, or impedances by comparing the ratio of two opposing voltages to a known ratio — **bridge·less** \-ləs\ *adj*



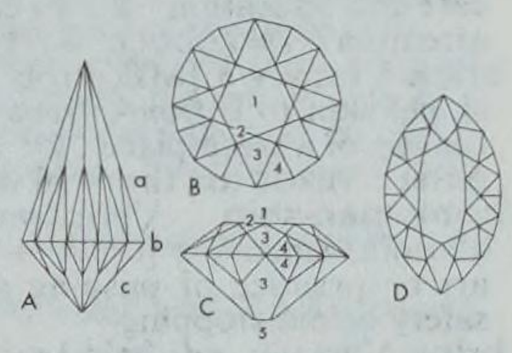
bridges 1a: *1* simple truss, *2* continuous truss, *3* steel arch, *4* cantilever, *a* suspended span, *5* suspension

²bridge *vt* **bridged; bridg·ing** **1** : to make a bridge over or across; *also* : to traverse by a bridge **2** : to provide with a bridge — **bridge·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj*
³bridge *n* [alter. of earlier *biritch*, of unknown origin] : any of various card games for usu. four players in two partnerships that bid for the right to name a trump suit, score points for tricks made in excess of six, and play with the hand of declarer's partner exposed and played by declarer; *esp* : CONTRACT BRIDGE

bridge·board \'brij-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : STRING 7a
bridge·head \-ˌhed\ *n* **1 a** : a fortification protecting the end of a bridge nearest an enemy **b** : a fortification protecting a bridge site, ford, or defile from attack from the other side **c** : an area around the end of a bridge **2** : an advanced position seized in hostile territory as a foothold for further advance
bridge·work \-ˌwərk\ *n* : a phase of prosthodontics concerned with the construction of dental bridges; *also* : the resulting structures
¹bri·dle \'brīd-ᵊl\ *n* [ME *bridel*, fr. OE *brīdel;* akin to OE *bregdan* to move quickly — more at BRAID] **1 a** : the headgear with which a horse is governed and which carries a bit and reins **b** : a strip of metal joining two parts of a machine esp. for limiting or restraining motion **2** : something resembling a bridle in shape or function: as **a** : a length of secured cable with a second cable attached to the bight to which force is applied **b** : CURB, RESTRAINT ⟨set a ~ on his power⟩ **c** : FRENUM
²bridle *vb* **bri·dled; bri·dling** \'brīd-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ *vt* **1** : to put a bridle on **2** : to restrain, check, or control with or as if with a bridle; *esp* : to get and keep under restraint ⟨you must learn to ~ your tongue⟩ ~ *vi* : to show hostility or resentment (as to an affront to one's pride or dignity) esp. by drawing back the head and chin ***syn*** **1** see RESTRAIN ***ant*** vent **2** see STRUT
bridle path *n* : a trail suitable for horseback riding
Brie \'brē\ *n* [F, fr. *Brie*, district in France] : a soft perishable surface-ripened cheese somewhat similar to Camembert
¹brief \'brēf\ *adj* [ME *bref, breve*, fr. MF *brief*, fr. L *brevis;* akin to OHG *murg* short, Gk *brachys*] **1** : short in duration, extent, or length **2 a** : CONCISE ⟨a ~ report⟩ **b** : CURT, ABRUPT ⟨a cold and ~ welcome⟩ — **brief·ness** *n*
²brief *n* [ME *bref*, fr. MF, fr. ML *brevis*, fr. LL, summary, fr. L *brevis*, adj.] **1** : an official letter or mandate; *esp* : a papal letter less formal than a bull **2** : a brief written item or document: as **a** : a concise article **b** : SYNOPSIS, SUMMARY **c** : a concise statement of a client's case made out for the instruction of counsel in a trial at law **3** : an outline of an argument; *esp* : a formal outline esp. in law that sets forth the main contentions with supporting statements or evidence **4** *pl* : short snug underpants — **in brief** : in a few words : BRIEFLY
³brief *vt* **1** : to make an abstract or abridgment of **2** *Brit* : to retain as legal counsel **3 a** : to give final precise instructions to **b** : to coach thoroughly in advance **c** : to give essential information to — **brief·er** *n*
brief·case \'brēf-ˌkās\ *n* : a flat flexible case for carrying papers or books
brief·ing \'brē-fiŋ\ *n* **1** : an act or instance of giving precise instructions or essential information **2** : the instructions or information given at a briefing
brief·less \'brē-fləs\ *adj* : having no legal clients
brief·ly \'brē-flē\ *adv* **1 a** : in a brief way **b** : in brief **2** : for a short time
¹bri·er \'brī(-ə)r\ *n* [ME *brere*, fr. OE *brēr*] : a plant (as of the genera *Rosa, Rubus*, and *Smilax*) with a woody thorny or prickly stem; *also* : a mass or twig of these — **bri·ery** \'brī(-ə)r-ē\ *adj*
²brier *n* [F *bruyère* heath, fr. (assumed) VL *brucaria*, fr. LL *brucus* heather, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *froech* heather; akin to Gk *ereikē* heather] : a heath (*Erica arborea*) of southern Europe with a root used for making pipes
bri·er·root \'brī(-ə)r-ˌrüt, -ˌru̇t\ *n* : a root (as of the brier *Erica arborea*) used for tobacco pipes
¹brig \'brig\ *n* [short for *brigantine*] : a 2-masted square-rigged ship — compare HERMAPHRODITE BRIG
²brig *n* [prob. fr. ¹*brig*] **1** : a place (as on a ship) for temporary confinement of offenders in the U.S. Navy **2** : GUARDHOUSE, PRISON
³brig *abbr* brigade; brigadier


brig

¹bri·gade \brig-'ād\ *n* [F, fr. It *brigata*, fr. *brigare*] **1 a** : a large body of troops **b** : a tactical and administrative unit composed of a headquarters, one or more units of infantry or armor, and supporting units **2** : a group of people organized for special activity
²brigade *vt* **bri·gad·ed; bri·gad·ing** **1** : to form or unite into a brigade **2** : COMBINE ⟨an instance where speech and action are closely *brigaded* —W. O. Douglas⟩
brig·a·dier \ˌbrig-ə-'di(ə)r\ *n* [F, fr. *brigade*] **1** : BRIGADIER GENERAL **2** : an officer in the British army commanding a brigade and ranking immediately below a major general
brigadier general *n* : a commissioned officer in the army, air force, or marine corps who ranks above a colonel and whose insignia is one star
brig·and \'brig-ənd\ *n* [ME *brigaunt*, fr. MF *brigand*, fr. OIt *brigante*, fr. *brigare* to fight, fr. *briga* strife, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *brig* strength] : one who lives by plunder usu. as a member of a band : BANDIT — **brig·and·age** \-ən-dij\ *n* — **brig·and·ism** \-ˌdiz-əm\ *n*
brig·an·dine \'brig-ən-ˌdēn\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. *brigand*] : medieval body armor of scales or plates
brig·an·tine \'brig-ən-ˌtēn\ *n* [MF *brigantin*, fr. OIt *brigantino*, fr. *brigante*] **1** : a 2-masted square-rigged ship differing from a brig in not carrying a square mainsail **2** : HERMAPHRODITE BRIG
Brig Gen *abbr* brigadier general
bright \'brīt\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *beorht;* akin to OHG *beraht* bright Skt *bhrājate* it shines] **1 a** : radiating or reflecting light : SHINING **b** : radiant with happiness or good fortune ⟨~ faces⟩ **2** : ILLUSTRIOUS, GLORIOUS **3** : resplendent with charms **4** : of high saturation or brilliance ⟨~ colors⟩ **5 a** : INTELLIGENT, CLEVER ⟨a ~ idea⟩ **b** : LIVELY, CHEERFUL ⟨be ~ and jovial among your guests —Shak.⟩ — **bright** *adv* — **bright·ly** *adv*
syn BRIGHT, BRILLIANT, RADIANT, LUMINOUS, LUSTROUS *shared meaning element* : shining or glowing with light ***ant*** dull, dim
bright·en \'brīt-ᵊn\ *vb* **bright·ened; bright·en·ing** \'brīt-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ *vt* : to make bright or brighter ~ *vi* : to become bright or brighter — **bright·en·er** \-nər, -ᵊn-ər\ *n*
brightness *n* **1** : the quality or state of being bright; *also* : an instance of such a quality or state **2** : a psychological dimension in which visual stimuli are ordered continuously from light to dark and which is correlated with light intensity
Bright's disease \'brīts-\ *n* [Richard *Bright* †1858 E physician] : any of several kidney diseases marked by albumin in the urine
bright·work \'brīt-ˌwərk\ *n* : polished or plated metalwork
brill \'bril\ *n, pl* **brill** [perh. fr. Corn *brythel* mackerel] : a European flatfish (*Bothus rhombus*) related to the turbot; *broadly* : TURBOT
bril·liance \'bril-yən(t)s\ *n* : the quality or state of being brilliant
bril·lian·cy \-yən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : BRILLIANCE **2** : an instance of brilliance
¹bril·liant \'bril-yənt\ *adj* [F *brillant*, prp. of *briller* to shine, fr. It *brillare*, fr. *brillo* beryl, fr. L *beryllus*] **1** : very bright : GLITTERING ⟨a ~ light⟩ **2 a** : STRIKING, DISTINCTIVE ⟨a ~ example⟩ **b** : distinguished by unusual mental keenness or alertness ***syn*** see BRIGHT ***ant*** subdued (*of light, color*) — **bril·liant·ly** *adv* — **bril·liant·ness** *n*
²brilliant *n* : a gem (as a diamond) cut in a particular form with numerous facets so as to have special brilliance



brilliant: *A*, briolette; *B* and *C*, American cut, top and side view; *D*, marquise; *a* bezel, *b* girdle, *c* pavilion: *1* table, *2* star facet, *3* main facet, *4* corner facet, *5* culet

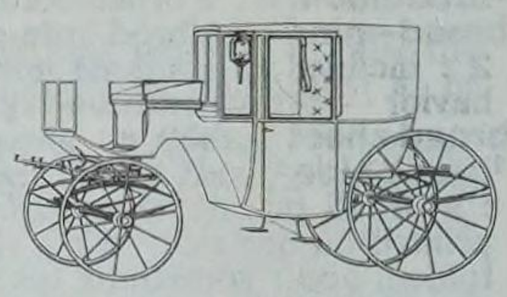
bril·lian·tine \'bril-yən-ˌtēn\ *n* **1** : a preparation for making hair glossy **2** : a light lustrous fabric that is similar to alpaca and is woven usu. with a cotton warp and mohair or worsted filling
Brill's disease \'brilz-\ *n* [Nathan E. *Brill* †1925 Am physician] : an acute infectious disease milder than epidemic typhus but caused by the same rickettsia
¹brim \'brim\ *n* [ME *brimme;* akin to MHG *brem* edge] **1 a** (1) : an upper or outer margin : VERGE (2) *archaic* : the upper surface of a body of water **b** : the edge or rim of a hollow vessel, a natural depression, or a cavity **2** : the projecting rim of a hat ***syn*** see BORDER — **brim·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
²brim *vb* **brimmed; brim·ming** *vt* : to fill to the brim ~ *vi* **1** : to become full to the brim **2** : to reach or overflow a brim
brim·ful \'brim-'fu̇l\ *adj* : full to the brim : ready to overflow
-brimmed \'brimd\ *adj comb form* : having a brim of a specified nature ⟨a wide-*brimmed* hat⟩
brim·mer \'brim-ər\ *n* : a brimming cup or glass
brim·stone \'brim-ˌstōn\ *n* [ME *brinston*, prob. fr. *birnen* to burn + *ston* stone] : SULFUR
brind·ed \'brin-dəd\ *adj* [ME *brended*] *archaic* : BRINDLED
brin·dle \'brin-dᵊl\ *n* [*brindle*, adj.] **1** : a brindled color **2** : a brindled animal
brin·dled \-dᵊld\ *adj* [alter. of *brinded*] : having obscure dark streaks or flecks on a gray or tawny ground
¹brine \'brīn\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *brȳne;* akin to MD *brīne* brine, L *fricare* to rub — more at FRICTION] **1 a** : water saturated or strongly impregnated with common salt **b** : a strong saline solution (as of calcium chloride) **2** : the water of a sea or salt lake
²brine *vt* **brined; brin·ing** : to treat (as by steeping) with brine — **brin·er** *n*
Bri·nell hardness \brə-ˌnel-\ *n* [Johann A. *Brinell* †1925 Sw engineer] : the hardness of a metal or alloy measured by hydraulically pressing a hard ball under a standard load into the specimen
Brinell number *n* : a number expressing Brinell hardness and denoting the load applied in testing in kilograms divided by the spherical area of indentation produced in the specimen in square millimeters
brine shrimp *n* : any of a genus (*Artemia*) of branchiopod crustaceans
bring \'briŋ\ *vb* **brought** \'brȯt\; **bring·ing** \'briŋ-iŋ\ [ME *bringen*, fr. OE *bringan;* akin to OHG *bringan* to bring, W *hebrwng* to accompany] *vt* **1 a** : to convey, lead, carry, or cause to come along with one toward the place from which the action is being regarded **b** : to cause to be, act, or move in a special way: as (1) : ATTRACT ⟨her screams *brought* the neighbors⟩ (2) : PERSUADE, INDUCE (3) : FORCE, COMPEL (4) : to cause to come into a particular state or condition ⟨~ water to a boil⟩ **c** *dial* : ESCORT, ACCOMPANY **2** : to cause to exist or occur: as **a** : PRODUCE ⟨winter will ~ snow and ice⟩ **b** : to result in : EFFECT **c** : INSTITUTE ⟨~ legal action⟩ **d** : ADDUCE ⟨~ an argument⟩ **3** : PREFER ⟨~ a charge⟩ **4** : to procure in exchange : sell for ~ *vi, chiefly Midland* : YIELD, PRODUCE — **bring home** : to make unmistakably clear — **bring to account** **1** : to bring to book **2** : REPRIMAND — **bring to bear** **1** : to put to use ⟨*bring* knowledge *to bear* on the problem⟩ **2** : APPLY, EXERT ⟨*bring* pressure *to bear*⟩ — **bring to book** : to compel to give an account — **bring to light** : DISCLOSE, REVEAL — **bring to mind** : to cause to be recalled — **bring to terms** : to compel to agree, assent, or submit — **bring up the rear** : to come last or behind
bring about *vt* : to cause to take place : EFFECT
bring around *vt* **1** : to cause (someone) to adopt a particular opinion or course of action : PERSUADE **2** : to restore to consciousness : REVIVE
bring·down \'briŋ-ˌdau̇n\ *n* : something that is depressing or disappointing

bring down \(')briŋ-'daůn\ *vt* **1** : to cause to fall by or as if by shooting **2** : to carry (a total) forward — **bring down the house** : to win the enthusiastic approval of the audience
bring forth *vt* **1** : BEAR ⟨*brought forth* fruit⟩ **2** : to give birth to : PRODUCE **3** : ADDUCE ⟨*brought forth* arguments to persuade us⟩
bring forward *vt* **1** : to produce to view : INTRODUCE **2** : to carry (a total) forward
bring in *vt* **1** : to produce as profit or return ⟨each sale *brought in* $5⟩ **2** : INCLUDE, INTRODUCE **3** : to enable (a man on base) to reach home plate by a hit **4** : to report to a court ⟨jury *brought in* a verdict⟩ **5 a** : to cause (as an oil well) to be productive **b** : to win tricks with the long cards of (a suit) in bridge **6** : EARN ⟨he *brings in* a good salary⟩
bring off *vt* **1** : to cause to escape : RESCUE **2** : to carry to a successful conclusion : ACHIEVE, ACCOMPLISH
bring on *vt* : to cause to appear or occur
bring out *vt* **1** : to make clear **2 a** : to present to the public **b** : to introduce formally to society **3** : UTTER
bring to *vt* **1** : to cause (a boat) to lie to or come to a standstill **2** : to restore to consciousness : REVIVE
bring up *vt* **1** : to bring (a person) to maturity through nurturing care and education **2** : to cause to stop suddenly **3** : to bring to attention : INTRODUCE **4** : VOMIT ~ *vi* : to stop suddenly
brink \'briŋk\ *n* [ME, prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *brekka* slope; akin to L *front-, frons* forehead] **1** : EDGE; *esp* : the edge at the top of a steep place **2** : a bank esp. of a river **3** : the point of onset : VERGE ⟨on the ~ of war⟩ ***syn*** see BORDER
brink·man·ship \'briŋk-mən-ˌship\ *also* **brinks·man·ship** \'briŋ(k)-smən-\ *n* [*brink* + *-manship* (as in *horsemanship*)] : the art or practice of pushing a dangerous situation to the limit of safety before stopping
briny \'brī-nē\ *adj* **brin·i·er; -est** : of, relating to, or resembling brine or the sea : SALTY — **brin·i·ness** *n*
brio \'brē-(ˌ)ō\ *n* [It] : enthusiastic vigor : VIVACITY, VERVE
bri·oche \brē-'ōsh, -'ȯsh\ *n* [F, fr. MF dial., fr. *brier* to knead, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *brehhan* to break — more at BREAK] : a roll baked from light yeast dough rich with eggs and butter
bri·o·lette \ˌbrē-ə-'let\ *n* [F] : an oval or pear-shaped diamond cut in triangular facets — see BRILLIANT illustration
bri·quette *or* **bri·quet** \brik-'et\ *n* [F *briquette*, dim. of *brique* brick] : a compacted often brick-shaped mass of usu. fine material ⟨a charcoal ~⟩ — **briquette** *vt*
bri·sance \bri-'zän(t)s, -'zäⁿs\ *n* [F, fr. *brisant*, prp. of *briser* to break, fr. OF *brisier*, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *brissim* I break; akin to L *fricare* to rub — more at FRICTION] : the shattering or crushing effect of an explosive — **bri·sant** \-'zänt, -'zäⁿ\ *adj*
Bri·se·is \brī-'sē-əs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Brisēis*] : a woman captive of Achilles taken away from him by Agamemnon
¹brisk \'brisk\ *adj* [prob. modif. of MF *brusque*] **1** : keenly alert : LIVELY **2 a** : pleasingly tangy ⟨~ tea⟩ **b** : FRESH, INVIGORATING ⟨~ weather⟩ **3** : sharp in tone or manner **4** : ENERGETIC, QUICK ⟨a ~ pace⟩ ***syn*** see AGILE ***ant*** sluggish — **brisk·ly** *adv* — **brisk·ness** *n*
²brisk *vt* : to make brisk ~ *vi* : to become brisk — usu. used with *up* ⟨business ~*ed* up⟩
bris·ket \'bris-kət\ *n* [ME *brusket;* akin to OE *brēost* breast] : the breast or lower chest of a quadruped animal — see BEEF illustration
bris·ling *or* **bris·tling** \'briz-liŋ, 'bris-\ *n* [Norw *brisling*, fr. LG *bretling*, fr. *bret* broad; akin to OE *brād* broad] : a small herring (*Clupea sprattus*) that resembles and is processed like a sardine
¹bris·tle \'bris-əl\ *n* [ME *bristil*, fr. *brust* bristle, fr. OE *byrst;* akin to OHG *burst* bristle, L *fastigium* top] : a short stiff coarse hair or filament — **bris·tle·like** \'bris-əl-ˌ(l)īk\ *adj*
²bristle *vb* **bris·tled; bris·tling** \'bris-(ə-)liŋ\ *vi* **1 a** : to rise and stand stiffly erect ⟨quills *bristling* in all directions⟩ **b** : to raise the bristles (as in anger) **2** : to take on an aggressive attitude or appearance (as in response to a slight) **3** : to be full of or covered with something suggestive of bristles ⟨roofs *bristled* with chimneys⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to furnish with bristles **2** : to make bristly : RUFFLE ***syn*** see STRUT
bris·tle·cone pine \ˌbris-əl-ˌkōn-\ *n* : a pine (*Pinus aristata*) of the western U.S. that includes the oldest living trees
bris·tle·tail \'bris-əl-ˌtāl\ *n* : any of various wingless insects (orders Thysanura and Entotrophi) with two or three slender caudal bristles
bris·tly \'bris-(ə-)lē\ *adj* **bris·tli·er; -est** **1 a** : consisting of or resembling bristles **b** : thickly set with bristles **2** : tending to bristle easily : BELLIGERENT
bris·tol \'bris-tᵊl\ *n* [*Bristol*, England] : cardboard with a smooth surface suitable for writing or printing — called also *bristol board*
Bristol fashion *adj* [*Bristol*, England, important seaport] : being in good order : SHIPSHAPE ⟨spick-and-span, shipshape and *Bristol fashion* —Jack Lusby⟩
brit *or* **britt** \'brit\ *n* [Corn *brȳthel* mackerel] **1** : young or small schooling fishes (as herring) **2** : minute marine animals (as crustaceans and pteropods) upon which right whales feed
Brit *abbr* Britain; British
Bri·tan·nia metal \bri-ˌtan-yə-, -ˌtan-ē-ə-\ *n* [*Britannia*, poetic name for Great Britain, fr. L] : a silver-white alloy largely of tin, antimony, and copper that is similar to pewter
Bri·tan·nic \bri-'tan-ik\ *adj* : BRITISH
britch·es \'brich-əz\ *n pl* [alter. of *breeches*] : BREECHES, TROUSERS
Brith Mi·lah \brit(h)-'mē-(ˌ)lä, bris-\ *n* [LHeb *bĕrīth mīlāh* covenant of circumcision] : the Jewish rite of circumcision
Brit·i·cism \'brit-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n* [*British* + *-icism* (as in *gallicism*)] : a characteristic feature of British English
Brit·ish \'brit-ish\ *n* [ME *Bruttische* of Britain, fr. OE *Brettisc*, of Celt origin; akin to W *Brython* Briton] **1 a** : the Celtic language of the ancient Britons **b** : BRITISH ENGLISH **2** *pl in constr* : the people of Great Britain or the British Commonwealth — **British** *adj* — **Brit·ish·ness** *n*
British English *n* : the native language of most inhabitants of England; *esp* : English characteristic of England and clearly distinguishable from that used elsewhere (as in the U.S. or Australia)
Brit·ish·er \'brit-ish-ər\ *n* : BRITON 2
British thermal unit *n* : the quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit at or near 39.2°F
Brit·on \'brit-ᵊn\ *n* [ME *Breton*, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *Briton-, Brito*, of Celt origin; akin to W *Brython*] **1** : a member of one of the peoples inhabiting Britain prior to the Anglo-Saxon invasions **2** : a native or subject of Great Britain; *esp* : ENGLISHMAN
Brit·ta·ny spaniel \ˌbrit-ᵊn-ē-\ *n* [*Brittany*, region in France] : a large active spaniel of a French breed developed by interbreeding pointers with spaniels of Brittany
¹brit·tle \'brit-ᵊl\ *adj* **brit·tler** \'brit-lər, -ᵊl-ər\; **brit·tlest** \-ləst, -ᵊl-əst\ [ME *britil;* akin to OE *brēotan* to break, Skt *bhrūna* embryo] **1 a** : easily broken, cracked, or snapped ⟨~ clay⟩ ⟨~ glass⟩ **b** : easily disrupted, overthrown, or damaged : FRAIL ⟨a ~ friendship⟩ **2** : easily hurt or offended : SENSITIVE ⟨a ~ personality⟩ **3** : SHARP, TENSE ⟨~ staccato of snare drums⟩ **4 a** : PERISHABLE, MORTAL **b** : TRANSITORY, EVANESCENT **5** : lacking warmth, depth, or generosity of spirit : COLD ⟨a ~ selfish person⟩ ***syn*** see FRAGILE ***ant*** supple — **brit·tle·ly** \'brit-lē, -ᵊl-(l)ē\ *adv* — **brit·tle·ness** \'brit-ᵊl-nəs\ *n*
²brittle *vi* **brit·tled; brit·tling** \'brit-liŋ, -ᵊliŋ\ : to become brittle : CRUMBLE, DETERIORATE
³brittle *n* : candy made by caramelizing sugar, adding nuts, and cooling in thin sheets ⟨peanut ~⟩
brittle star *n* : any of a subclass or class (Ophiuroidea) of echinoderms that have slender flexible arms
Brit·ton·ic \bri-'tän-ik\ *adj* [L *Britton-, Britto* Briton] : BRYTHONIC 2
Brix \'briks\ *adj* : of or relating to a Brix scale
Brix scale *n* [Adolf F. *Brix* †1870 G scientist] : a hydrometer scale for sugar solutions so graduated that its readings at a specified temperature represent percentages by weight of sugar in the solution — called also *Brix*
brl *abbr* barrel
bro *abbr* brother; brothers
¹broach \'brōch\ *n* [ME *broche*, fr. MF, fr. (assumed) VL *brocca*, fr. L, fem. of *broccus* projecting] **1** : any of various pointed or tapered tools, implements, or parts: as **a** : a spit for roasting meat **b** : a tool for tapping casks **c** : a cutting tool for removing material from metal or plastic to shape an outside surface or a hole **2** : BROOCH
²broach *vt* **1 a** : to pierce (as a cask) in order to draw the contents : TAP **b** : to open up or break into (as a mine or stores) **2** : to shape or enlarge (a hole) with a broach **3 a** : to make known for the first time **b** : to open up (a subject) for discussion ~ *vi* : to break the surface from below ***syn*** see EXPRESS — **broach·er** *n*
³broach *vb* [perh. fr. ²*broach*] *vi* : to veer or yaw dangerously esp. in a following sea so as to lie broadside to the waves — used chiefly with *to* ~ *vt* : to cause (a boat) to broach
¹broad \'brȯd\ *adj* [ME *brood*, fr. OE *brād;* akin to OHG *breit* broad] **1 a** : having ample extent from side to side or between limits ⟨~ shoulders⟩ **b** : having a specified extension from side to side ⟨made the path 10 feet ~⟩ **2** : extending far and wide : SPACIOUS ⟨the ~ plains⟩ **3 a** : OPEN, FULL ⟨~ daylight⟩ **b** : PLAIN, OBVIOUS ⟨a ~ hint⟩ **4** : marked by lack of restraint, delicacy, or subtlety: **a** *obs* : OUTSPOKEN **b** : COARSE, RISQUÉ ⟨~ humor⟩ **5 a** : LIBERAL, TOLERANT ⟨~ views⟩ **b** : widely applicable or applied : GENERAL **6** : relating to the main or essential points ⟨~ outlines⟩ **7** : dialectal esp. in pronunciation **8** *of a vowel* : OPEN — used specif. of *a* pronounced as in *father* — **broad·ly** *adv* — **broad·ness** *n*
syn BROAD, WIDE, DEEP *shared meaning element* : having horizontal extent ***ant*** narrow
²broad *adv* : in a broad manner : FULLY
³broad *n* **1** *Brit* : an expansion of a river — often used in pl. **2** *slang* : WOMAN
broad arrow *n* **1** : an arrow with a flat barbed head **2** *Brit* : a mark shaped like a broad arrow that identifies government property including clothing formerly worn by convicts
broad·ax \'brȯ-ˌdaks\ *n* : a large ax with a broad blade
broad·band \'brȯd-ˌband\ *adj* : of, having, or involving operation with uniform efficiency over a wide band of frequencies ⟨a ~ radio antenna⟩
broad bean *n* : the large flat edible seed of an Old World upright vetch (*Vicia faba*); *also* : this plant widely grown for its seeds and as fodder
¹broad·cast \'brȯd-ˌkast\ *adj* **1** : cast or scattered in all directions **2** : made public by means of radio or television **3** : of or relating to radio or television broadcasting
²broadcast *n* **1** : the act of transmitting sound or images by radio or television **2** : a single radio or television program
³broadcast *vb* **broadcast** *also* **broad·cast·ed; broad·cast·ing** *vt* **1** : to scatter or sow (seed) broadcast **2** : to make widely known **3** : to transmit as a broadcast ~ *vi* **1** : to transmit a broadcast **2** : to speak or perform on a broadcast program — **broad·cast·er** *n*
⁴broadcast *adv* : to or over a broad area
Broad Church *adj* : of or relating to a liberal party in the Anglican communion esp. in the later 19th century — **Broad Churchman** *n*
broad·cloth \'brȯd-ˌklȯth\ *n* **1** : a twilled napped woolen or worsted fabric with smooth lustrous face and dense texture **2** : a fabric usu. of cotton, silk, or rayon made in plain and rib weaves with soft semigloss finish
broad·en \'brȯd-ᵊn\ *vb* **broad·ened; broad·en·ing** \'brȯd-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ *vi* : to become broad ~ *vt* : to make broader
broad gauge *n* : a railroad gauge wider than standard gauge — **broad-gauged** \'brȯd-'gājd\ *adj*
broad jump *n* : LONG JUMP — **broad jumper** *n*
broad·leaf \'brȯd-ˌlēf\ *adj* : BROAD-LEAVED
broad-leaved \-'lēvd\ *or* **broad-leafed** \-'lēft\ *adj* : having broad leaves; *specif* : having leaves that are not needles
¹broad·loom \-ˌlüm\ *adj* : woven on a wide loom; *also* : so woven in solid color

²broadloom *n* : a broadloom carpet
broad–mind·ed \'brȯd-'mīn-dəd\ *adj* **1** : tolerant of varied views **2** : inclined to condone minor departures from conventional behavior — **broad–mind·ed·ly** *adv* — **broad–mind·ed·ness** *n*
broad·sheet \-ˌshēt\ *n* : BROADSIDE 3b
¹broad·side \-ˌsīd\ *n* **1** : the side of a ship above the waterline **2** : a broad or unbroken surface **3** **a** *archaic* : a sheet of paper printed on one side **b** : a sheet printed on one or both sides and folded; *also* : something (as a ballad or an advertisement) printed on a broadside **4** **a** : all the guns on one side of a ship; *also* : their simultaneous discharge **b** : a volley of verbal abuse or denunciation
²broadside *adj* : directed or placed broadside ⟨a ~ attack⟩
³broadside *adv* **1** : with the broadside toward a given object or point **2** : in one volley **3** : at random
broad–spectrum *adj* : effective against various insects or microorganisms
broad·sword \'brȯd-ˌsō(ə)rd, -ˌsȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a sword with a broad blade for cutting rather than thrusting
broad·tail \-ˌtāl\ *n* **1** **a** : KARAKUL 1 **b** : a fat-tailed sheep **2** : the fur or skin of a very young or premature karakul lamb having a flat and wavy appearance resembling moiré silk
Broad·way \'brȯd-ˌwā, -'wā\ *n* [*Broadway*, street in New York on or near which were once located the majority of the city's legitimate theaters] : the New York commercial theater and amusement world; *specif* : playhouses located in the area between Fifth Avenue and Ninth Avenue from 34th Street to 56th Street and between Fifth Avenue and the Hudson River from 56th Street to 72d Street — **Broadway** *adj* — **Broad·way·ite** \-īt\ *n*
broad·wife \'brȯd-ˌwīf\ *n* [*abroad* + *wife*] : the wife of a slave belonging to another master in the slaveholding states of the U.S.
Brob·ding·nag·ian \ˌbräb-diŋ-'nag-ē-ən, -dig-'nag-\ *n* : an inhabitant of a country in Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* where everything is on a giant scale — **Brobdingnagian** *adj*
bro·cade \brō-'kād\ *n* [Sp *brocado*, fr. Catal *brocat*, fr. It *broccato*, fr. *broccare* to spur, brocade, fr. *brocco* small nail, fr. L *broccus* projecting] **1** : a rich oriental silk fabric with raised patterns in gold and silver **2** : a fabric characterized by raised designs — **brocade** *vt* — **bro·cad·ed** *adj*
broc·a·telle \ˌbräk-ə-'tel\ *n* [F, fr. It *broccatello*, dim. of *broccato*] : a stiff decorating fabric with patterns in high relief
broc·co·li *or* **broc·o·li** \'bräk-(ə-)lē\ *n* [It, pl. of *broccolo* flowering top of a cabbage, dim. of *brocco* small nail, sprout] **1** : a large hardy cauliflower **2** : a branching cauliflower with a head of functional florets at the end of each branch that is cut for food while the florets are tight green or purplish buds — called also *sprouting broccoli*
bro·chette \brō-'shet\ *n* [F, fr. OF *brochete*, fr. *broche* pointed tool — more at BROACH] : SKEWER; *also* : food broiled on a skewer
bro·chure \brō-'shu̇(ə)r\ *n* [F, fr. *brocher* to sew, fr. MF, to prick, fr. OF *brochier*, fr. *broche*] : a small pamphlet : BOOKLET
brock \'bräk\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *broc*, of Celt origin; akin to W *broch* badger] : BADGER
brock·age \'bräk-ij\ *n* [E dial. *brock* rubbish + E *-age*] : an imperfectly minted coin
brock·et \'bräk-ət\ *n* [ME *broket*] **1** : a male red deer two years old — compare PRICKET **2** : any of several small So. American deer (genus *Mazama*) with unbranched horns
bro·gan \'brō-gən, -ˌgan; brō-'gan\ *n* [IrGael *brōgan*, dim. of *brōg*] : a heavy shoe; *esp* : a coarse work shoe reaching to the ankle
¹brogue \'brōg\ *n* [IrGael & ScGael *brōg*, fr. MIr *brōc*, fr. ON *brōk* leg covering; akin to OE *brōc* leg covering — more at BREECH] **1** : a stout coarse shoe worn formerly in Ireland and the Scottish Highlands **2** : a heavy shoe often with a hobnailed sole : BROGAN **3** : a stout oxford shoe with perforations and usu. a wing tip
²brogue *n* [perh. fr. IrGael *barrōg* wrestling hold; fr. the idea that unfamiliar features of pronunciation must be the result of a physical impediment of the tongue] : a dialect or regional pronunciation; *esp* : an Irish accent
broi·der \'brȯid-ər\ *vt* [ME *broideren*, modif. of MF *broder* — more at EMBROIDER] : EMBROIDER — **broi·dery** \'brȯid-(ə-)rē\ *n*
¹broil \'brȯi(ə)l\ *vb* [ME *broilen*, fr. MF *bruler* to burn, modif. of L *ustulare* to singe, fr. *ustus*, pp. of *urere* to burn] *vt* : to cook by direct exposure to radiant heat : GRILL ~ *vi* : to become broiled
²broil *n* **1** : the act or state of broiling **2** : something broiled
³broil *vb* [ME *broilen*, fr. MF *brouiller* to mix, broil, fr. OF *brooilier*, fr. *breu* broth — more at BREWIS] *vt* : EMBROIL ~ *vi* : BRAWL
⁴broil *n* : a noisy disturbance : TUMULT; *esp* : BRAWL
broil·er \'brȯi-lər\ *n* **1** : one that broils **2** : a bird fit for broiling; *esp* : a young chicken of up to 2½ pounds dressed weight
¹broke \'brōk\ *past of* BREAK
²broke *adj* [ME, alter. of *broken*] : PENNILESS
bro·ken \'brō-kən\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *brocen*, fr. pp. of *brecan* to break] **1** : violently separated into parts : SHATTERED **2** : damaged or altered by breaking: as **a** : having undergone or been subjected to fracture ⟨a ~ leg⟩ **b** *of land surfaces* : being irregular, interrupted, or full of obstacles **c** : violated by transgression ⟨a ~ promise⟩ **d** : DISCONTINUOUS, INTERRUPTED **e** : disrupted by change **f** *of a flower* : having an irregular, streaked, or blotched pattern esp. from virus infection **3** **a** : made weak or infirm **b** : subdued completely : CRUSHED ⟨a ~ spirit⟩ **c** : BANKRUPT **d** : reduced in rank **4** **a** : cut off : DISCONNECTED **b** : imperfectly spoken or written ⟨~ English⟩ **5** : not complete or full — **bro·ken·ly** *adv* — **bro·ken·ness** \-kən-(n)əs\ *n*
bro·ken–down \ˌbrō-kən-'daůn\ *adj* : extremely infirm : WORN-OUT
bro·ken–field \ˌbrō-kən-ˌfēld\ *adj* : accomplished (as by a ballcarrier in football) against widely scattered opposition
bro·ken·heart·ed \ˌbrō-kən-'härt-əd\ *adj* : overcome by grief or despair
broken home *n* : a family in which the parents are not living together
broken wind *n* : HEAVES — **bro·ken–wind·ed** \ˌbrō-kən-'win-dəd\ *adj*
bro·ker \'brō-kər\ *n* [ME, negotiator, fr. (assumed) AF *brocour*; akin to OF *broche* pointed tool, tap of a cask — more at BROACH] **1** : one who acts as an intermediary: as **a** : an agent who arranges marriages **b** : an agent who negotiates contracts of purchase and sale (as of real estate, commodities, or securities) **2** *Brit* : a dealer in secondhand goods
bro·ker·age \'brō-k(ə-)rij\ *n* **1** : the business or establishment of a broker **2** : the fee or commission for transacting business as a broker
brol·ly \'bräl-ē\ *n, pl* **brollies** [by shortening & alter.] *chiefly Brit* : UMBRELLA
brom- *or* **bromo-** *comb form* [prob. fr. F *brome*, fr. Gk *brōmos* bad smell] : bromine ⟨*brom*ide⟩
¹bro·mate \'brō-ˌmāt\ *n* : a salt of bromic acid
²bromate *vt* **bro·mat·ed; bro·mat·ing** : to treat with a bromate; *broadly* : BROMINATE
brome·grass \'brōm-ˌgras\ *n* [NL *Bromus*, genus name, fr. L *bromos* oats, fr. Gk] : any of a large genus (*Bromus*) of tall grasses often having drooping spikelets
bro·me·lain \'brō-mə-lən, -ˌlān\ *or* **bro·me·lin** \'brō-mə-lən, brō-'mē-\ *n* [*bromelain* by alter. (influenced by *papain*) of *bromelin*, fr. NL *Bromelia*, genus name of the pineapple in some classifications + E *-in*] : a proteinase obtained from the juice of the pineapple
bro·me·li·ad \brō-'mē-lē-ˌad\ *n* [NL *Bromelia*, genus of tropical American plants, fr. Olaf *Bromelius* †1705 Sw botanist] : any of a family (Bromeliaceae) of chiefly tropical American and epiphytic herbaceous plants including the pineapple, Spanish moss, and various ornamentals
bro·mic \'brō-mik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing bromine esp. with a valence of five
bromic acid *n* : an unstable strongly oxidizing acid $HBrO_3$ known only in solution or in the form of its salts
bro·mide \'brō-ˌmīd\ *n* **1** : a binary compound of bromine with another element or a radical including some (as potassium bromide) used as sedatives **2** **a** : a commonplace or tiresome person : BORE **b** : a commonplace or hackneyed statement or notion
bro·mid·ic \brō-'mid-ik\ *adj* : lacking in originality : DULL, TRITE
bro·mi·nate \'brō-mə-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** : to treat or cause to combine with bromine or a compound of bromine — **bro·mi·nation** \ˌbrō-mə-'nā-shən\ *n*
bro·mine \'brō-ˌmēn\ *n* [F *brome* bromine + E *-ine*] : a nonmetallic element normally a deep red corrosive toxic liquid giving off an irritating reddish brown vapor of disagreeable odor — see ELEMENT table
bro·mism \'brō-ˌmiz-əm\ *n* : an abnormal state due to excessive or prolonged use of bromides
bro·mo \'brō-(ˌ)mō\ *n, pl* **bromos** [*brom-*] : a proprietary effervescent mixture used as a headache remedy, sedative, and alkalinizing agent; *also* : a dose of such a mixture
bro·mo·ura·cil \ˌbrō-mō-'yůr-ə-ˌsil, -səl\ *n* [*bromo-* + *uracil*] : a mutagenic analogue of thymine and uracil derivative $C_4H_3N_2O_2Br$ that pairs readily with adenine and sometimes with guanine during bacterial or phage DNA synthesis
bronc \'bräŋk\ *n* : BRONCO
bronch- *or* **broncho-** *comb form* [prob. fr. F, throat, fr. LL, fr. Gk, fr. *bronchos* — more at CRAW] : bronchial tube : bronchial ⟨*bronch*itis⟩
bronchi- *or* **bronchio-** *comb form* [NL, fr. *bronchia*, pl., branches of the bronchi, fr. Gk, dim. of *bronchos* bronchus] : bronchial tubes ⟨*bronchi*ectasis⟩
bron·chi·al \'bräŋ-kē-əl\ *adj* : of or relating to the bronchi or their ramifications in the lungs — **bron·chi·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*
bronchial asthma *n* : asthma resulting from spasmodic contraction of bronchial muscles
bronchial pneumonia *n* : BRONCHOPNEUMONIA
bronchial tube *n* : a primary bronchus or any of its branches
bron·chi·ec·ta·sis \ˌbräŋ-kē-'ek-tə-səs\ *n* [NL] : a chronic dilatation of bronchi or bronchioles
bron·chi·ole \'bräŋ-kē-ˌōl\ *n* [NL *bronchiolum*, dim. of *bronchia*] : a minute thin-walled branch of a bronchus — **bron·chi·o·lar** \ˌbräŋ-kē-'ō-lər\ *adj*
bron·chi·tis \brän-'kīt-əs, bräŋ-\ *n* : acute or chronic inflammation of the bronchial tubes or a disease marked by this — **bron·chit·ic** \-'kit-ik\ *adj*
bron·cho·gen·ic \ˌbräŋ-kə-'jen-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or arising in or by way of the air passages of the lungs
bron·chog·ra·phy \brän-'käg-rə-fē, bräŋ-\ *n* : the roentgenographic visualization of the bronchi and their branches after injection of a radiopaque substance — **bron·cho·graph·ic** \ˌbräŋ-kə-'graf-ik\ *adj*
bron·cho·pneu·mo·nia \ˌbräŋ-(ˌ)kō-n(y)ù-'mō-nyə\ *n* [NL] : pneumonia involving many relatively small areas of lung tissue
bron·cho·scope \'bräŋ-kə-ˌskōp\ *n* [ISV] : a tubular illuminated instrument used for inspecting or passing instruments into the bronchi — **bron·cho·scop·ic** \ˌbräŋ-kə-'skäp-ik\ *adj* — **bron·cho·scop·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **bron·chos·co·pist** \brän-'käs-kə-pəst, bräŋ-\ *n* — **bron·chos·co·py** \-pē\ *n*
bron·chus \'bräŋ-kəs\ *n, pl* **bron·chi** \'bräŋ-ˌkī, -ˌkē\ [NL, fr. Gk *bronchos*] : either of the two primary divisions of the trachea that lead respectively into the right and the left lung; *broadly* : BRONCHIAL TUBE
bron·co \'bräŋ-(ˌ)kō\ *n, pl* **broncos** [MexSp, fr. Sp, rough, wild] : an unbroken or imperfectly broken range horse of western No. America; *broadly* : MUSTANG
bron·co·bust·er \-kō-ˌbəs-tər\ *n* : one who breaks wild horses to the saddle

bron·to·sau·rus \ˌbränt-ə-'sȯr-əs\ *also* **bron·to·saur** \'bränt-əˌsȯ(ə)r\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *brontē* thunder + *sauros* lizard; akin to Gk *bremein* to roar — more at SAURIAN] : any of various large quadrupedal and prob. herbivorous dinosaurs (genus *Apatosaurus*)
Bronx cheer \'bräŋ(k)s-\ *n* [*Bronx*, borough of New York City] : RASPBERRY 2
¹bronze \'bränz\ *vt* **bronzed; bronz·ing** : to give the appearance of bronze to — **bronz·er** *n*
²bronze *n, often attrib* [F, fr. It *bronzo*] **1 a** : an alloy of copper and tin and sometimes other elements **b** : any of various copper-base alloys with little or no tin **2** : a sculpture or artifact of bronze **3** : a moderate yellowish brown — **bronzy** \'brän-zē\ *adj*
Bronze Age *n* : the period of human culture characterized by the use of bronze tools that began in Europe about 3500 B.C. and in western Asia and Egypt somewhat earlier
Bronze Star Medal *n* : a U.S. military decoration awarded for heroic or meritorious service not involving aerial flights
bronz·ing *n* : a bronze coloring or discoloration (as of leaves)
brooch \'brōch, 'brüch\ *n* [ME *broche* pointed tool, brooch — more at BROACH] : an ornament that is held by a pin or clasp and is worn at or near the neck
¹brood \'brüd\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *brōd;* akin to OE *beorma* yeast — more at BARM] **1** : the young of an animal or a family of young; *esp* : the young (as of a bird or insect) hatched or cared for at one time **2** : a group having a common nature or origin
²brood *vt* **1 a** : to sit on or incubate (eggs) **b** : to produce by or as if by incubation : HATCH **2** *of a bird* : to cover (young) with the wings **3** : to think anxiously or gloomily about : PONDER ~ *vi* **1 a** *of a bird* : to brood eggs or young **b** : to sit quietly and thoughtfully : MEDITATE **2** : HOVER, LOOM **3 a** : to dwell gloomily on a subject : WORRY **b** : to be in a state of depression — **brood·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
³brood *adj* : kept for breeding ⟨a ~ mare⟩ ⟨a ~ flock⟩
brood·er \'brüd-ər\ *n* **1** : one that broods **2** : a heated structure used for raising young fowl
broody \'brüd-ē\ *adj* **1 a** : being in a state of readiness to brood eggs that is characterized by cessation of laying and by marked changes in behavior and physiology **b** : suitable for producing offspring ⟨a strong ~ mare⟩ **2** : given or conducive to introspection : CONTEMPLATIVE, MOODY — **brood·i·ness** *n*
¹brook \'brůk\ *vt* [ME *brouken* to use, enjoy, fr. OE *brūcan;* akin to OHG *brūhhan* to use, L *frui* to enjoy] : to stand for : TOLERATE ⟨he would ~ no interference with his plans⟩ ***syn*** see BEAR
²brook *n* [ME, fr. OE *brōc;* akin to OHG *bruoh* marshy ground] : CREEK 2
brook·ite \'brůk-ˌīt\ *n* [Henry J. *Brooke* †1857 E mineralogist] : titanium dioxide TiO_2 occurring as a mineral in orthorhombic crystals commonly translucent brown or opaque brown to black
brook·let \'brůk-lət\ *n* : a small brook
brook trout *n* : the common speckled cold-water char (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) of eastern No. America
¹broom \'brüm, 'brům\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *brōm;* akin to OHG *brāmo* bramble, ME *brimme* brim] **1** : any of various leguminous shrubs (esp. genera *Cytisus* and *Genista*) with long slender branches, small leaves, and usu. showy yellow flowers **2** : a bundle of firm stiff twigs or fibers bound together on a long handle for sweeping and brushing
²broom *vt* **1** : to sweep with or as if with a broom **2** : to finish (as a concrete surface) by means of a broom
broom·ball \-ˌbȯl\ *n* : a variation of ice hockey played on ice without skates and with brooms and a soccer ball used instead of sticks and a puck — **broom·ball·er** \-ˌbȯ-lər\ *n*
broom·corn \-ˌkȯ(ə)rn\ *n* : any of several tall cultivated sorghums whose stiff-branched panicle is used in brooms and brushes
broom·rape \-ˌrāp\ *n* **1** : any of various leafless herbs (family Orobanchaceae, the broomrape family) growing as parasites on the roots of other plants **2** : INDIAN PIPE
broom·stick \-ˌstik\ *n* : the long thin handle of a broom
brose \'brōz\ *n* [perh. alter. of Sc *bruis* broth, fr. ME *brewes* — more at BREWIS] : a chiefly Scottish dish made with a boiling liquid and meal
broth \'brȯth\ *n, pl* **broths** \'brȯths, 'brȯthz\ [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *brod* broth, L *fervēre* to boil — more at BURN] **1** : liquid in which meat, fish, cereal grains, or vegetables have been cooked : STOCK **2** : a fluid culture medium
broth·el \'bräth-əl, 'brȯth-\ *n* [ME, worthless fellow, prostitute, fr. *brothen*, pp. of *brethen* to waste away, go to ruin, fr. OE *brēothan* to waste away; akin to OE *brēotan* to break — more at BRITTLE] : WHOREHOUSE
broth·er \'brəth-ər\ *n, pl* **brothers** *also* **breth·ren** \'breth-(ə-)rən, 'breth-ərn\ [ME, fr. OE *brōthor;* akin to OHG *bruodor* brother, L *frater*, Gk *phratēr* member of the same clan] **1** : a male who has the same parents as another or one parent in common with another **2 a** : KINSMAN **b** : one who shares with another a common national or racial origin **3** : a fellow member — used as a title for ministers in some evangelical denominations **4** : one related to another by common ties or interests **5 a** *cap* : a member of a congregation of men not in holy orders and usu. in hospital or school work **b** : a member of a men's religious order who is not preparing for or is not ready for holy orders ⟨a lay ~⟩
broth·er·hood \'brəth-ər-ˌhůd\ *n* [ME *brotherhede, brotherhod*, alter. of *brotherrede*, fr. OE *brōthorrǣden*, fr. *brōthor* + *rǣden* condition — more at KINDRED] **1** : the quality or state of being brothers **2** : an association (as a labor union) for a particular purpose **3** : the whole body of persons engaged in business or profession
broth·er–in–law \'brəth-(ə-)rən-ˌlȯ, 'brəth-ərn-ˌlȯ\ *n, pl* **brothers–in–law** \'brəth-ər-zən-\ **1** : the brother of one's spouse **2 a** : the husband of one's sister **b** : the husband of one's spouse's sister
broth·er·ly \'brəth-ər-lē\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to brothers **2** : natural or becoming to brothers : AFFECTIONATE ⟨~ love⟩ — **broth·er·li·ness** *n* — **brotherly** *adv*

brougham \'brü(-ə)m, 'brō(-ə)m\ *n* [Henry Peter *Brougham*, Baron Brougham and Vaux †1868 Sc jurist] **1** : a light closed horse-drawn carriage with the driver outside in front **2** : a coupe automobile; *esp* : one driven electrically **3** : a sedan automobile having no roof over the driver's seat



brougham 1

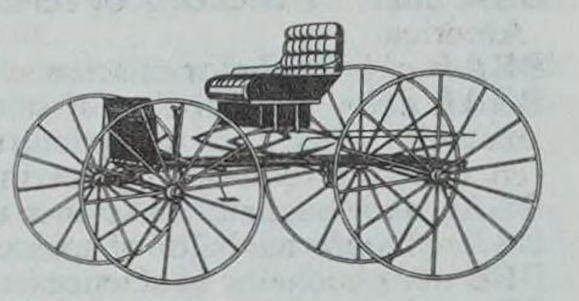
brought *past of* BRING
brou·ha·ha \'brü-ˌhä-ˌhä, ˌbrü-ˌhä-'hä, brü-'hä-ˌhä\ *n* [F] : HUBBUB, UPROAR
brow \'braů\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *brū;* akin to ON *brūn* eyebrow, Gk *ophrys*] **1 a** : EYEBROW **b** : the ridge on which the eyebrow grows **c** : FOREHEAD **2** : the projecting upper part or margin of a steep place **3** : EXPRESSION, MIEN ⟨to cloak offenses with a cunning ~ —Shak.⟩
brow antler *n* : the first branch of a stag's antler — see ANTLER illustration
brow·beat \'braů-ˌbēt\ *vt* **-beat; -beat·en** \-'bēt-ᵊn\ *or* **-beat; -beat·ing** : to intimidate or disconcert by a stern manner or arrogant speech : BULLY
-browed \'braůd\ *adj comb form* : having brows of a specified nature ⟨smooth-*browed*⟩
¹brown \'braůn\ *adj* [ME *broun*, fr. OE *brūn;* akin to OHG *brūn* brown, Gk *phrynē* toad] : of the color brown; *esp* : of dark or tanned complexion
²brown *n* **1** : any of a group of colors between red and yellow in hue, of medium to low lightness, and of moderate to low saturation **2** : a brown-skinned person — **brown·ish** \'braů-nish\ *adj* — **browny** \-nē\ *adj*
³brown *vi* : to become brown ~ *vt* : to make brown
brown alga *n* : any of a division (Phaeophyta) of variable mostly marine algae with chlorophyll masked by brown pigment
brown bag·ging \-'bag-iŋ\ *n* [fr. the brown paper bag in which the bottle is carried] **1** : the practice of carrying a bottle of liquor into a restaurant or club where setups are available **2** : the practice of carrying (as to work) one's lunch usu. in a brown paper bag — **brown bag·ger** \-'bag-ər\ *n*
brown Bet·ty \-'bet-ē\ *n* : a baked pudding of apples, bread crumbs, and spices
brown bread \-ˌbred\ *n* **1** : bread made of whole wheat flour **2** : a dark brown steamed bread made usu. of cornmeal, white or whole wheat flours, molasses, soda, and milk or water
brown coal *n* : LIGNITE
brown–eyed Su·san \ˌbraů-ˌnīd-'süz-ᵊn\ *n* [*brown-eyed* + *Susan* (as in black-eyed *Susan*)] : a dark-centered coneflower (*Rudbeckia triloba*) of eastern No. America with tripartite lower leaves
brown fat *n* : a heat-producing tissue of hibernating mammals
Brown·ian movement \ˌbraů-nē-ən\ *n* [Robert *Brown* †1858 Sc botanist] : a random movement of microscopic particles suspended in liquids or gases resulting from the impact of molecules of the fluid surrounding the particles — called also *Brownian motion*
brown·ie \'braů-nē\ *n* [¹*brown*] **1** : a good-natured goblin believed to perform helpful services at night **2** *cap* : a member of the Girl Scouts from 7 through 9 years **3** : a small square or rectangle of rich usu. chocolate cake containing nuts
Brownie point *n* : a credit regarded as earned esp. by currying favor with a superior
Brow·ning automatic rifle \'braů-niŋ-\ *n* [John M. *Browning* †1926 Am designer of firearms] : a .30 caliber gas-operated air-cooled magazine-fed automatic rifle often provided with a rest for the barrel and used by U.S. troops in World War II and the Korean war — abbr. *BAR*
Browning machine gun *n* : a .30 or .50 caliber recoil-operated air-or water-cooled machine gun fed by a cartridge belt and used by U.S. troops in World War II and the Korean war
brown·nose \'braůn-ˌnōz\ *vt* [fr. the implication that servility is equivalent to kissing the hinder parts of the person from whom advancement is sought] *slang* : to ingratiate oneself with : curry favor with — **brownnose** *n* — **brown·nos·er** *n*
brown·out \'braů-ˌnaůt\ *n* [*brown* + *-out* (as in *blackout*)] : a curtailment of the use of electric power esp. in display lighting; *also* : a period of reduced illumination resulting from such curtailment
brown rat *n* : the common domestic rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)
brown recluse spider *n* : a venomous spider (*Loxosceles reclusa*) introduced into the southern U.S. that has a violin-shaped mark on the cephalothorax and produces a dangerous neurotoxin
brown·shirt \'braůn-ˌshərt\ *n, often cap* : NAZI; *esp* : STORM TROOPER
brown·stone \-ˌstōn\ *n* **1** : a reddish brown sandstone used for building **2** : a dwelling faced with brownstone
brown study *n* : a state of serious absorption or abstraction
brown sugar *n* : soft sugar whose crystals are covered by a film of refined dark syrup
Brown Swiss *n* : any of a breed of large hardy brown dairy cattle originating in Switzerland
brown–tail moth \ˌbraůn-ˌtāl-\ *n* : a tussock moth (*Nygmia phaeorrhoea*) whose larvae feed on foliage and are irritating to the skin
brown trout *n* : a speckled European trout (*Salmo trutta*) widely introduced as a game fish
brows·abil·i·ty \ˌbraů-zə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* : the property (as of an information retrieval system) of permitting users to browse
¹browse \'braůz\ *n* [prob. modif. of MF *brouts*, pl. of *brout* sprout, fr. OF *brost*, of Gmc origin; akin to OS *brustian* to sprout; akin to OE *brēost* breast] **1** : tender shoots, twigs, and leaves of trees and shrubs fit for food for cattle **2** : an act or instance of browsing
²browse *vb* **browsed; brows·ing** *vt* **1 a** : to consume as browse **b** : GRAZE **2** : to look over casually : SKIM ~ *vi* **1 a** : to feed on or as if on browse **b** : GRAZE **2 a** : to skim through a book reading at random passages that catch the eye **b** : to look over or through an aggregate of things casually esp. in search of something of interest — **brows·er** *n*

bru·cel·la \brü-'sel-ə\ *n, pl* **-cel·lae** \-'sel-(,)ē\ *or* **-cellas** [NL, genus name, fr. Sir David *Bruce* †1931 Brit bacteriologist] : any of a genus (*Brucella*) of nonmotile capsulated bacteria that cause disease in man and domestic animals
bru·cel·lo·sis \,brü-sə-'lō-səs\ *n, pl* **-lo·ses** \-,sēz\ : infection with or disease caused by brucellae esp. in man or cattle
bru·cine \'brü-,sēn\ *n* [prob. fr. F, fr. NL *Brucea* (genus name of *Brucea antidysenterica,* a shrub)] : a poisonous alkaloid $C_{23}H_{26}N_2O_4$ found with strychnine esp. in nux vomica
bru·in \'brü-ən\ *n* [D, name of the bear in *Reynard the Fox*] : BEAR
¹bruise \'brüz\ *vb* **bruised; bruis·ing** [ME *brusen, brisen,* fr. MF & OE; MF *bruisier* to break, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *brūu* I shatter; OE *brȳsan* to bruise; akin to OIr *brūu,* L *frustum* piece] *vt* **1 a** *archaic* : DISABLE **b** : BATTER, DENT **2** : to inflict a bruise on : CONTUSE **3** : to break down (as leaves or berries) by pounding : CRUSH **4** : WOUND, INJURE; *esp* : to inflict psychological hurt on ~ *vi* **1** : to inflict a bruise **2** : to undergo bruising ⟨tomatoes ~ easily⟩
²bruise *n* **1 a** : an injury involving rupture of small blood vessels and discoloration without a break in the overlying skin : CONTUSION **b** : a similar injury to plant tissue **2** : ABRASION, SCRATCH **3** : an injury esp. to the feelings
bruis·er \'brü-zər\ *n* : a big husky man
¹bruit *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OF, noise] **1** \'brüt\ *archaic* **a** : NOISE, DIN **b** : REPORT, RUMOR **2** \'brü-ē\ [F, lit., noise] : any of several generally abnormal sounds heard on auscultation
²bruit \'brüt\ *vt* : to noise abroad : REPORT
bru·mal \'brü-məl\ *adj, archaic* [L *brumalis,* fr. L *bruma* winter] : indicative of or occurring in the winter
brum·by \'brəm-bē\ *n, pl* **brumbies** [prob. native name in Queensland, Australia] *Austral* : a wild or unbroken horse
brume \'brüm\ *n* [F, mist, winter, fr. OProv *bruma,* fr. L, winter, fr. *brevis* short — more at BRIEF] : MIST, FOG — **bru·mous** \'brü-məs\ *adj*
¹brum·ma·gem \'brəm-i-jəm\ *adj* [alter. of *Birmingham,* England, the source in the 17th cent. of counterfeit groats] : having a cheaply contrived and showy quality
²brummagem *n* : something cheap or inferior : TINSEL
brunch \'brənch\ *n* [*br*eakfast + l*unch*] : a late breakfast, an early lunch, or a combination of the two
¹bru·net *or* **bru·nette** \brü-'net\ *adj* [F *brunet,* masc., *brunette,* fem., brownish, fr. OF, fr. *brun* brown, fr. ML *brunus,* of Gmc. origin; akin to OHG *brūn,* brown] **1** : being a brunet ⟨his ~ wife⟩ **2** : of a dark-brown or black color ⟨~ hair⟩
²brunet *or* **brunette** *n* : a person having brown or black hair and usu. a relatively dark complexion
Brun·hild \'brün-,hilt\ *n* [G] : a queen in Germanic legend won by Siegfried for Gunther
bru·ni·zem \,brü-nə-'zem, -'zhȯm\ *n* [*bruni-* (fr. ML *brunus* brown) + *-zem* earth (as in *chernozem*)] : any of a zonal group of deep dark prairie soils developed from loess
Bruns·wick stew \,brənz-(,)wik-\ *n* [*Brunswick* county, Va.] : a stew made of vegetables and usu. of two meats (as chicken and squirrel)
brunt \'brənt\ *n* [ME] **1** : the principal force, shock, or stress (as of an attack) **2** : the greater part : BURDEN
¹brush \'brəsh\ *n* [ME *brusch,* fr. MF *broce*] **1** : BRUSHWOOD **2 a** : scrub vegetation **b** : land covered with scrub vegetation
²brush *n* [ME *brusshe,* fr. MF *broisse,* fr. OF *broce*] **1** : a device composed of bristles set into a handle and used esp. for sweeping, scrubbing, or painting **2** : something resembling a brush: as **a** : a bushy tail **b** : a feather tuft worn on a hat **3 a** : an electrical conductor (as of copper strips or carbon) that makes sliding contact between a stationary and a moving part of a generator or a motor **b** : BRUSH DISCHARGE **4 a** : an act of brushing **b** : a quick light touch or momentary contact in passing
³brush *vt* **1 a** : to apply a brush to **b** : to apply with a brush **2 a** : to remove with passing strokes (as of a brush) ⟨~*ed* the dirt off his coat⟩ **b** : to dispose of in an offhand way : DISMISS ⟨~*ed* him off⟩ **3** : to pass lightly over or across : touch gently against in passing — **brush·er** *n*
⁴brush *vi* [ME *bruschen* to rush, fr. MF *brosser* to dash through underbrush, fr. *broce*] : to move lightly or heedlessly ⟨~*ed* by the well-wishers in his path⟩
⁵brush *n* [ME *brusche* rush, hostile collision, fr. *bruschen*] : a brief encounter or skirmish
brush·abil·i·ty \,brəsh-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* : ease of application with a brush ⟨~ of a paint⟩
brush·back \'brəsh-,bak\ *n* : a fastball thrown near the batter's head in baseball in an attempt to make him move back from home plate
brush border *n* : microvilli on the plasma membrane of an epithelial cell (as in a kidney tubule) that is specialized for absorption
brush discharge *n* : a faintly luminous relatively slow electrical discharge having no spark
brushed \'brəsht\ *adj* : finished with a nap ⟨a ~ fabric⟩
brush·fire \'brəsh-,fī(ə)r\ *adj* [*brush fire* (a fire involving brush but not full-sized trees)] : involving mobilization only on a small and local scale ⟨~ border wars⟩
brush·land \-,land\ *n* : an area covered with brush growth
brush–off \-,ȯf\ *n* : a quietly curt or disdainful dismissal
brush up \(')brəsh-'əp\ *vt* **1** : to polish by eliminating small imperfections **2** : to renew one's skill in ~ *vi* : to refresh one's memory : renew one's skill ⟨*brush up* on his math⟩ — **brush·up** \'brəsh-,əp\ *n*
brush·wood \'brəsh-,wůd\ *n* **1** : wood of small branches esp. when cut or broken **2** : a thicket of shrubs and small trees
brush·work \-,wərk\ *n* : work done with a brush (as in painting); *esp* : the characteristic work of an artist using a brush
¹brushy \'brəsh-ē\ *adj* **brush·i·er; -est** : SHAGGY, ROUGH
²brushy *adj* **brush·i·er; -est** : covered with or abounding in brush or brushwood
brusque *also* **brusk** \'brəsk\ *adj* [F *brusque,* fr. It *brusco,* fr. ML *bruscus* butcher's-broom] **1** : markedly short and abrupt **2** : blunt in manner or speech often to the point of ungracious harshness ***syn*** see BLUFF ***ant*** unctuous, bland — **brusque·ly** *adv* — **brusque·ness** *n*
brus·que·rie \,brəs-kə-'rē\ *n* [F, fr. *brusque*] : abruptness of manner
Brus·sels carpet \,brəs-əlz-\ *n* [*Brussels,* Belgium] : a carpet made of colored worsted yarns first fixed in a foundation web of strong linen thread and then drawn up in loops to form the pattern
Brussels griffon *n* : any of a breed of short-faced compact rough- or smooth-coated toy dogs of Belgian origin — called also *griffon*
Brussels lace *n* **1** : any of various fine needlepoint or bobbin laces with floral designs made orig. in or near Brussels **2** : a machine-made net of hexagonal mesh
brussels sprout *n, often cap B* **1** : any of the edible small green heads borne on the stem of a plant (*Brassica oleracea gemmifera*) — usu. used in pl. **2** *pl* : the plant that bears brussels sprouts


brussels sprouts

brut \'brüt, 'brüət\ *adj* [F, lit., rough] *of champagne* : very dry; *specif* : containing less than 1.5 percent sugar by volume
bru·tal \'brüt-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : typical of beasts : ANIMAL **2** : befitting a brute: as **a** : grossly ruthless or unfeeling ⟨a ~ slander⟩ **b** : CRUEL, COLD-BLOODED ⟨a ~ attack⟩ **c** : HARSH, SEVERE ⟨~ weather⟩ **d** : unpleasantly accurate and incisive ⟨the ~ truth⟩ — **bru·tal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*
bru·tal·i·ty \brü-'tal-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being brutal **2** : a brutal act or course of action
bru·tal·ize \'brüt-ᵊl-,īz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to make brutal, unfeeling, or inhuman ⟨people *brutalized* by poverty and disease⟩ **2** : to treat brutally ⟨an accord not to ~ prisoners of war⟩ — **bru·tal·ization** \,brüt-ᵊl-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*
¹brute \'brüt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *brut* rough, fr. L *brutus* stupid, lit., heavy; akin to L *gravis* heavy — more at GRIEVE] **1** : of or relating to beasts ⟨the ways of the ~ world⟩ **2** : INANIMATE 1a **3** : characteristic of an animal in quality, action, or instinct: as **a** : CRUEL, SAVAGE ⟨~ force⟩ **b** : not working by reason ⟨~ instinct⟩ **4** : purely physical ⟨~ strength⟩ **5** : being of unrelieved severity ⟨~ necessity⟩
²brute *n* **1** : BEAST **2** : a brutal person
brut·ish \'brüt-ish\ *adj* **1** : befitting beasts ⟨lived a short and ~ life as a slave⟩ **2 a** : strongly and grossly sensual ⟨~ gluttony⟩ **b** : showing little intelligence or sensibility ⟨a ~ lack of understanding⟩ — **brut·ish·ly** *adv* — **brut·ish·ness** *n*
brux·ism \'brək-,siz-əm\ *n* [irreg. fr. Gk *brychein* to gnash the teeth + E *-ism*] : the habit of unconsciously gritting or grinding the teeth esp. in situations of stress or during sleep
Bryn·hild \'brin-,hild\ *n* [ON *Brynhildr*] : a Valkyrie waked from an enchanted sleep by Sigurd who later forgets her and is killed through her agency
bry·ol·o·gy \brī-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* [Gk *bryon* moss + ISV *-logy*] **1** : a branch of botany that deals with the bryophytes **2** : moss life or biology
bry·o·ny \'brī-ə-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [L *bryonia,* fr. Gk *bryōnia;* akin to Gk *bryon*] : any of a genus (*Bryonia*) of tendril-bearing vines of the gourd family with large leaves and red or black fruit
bryo·phyte \'brī-ə-,fīt\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *bryon* + *phyton* plant; akin to Gk *phyein* to bring forth — more at BE] : any of a division (Bryophyta) of nonflowering plants comprising the mosses and liverworts — **bryo·phyt·ic** \,brī-ə-'fit-ik\ *adj*
bryo·zo·an \,brī-ə-'zō-ən\ *n* [NL *Bryozoa,* class name, fr. Gk *bryon* + NL *-zoa*] : any of a phylum or class (Bryozoa) of aquatic mostly marine invertebrate animals that reproduce by budding and usu. form permanently attached branched or mossy colonies — **bryozoan** *adj*
Bryth·on \'brith-,än, -ən\ *n* **1** : a member of the British branch of Celts **2** : a speaker of a Brythonic language
¹Bry·thon·ic \brith-'än-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the Brythons **2** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the division of the Celtic languages that includes Welsh, Cornish, and Breton
²Brythonic *n* : the Brythonic branch of the Celtic languages — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table
BS *abbr* **1** bachelor of science **2** balance sheet **3** bill of sale **4** British standard
BSA *abbr* **1** bachelor of science in agriculture **2** Boy Scouts of America
BSAA *abbr* bachelor of science in applied arts
BSAE *abbr* **1** bachelor of science in aeronautical engineering **2** bachelor of science in agricultural engineering **3** bachelor of science in architectural engineering
BSAg *abbr* bachelor of science in agriculture
BSArch *abbr* bachelor of science in architecture
BSB *abbr* bachelor of science in business
BSc *abbr* bachelor of science
BSCh *abbr* bachelor of science in chemistry
BSEc *or* **BSEcon** *abbr* bachelor of science in economics
BSEd *or* **BSE** *abbr* bachelor of science in education
BSEE *abbr* bachelor of science in elementary education
BSFor *abbr* bachelor of science in forestry
BSFS *abbr* bachelor of science in foreign service
BSI *abbr* British Standards Institution
bskt *abbr* basket
BSL *abbr* **1** bachelor of sacred literature **2** bachelor of science in languages **3** bachelor of science in law **4** bachelor of science in linguistics
BSN *abbr* bachelor of science in nursing

btry *abbr* battery
Btu *abbr* British thermal unit
bu *abbr* **1** bureau **2** bushel
[1]bub·ble \'bəb-əl\ *vb* **bub·bled; bub·bling** \'bəb-(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *bublen*] *vi* **1** : to form or produce bubbles **2** : to flow with a gurgling sound ⟨a brook *bubbling* over rocks⟩ **3 a** : to become lively or effervescent ⟨*bubbling* with good humor⟩ **b** : to speak in a lively and fluent manner ⟨*bubbled* excitedly about his prize⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to utter (as words) effervescently **2** : to cause to bubble
[2]bubble *n, often attrib* **1** : a small globule typically hollow and light: as **a** : a small body of gas within a liquid **b** : a thin film of liquid inflated with air or gas **c** : a globule in a transparent solid **d** : something that is hemispherical or semicylindrical **2 a** : something that lacks firmness, solidity, or reality **b** : a delusive scheme **3** : a sound like that of bubbling
bubble and squeak *n, chiefly Brit* : a dish consisting of potatoes, cabbage, and sometimes meat fried together
bubble chamber *n* : a chamber of heated liquid in which the path of an ionizing particle is made visible by a string of vapor bubbles
bubble gum *n* **1** : a chewing gum that can be blown into large bubbles **2** : rock music characterized by simple repetitive phrasings and intended esp. for young teenagers
bub·bler \'bəb-(ə-)lər\ *n* **1** : one that bubbles **2** : a drinking fountain from which a stream of water bubbles upward
[1]bub·bly \'bəb-(ə-)lē\ *adj* **bub·bli·er; -est** **1** : full of bubbles : EFFERVESCENT ⟨a ~ bottle of pop⟩ **2** : showing lively good spirits ⟨a ~ group at the celebration⟩ **3** : resembling a bubble ⟨a ~ dome⟩
[2]bubbly *n* : CHAMPAGNE
bubby *var of* BOOBY
bu·bo \'b(y)ü-(ˌ)bō\ *n, pl* **buboes** [ML *bubon-, bubo*, fr. Gk *boubōn*] : an inflammatory swelling of a lymph gland esp. in the groin — **bu·bon·ic** \b(y)ü-'bän-ik\ *adj*
bubonic plague *n* : plague in which the formation of buboes is a prominent feature
buc·cal \'bək-əl\ *adj* [L *bucca* cheek — more at POCK] : of, relating to, or involving the cheeks or the cavity of the mouth
buc·ca·neer \ˌbək-ə-'ni(ə)r\ *n* [F *boucanier*] **1** : one of the freebooters preying on Spanish ships and settlements esp. in the West Indies in the 17th century; *broadly* : PIRATE **2** : an unscrupulous adventurer esp. in politics or business — **buccaneer** *vi* — **buc·ca·neer·ish** \-ish\ *adj*
Bu·ceph·a·lus \byü-'sef-ə-ləs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Boukephalos*] : the war-horse of Alexander the Great
[1]buck \'bək\ *n, pl* **bucks** [ME, fr. OE *bucca* stag, he-goat; akin to OHG *boc* he-goat, MIr *bocc*] **1** *or pl* **buck** : a male animal; *esp* : a male deer or antelope **2 a** : a male human being : MAN **b** : a dashing fellow : DANDY **3** *or pl* **buck** : ANTELOPE **4 a** : BUCKSKIN; *also* : an article (as a shoe) made of buckskin **b** *slang* : DOLLAR 3b **5** [short for *sawbuck*] : SAWHORSE **6 a** : a supporting rack or frame **b** : a short thick leather-covered block for gymnastic vaulting
[2]buck *vi* **1** *of a horse or mule* : to spring with a quick plunging leap **2** : to charge against something (as an obstruction) **3 a** : to move or react jerkily **b** : to refuse assent : BALK **4** : to strive for advancement sometimes without regard to ethical behavior ~ *vt* **1** : to throw (as a rider) by bucking **2 a** *archaic* : [1]BUTT **b** : OPPOSE, RESIST ⟨~*ing* a trend⟩ **3** : to charge into (as the opponent's line in football) **4 a** : to pass esp. from one person to another ⟨~*ed* the question on to someone else⟩ **b** : to move or load (as heavy objects) esp. with mechanical equipment — **buck·er** *n*
[3]buck *adj* [prob. fr. [1]*buck*] : of the lowest grade within a military category ⟨~ private⟩
[4]buck *n* [short for earlier *buckhorn knife*] : an object formerly used in poker to mark the next player to deal; *broadly* : a token used as a mark or reminder
[5]buck *adv* [origin unknown] *South & Midland* : STARK ⟨~ naked⟩
buck–and–wing \ˌbək-ən-'wiŋ\ *n* : a solo tap dance with sharp foot accents, springs, leg flings, and heel clicks
buck·a·roo *or* **buck·er·oo** \ˌbək-ə-'rü, 'bək-ə-ˌ\ *n, pl* **-aroos** *or* **-eroos** [by folk etymology fr. Sp *vaquero*, fr. *vaca* cow, fr. L *vacca* — more at VACCINE] **1** : COWBOY **2** : BRONCOBUSTER
buck·bean \'bək-ˌbēn\ *n* : a plant (*Menyanthes trifoliata* of the family Menyanthaceae) growing in bogs and having racemes of white or purplish flowers
buck·board \-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* [obs. E *buck* body of a wagon + E *board*] : a four-wheeled vehicle with a springy platform


buckboard

[1]buck·et \'bək-ət\ *n* [ME, fr. AF *buket*, fr. OE *būc* pitcher, belly; akin to OHG *būh* belly, Skt *bhūri* abundant — more at BIG] **1** : a typically round vessel for catching, holding, or carrying liquids or solids **2** : something resembling a bucket: as **a** : the scoop of an excavating machine **b** : one of the receptacles on the rim of a waterwheel **c** : one of the cups of an endless-belt conveyor **d** : one of the vanes of a turbine rotor **3** : a large quantity **4** : BUCKET SEAT
[2]bucket *vt* **1** : to draw or lift in buckets **2** *Brit* **a** : to ride (a horse) hard **b** : to drive hurriedly or roughly **3** : to deal with in a bucket shop ~ *vi* **1** : HUSTLE, HURRY **2 a** : to move about haphazardly or irresponsibly **b** : to move roughly or jerkily ⟨~*ing* over the rocky road⟩
bucket brigade *n* : a chain of persons acting to put out a fire by passing buckets of water from hand to hand
buck·et·ful \'bək-ət-ˌfůl\ *n, pl* **bucketfuls** \-ˌfůlz\ *or* **buck·ets·ful** \-əts-ˌfůl\ : as much as a bucket will hold
bucket seat *n* : a low separate seat for one person (as in automobiles and airplanes)
bucket shop *n* **1** : a saloon in which liquor was formerly sold from or dispensed in open containers (as buckets or pitchers) **2 a** : an establishment in which security and commodity options and uncompleted purchases and sales at trivial margins are handled like bets **b** : a dishonest brokerage house; *esp* : one that fleeces customers by failing to execute orders on margin in anticipation of market fluctuations adverse to their interest
buck·eye \'bək-ˌī\ *n* **1** : a shrub or tree (genus *Aesculus*) of the horse-chestnut family; *also* : its large nutlike seed **2** *cap* : a native or resident of Ohio — used as a nickname
buck fever *n* : nervous excitement of an inexperienced hunter at the sight of game
[1]buck·le \'bək-əl\ *n* [ME *bocle*, fr. MF, boss of a shield, buckle, fr. L *buccula*, dim. of *bucca* cheek — more at POCK] **1** : a fastening for two loose ends that is attached to one and holds the other by a catch **2** : an ornamental device that suggests a buckle **3** *archaic* : a crisp curl
[2]buckle *vb* **buck·led; buck·ling** \'bək-(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* **1** : to fasten with a buckle **2** : to prepare with vigor ⟨*buckled* himself to the task⟩ **3** : to cause to bend, give way, or crumple ~ *vi* **1** : to apply oneself with vigor ⟨~*s* down to the job⟩ **2** : to bend, heave, warp, or kink usu. under the influence of some external agency ⟨cornstalk *buckling* in the high wind⟩ **3** : COLLAPSE ⟨the supports *buckled* under the strain⟩ **4** : to give way : YIELD ⟨one who does not ~ under pressure⟩
[3]buckle *n* : a product of buckling
[1]buck·ler \'bək-lər\ *n* [ME *bocler*, fr. OF, shield with a boss, fr. *bocle*] **1 a** : a small round shield held by a handle at arm's length **b** : a shield worn on the left arm **2** : one that shields and protects
[2]buckler *vt* : to shield or defend with a buckler
bucko \'bək-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **buck·oes** **1** : one who is domineering and bullying : SWAGGERER **2** *chiefly Irish* : young fellow : LAD
buck passer *n* [[4]*buck*] : a person who habitually passes the buck — **buck–pass·ing** \'bək-ˌpas-iŋ\ *n*
[1]buck·ram \'bək-rəm\ *n* [ME *bukeram*, fr. OF *boquerant*, fr. OProv *bocaran*, fr. *Bokhara*, city of central Asia] **1** : a stiff-finished heavily sized fabric of cotton or linen used for interlinings in garments, for stiffening in millinery, and in bookbinding **2** *archaic* : STIFFNESS, RIGIDITY
[2]buckram *adj* : suggesting buckram esp. in stiffness or formality
[3]buckram *vt* **1** : to give strength or stiffness to (as with buckram) **2** *archaic* : to make pretentious
Bucks *abbr* Buckinghamshire
buck·saw \'bək-ˌsȯ\ *n* : a saw set in a usu. H-shaped frame that is used for sawing wood
buck·shee \'bək-(ˌ)shē\ *n* [Hindi *bakhśiś*] **1** *Brit* : something extra obtained free; *esp* : extra rations **2** *Brit* : WINDFALL, GRATUITY
buck·shot \'bək-ˌshät\ *n* : a coarse lead shot
buck·skin \-ˌskin\ *n* **1 a** : the skin of a buck **b** : a soft pliable usu. suede-finished leather **2 a** *pl* : buckskin breeches **b** *archaic* : a person dressed in buckskin; *esp* : an early American backwoodsman **3** : a horse of a light yellowish dun color usu. with dark mane and tail — **buckskin** *adj*
buck·tail \-ˌtāl\ *n* : an angler's lure made typically of hairs from the tail of a deer
buck·thorn \-ˌthȯ(ə)rn\ *n* **1** : any of a genus (*Rhamnus* of the family Rhamnaceae, the buckthorn family) of often thorny trees or shrubs some of which yield purgatives or pigments **2** : a tree (*Bumelia lycioides*) of the sapodilla family of the southern U.S.
buck·tooth \-'tüth\ *n* : a large projecting front tooth — **buck–toothed** \-'tütht\ *adj*
buck up *vb* [[2]*buck*] *vi* : to become encouraged ~ *vt* **1** : IMPROVE, SMARTEN **2** : to raise the morale of
buck·wheat \'bək-ˌ(h)wēt\ *n* [D *boekweit*, fr. MD *boecweit*, fr. *boec-* (akin to OHG *buohha* beech tree) + *weit* wheat — more at BEECH] **1** : any of a genus (*Fagopyrum* of the family Polygonaceae, the buckwheat family) of herbs with alternate leaves, clusters of apetalous pinkish white flowers and triangular seeds; *esp* : either of two plants (*F. esculentum* and *F. tartaricum*) cultivated for their edible seeds **2** : the seed of a buckwheat used as a cereal grain
[1]bu·col·ic \byü-'käl-ik\ *adj* [L *bucolicus*, fr. Gk *boukolikos*, fr. *boukolos* cowherd, fr. *bous* head of cattle + *-kolos* (akin to L *colere* to cultivate) — more at COW, WHEEL] **1** : of or relating to shepherds or herdsmen : PASTORAL **2** : relating to or typical of rural life ***syn*** see RURAL — **bu·col·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
[2]bucolic *n* : a pastoral poem : ECLOGUE
[1]bud \'bəd\ *n* [ME *budde*; akin to OE *budda* beetle, Skt *bhūri* abundant — more at BIG] **1** : a small lateral or terminal protuberance on the stem of a plant that may develop into a flower, leaf, or shoot **2** : something not yet mature or at full development: as **a** : an incompletely opened flower **b** : CHILD, YOUTH **c** : an outgrowth of an organism that differentiates into a new individual : GEMMA; *also* : PRIMORDIUM — **in the bud** : in an early stage of development ⟨nipped the rebellion *in the bud*⟩
[2]bud *vb* **bud·ded; bud·ding** *vi* **1** *of a plant* **a** : to set or put forth buds **b** : to commence growth from buds **2** : to develop by way of outgrowth **3** : to reproduce asexually esp. by the pinching off of a small part of the parent ~ *vt* **1** : to produce or develop from buds **2** : to cause (as a plant) to bud **3** : to insert a bud from a plant of one kind into an opening in the bark of (a plant of another kind) usu. in order to propagate a desired variety — **bud·der** *n*
Bud·dha \'büd-ə, 'bůd-\ *n* [Skt, enlightened] **1** : a person who has attained Buddhahood **2** : a representation of Gautama Buddha
Bud·dha·hood \-ˌhůd\ *n* : a state of perfect enlightenment sought in Buddhism
Bud·dhism \'bü-ˌdiz-əm, 'bůd-ˌiz-\ *n* : a religion of eastern and central Asia growing out of the teaching of Gautama Buddha that suffering is inherent in life and that one can be liberated from it by mental and moral self-purification — **Bud·dhist** \'büd-əst, 'bůd-\ *n or adj* — **Bud·dhis·tic** \bü-'dis-tik, bů-\ *adj*
bud·ding \'bəd-iŋ\ *adj* : being in an early stage of development ⟨~ novelists⟩
bud·dle \'bəd-[ə]l\ *n* [origin unknown] : an apparatus on which crushed ore is washed
bud·dle·ia \'bəd-lē-ə, ˌbəd-'lē-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Adam *Buddle* †1715 E botanist] : any of a genus (*Buddleia* of the family

Loganiaceae) of shrubs or trees of warm regions with showy terminal clusters of usu. yellow or violet flowers

bud·dy \'bəd-ē\ *n, pl* **buddies** [prob. baby talk alter. of *brother*] **1** : COMPANION, PARTNER **2** : FELLOW — used esp. in informal address

buddy system *n* : an arrangement in which two individuals are paired (as for mutual safety in a hazardous situation)

¹budge \'bəj\ *n* [ME *bugee*, fr. AF *bogee*] : a fur formerly prepared from lambskin dressed with the wool outward

²budge *vb* **budged; budg·ing** [MF *bouger*, fr. (assumed) VL *bullicare*, fr. L *bullire* to boil — more at BOIL] *vi* **1** : MOVE, SHIFT ⟨the mule wouldn't ~⟩ **2** : to give way : YIELD ⟨wouldn't ~ on the issue⟩ ~ *vt* : to cause to move

³budge *adj* [origin unknown] *archaic* : POMPOUS, SOLEMN

bud·ger·i·gar \'bəj-(ə-)rē-ˌgär, ˌbəj-ə-'rē-\ *n* [native name in Australia] : a small Australian parrot (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) usu. light green with black and yellow markings in the wild but bred under domestication in many colors



budgerigar

¹bud·get \'bəj-ət\ *n* [ME *bowgette*, fr. MF *bougette*, dim. of *bouge* leather bag, fr. L *bulga*, of Gaulish origin; akin to MIr *bolg* bag; akin to OE *bælg* bag — more at BELLY] **1** *chiefly dial* : a usu. leather pouch, wallet, or pack; *also* : its contents **2** : STOCK, SUPPLY **3 a** : a statement of the financial position of an administration for a definite period of time based on estimates of expenditures during the period and proposals for financing them **b** : a plan for the coordination of resources and expenditures **c** : the amount of money that is available for, required for, or assigned to a particular purpose — **bud·get·ary** \'bəj-ə-ˌter-ē\ *adj*

²budget *vt* **1 a** : to put or allow for in a budget **b** : to require to adhere to a budget ⟨~*ed* shoppers⟩ **2 a** : to allocate funds for in a budget ⟨~*ing* a new hospital⟩ **b** : to plan or provide for the use of in detail ⟨~*ing* manpower in a tight labor market⟩ ~ *vi* : to put oneself on a budget ⟨~*ing* for a vacation⟩

bud·ge·teer \ˌbəj-ə-'ti(ə)r\ *or* **bud·get·er** \'bəj-ət-ər\ *n* **1** : one who prepares a budget **2** : one who is restricted to a budget

bud·gie \'bəj-ē\ *n* [by shortening and alter.] : BUDGERIGAR

bud scale *n* : one of the leaves resembling scales that form the sheath of a plant bud

bud sport *n* : a mutation arising in a plant bud

¹buff \'bəf\ *n* [MF *buffle* wild ox, fr. OIt *bufalo*] **1** : a garment (as a uniform) made of buff leather **2** : the bare skin **3 a** : a moderate orange yellow **b** : a light to moderate yellow **4** : a device (as a stick or block) having a soft absorbent surface (as of cloth) by which polishing material is applied **5** [earlier *buff* (an enthusiast about going to fires); fr. the buff overcoats worn by volunteer firemen in New York City *ab*1820] : FAN, ENTHUSIAST

²buff *adj* : of the color buff

³buff *vt* **1** : POLISH, SHINE ⟨waxed and ~*ed* the floor⟩ **2** : to give a buff or velvety surface to (leather)

¹buf·fa·lo \'bəf-ə-ˌlō\ *n, pl* **-lo** *or* **-loes** *also* **-los** [It *bufalo* & Sp *búfalo*, fr. LL *bufalus*, alter. of L *bubalus*, fr. Gk *boubalos* African gazelle, irreg. fr. *bous* head of cattle — more at COW] **1** : any of several wild oxen: as **a** : WATER BUFFALO **b** : any of a genus (*Bison*); *esp* : a large shaggy-maned No. American wild ox (*B. bison*) with short horns and heavy forequarters with a large muscular hump **2** : any of several suckers (genus *Ictiobus*) found mostly in the Mississippi valley — called also *buffalofish*

²buffalo *vt* **-loed; -lo·ing** : BEWILDER, BAFFLE

buffalo berry *n* : either of two western U.S. shrubs (*Shepherdia argentea* and *S. canadensis*) of the oleaster family with silvery foliage; *also* : their edible scarlet berry

buffalo bug *n* : CARPET BEETLE

buffalofish *n* : BUFFALO 2

buffalo grass *n* : a low-growing grass (*Buchloë dactyloides*) of former feeding grounds of the American buffalo; *also* : GRAMA

buffalo robe *n* : the hide of an American buffalo lined on the skin side with fabric and used as a coverlet or rug

¹buff·er \'bəf-ər\ *n* : one that buffs

²buffer *n* [*buff* (to react like a soft body when struck)] **1** : any of various devices or pieces of material for reducing shock due to contact **2** : a means or device used as a cushion against the shock of fluctuations in business or financial activity **3** : something that serves to separate two items: as **a** : BUFFER STATE **b** : a person who shields another esp. from annoying routine matters **4** : a substance capable in solution of neutralizing both acids and bases and thereby maintaining the original acidity or basicity of the solution; *also* : such a solution **5** : a temporary storage unit (as in a computer); *esp* : one that accepts information at one rate and delivers it at another

³buffer *vt* **1** : to lessen the shock of : CUSHION **2** : to treat (as a solution) with a buffer; *also* : to prepare (aspirin) with an antacid

buffer state *n* : a small neutral state lying between two larger potentially rival powers

buffer zone *n* : a neutral area separating conflicting forces; *broadly* : an area designed to separate

¹buf·fet \'bəf-ət\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OF, dim. of *buffe*] **1** : a blow esp. with the hand **2** : something that strikes with telling force

²buffet *vt* **1** : to strike sharply esp. with the hand : CUFF **2 a** : to strike repeatedly : BATTER ⟨the waves ~*ed* the shore⟩ **b** : to contend against ~ *vi* : to make one's way esp. under difficult conditions

³buf·fet \(ˌ)bə-'fā, bü-', 'bü-ˌ\ *n* [F] **1** : a sideboard often without a mirror **2** : a cupboard or set of shelves for the display of tableware **3 a** : a counter for refreshments **b** *chiefly Brit* : a restaurant operated as a public convenience (as in a railway station) **c** : a meal set out on a buffet or table for ready access and informal service

⁴buffet *like*³\ *adj* : served informally (as from a buffet)

buffing wheel *n* : a wheel covered with material for polishing

buff leather *n* : a strong supple oil-tanned leather produced chiefly from cattle hides

buf·fle·head \'bəf-əl-ˌhed\ *n* [archaic E *buffle* buffalo + E *head*] : a small No. American diving duck (*Bucephala albeola*)

buf·fo \'bü-(ˌ)fō\ *n, pl* **buf·fi** \-(ˌ)fē\ *or* **buffos** [It, fr. *buffone*] : CLOWN, BUFFOON; *specif* : a male singer of comic roles in opera

buf·foon \(ˌ)bə-'fün\ *n* [MF *bouffon*, fr. OIt *buffone*, fr. ML *bufon-*, *bufo*, fr. L, toad] **1** : a ludicrous figure : CLOWN **2** : a gross and usu. ill-educated or stupid person — **buf·foon·ish** \-ish\ *adj*

buf·foon·ery \-'fün-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : coarse loutish behavior or practice

¹bug \'bəg\ *n* [ME *bugge* scarecrow; akin to Norw dial. *bugge* important man — more at BIG] **1** *obs* : BOGEY, BUGBEAR **2 a** : an insect or other creeping or crawling invertebrate **b** : any of several insects commonly considered esp. obnoxious: as (1) : BEDBUG (2) : COCKROACH (3) : HEAD LOUSE **c** : any of an order (Hemiptera and esp. its suborder Heteroptera) of insects that have sucking mouthparts, fore wings thickened at the base, and incomplete metamorphosis and are often economic pests — called also *true bug* **3** : an unexpected defect, fault, flaw, or imperfection **4** : a disease-producing germ; *also* : a disease caused by it **5** : a temporary enthusiasm **6** : ENTHUSIAST, HOBBYIST ⟨a camera ~⟩ **7** : a prominent person **8** : a concealed listening device **9** [fr. its designation by an asterisk on race programs] : a weight allowance given apprentice jockeys : HANDICAP

²bug *vt* **bugged; bug·ging** **1** : BOTHER, ANNOY ⟨don't ~ me with petty details⟩ **2** : to plant a concealed microphone in

bug·a·boo \'bəg-ə-ˌbü\ *n, pl* **-boos** [origin unknown] **1** : an imaginary object of fear : BUGBEAR, BOGEY **2** : a source of concern ⟨the national ~ of inflation⟩

bug·bane \'bəg-ˌbān\ *n* : any of several perennial herbs (esp. genus *Cimicifuga*) of the buttercup family that have two or three ternately divided serrate leaves and white flowers in long racemes; *esp* : BLACK COHOSH

bug·bear \-ˌba(ə)r, -ˌbe(ə)r\ *n* **1** : an imaginary goblin or specter used to excite fear **2** : an object or source of dread

bug·eye \-ˌī\ *n* : a small boat with a flat bottom, a centerboard, and two raked masts

bug·ger \'büg-ər, 'bəg-\ *n* [ME *bougre* heretic, sodomite, fr. MF, fr. ML *Bulgarus*, lit., Bulgarian] **1** : SODOMITE **2 a** : a worthless person : RASCAL **b** : FELLOW, CHAP

bug·gery \-ə-rē\ *n* : SODOMY

¹bug·gy \'bəg-ē\ *adj* : infested with bugs

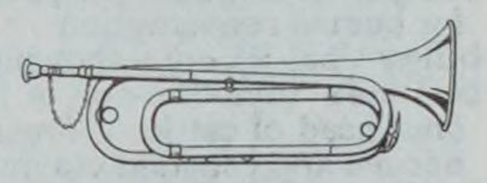
²buggy *n, pl* **buggies** [origin unknown] **1** : a light one-horse carriage made with two wheels in England and with four wheels in the U.S. **2** : a small cart or truck for short transportations of heavy materials **3** : BABY CARRIAGE

¹bug·house \'bəg-ˌhaůs\ *n* : an insane asylum

²bughouse *adj* : mentally deranged : CRAZY

¹bu·gle \'byü-gəl\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. LL *bugula*] : any of a genus (*Ajuga*) of plants of the mint family; *esp* : a European annual (*A. reptans*) that has spikes of blue flowers and is naturalized in the U.S.

²bugle *n* [ME, buffalo, instrument made of buffalo horn, bugle, fr. OF, fr. L *buculus*, dim. of *bos* head of cattle — more at COW] : a valveless brass instrument that resembles a trumpet and is used esp. for military calls



bugle

³bugle *vi* **bu·gled; bu·gling** \-g(ə-)liŋ\ **1** : to sound a bugle **2** : to utter a prolonged cry that is the characteristic rutting call of the bull elk

⁴bugle *n* [perh. fr. ²*bugle*] : a small cylindrical bead of glass or plastic used for trimming esp. on women's clothing — **bugle** *adj*

bu·gler \'byü-glər\ *n* : one who sounds a bugle

bu·gle·weed \'byü-gəl-ˌwēd\ *n* : any of a genus (*Lycopus*) of mints; *esp* : one (*L. virginicus*) that is mildly narcotic and astringent

bu·gloss \'byü-ˌgläs, -ˌglȯs\ *n* [MF *buglosse*, fr. L *buglossa*, irreg. fr. Gk *bouglōssos*, fr. *bous* head of cattle + *glōssa* tongue — more at COW, GLOSS] : any of several coarse hairy plants (genera *Lycopsis* and *Anchusa*, esp. *A. officinalis*) of the borage family

bug·seed \'bəg-ˌsēd\ *n* : a fleshy annual herb (*Corispermum hyssopifolium*) of the goosefoot family with flat oval seeds

buhl \'bül, 'byü(ə)l\ *var of* BOULLE

buhr \'bər\ *n* : BUHRSTONE 2

buhr·stone \-ˌstōn\ *n* [prob. fr. *burr* + *stone*] **1** : a siliceous rock used for millstones **2** : a millstone cut from buhrstone

¹build \'bild\ *vb* **built** \'bilt\; **build·ing** [ME *bilden*, fr. OE *byldan*; akin to OE *būan* to dwell — more at BOWER] *vt* **1** : to form by ordering and uniting materials by gradual means into a composite whole : CONSTRUCT **2** : to cause to be constructed **3** : to develop according to a systematic plan, by a definite process, or on a particular base **4** : INCREASE, ENLARGE ~ *vi* **1** : to engage in building **2 a** : to increase in intensity ⟨~ to a climax⟩ **b** : to develop in extent ⟨a line of people ~*ing* along the avenue⟩

²build *n* : form or mode of structure : MAKE; *esp* : bodily conformation of a person or lower animal ***syn*** see PHYSIQUE

build·ed *archaic past of* BUILD

build·er \'bil-dər\ *n* **1** : one that builds; *esp* : one that contracts to build and supervises building operations **2** : a substance added to or used with detergents to increase their cleansing action

builder's knot *n* : CLOVE HITCH

build in *vt* : to construct or develop as an integral part of something

build·ing \'bil-diŋ\ *n* **1** : a usu. roofed and walled structure built for permanent use (as for a dwelling) **2** : the art or business of assembling materials into a structure
building block *n* : a unit of construction or composition
build·up \'bil-ˌdəp\ *n* **1** : the act or process of building up **2** : something produced by building up
build up \(')bil-'dəp\ *vt* **1** : to develop gradually by increments ⟨*building up* his endurance⟩ ⟨*built up* a library⟩ **2** : to promote the esteem of ⟨a salesman *building up* his product⟩ ~ *vi* : to accumulate or develop appreciably ⟨clouds *building up* on the horizon⟩
built \'bilt\ *adj* : formed as to physique or bodily contours ⟨a slimly ~ girl⟩
built–in \'bil-'tin\ *adj* **1** : forming an integral part of a structure; *esp* : constructed as or in a recess in a wall **2** : INHERENT
built–up \'bil-'təp\ *adj* **1** : made of several sections or layers fastened together **2** : covered with buildings
buird·ly \'bu̇(ə)r(d)-lē\ *adj* [prob. alter. of *burly*] *Scot* : STURDY
bulb \'bəlb\ *n* [L *bulbus*, fr. Gk *bolbos* bulbous plant; akin to Arm *bołk* radish] **1 a** : a resting stage of a plant (as the lily, onion, hyacinth, or tulip) that is usu. formed underground and consists of a short stem base bearing one or more buds enclosed in overlapping membranous or fleshy leaves **b** : a fleshy structure (as a tuber or corm) resembling a bulb in appearance **c** : a plant having or developing from a bulb **2** : a bulb-shaped part; *specif* : a rounded glass envelope enclosing the light source of an electric lamp or such an envelope together with the light source it encloses **3** : a rounded or swollen anatomical structure **4** : a camera setting that indicates that the shutter can be opened by pressing on the release and closed by ending the pressure — **bul·ba·ceous** \ˌbəl-'bā-shəs\ *adj* — **bulbed** \'bəlbd\ *adj*
bul·bar \'bəl-bər, -ˌbär\ *adj* : of or relating to a bulb; *specif* : involving the medulla oblongata
bul·bil \'bəl-bəl, -ˌbil\ *n* [F *bulbille*, dim. of *bulbe* bulb, fr. L *bulbus*] : a small or secondary bulb; *esp* : an aerial deciduous bud produced in a leaf axil or replacing the flowers
bul·bous \'bəl-bəs\ *adj* **1** : having a bulb : growing from or bearing bulbs **2** : resembling a bulb esp. in roundness ⟨a ~ nose⟩ — **bul·bous·ly** *adv*
bul·bul \'bu̇l-ˌbu̇l\ *n* [Per, fr. Ar] **1** : a Persian songbird frequently mentioned in poetry that is prob. a nightingale (*Luscinia golzii*) **2** : any of a group of gregarious passerine birds (family Pycnonotidae) of Asia and Africa
Bulg *abbr* Bulgaria; Bulgarian
Bul·gar \'bəl-ˌgär, 'bu̇l-\ *n* [ML *Bulgarus*] : BULGARIAN
Bul·gar·i·an \ˌbəl-'gar-ē-ən, bu̇l-, -'ger-\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Bulgaria **2** : the Slavic language of the Bulgarians — **Bulgarian** *adj*
[1]bulge \'bəlj\ *n* [MF *boulge, bouge* leather bag, curved part — more at BUDGET] **1** : BILGE 1, 2 **2** : a usu. localized swelling of a surface caused by pressure from within or below **3** : ADVANTAGE, UPPER HAND **4** : sudden expansion ***syn*** see PROJECTION
[2]bulge *vb* **bulged; bulg·ing** *vt* : to cause to bulge ~ *vi* **1** *archaic* : BILGE 1 **2 a** : to jut out : SWELL **b** : to bend outward **c** : to become swollen or protuberant
bul·gur \bu̇l-'gu̇(ə)r\ *n* [Turk] : parched crushed wheat prepared for human consumption
bulgy \'bəl-jē\ *adj* : showing a bulge : BULGING — **bulg·i·ness** *n*
bu·lim·ia \byü-'lim-ē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *boulimia* great hunger, fr. *bous* head of cattle + *limos* hunger — more at COW, LESS] : an abnormal and constant craving for food
[1]bulk \'bəlk\ *n* [ME, heap, bulk, fr. ON *bulki* cargo] **1 a** : spatial dimension : MAGNITUDE **b** : material (as indigestible fibrous residues of food) that forms a mass in the intestine **2 a** : BODY; *esp* : a large or corpulent human body **b** : an organized structure esp. when viewed primarily as a mass of material ⟨the shrouded ~*s* of snow-covered cars⟩ **c** : a ponderous shapeless mass of material ⟨on the living sea rolls an inanimate ~ —P. B. Shelley⟩ **3** : the main or greater part
syn BULK, MASS, VOLUME *shared meaning element* : the aggregate that forms a body or unit
— **in bulk** **1** : not divided into parts **2** : not packaged in separate units
[2]bulk *vt* **1** : to cause to swell or bulge : STUFF **2** : to gather into a mass or aggregate **3** : to have a bulk of ~ *vi* **1** : SWELL, EXPAND **2** : to appear as a factor : LOOM ⟨a consideration that ~*s* large in everyone's thinking⟩
[3]bulk *adj* **1** : being in bulk ⟨~ cement⟩ **2** : of or relating to materials in bulk
bulk·head \'bəlk-ˌhed, 'bəl-ˌked\ *n* [*bulk* (structure projecting from a building) + *head*] **1** : an upright partition separating compartments **2** : a structure or partition to resist pressure or to shut off water, fire, or gas **3** : a retaining wall along a waterfront **4** : a projecting framework with a sloping door giving access to a cellar stairway or a shaft
bulky \'bəl-kē\ **bulk·i·er; -est** *adj* **1 a** : having bulk **b** (1) : large of its kind (2) : CORPULENT **2** : having great volume in proportion to weight ⟨a ~ knit sweater⟩ — **bulk·i·ly** \-kə-lē\ *adv* — **bulk·i·ness** \-kē-nəs\ *n*
[1]bull \'bu̇l\ *n* [ME *bule*, fr. OE *bula*; akin to OE *blāwan* to blow] **1 a** : an adult male bovine animal; *also* : a usu. adult male of various large animals **b** : ELEPHANT **c** : a draft ox **2** : one who buys securities or commodities in expectation of a price rise or who acts to effect such a rise — compare BEAR **3** : one that resembles a bull (as in brawny physique) **4** : BULLDOG **5** *slang* : POLICEMAN, DETECTIVE **6** *cap* : TAURUS
[2]bull *adj* **1 a** : MALE **b** : of or relating to a bull **c** : suggestive of a bull **2** : large of its kind **3** : RISING ⟨a ~ market⟩
[3]bull *vi* : to advance forcefully ~ *vt* **1** : to try to raise the price of (as stocks) or in (a market) **2 a** : to act on with violence **b** : FORCE ⟨~*ed* his way through the crowd⟩
[4]bull *n* [ME *bulle*, fr. ML *bulla*, fr. L, bubble, amulet] **1** : a solemn papal letter sealed with a bulla or with a red-ink imprint of the device on the bulla **2** : EDICT, DECREE
[5]bull *n* [perh. fr. obs. *bull* to mock] : a grotesque blunder in language
[6]bull *n* [short for *bullshit*] **1** *slang* : empty boastful talk **2** *slang* : NONSENSE
[7]bull *vi, slang* : to engage in idle and often boastful talk ~ *vt, slang* : to fool esp. by fast boastful talk
[8]bull *abbr* bulletin
bul·la \'bu̇l-ə\ *n, pl* **bul·lae** \'bu̇l-ˌē, -ˌī\ **1** [ML] : the round usu. lead seal attached to a papal bull **2** [NL, fr. L] : a hollow thin-walled rounded bony prominence **3** : a large vesicle or blister
bul·lace \'bu̇l-əs\ *n* [ME *bolace*, fr. MF *beloce*, fr. ML *bolluca*] : a European plum (*Prunus domestica insititia*) with small ovoid fruit in clusters
bull·bait·ing \'bu̇l-ˌbāt-iŋ\ *n* : the former practice of baiting bulls with dogs
bull·bat \'bu̇l-ˌbat\ *n* : NIGHTHAWK 1a
[1]bull·dog \'bu̇l-ˌdȯg\ *n* **1** : a compact muscular short-haired dog of an English breed that is marked by vigor and sagacity and has widely separated forelegs and an undershot lower jaw **2** : a revolver of large caliber and short barrel **3** : a proctor's attendant at an English university
[2]bulldog *adj* : suggestive of a bulldog ⟨~ tenacity⟩
[3]bulldog *vt* : to throw (a steer) by seizing the horns and twisting the neck — **bull·dog·ger** *n*
bull·doze \'bu̇l-ˌdōz\ *vt* [perh. fr. [1]*bull* + alter. of *dose*] **1** : BULLY **2** : to move, clear, gouge out, or level off by pushing with a bulldozer **3** : to force insensitively or ruthlessly
bull·doz·er \-ˌdō-zər\ *n* **1** : one that bulldozes **2** : a tractor-driven machine having a broad blunt horizontal blade or ram for clearing land, road building, or comparable activities
bul·let \'bu̇l-ət\ *n, often attrib* [MF *boulette* small ball & *boulet* missile, dims. of *boule* ball — more at BOWL] **1** : a round or elongated missile (as of lead) designed to be fired from a firearm; *broadly* : CARTRIDGE 1a **2** : something resembling a bullet (as in curved form) **3** : a very fast and accurately thrown ball **4** : a ballot cast for a straight ticket — **bul·let·proof** \ˌbu̇l-ət-'prüf\ *adj*
[1]bul·le·tin \'bu̇l-ət-ᵊn\ *n* [F, fr. It *bullettino*, dim. of *bulla* papal edict, fr. ML] **1** : a brief public notice issuing usu. from an authoritative source; *specif* : a brief news item intended for immediate publication **2** : PERIODICAL; *esp* : the organ of an institution or association
[2]bulletin *vt* : to make public by bulletin
bulletin board *n* : a board for posting notices (as at a school)
bull fiddle *n* : DOUBLE BASS — **bull fiddler** *n*
bull·fight \'bu̇l-ˌfīt\ *n* : a spectacle in which men ceremonially excite, fight with, and in Hispanic tradition kill bulls in an arena for public amusement — **bull·fight·er** \-ər\ *n*
bull·fight·ing \-iŋ\ *n* : the action involved in a bullfight
bull·finch \'bu̇l-ˌfinch\ *n* : a European finch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) having in the male rosy red underparts, blue-gray back, and black cap, chin, tail, and wings; *also* : any of several other finches
bull·frog \-ˌfrȯg, -ˌfräg\ *n* : FROG; *esp* : a heavy-bodied deep-voiced frog (as of the genus *Rana*)
bull·head \-ˌhed\ *n* : any of various large-headed fishes (as a miller's-thumb or sculpin); *esp* : any of several common freshwater catfishes (genus *Ictalurus*) of the U.S.
bull·head·ed \'bu̇l-'hed-əd\ *adj* : stupidly stubborn : HEADSTRONG — **bull·head·ed·ly** *adv* — **bull·head·ed·ness** *n*
bull·horn \'bu̇l-ˌhȯ(ə)rn\ *n* **1** : a loudspeaker on a naval ship **2** : a hand-held combined microphone and loudspeaker
bul·lion \'bu̇l-yən\ *n* [ME, fr. AF, mint] **1 a** : gold or silver considered as so much metal; *specif* : uncoined gold or silver in bars or ingots **b** : metal in the mass ⟨lead ~⟩ **2** : lace, braid, or fringe of gold or silver threads
bull·ish \'bu̇l-ish\ *adj* **1** : suggestive of a bull (as in brawniness) **2 a** : marked by, tending to cause, or hopeful of rising prices (as in a stock market) **b** : OPTIMISTIC — **bull·ish·ly** *adv* — **bull·ish·ness** *n*
bull mastiff *n* : a large powerful dog of a breed developed by crossing bulldogs with mastiffs
Bull Moose *n* [*bull moose*, emblem of the Progressive party of 1912] : a follower of Theodore Roosevelt in the U.S. presidential campaign of 1912
Bull Moos·er \-'mü-sər\ *n* : BULL MOOSE
bull neck *n* : a thick short powerful neck — **bull·necked** \'bu̇l-'nekt\ *adj*
bull·ock \'bu̇l-ək\ *n* **1** : a young bull **2** : a castrated bull : STEER — **bull·ocky** \-ə-kē\ *adj*
bul·lous \'bu̇l-əs\ *adj* : resembling or characterized by bullae : VESICULAR ⟨~ lesions⟩
bull pen *n* **1** : a large detention cell where prisoners are held until brought into court **2 a** : a place on a baseball field where relief pitchers warm up during a game **b** : the relief pitchers of a baseball team
bull·pout \'bu̇l-ˌpau̇t\ *n* [*bull*head + *pout*] : BULLHEAD; *esp* : the common dark bullhead (*Ictalurus nebulosus*)
bull·ring \'bu̇l-ˌriŋ\ *n* : an arena for bullfights
bull session *n* [[6]*bull*] : an informal discursive group discussion
bull's–eye \'bu̇l-ˌzī\ *n, pl* **bull's–eyes** **1** : a small thick disk of glass inserted (as in a deck) to let in light **2** : a very hard globular candy **3 a** : the center of a target; *also* : something central or crucial **b** : a shot that hits the bull's-eye; *broadly* : something that precisely attains a desired end **4** : a simple lens of short focal distance; *also* : a lantern with such a lens — see LANTERN illustration **5** : a circular opening for air or light
bull's–eye window *n* : a circular window or one filling a bull's-eye
bull·shit \'bu̇l-ˌshit\ *n* [[1]*bull* + *shit*] : NONSENSE; *esp* : foolish insolent talk — usu. considered vulgar
bull snake *n* : any of several large harmless No. American snakes (genus *Pituophis*) that feed chiefly on rodents — called also *gopher snake, pine snake*
bull·ter·ri·er \'bu̇l-'ter-ē-ər\ *n* [*bull*dog + *terrier*] : a short-haired terrier of a breed originated in England by crossing the bulldog with terriers

bull tongue *n* : a wide blade attached to a cultivator or plow to stir the soil, kill weeds, or mark furrows
bull·whip \'bu̇l-ˌhwip, -ˌwip\ *n* : a rawhide whip with plaited lash 15 to 25 feet long
[1]bul·ly \'bu̇l-ē\ *n, pl* **bullies** [prob. modif. of D *boel* lover, fr. MHG *buole*] **1** *archaic* **a** : SWEETHEART **b** : a fine chap **2 a** : a blustering browbeating fellow; *esp* : one habitually cruel to others weaker than himself **b** : the protector of a prostitute : PIMP **3** : a hired ruffian
[2]bully *adj* **1** : EXCELLENT, FIRST-RATE — often used in interjectional expressions ⟨~ for you⟩ **2** : resembling or characteristic of a bully
[3]bully *vb* **bul·lied; bul·ly·ing** *vt* : to treat abusively ~ *vi* : to use browbeating language or behavior : BLUSTER
[4]bully *n* [prob. modif. of F (*bœuf*) *boulli* boiled beef] : pickled or canned usu. corned beef
bul·ly·boy \'bu̇l-ē-ˌbȯi\ *n* : a swaggering tough
bul·ly·rag \-ˌrag\ *vt* [origin unknown] **1** : to intimidate by bullying **2** : to vex by teasing : BADGER
bul·rush *also* **bull·rush** \'bu̇l-ˌrəsh\ *n* [ME *bulrysche*] : any of several large rushes or sedges growing in wetlands: as **a** : any of a genus of annual or perennial sedges (*Scirpus*, esp. *S. lacustris*) that bear solitary or much-clustered spikelets containing perfect flowers with a perianth of six bristles **b** *Brit* : either of two cattails (*Typha latifolia* and *T. angustifolia*) **c** : PAPYRUS
[1]bul·wark \'bu̇l-(ˌ)wərk, -ˌwȯrk; 'bəl-(ˌ)wərk\ *n* [ME *bulwerke*, fr. MD *bolwerc*, fr. MHG, fr. *bole* plank + *werc* work] **1 a** : a solid wall-like structure raised for defense : RAMPART **b** : BREAKWATER, SEAWALL **2** : a strong support or protection **3** : the side of a ship above the upper deck — usu. used in pl.
[2]bulwark *vt* : to fortify or safeguard with a bulwark
[1]bum \'bəm\ *n* [ME *bom*] *chiefly Brit* : BUTTOCKS — sometimes considered vulgar
[2]bum *vb* **bummed; bumming** [prob. back-formation fr. [1]*bummer*] *vi* **1** : LOAF **2** : to spend time unemployed and often wandering ~ *vt* : to obtain by begging : CADGE
[3]bum *n* [prob. short for *bummer*] **1 a** : one who sponges off others and avoids work **b** : one who performs a function poorly ⟨called the umpire a ~⟩ **c** : one who devotes his time to a recreational activity ⟨a beach ~⟩ ⟨ski ~*s*⟩ **2** : VAGRANT, TRAMP
[4]bum *adj* **1 a** : INFERIOR, WORTHLESS ⟨~ advice⟩ **b** : acutely disagreeable ⟨a ~ trip⟩ **2** : not functioning because of damage or injury : DISABLED ⟨a ~ knee⟩
[5]bum *n* [prob. fr. [2]*bum*] : a drinking spree : BENDER — **on the bum** : with no settled residence or means of support
bum·ber·shoot \'bəm-bər-ˌshüt\ *n* [*bumber-* (alter. of *umbr-* in *umbrella*) + *-shoot* (alter. of *-chute* in *parachute*)] : UMBRELLA
[1]bum·ble \'bəm-bəl\ *vi* **bum·bled; bum·bling** \-b(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *bomblen* to boom, of imit. origin] **1** : BUZZ **2** : DRONE, RUMBLE
[2]bumble *vb* **bumbled; bumbling** [prob. alter. of *bungle*] *vi* **1** : BLUNDER; *specif* : to speak ineptly in a stuttering and faltering manner **2** : to proceed unsteadily : STUMBLE ~ *vt* : BUNGLE — **bum·bler** \-b(ə-)lər\ *n* — **bum·bling·ly** \-b(ə-)liŋ-lē\ *adv*
bum·ble·bee \'bəm-bəl-ˌbē\ *n* : any of numerous large robust hairy social bees (genus *Bombus*)
bum·boat \'bəm-ˌbōt\ *n* [prob. fr. LG *bumboot*, fr. *bum* tree + *boot* boat] : a boat that brings provisions and commodities for sale to larger ships in port or offshore
bumf \'bəm(p)f\ *n* [Brit. slang *bumf* toilet paper, short for *bumfodder*, fr. [1]*bum*] *Brit* : PAPERWORK
[1]bum·mer \'bəm-ər\ *n* [prob. modif. of G *bummler* loafer, fr. *bummel* to dangle, loaf] : one that bums
[2]bummer *n* [[4]*bum* + *-er*] *slang* : an unpleasant experience (as a bad reaction to a hallucinogenic drug)
[1]bump \'bəmp\ *vb* [imit.] *vt* **1** : to strike or knock with force or violence **2** : to collide with **3 a** (1) : to dislodge with a jolt (2) : to subject to a scalar change ⟨rates being ~*ed* up⟩ **b** : to oust usu. by virtue of seniority or priority ⟨was ~*ed* from the flight⟩ **4** : to apply pressure to (as sheet metal) so as to make or remove a concavity or convexity ~ *vi* **1** : to knock against something with a forceful jolt **2** : to proceed in a series of bumps — **bump into** : to encounter esp. by chance
[2]bump *n* **1 a** : a sudden forceful blow, impact, or jolt **b** : DEMOTION **2** : a relatively abrupt convexity or protuberance on a surface: as **a** : a swelling of tissue **b** : a cranial protuberance **3** : an act of thrusting the hips forward in an erotic manner
[1]bum·per \'bəm-pər\ *n* [prob. fr. *bump* (to bulge)] **1** : a brimming cup or glass **2** : something unusually large
[2]bumper *adj* : unusually large ⟨a ~ crop⟩
[3]bump·er \'bəm-pər\ *n* **1** : one that bumps **2** : a device for absorbing shock or preventing damage (as in collision); *specif* : a metal bar at either end of an automobile
bumper–to–bumper *adj* : marked by long closed lines of cars ⟨~ traffic⟩
[1]bump·kin \'bəm(p)-kən\ *n* [perh. fr. Flem *bommekijn* small cask, fr. MD, fr. *bomme* cask] : an awkward and unsophisticated rustic — **bump·kin·ish** \-kə-nish\ *adj* — **bump·kin·ly** \-kən-lē\ *adj*
[2]bump·kin *or* **bum·kin** \'bəm(p)-kən\ *n* [prob. fr. Flem *boomken*, dim. of *boom* tree] : a spar projecting from the stern of a ship
bump off *vt* : to murder casually or cold-bloodedly
bump·tious \'bəm(p)-shəs\ *adj* [[1]*bump* + *-tious* (as in *fractious*)] : presumptuously, obtusely, and often noisily self-assertive : OBTRUSIVE — **bump·tious·ly** *adv* — **bump·tious·ness** *n*
bumpy \'bəm-pē\ *adj* **bump·i·er; -est** **1 a** : having or covered with bumps ⟨a ~ road⟩ **b** : marked by ups and downs : UNEVEN **2 a** : marked by bumps or jolts ⟨a ~ ride⟩ **b** : rhythmically jerky ⟨~ dance music⟩ — **bump·i·ly** \-pə-lē\ *adv* — **bump·i·ness** \-pē-nəs\ *n*
[1]bun \'bən\ *n* [ME *bunne*] **1** : any of various sweet or plain small breads; *esp* : a round roll **2** : a knot of hair shaped like a bun
[2]bun *n* [perh. alter. of E dial. *bung* (intoxicated)] : LOAD 4
Bu·na \'b(y)ü-nə\ *trademark* — used for any of several rubbers made by polymerization or copolymerization of butadiene

[1]bunch \'bənch\ *n* [ME *bunche*] **1** : PROTUBERANCE, SWELLING **2 a** : a number of things of the same kind : CLUSTER ⟨a ~ of grapes⟩ **b** : a homogeneous group *syn* see GROUP — **bunch·i·ly** \'bən-chə-lē\ *adv* — **bunchy** \-chē\ *adj*
[2]bunch *vi* **1** : SWELL, PROTRUDE **2** : to form a group or cluster — often used with *up* ~ *vt* : to form into a bunch
bunch·ber·ry \'bənch-ˌber-ē\ *n* : a creeping perennial herb (*Cornus canadensis*) that has whorled leaves and white floral bracts and bears red berries in capitate cymes
bunch·flow·er \'bənch-ˌflau̇(-ə)r\ *n* : a tall summer-blooming herb (*Melanthium virginicum*) of the lily family that is found in the eastern and southern U.S. and bears a panicle of small greenish flowers
bun·co *or* **bun·ko** \'bəŋ-(ˌ)kō\ *n, pl* **buncos** *or* **bunkos** [perh. alter. of Sp *banca* bench, bank, fr. It — more at BANK] : a swindling game or scheme — **bunco** *vt*
[1]bund \'bənd\ *n* [Hindi *band*, fr. Per; akin to OE *binden* to bind] **1** : an embankment used esp. in India to control the flow of water **2** : an embanked thoroughfare along a river or the sea esp. in the Far East
[2]bund \'bu̇nd, 'bənd\ *n, often cap* [G, fr. MHG *bunt*; akin to OE *byndel* bundle] : a political association; *specif* : a pro-Nazi German-American organization of the 1930s — **bund·ist** \-əst\ *n, often cap*
[1]bun·dle \'bən-dᵊl\ *n* [ME *bundel*, fr. MD; akin to OE *byndel* bundle, *bindan* to bind] **1 a** : a group of things fastened together for convenient handling **b** : PACKAGE, PARCEL **c** : a considerable number of things : LOT ⟨a ~ of contradictions⟩ **d** : a sizable sum of money **2 a** : a small band of mostly parallel fibers (as of nerve) **b** : VASCULAR BUNDLE
[2]bundle *vb* **bun·dled; bun·dling** \'bən-(d)liŋ, -dᵊl-iŋ\ *vt* **1** : to make into a bundle or package : WRAP **2** : to hustle or hurry unceremoniously ⟨*bundled* the children off to school⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : HUSTLE, HURRY **2** : to practice bundling — **bun·dler** \-dlər, -dᵊl-ər\ *n*
bundle of nerves : a very nervous person
bundle up *vi* : to dress warmly ~ *vt* : to dress (someone) warmly
bun·dling \'bən-(d)liŋ, -dᵊl-iŋ\ *n* : a former custom of an unmarried couple's occupying the same bed without undressing esp. during courtship
[1]bung \'bəŋ\ *n* [ME, fr. MD *bonne, bonghe*, fr. LL *puncta* puncture, fr. L, fem. of *punctus*, pp. of *pungere* to prick — more at PUNGENT] **1** : the stopper in the bunghole of a cask; *also* : BUNGHOLE **2** : the cecum or anus esp. of a slaughtered animal
[2]bung *vt* : to plug with or as if with a bung
bun·ga·low \'bəŋ-gə-ˌlō\ *n* [Hindi *baṅglā*, lit., (house) in the Bengal style] : a usu. one-storied house with a low-pitched roof
bung·hole \'bəŋ-ˌhōl\ *n* : a hole for emptying or filling a cask
bun·gle \'bəŋ-gəl\ *vb* **bun·gled; bun·gling** \-g(ə-)liŋ\ [perh. of Scand origin; akin to Icel *banga* to hammer] *vi* : to act or work clumsily and awkwardly ~ *vt* : MISHANDLE, BOTCH — **bun·gler** \-g(ə-)lər\ *n* — **bun·gling** *adj or n* — **bun·gling·ly** \-g(ə-)liŋ-lē\ *adv*
bun·gle·some \-gəl-səm\ *adj* : AWKWARD, CLUMSY
bung up *vt* : BATTER
bun·ion \'bən-yən\ *n* [prob. irreg. fr. *bunny* (swelling)] : an inflamed swelling of the small sac on the first joint of the big toe
[1]bunk \'bəŋk\ *n* [prob. short for *bunker*] **1 a** : a built-in bed (as on a ship) that is often one of a tier of berths **b** : a sleeping place **2** : a feeding trough for cattle
[2]bunk *vi* : to occupy a bunk or bed : stay the night ⟨~*ed* with a friend for the night⟩ ~ *vt* : to provide with a bunk or bed
[3]bunk *n* : BUNKUM, NONSENSE
bunk bed *n* : one of two single beds usu. placed one above the other
[1]bun·ker \'bəŋ-kər\ *n* [Sc *bonker* chest, box] **1** : a bin or compartment for storage; *esp* : one on shipboard for the ship's fuel **2 a** : a protective embankment or dugout; *esp* : a fortified chamber mostly below ground often built of reinforced concrete and provided with embrasures **b** : a sand trap or embankment constituting a hazard on a golf course
[2]bunker *vb* **bun·kered; bun·ker·ing** \-k(ə-)riŋ\ *vi* : to fill a ship's bunker with coal or oil ~ *vt* : to place or store in a bunker
bunk·house \'bəŋk-ˌhau̇s\ *n* : a rough simple building providing sleeping quarters
bun·kum *or* **bun·combe** \'bəŋ-kəm\ *n* [*Buncombe* county, N.C.; fr. the defense of a seemingly irrelevant speech made by its congressional representative that he was speaking to Buncombe] : insincere or foolish talk : NONSENSE
bun·ny \'bən-ē\ *n, pl* **bunnies** [E dial. *bun* (rabbit)] : RABBIT; *esp* : a young rabbit
Bun·ra·ku \bu̇n-'räk-(ˌ)ü\ *n* [Jap] : Japanese puppet theater featuring large costumed wooden puppets, puppeteers who are onstage, and a chanter who speaks all the lines
Bun·sen burner \ˌbən(t)-sən-\ *n* [Robert W. *Bunsen*] : a gas burner consisting typically of a straight tube with small holes at the bottom where air enters and mixes with the gas to produce an intensely hot blue flame
[1]bunt \'bənt\ *n* [perh. fr. LG, bundle, fr. MLG; akin to OE *byndel* bundle] **1 a** : the middle part of a square sail **b** : the part of a furled sail gathered up in a bunch at the center of the yard **2** : the bagging part of a fishing net
[2]bunt *n* [origin unknown] : a destructive covered smut of wheat caused by a fungus (*Tilletia foetida* or *T. caries*)
[3]bunt *vb* [alter. of *butt*] *vt* **1** : to strike or push with or as if with the head : BUTT **2** : to push or tap (a baseball) lightly without swinging the bat ~ *vi* : to bunt a baseball — **bunt·er** *n*
[4]bunt *n* **1** : an act or instance of bunting **2** : a bunted ball

[1]bun·ting \'bənt-iŋ\ *n* [ME] : any of various stout-billed birds (*Emberiza* and related genera) usu. included with the finches
[2]bunting *n* [perh. fr. E dial. *bunt* (to sift)] **1** : a lightweight loosely woven fabric used chiefly for flags and festive decorations **2 a** : FLAGS **b** : decorations esp. in the colors of the national flag
bunt·line \'bənt-ˌlīn, -lən\ *n* : one of the ropes attached to the foot of a square sail to haul the sail up to the yard for furling
Bun·yan·esque \ˌbən-yə-'nesk\ *adj* **1** [John *Bunyan* †1688 E preacher & author] : of, relating to, or suggestive of the allegorical writings of John Bunyan **2** [Paul *Bunyan*, legendary giant lumberjack of U.S. & Canada] **a** : of, relating to, or suggestive of the tales of Paul Bunyan **b** : of fantastically large size ⟨enormous leaves . . . from some *Bunyanesque* species of maple tree —Bernard Malamud⟩
[1]buoy \'bü-ē, 'bȯi\ *n* [ME *boye*, fr. (assumed) MF *boie*, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *bēacen* sign — more at BEACON] **1** : FLOAT 2; *esp* : a floating object moored to the bottom to mark a channel or something (as a shoal) lying under the water **2** : LIFE BUOY
[2]buoy *vt* **1** : to mark by or as if by a buoy **2 a** : to keep afloat **b** : SUPPORT, SUSTAIN ⟨an economy ~*ed* by the dramatic postwar growth of industry—*Time*⟩ **3** : to raise the spirits of — usu. used with *up* ⟨hope ~*s* him up⟩ ~ *vi* : FLOAT
buoy·ance \-ən(t)s, -yən(t)s\ *n* : BUOYANCY
buoy·an·cy \'bȯi-ən-sē, 'bü-yən-\ *n* **1 a** : the tendency of a body to float or to rise when submerged in a fluid **b** : the power of a fluid to exert an upward force on a body placed in it **2** : the ability to recover quickly from depression or discouragement : RESILIENCE, VIVACITY
buoy·ant \'bȯi-ənt, 'bü-yənt\ *adj* : having buoyancy: as **a** : capable of floating **b** : CHEERFUL, GAY — **buoy·ant·ly** *adv*
buq·sha \'bük-shə\ *n* [Ar] — see *rial* at MONEY table
[1]bur *var of* BURR
[2]bur *abbr* bureau
Bur·ber·ry \'bər-bə-rē, 'bər-ˌber-ē\ *trademark* — used for various fabrics used esp. for coats for outdoor wear
[1]bur·ble \'bər-bəl\ *vi* **bur·bled; bur·bling** \-b(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *burblen*] **1** : BUBBLE **2** : BABBLE, PRATTLE — **bur·bler** \-b(ə-)lər\ *n*
[2]burble *n* **1** : PRATTLE **2** : the breaking up of the streamline flow of air about the body (as an airplane wing) — **bur·bly** \-b(ə-)lē\ *adj*
bur·bot \'bər-bət\ *n, pl* **burbot** *also* **burbots** [ME *borbot*, fr. MF *bourbotte*, fr. *bourbeter* to burrow in the mud] : a freshwater fish (*Lota lota*) of the cod family having barbels on the nose and chin and existing in the northern parts of the New and the Old World
[1]bur·den \'bərd-ᵊn\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *byrthen;* akin to OE *beran* to carry — more at BEAR] **1 a** : something that is carried : LOAD **b** : DUTY, RESPONSIBILITY **2** : something oppressive or worrisome : ENCUMBRANCE **3 a** : the bearing of a load — usu. used in the phrase *beast of burden* **b** : capacity for carrying cargo ⟨a ship of a hundred tons ~⟩
[2]burden *vt* **bur·dened; bur·den·ing** \'bərd-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ : LOAD, OPPRESS ⟨the numerous petty things . . . which ~ the tables —Herbert Spencer⟩ ⟨I will not ~ you with a lengthy account⟩
[3]burden *n* [alter. of *bourdon*] **1** *archaic* : a bass or accompanying part **2 a** : CHORUS, REFRAIN **b** : a central topic : THEME
burden of proof : the duty of proving a disputed assertion or charge
bur·den·some \'bərd-ᵊn-səm\ *adj* : imposing or constituting a burden : OPPRESSIVE ⟨~ restrictions⟩ ***syn*** see ONEROUS — **bur·den·some·ly** *adv* — **bur·den·some·ness** *n*
bur·dock \'bər-ˌdäk\ *n* : any of a genus (*Arctium*) of coarse composite herbs bearing globular flower heads with prickly bracts
bu·reau \'byu̇(ə)r-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **bureaus** *also* **bu·reaux** \-(ˌ)ōz\ [F, desk, cloth covering for desks, fr. OF *burel* woolen cloth, fr. (assumed) OF *bure*, fr. LL *burra* shaggy cloth] **1 a** *Brit* : WRITING DESK; *esp* : one having drawers and a slant top **b** : a low chest of drawers for use in a bedroom **2 a** : a specialized administrative unit; *esp* : a subdivision of an executive department of a government **b** : a business establishment for exchanging information, making contacts, or coordinating activities **c** : a branch of a newspaper, newsmagazine, or wire service in an important news center
bu·reau·cra·cy \byu̇-'räk-rə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** [F *bureaucratie*, fr. *bureau* + *-cratie* -cracy] **1 a** : a body of nonelective government officials **b** : an administrative policy-making group **2** : government characterized by specialization of functions, adherence to fixed rules, and a hierarchy of authority **3** : a system of administration marked by officialism, red tape, and proliferation
bu·reau·crat \'byu̇r-ə-ˌkrat\ *n* : a member of a bureaucracy; *esp* : a government official who follows a narrow rigid formal routine or who is established with great authority in his own department
bu·reau·crat·ic \ˌbyu̇r-ə-'krat-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a bureaucracy or a bureaucrat ⟨~ government⟩ — **bu·reau·crat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
bu·reau·cra·tize \byu̇-'räk-rə-ˌtīz\ *vt* **-tized; -tizing** : to make bureaucratic : subject to bureaucracy — **bu·reau·cra·ti·za·tion** \-ˌräk-rət-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*
bu·rette *or* **bu·ret** \byu̇-'ret\ *n* [F *burette*, fr. MF, cruet, fr. *buire* pitcher, alter. of OF *buie*, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *būc* pitcher — more at BUCKET] : a graduated glass tube with a small aperture and stopcock for delivering measured quantities of liquid or for measuring the liquid or gas received or discharged
burg \'bərg\ *n* [OE — more at BOROUGH] **1** : an ancient or medieval fortress or walled town **2** : CITY, TOWN
bur·gage \'bər-gij\ *n* [ME, property held by burgage tenure, fr. MF *bourgage*, lit., burgage, fr. OF, fr. *bourg*, *borc* town — more at BOURG] : a tenure by which real property in England and Scotland was held under the king or a lord for a yearly rent or for watching and warding
bur·gee \ˌbər-'jē, 'bər-ˌ\ *n* [perh. fr. F dial. *bourgeais* shipowner] : a swallow-tailed flag used esp. by ships for signals or identification
bur·geon \'bər-jən\ *vi* [ME *burjonen*, fr. *burjon* bud, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *burrion-*, *burrio*, fr. LL *burra* shaggy cloth] **1 a** : to send forth new growth (as buds or branches) : SPROUT **b** : BLOSSOM, BLOOM **2** : to grow and expand rapidly : FLOURISH ⟨one of Africa's great problems is to get well-educated people out of the ~*ing* cities . . . and into the backward rural areas —P. R. Gould⟩
-burg·er \-ˌbər-gər\ *n comb form* [*hamburger*] : a fried or grilled patty usu. served in a sandwich
bur·gess \'bər-jəs\ *n* [ME *burgeis*, fr. OF *borjois*, fr. *borc*] **1 a** : a citizen of a British borough **b** : a representative of a borough, corporate town, or university in the British Parliament **2** : a representative in the popular branch of the legislature of colonial Maryland and Virginia
burgh \'bər-(ˌ)ō, 'bə-(ˌ)rō, -ə(-w), -rə(-w)\ *n* [ME — more at BOROUGH] : BOROUGH; *specif* : an incorporated town in Scotland having local jurisdiction of certain services
bur·gher \'bər-gər\ *n* : an inhabitant of a borough or a town
bur·glar \'bər-glər\ *n* [AF *burgler*, fr. ML *burglator*, prob. alter. of *burgator*, fr. *burgatus*, pp. of *burgare* to commit burglary, fr. L *burgus* fortified place — more at BOURG] : one who commits burglary : THIEF
bur·glar·i·ous \ˌbər-'glar-ē-əs, -'gler-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or resembling burglary — **bur·glar·i·ous·ly** *adv*
bur·glar·ize \'bər-glə-ˌrīz\ *vb* **ized; -iz·ing** *vt* **1** : to break into and steal from **2** : to commit burglary against ~ *vi* : to commit burglary
bur·glar·proof \ˌbər-glər-'prüf\ *adj* : protected against or designed to afford protection against burglary
bur·glary \'bər-glə-rē\ *n, pl* **-glar·ies** : the act of breaking into a building esp. with intent to steal; *specif* : the act of breaking into and entering the dwelling house of another at night with intent to commit a felony
bur·gle \'bər-gəl\ *vt* **bur·gled; bur·gling** \-g(ə-)liŋ\ [back-formation fr. *burglar*] : BURGLARIZE
bur·go·mas·ter \'bər-gə-ˌmas-tər\ *n* [part modif., part trans. of D *burgemeester*, fr. *burg* town + *meester* master] : the chief magistrate of a town in certain European countries : MAYOR
bur·go·net \'bər-gə-nət, ˌbər-gə-'net\ *n* [modif. of MF *bourguignotte*] : either of two 16th century helmets
bur·goo \'bər-ˌgü, (ˌ)bər-'\ *n, pl* **burgoos** [origin unknown] **1** : oatmeal gruel **2** : hardtack and molasses cooked together **3 a** : a stew or thick soup of meat and vegetables orig. served at outdoor gatherings (as a political rally or barbecue) **b** : a picnic at which burgoo is served
Bur·gun·dy \'bər-gən-dē\ *n, pl* **-dies** [*Burgundy*, region in France] : a red or white table wine from the vineyards of Côte d'Or, Yonne, and Saône-et-Loire, France; *also* : a similar wine made elsewhere
buri·al \'ber-ē-əl\ *n, often attrib* [ME *beriel, berial*, back-formation fr. *beriels* (taken as a plural), fr. OE *byrgels;* akin to OS *burgisli* tomb, OE *byrgan* to bury — more at BURY] **1** : GRAVE, TOMB **2** : the act or process of burying
buri·er \'ber-ē-ər\ *n* : one that buries
bu·rin \'byu̇r-ən, 'bər-\ *n* [F] **1** : an engraver's steel cutting tool having the blade ground obliquely to a sharp point **2** : a prehistoric flint tool with a beveled point
burke \'bərk\ *vt* **burked; burking** [William *Burke* †1829 Ir criminal executed for this crime] **1** : to suffocate or strangle in order to obtain a body to be sold for dissection **2 a** : to suppress quietly or indirectly ⟨~ an inquiry⟩ **b** : BYPASS, AVOID ⟨~ an issue⟩
[1]burl \'bər(-ə)l\ *n* [ME *burle*, fr. (assumed) MF *bourle* tuft of wool, fr. (assumed) VL *burrula*, dim. of LL *burra* shaggy cloth] **1** : a knot or lump in thread or cloth **2 a** : a hard woody often flattened hemispherical outgrowth on a tree **b** : veneer made from burls
[2]burl *vt* : to finish (cloth) esp. by repairing loose threads and knots — **burl·er** *n*
bur·la·de·ro \ˌbu̇r-lə-'de(ə)r-(ˌ)ō, ˌbər-\ *n, pl* **-ros** [Sp, fr. *burlar* to make fun of, elude, fr. *burla* joke] : a wooden shield set parallel to the wall in a bullring and behind which bullfighters can take shelter if pursued
bur·lap \'bər-ˌlap\ *n* [alter. of earlier *borelapp*] **1** : a coarse heavy plain-woven fabric usu. of jute or hemp used for bagging and wrapping and in furniture and linoleum manufacture **2** : a lightweight material resembling burlap used in interior decoration or for clothing
burled \'bər(-ə)ld\ *adj* : having a distorted grain due to burls
[1]bur·lesque \(ˌ)bər-'lesk\ *n* [*burlesque*, adj. (comic, droll), fr. F, fr. It *burlesco*, fr. *burla* joke, fr. Sp] **1** : a literary or dramatic work that seeks to ridicule by means of grotesque exaggeration or comic imitation **2** : mockery usu. by caricature **3** : theatrical entertainment of a broadly humorous often earthy character consisting of short turns, comic skits, and sometimes striptease acts ***syn*** see CARICATURE — **burlesque** *adj* — **bur·lesque·ly** *adv*
[2]burlesque *vb* **bur·lesqued; bur·lesqu·ing** *vt* : to imitate in a humorous or derisive manner : MOCK ~ *vi* : to employ burlesque — **bur·lesqu·er** *n*
bur·ley \'bər-lē\ *n* [prob. fr. the name *Burley*] : a thin-bodied air-cured tobacco grown mainly in Kentucky
bur·ly \'bər-lē\ *adj* **bur·li·er; -est** [ME] **1** : strongly and heavily built : HUSKY **2** : heartily direct and frank : BLUFF, FORTHRIGHT ⟨an evocative story less ~ than the real thing but entertaining—E. A. Weeks⟩ — **bur·li·ly** \-lə-lē\ *adv* — **bur·li·ness** \-lē-nəs\ *n*
bur marigold *n* : any of a genus (*Bidens*) of coarse composite herbs with prickly flattened achenes that adhere to clothing
Bur·mese \ˌbər-'mēz, -'mēs\ *n, pl* **Burmese** **1** : a native or inhabitant of Burma **2** : the Tibeto-Burman language of the Burmese people — **Burmese** *adj*
Burmese cat *n* : any of a breed of cats resembling the Siamese cat but of solid and darker color and with orange eyes
[1]burn \'bərn\ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *brunno* spring of water, L *fervēre* to boil] *Brit* : CREEK 2
[2]burn \'bərn\ *vb* **burned** \'bərnd, 'bərnt\ *or* **burnt** \'bərnt\; **burn·ing** [ME *birnan*, fr. OE *byrnan*, v.i., *bærnan*, v.t.; akin to OHG *brinnan* to burn, L *fervēre* to boil] *vi* **1 a** : to consume fuel and give off heat, light, and gases ⟨a small fire ~*s* on the hearth⟩ **b** : to undergo combustion; *also* : to undergo nuclear fission or

nuclear fusion **c** : to contain a fire ⟨little stove ~*ing* in the corner⟩ **d** : to give off light : SHINE, GLOW ⟨a light ~*ing* in the window⟩ **2 a** : to be hot ⟨the ~*ing* sand⟩ **b** : to produce or undergo discomfort or pain ⟨iodine ~*s* so⟩ ⟨ears ~*ing* from the cold⟩ **c** : to become emotionally excited or agitated: as (1) : to yearn ardently ⟨~*ing* to tell the story⟩ (2) : to be or become very angry or disgusted ⟨that remark really made him ~ ⟩ **3 a** : to undergo alteration or destruction by the action of fire or heat ⟨watched their house ~ down⟩ ⟨the potatoes ~*ed* to a crisp⟩ **b** : to die in the electric chair **4** : to force or make a way by or as if by burning ⟨her words ~*ed* into his heart⟩ **5** : to receive sunburn ⟨she ~*s* easily⟩ **~** *vt* **1 a** : to cause to undergo combustion; *esp* : to destroy by fire ⟨~*ed* the trash⟩ **b** : to use as fuel ⟨this furnace ~*s* gas⟩ **2 a** : to transform by exposure to heat or fire ⟨~ clay to bricks⟩ **b** : to produce by burning ⟨~*ed* a hole in his sleeve⟩ **3 a** : to injure or damage by exposure to fire, heat, or radiation : SCORCH ⟨~*ed* his hand⟩ **b** : to execute by burning ⟨heretics ~*ed* at the stake⟩ ; *also* : ELECTROCUTE **4 a** : IRRITATE, ANNOY — usu. used with *up* ⟨really ~*s* me up⟩ **b** : to take advantage of : DECEIVE, CHEAT — often used in passive **5** : to wear out : EXHAUST — **burn·able** \'bər-nə-bəl\ *adj* — **burn one's bridges** *also* **burn one's boats** : to cut off all means of retreat — **burn one's ears** : to rebuke strongly — **burn the candle at both ends** : to use one's resources or energies to excess — **burn the midnight oil** : to work or study far into the night

³burn *n* **1** : the act, process, or result of burning: as **a** : injury or damage resulting from exposure to fire, heat, caustics, electricity, or certain radiations **b** : a burned area ⟨a ~ on the table top⟩ **c** : an abrasion (as of the skin) having the appearance of a burn ⟨rope ~*s*⟩ **d** : a burning sensation ⟨the ~ of iodine on a cut⟩ **2** : the firing of a spacecraft rocket engine in flight **3** : ANGER; *esp* : increasing fury — used chiefly in the phrase *slow burn*

burned–out \'bərn-'daůt, 'bərnt-'aůt\ *or* **burnt–out** \'bərnt-'aůt\ *adj* : worn out by excessive or improper use ⟨~ bearings⟩; *also* : EXHAUSTED ⟨died a ~ man⟩

burn·er \'bər-nər\ *n* : one that burns; *esp* : the part of a fuel-burning device (as a stove or furnace) where the flame is produced

bur·net \(ˌ)bər-'net, 'bər-nət\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *burnete*, fr. *brun* brown — more at BRUNET] : any of a genus (*Sanguisorba*) of herbs of the rose family with odd-pinnate stipulate leaves and spikes of apetalous flowers

burn in *vt* : to increase the density of (portions of a photographic print) during enlarging by giving extra exposure — compare DODGE

burn·ing \'bər-niŋ\ *adj* **1 a** : being on fire **b** : ARDENT, INTENSE ⟨~ enthusiasm⟩ **2 a** : affecting with or as if with heat ⟨a ~ fever⟩ **b** : resembling that produced by a burn ⟨a ~ sensation on the tongue⟩ **3** : of fundamental importance : URGENT ⟨one of the ~ issues of our time⟩ — **burn·ing·ly** \-niŋ-lē\ *adv*

burning bush *n* : any of several plants associated with fire (as by redness): as **a** : ²WAHOO **b** : SUMMER CYPRESS

burning ghat *n* : a level space at the head of a ghat for cremation

¹bur·nish \'bər-nish\ *vt* [ME *burnischen*, fr. MF *bruniss-*, stem of *brunir*, lit., to make brown, fr. *brun*] **1** : to make shiny or lustrous esp. by rubbing : POLISH **2** : to rub (a material) with a tool for compacting or smoothing or for turning an edge — **bur·nish·er** *n* — **bur·nish·ing** *adj or n*

²burnish *n* : LUSTER, GLOSS

bur·noose *or* **bur·nous** \(ˌ)bər-'nüs\ *n* [F *burnous*, fr. Ar *burnus*] : a one-piece hooded cloak worn by Arabs and Moors

burn·out \'bər-ˌnaůt\ *n* : the cessation of operation of a jet or rocket engine; *also* : the point at which burnout occurs

burn·sides \'bərn-ˌsīdz\ *n pl* [Ambrose E. *Burnside*] : SIDEWHISKERS; *esp* : full muttonchop whiskers

¹burp \'bərp\ *n* [imit.] : BELCH

²burp *vi* : BELCH **~** *vt* : to help (a baby) expel gas from the stomach esp. by patting or rubbing the back

burp gun *n* : a small submachine gun

¹burr \'bər\ *n* [ME *burre*; akin to OE *byrst* bristle — more at BRISTLE] **1** *usu* **bur a** : a rough or prickly envelope of a fruit **b** : a plant that bears burs **2 a** : something that sticks or clings ⟨a ~ in the throat⟩ **b** : HANGER-ON **3** [ME *burwhe* circle] : a small washer put on the end of a rivet before swaging it down **4** : an irregular rounded mass; *esp* : a tree burl **5** : a thin ridge or area of roughness produced in cutting or shaping metal **6 a** : a trilled uvular \r\ as used by some speakers of English esp. in northern England and in Scotland **b** : a tongue-point trill that is the usual Scottish \r\ **7 a** : a small rotary cutting tool **b** *usu* **bur** : a bit used on a dental drill **8** : a rough humming sound : WHIR — **burred** \'bərd\ *adj*

²burr *vi* **1** : to speak with a burr **2** : to make a whirring sound **~** *vt* **1** : to pronounce with a burr **2 a** : to form into a projecting edge **b** : to remove burrs from — **burr·er** *n*

³burr *n* [perh. fr. ¹*burr*] : BUHRSTONE

bur reed *n* : any of a genus (*Sparganium*, family Sparganiaceae) of plants with globose fruits resembling burs

bur·ro \'bər-(ˌ)ō, 'bůr-, -ə(-w); 'bə-(ˌ)rō, -rə(-w)\ *n, pl* **burros** [Sp, irreg. fr. *borrico*, fr. LL *burricus* small horse] : DONKEY; *esp* : a small one used as a pack animal

¹bur·row \'bər-(ˌ)ō, 'bə-(ˌ)rō, -ə(-w), -rə(-w)\ *n* [ME *borow*] : a hole or excavation in the ground made by an animal (as a rabbit) for shelter and habitation

²burrow *vt* **1** *archaic* : to hide in or as if in a burrow **2 a** : to construct by tunneling **b** : to penetrate by means of a burrow **3** : to make a motion suggestive of burrowing with : NESTLE ⟨she ~*s* her grubby hand into mine⟩ **~** *vi* **1** : to conceal oneself in or as if in a burrow **2 a** : to make a burrow **b** : to progress by or as if by digging **3** : to make a motion suggestive of burrowing : SNUGGLE, NESTLE ⟨~*ed* against his back for warmth⟩ — **bur·row·er** *n*

burrstone *var of* BUHRSTONE

bur·ry \'bər-ē\ *adj* **bur·ri·er; -est** **1** : containing burs **2** : PRICKLY **3** *of speech* : characterized by a burr

bur·sa \'bər-sə\ *n, pl* **bur·sas** \-səz\ *or* **bur·sae** \-ˌsē, -ˌsī\ [NL, fr. ML, bag, purse — more at PURSE] : a bodily pouch or sac; *esp* : a small serous sac between a tendon and a bone — **bur·sal** \-səl\ *adj*

bur·sar \'bər-sər, -ˌsär\ *n* [ML *bursarius*, fr. *bursa*] : an officer (as of a monastery or college) in charge of funds : TREASURER

bur·sa·ry \-s(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [ML *bursaria*, fr. *bursa*] **1** : the treasury of a college or monastery **2** : a monetary grant to a needy student : SCHOLARSHIP

burse \'bərs\ *n* [MF *bourse*, fr. ML *bursa*] **1** *obs* : EXCHANGE, BOURSE **2 a** : PURSE **b** : a square cloth case used to carry the corporal in a Communion service

bur·seed \'bər-ˌsēd\ *n* : STICKSEED

bur·si·tis \(ˌ)bər-'sīt-əs\ *n* [NL, fr. *bursa*] : inflammation of a bursa esp. of the shoulder or elbow

¹burst \'bərst\ *vb* **burst** *or* **burst·ed; burst·ing** [ME *bersten*, fr. OE *berstan*; akin to OHG *brestan* to burst, MIr *brosc* noise] *vi* **1** : to break open, apart, or into pieces usu. from impact or from pressure from within **2 a** : to give way from an excess of emotion ⟨his heart will ~ with grief⟩ **b** : to give vent suddenly to a repressed emotion ⟨~ into tears ⟩ ⟨~ out laughing⟩ **3 a** : to emerge or spring suddenly ⟨~ out of a house⟩ **b** : LAUNCH, PLUNGE ⟨~ into song⟩ **4** : to be filled to the breaking point **~** *vt* **1** : to cause to burst **2** : to force open (as a door) by strong or vigorous action **3** : to produce by or as if by bursting — **burst·er** *n* — **burst at the seams** : to be larger, fuller, or more crowded than could reasonably have been anticipated

²burst *n* **1 a** : a sudden outbreak; *esp* : a vehement outburst (as of emotion) **b** : EXPLOSION, ERUPTION **c** : a sudden intense effort ⟨a sudden ~ of speed ⟩ **d** : a volley of shots **2** : an act of bursting **3** : a result of bursting; *specif* : a visible puff accompanying the explosion of a shell

bur·then \'bər-ṯhən\ *var of* BURDEN

bur·ton \'bərt-ᵊn\ *n* [origin unknown] : any of several arrangements of hoisting tackle; *esp* : one with a single and a double block

bur·weed \'bər-ˌwēd\ *n* : any of various plants (as a cocklebur or burdock) having burry fruit

bury \'ber-ē\ *vt* **bur·ied; bury·ing** [ME *burien*, fr. OE *byrgan*; akin to OHG *bergan* to shelter, Russ *berech'* to save] **1** : to dispose of by depositing in or as if in the earth; *esp* : to inter with funeral ceremonies **2 a** : to conceal by or as if by covering with earth ⟨~ a treasure⟩ ⟨the report was *buried* under miscellaneous papers⟩ **b** : to cover from view ⟨*buried* her face in her hands⟩ **3 a** : to put completely out of mind : have done with ⟨~*ing* their differences⟩ **b** : to conceal in obscurity ⟨*buried* the retraction among the classified ads⟩ **c** : SUBMERGE, ENGROSS — usu. used with *in* ⟨*buried* himself in his books⟩ **4** : to put (a playing card) out of play by placing it in or under the dealer's pack ***syn*** see HIDE — **bury the hatchet** : to settle a disagreement : become reconciled

¹bus \'bəs\ *n, pl* **bus·es** *or* **bus·ses** *often attrib* [short for *omnibus*] **1 a** : a large motor-driven passenger vehicle operating usu. according to a schedule along a fixed route **b** : AUTOMOBILE ⟨not a bad old ~ —A. J. Cronin⟩ **2** : a small hand truck **3** : a conductor or an assembly of conductors for collecting electric currents and distributing them to outgoing feeders — called also *bus bar*

²bus *vb* **bused** *or* **bussed; bus·ing** *or* **bus·sing** *vi* **1** : to travel by bus **2** : to work as a busboy **~** *vt* : to transport by bus

³bus *abbr* business

bus·boy \'bəs-ˌbȯi\ *n* [*omnibus* (busboy)] : a waiter's assistant; *specif* : one who removes dirty dishes and resets tables in a restaurant

bus·by \'bəz-bē\ *n, pl* **busbies** [prob. fr. the name *Busby*] **1** : a military full-dress fur hat with a pendent bag on one side usu. of the color of regimental facings **2** : the bearskin worn by British guardsmen



busby 2

¹bush \'bůsh\ *n, often attrib* [ME; akin to OHG *busc* forest] **1 a** : SHRUB; *esp* : a low densely branched shrub **b** : a close thicket of shrubs suggesting a single plant **2** : a large uncleared or sparsely settled area (as in Australia) usu. scrub-covered or forested : WILDERNESS **3 a** (1) *archaic* : a bunch of ivy formerly hung outside a tavern to indicate wine for sale (2) *obs* : TAVERN **b** : ADVERTISING ⟨good wine needs no ~ —Shak.⟩ **4** : a bushy tuft or mass ⟨a ~ of hair —Roger Senhouse⟩ ; *esp* : ²BRUSH 2a

²bush *vt* : to support, mark, or protect with bushes **~** *vi* : to extend like a bush : resemble a bush

³bush *n* [D *bus* bushing, box, fr. MD *busse* box, fr. LL *buxis* — more at BOX] **1** : BUSHING **2** : a threaded socket

⁴bush *vt* : to furnish with a bushing

bush baby *n* : GALAGO

bush basil *n* : a small cultivated annual herb (*Ocimum minimum*) with nearly entire leaves

bush bean *n* : any of a variety of the kidney bean with a low-growing compact bushy habit

bush·buck \'bůsh-ˌbək\ *n, pl* **bushbuck** *or* **bushbucks** [trans. of Afrik *bosbok*] : a small southern African striped antelope (*Strepsiceros scriptus* or *Tragelaphus scriptus*) having spirally twisted horns and frequenting forests; *also* : any of several related antelopes

bush clover *n* : any of several usu. shrubby lespedezas

bushed \'bůsht\ *adj* **1** : covered with or as if with a bushy growth **2** *chiefly Austral* **a** : lost esp. in the bush **b** : perplexed or confused esp. by a complexity or variety of considerations ⟨adapting

his language to my ~ comprehension —Henry Lawson〉 **3** : TIRED, EXHAUSTED

[1]bush·el \'bůsh-əl\ *n* [ME *busshel*, fr. OF *boissel*, fr. (assumed) OF *boisse* one sixth of a bushel, of Celt origin; akin to MIr *boss* palm of the hand] **1** : any of various units of dry capacity — see WEIGHT table **2** : a container holding a bushel **3** : a large quantity : LOTS 〈always sends them a ~ of love〉 — **bush·el·age** \-ə-lij\ *n*

[2]bushel *vb* **bush·eled; bush·el·ing** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [prob. fr. G *bosseln* to do poor work, to patch; akin to OE *bēatan* to beat] : REPAIR, RENOVATE — **bush·el·man** \-əl-mən\ *n*

bush·fire \'bůsh-ˌfī(ə)r\ *n, Austral* : an uncontrolled fire in a wooded area

Bu·shi·do \'bůsh-i-ˌdō, 'büsh-\ *n* [Jap *bushidō*] : a feudal-military Japanese code of chivalry valuing honor above life

bush·ing \'bůsh-iŋ\ *n* **1** : a usu. removable cylindrical lining for an opening (as of a mechanical part) used to limit the size of the opening, resist abrasion, or serve as a guide **2** : an electrically insulating lining for a hole to protect a through conductor

bush jacket *n* [fr. its use in rough country] : a long cotton jacket resembling a shirt and having four patch pockets, a belt, and a notched collar

bush–league *adj* : belonging to an inferior class or group of its kind : MEDIOCRE

bush league *n* : MINOR LEAGUE — **bush leaguer** *n*

bush lima *n* : a lima bean that resembles a bush bean in growth rather than a vine

bush·man \'bůsh-mən\ *n* **1** [modif. of obs. Afrik *boschjesman*, fr. *boschje* (dim. of *bosch* forest) + Afrik *man*] *cap* : a member of a race of nomadic hunters of southern Africa **2** : a Khoisan language of the Bushmen **3** **a** : WOODSMAN **b** *chiefly Austral* : one that lives in the bush; *specif* : HICK

bush·mas·ter \-ˌmas-tər\ *n* : a tropical American pit viper (*Lachesis mutus*) that is the largest New World venomous snake

bush·rang·er \-ˌrān-jər\ *n* **1** : FRONTIERSMAN, WOODSMAN **2** *Austral* : an outlaw living in the bush — **bush·rang·ing** \-jiŋ\ *n*

bush shirt *n* [fr. its use in rough country] : a usu. loose fitting cotton shirt with patch pockets

bush·tit \-ˌtit\ *n* : any of several titmice (genus *Psaltriparus*) of western No. America

bush·whack \'bůsh-ˌhwak, -ˌwak\ *vb* [back-formation fr. *bushwhacker*] *vi* **1** **a** : to clear a path through thick woods esp. by chopping down bushes and low branches **b** : to propel a boat by pulling on bushes along the bank **2** **a** : to live or hide out in the woods **b** : to fight in or attack from the bush ~ *vt* : AMBUSH — **bush·whack·er** *n* — **bush·whack·ing** *n*

bushy \'bůsh-ē\ *adj* **bush·i·er; -est** **1** : full of or overgrown with bushes **2** : resembling a bush; *esp* : being thick and spreading — **bush·i·ly** \'bůsh-ə-lē\ *adv* — **bush·i·ness** \'bůsh-ē-nəs\ *n*

busi·ness \'biz-nəs, -nəz\ *n, often attrib* **1** *archaic* : purposeful activity : BUSYNESS **2** **a** : ROLE, FUNCTION 〈how the human mind went about its ~ of learning —H. A. Overstreet〉 **b** : an immediate task or objective : MISSION 〈what is your ~ here at this hour〉 **c** : a particular field of endeavor 〈the best in the ~〉 **3** **a** : a usu. commercial or mercantile activity engaged in as a means of livelihood : TRADE, LINE 〈in the ~ of supplying emergency services to industry〉 **b** : a commercial or sometimes an industrial enterprise 〈sold his ~ and retired〉; *also* : such enterprises 〈~ seldom acts as a unit〉 **c** : usu. economic dealings : PATRONAGE 〈ready to take his ~ elsewhere unless service improved〉 **4** : AFFAIR, MATTER 〈a strange ~〉 **5** : movement or action (as lighting a cigarette) by an actor intended esp. to establish atmosphere, reveal character, or explain a situation — called also *stage business* **6** **a** : personal concern 〈none of your ~〉 **b** : RIGHT 〈you have no ~ hitting her〉 **7** **a** : serious activity requiring time and effort and usu. the avoidance of distractions 〈immediately got down to ~〉 **b** : maximum effort **8** **a** : a damaging assault **b** : a rebuke or tongue-lashing : a hard time **c** : DOUBLE CROSS

syn BUSINESS, COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, TRADE, TRAFFIC *shared meaning element* : activity concerned with the supplying and distribution of commodities

business administration *n* : a program of studies in a college or university providing general knowledge of business principles and practices

business card *n* : a small card that bears information (as name and address) about a business or a business representative — compare VISITING CARD

business cycle *n* : a recurring succession of fluctuations in economic activity

busi·ness·like \'biz-nə-ˌslīk, -nəz-ˌlīk\ *adj* **1** : exhibiting qualities believed to be advantageous in business **2** : SERIOUS, PURPOSEFUL

busi·ness·man \'biz-nə-ˌsman\ *n* a man who transacts business; *esp* : a business executive

business reply mail *n* : printed postal matter (as a postcard) for use in replying, ordering, or subscribing and bearing a statement that postage for its use will be paid by the addressee

business size envelope *n* : an envelope measuring usu. $9\frac{1}{2}$ by $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches in size — called also *business envelope*

busi·ness·wom·an \'biz-nə-ˌswům-ən\ *n* : a woman active in business; *esp* : a female business executive

bus·ing *or* **bus·sing** \'bəs-iŋ\ *n* : the act of transporting by bus; *specif* : the transporting of children to a school outside their residential area as a means of establishing racial balance in that school 〈he opposes most ~ as a tool of desegregation —*Boston Sunday Herald Traveler*〉

busk \'bəsk\ *vb* [ME *busken*, fr. ON *būask* to prepare oneself, refl. of *būa* to prepare, dwell] *chiefly Scot* : PREPARE

busk·er \'bəs-kər\ *n* [origin unknown] *chiefly Brit* : one who entertains esp. by singing or reciting on the street or in a pub

bus·kin \'bəs-kən\ *n* [perh. modif. of Sp *borceguí*] **1** : a laced boot reaching halfway or more to the knee **2** **a** : COTHURNUS **b** : TRAGEDY; *esp* : tragedy resembling that of ancient Greek drama

bus·man's holiday \ˌbəs-mənz-\ *n* : a holiday spent in following or observing the practice of one's usual occupation

buss \'bəs\ *n* [prob. imit.] : KISS — **buss** *vt*

[1]bust \'bəst\ *n* [F *buste*, fr. It *busto*, fr. L *bustum* tomb] **1** : a sculptured representation of the upper part of the human figure including the head and neck and usu. part of the shoulders and breast **2** : the upper part of the human torso between neck and waist; *esp* : the breasts of a woman

[2]bust *vb* **bust·ed** *also* **bust; bust·ing** *vt* [alter. of *burst*] **1** : HIT, SLUG **2** **a** : to break or smash esp. with force; *also* : to make inoperative 〈~*ed* my watch this morning〉 **b** : to bring an end to : break up 〈helped ~ trusts —*Newsweek*〉 〈reached second on a ~*ed* hit-and-run play —*Sporting News*〉 — often used with *up* 〈better not try to ~ up his happy marriage —*Forbes*〉 **c** : to ruin financially **3** : DEMOTE **4** : TAME 〈bronco ~*ing*〉 **5** *slang* **a** : ARREST 〈~*ed* for carrying guns — Saul Gottlieb〉 **b** : RAID 〈~*ed* the flat below . . . and found a sizable quantity of pot — Robert Courtney〉 ~ *vi* **1** **a** : BURST 〈laughing fit to ~〉 **b** : to break down **2** : to go broke **3** **a** : to fail to complete a straight or flush in poker **b** : to lose at cards by exceeding a limit (as the count of 21 in blackjack)

[3]bust *n* **1** : PUNCH, SOCK **2** **a** : a complete failure : FLOP **b** : a business depression **3** **a** : a hearty drinking session 〈a beer ~〉 **b** : SPREE **4** *slang* : a police raid 〈everyone knew of the . . . takeover of University Hall and the administration's decision to call the police, and the ~ in the stillness of the early hours — T.J. Cottle〉

bus·tard \'bəs-tərd\ *n* [ME, modif. of MF *bistarde*, fr. OIt *bistarda*, fr. L *avis tarda*, lit., slow bird] : any of a family (Otididae) of Old World and Australian game birds

bust·er \'bəs-tər\ *n* **1** **a** : an unusually sturdy child **b** *often cap* : FELLOW — usu. used as a noun of address 〈hey ~, come here〉 **2** : one that breaks or breaks up 〈crime ~*s*〉 : as **a** : PLOW **b** [short for *broncobuster*] : one who breaks horses **3** *Austral* : a sudden violent wind often coming from the south **4** : something having unusual destructive force: as **a** : a jarring fall **b** : BLOCKBUSTER

[1]bus·tle \'bəs-əl\ *vi* **bus·tled; bus·tling** \'bəs-(ə-)liŋ\ [prob. alter. of obs. *buskle* to prepare, freq. of *busk*] **1** : to move briskly and often ostentatiously **2** : to be busily astir : TEEM — **bustling** *adj* — **bus·tling·ly** \-(ə-)liŋ-lē\ *adv*

[2]bustle *n* : noisy, energetic, and often obtrusive activity 〈the hustle and ~ of the big city〉 ***syn*** see STIR

[3]bustle *n* [origin unknown] : a pad or framework expanding and supporting the fullness and drapery of the back of a woman's skirt

busty \'bəs-tē\ *adj* **bust·i·er, -est** : having a large bust

bu·sul·fan \byü-'səl-fən\ *n* [*butane* + *sulf*onyl] : an antineoplastic agent $C_6H_{14}O_6S_2$ used in the treatment of chronic myelogenous leukemia

[1]busy \'biz-ē\ *adj* **busi·er; -est** [ME *bisy*, fr. OE *bisig*; akin to MD & MLG *besich* busy] **1** **a** : engaged in action : OCCUPIED **b** : being in use 〈found the telephone ~〉 **2** : full of activity : BUSTLING 〈a ~ seaport〉 **3** : foolishly or intrusively active : MEDDLING **4** : full of distracting detail 〈a ~ design〉 — **busi·ly** \'biz-ə-lē\ *adv* — **busy·ness** \'biz-ē-nəs\ *n*

syn BUSY, INDUSTRIOUS, DILIGENT, ASSIDUOUS, SEDULOUS *shared meaning element* : actively engaged or occupied (as in work or in accomplishing an end). BUSY stresses activity as opposed to idleness or leisure 〈had plenty of work to keep him *busy*〉 but does not in itself convey anything about the utility or effectiveness of the activity 〈always too *busy* to get a job finished〉 INDUSTRIOUS implies habitual or characteristic attentiveness and persistent earnest application (as to work or a business) 〈an *industrious* boy, always ready to help his father〉 DILIGENT suggests earnest application to a particular occupation 〈a *diligent* student〉 ASSIDUOUS stresses careful and unremitting application 〈*assiduous* in his attentions to his bride〉 SEDULOUS implies painstaking and persevering application 〈taking *sedulous* care of her husband's needs〉 ***ant*** idle, unoccupied

[2]busy *vb* **busi·ed; busy·ing** *vt* : to make busy : OCCUPY ~ *vi* : BUSTLE 〈small boats *busied* to and fro —Quentin Crewe〉

busy·body \'biz-ē-ˌbäd-ē\ *n* : an officious or inquisitive person

busy·work \-ˌwərk\ *n* : work that usu. appears productive or of intrinsic value but actually only keeps one occupied

[1]but \(')bət\ *conj* [ME, fr. OE *būtan*, prep. & conj., outside, without, except, except that; akin to OHG *būzan* without, except; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc compound whose constituents are represented by OE *be* by and OE *ūtan* outside; akin to OE *ūt* out — more at BY, OUT] **1** **a** : except for the fact 〈would have protested ~ that he was afraid〉 **b** : THAT — used after a negative 〈there is no doubt ~ he won〉 **c** : without the concomitant that 〈it never rains ~ it pours〉 **d** : if not : UNLESS **e** *substand* : THAN 〈no sooner started ~ it stopped〉 **2** **a** : on the contrary : on the other hand : NOTWITHSTANDING — used to connect coordinate elements 〈he was called ~ he did not answer〉 〈not peace ~ a sword〉 **b** : YET 〈poor ~ proud〉 **c** : with the exception of — used before a word often taken to be the subject of a clause 〈none ~ the brave deserves the fair —John Dryden〉 — **but what** : that . . . not 〈I don't know *but what* I will go〉

[2]but *prep* **1** *Scot* **a** : WITHOUT, LACKING **b** : OUTSIDE **2** **a** : with the exception of : BARRING 〈no one there ~ me〉 — compare [1]BUT 2c **b** : other than 〈this letter is nothing ~ an insult〉

[3]but *adv* **1** : ONLY, MERELY 〈he is ~ a child〉 **2** *Scot* : OUTSIDE **3** : to the contrary 〈who knows ~ that he may succeed〉 **4** : DEFINITELY, POSITIVELY 〈get there ~ fast〉

[4]but *pron* : that not : who not 〈nobody ~ has his fault —Shak.〉

[5]but \'bət\ *n* [Sc *but*, adj. (outer)] *Scot* : the kitchen or living quarters of a 2-room cottage

bu·ta·di·ene \ˌbyüt-ə-'dī-ˌēn, -ˌdī-'\ *n* [ISV *butane* + *di-* + *-ene*] : a flammable gaseous hydrocarbon C_4H_6 used in making synthetic rubbers

bu·tane \'byü-ˌtān\ *n* [ISV *butyric* + *-ane*] : either of two isomeric flammable gaseous paraffin hydrocarbons C_4H_{10} obtained usu. from petroleum or natural gas and used as a fuel

bu·ta·nol \'byüt-ᵊn-ˌȯl, -ˌōl\ *n* : either of two butyl alcohols $C_4H_{10}O$ derived from normal butane

[1]butch·er \'bůch-ər\ *n* [ME *bocher*, fr. OF *bouchier*, fr. *bouc* he-goat, prob. of Celt origin; akin to MIr *bocc* he-goat — more at

BUCK] **1 a** : one who slaughters animals or dresses their flesh **b** : a dealer in meat **2** : one that kills ruthlessly or brutally **3** : BOTCHER **4** : a vendor esp. on trains or in theaters

²butcher *vt* **butch·ered; butch·er·ing** \-(ə-)riŋ\ **1** : to slaughter and dress for market ⟨~ hogs⟩ **2** : to kill in a barbarous manner **3** : BOTCH ⟨~*ed* the play beyond recognition⟩ — **butch·er·er** \-ər-ər\ *n*

butch·er–bird \'bu̇ch-ər-ˌbərd\ *n* : any of various shrikes

butcher knife *n* : a heavy-duty knife usu. six to eight inches long having a broad blade that curves slightly at the tip

butch·er·ly \'bu̇ch-ər-lē\ *adj* : resembling a butcher : SAVAGE

butch·er's–broom \'bu̇ch-ərz-ˌbrüm, -ˌbru̇m\ *n* : a European leafless plant (*Ruscus aculeatus*) of the lily family with stiff-pointed leaflike twigs used for brooms

butch·ery \'bu̇ch-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1** *chiefly Brit* : SLAUGHTERHOUSE **2** : the preparation of meat for sale **3** : cruel and ruthless slaughter of human beings **4** : BOTCH ***syn*** see MASSACRE

bu·tene \'byü-ˌtēn\ *n* [ISV *butyl* + *-ene*] : a normal butylene

bu·teo \'byüt-ē-ˌō\ *n, pl* **-te·os** [NL, genus name, fr. L, a hawk] : any of a genus (*Buteo*) of hawks with broad rounded wings and soaring flight; *broadly* : a hawk of similar appearance or habit of flight — **bu·te·o·nine** \byü-'tē-ə-ˌnīn, 'byüt-ē-\ *adj or n*

but·ler \'bət-lər\ *n* [ME *buteler*, fr. OF *bouteillier* bottle bearer, fr. *bouteille* bottle — more at BOTTLE] **1** : a manservant having charge of the wines and liquors **2** : the chief male servant of a household who has charge of other employees, receives guests, directs the serving of meals, and performs various personal services

butler's pantry *n* : a service room between kitchen and dining room

¹butt \'bət\ *vb* [ME *butten*, fr. OF *boter*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *bōzan* to beat — more at BEAT] *vi* : to thrust or push head foremost : strike with the head or horns ~ *vt* : to strike or shove with the head or horns

²butt *n* : a blow or thrust usu. with the head or horns

³butt *n* [ME, partly fr. MF *but* target, end, of Gmc origin; akin to ON *būtr* log, LG *butt* blunt; partly fr. MF *bute* backstop, fr. *but* target] **1 a** : a backstop (as a mound or bank) for catching missiles shot at a target **b** : TARGET **c** *pl* : RANGE 5b **d** : a blind for shooting birds **2 a** *obs* : LIMIT, BOUND **b** *archaic* : GOAL ⟨here is my journey's end, here is my ~ —Shak.⟩ **3** : an object of abuse or ridicule : VICTIM ⟨he was the ~ of all their jokes⟩

⁴butt *vb* [partly fr. ³*butt*, partly fr. ⁵*butt*] *vi* : ABUT — used with *on* or *against* ~ *vt* **1** : to place end to end or side to side without overlapping **2** : to trim or square off (as a log) at the end **3** : to reduce (as a cigarette) to a butt by stubbing or stamping

⁵butt *n* [ME; prob. akin to ME *buttok* buttock, LG *butt* blunt, OHG *bōzan* to beat] **1** : BUTTOCKS **2** : the large or thicker end part of something: **a** : a lean upper cut of the pork shoulder **b** : the base of a plant from which the roots spring **c** : the thicker or handle end of a tool or weapon **3** : an unused remainder **4** : the part of a hide or skin corresponding to the animal's back and sides

⁶butt *n* [ME, fr. MF *botte*, fr. OProv *bota*, fr. LL *buttis*] **1** : a large cask esp. for wine, beer, or water **2** : any of various units of liquid capacity; *esp* : a measure equal to 108 imperial gallons

butte \'byüt\ *n* [F, knoll, fr. MF *bute* mound of earth serving as a backstop] : an isolated hill or mountain with steep or precipitous sides usu. having a smaller summit area than a mesa

¹but·ter \'bət-ər\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *butere;* akin to OHG *butera* butter; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. L *butyrum* butter, fr. Gk *boutyron*, fr. *bous* cow + *tyros* cheese; akin to Av *tūiri-* whey — more at COW] **1** : a solid emulsion of fat globules, air, and water made by churning milk or cream and used as food **2** : a buttery substance: as **a** : any of various fatty oils remaining nearly solid at ordinary temperatures **b** : a food spread made from fruit, nuts, or other food ⟨apple ~⟩ **3** : FLATTERY — **but·ter·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

²butter *vt* : to spread with or as if with butter

but·ter–and–eggs \ˌbət-ə-rə-'negz, -'nāgz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : a common European perennial herb (*Linaria vulgaris*) of the snapdragon family that has showy yellow and orange flowers and is a naturalized weed in much of No. America — called also *toadflax*

but·ter·ball \'bət-ər-ˌbȯl\ *n* **1** : a chubby person **2** : BUFFLEHEAD

butter bean *n* **1** : WAX BEAN **2** : LIMA BEAN: as **a** *chiefly South & Midland* : a large dried lima bean **b** : SIEVA BEAN **3** : a green shell bean esp. as opposed to a snap bean

butter clam *n* : either of two large delicately flavored clams (*Saxidomus nuttallii* and *S. giganteus*) of the Pacific coast of No. America

but·ter·cup \'bət-ər-ˌkəp\ *n* : any of numerous plants (genus *Ranunculus* of the family Ranunculaceae, the buttercup family) with yellow flowers and lobed leaves

but·ter·fat \-ˌfat\ *n* : the natural fat of milk and chief constituent of butter consisting essentially of a mixture of glycerides (as butyrin, olein, and palmitin)

but·ter·fin·gered \-ˌfiŋ-gərd\ *adj* : apt to let things fall or slip through the fingers : CARELESS — **but·ter·fin·gers** \-gərz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr*

but·ter·fish \-ˌfish\ *n* : any of numerous mostly percoid fishes (esp. family Stromateidae) with a slippery coating of mucus

¹but·ter·fly \-ˌflī\ *n, often attrib* **1** : any of numerous slender-bodied diurnal insects (order Lepidoptera) with large broad often brightly colored wings **2** : something that resembles or suggests a butterfly; *esp* : a person chiefly occupied with the pursuit of pleasure **3** : a swimming stroke executed in a prone position by moving both arms in a circular motion while kicking the legs up and down simultaneously **4** *pl* : a feeling of hollowness or queasiness caused esp. by emotional or nervous tension or anxious anticipation

²butterfly *vt* **-flied; -fly·ing** : to split almost entirely and spread apart ⟨a *butterflied* steak⟩ ⟨*butterflied* shrimp⟩

butterfly bush *n* : BUDDLEIA

butterfly chair *n* : a chair for lounging consisting of a cloth sling supported by a frame of metal tubing or bars

but·ter·fly·er \'bət-ər-ˌflī(-ə)r\ *n* : a swimmer who specializes in the butterfly

butterfly fish *n* : a fish having variegated colors, broad expanded fins, or both: as **a** : a European blenny (*Blennius ocellaris*) **b** : FLYING GURNARD **c** : any of a family (Chaetodontidae) of small brilliantly colored spiny-finned fishes of tropical seas with a narrow deep body and fins partly covered with scales

butterfly valve *n* **1** : a double clack valve **2** : a damper or valve in a pipe consisting of a disk turning on a diametral axis

butterfly weed *n* : an orange-flowered showy milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) of eastern No. America

but·ter·milk \'bət-ər-ˌmilk\ *n* **1** : the liquid left after butter has been churned from milk or cream **2** : cultured milk made by the addition of suitable bacteria to sweet milk

but·ter·nut \-ˌnət\ *n* **1 a** : the edible oily nut of an American tree (*Juglans cinerea*) of the walnut family **b** : a tree that bears butternuts **2 a** : a light yellowish brown **b** *pl* : homespun overalls dyed brown with a butternut extract **c** : a soldier or partisan of the Confederacy during the Civil War

but·ter·scotch \-ˌskäch\ *n* **1** : a candy made from brown sugar, corn syrup, and water; *also* : the flavor of such candy **2** : a moderate yellowish brown

butter up *vt* : to charm or beguile with lavish flattery or praise : CAJOLE

but·ter·weed \'bət-ər-ˌwēd\ *n* : any of several plants having yellow flowers or smooth soft foliage: as **a** : HORSEWEED 1 **b** : an American ragwort (*Senecio glabellus*)

but·ter·wort \-ˌwərt, -ˌwȯ(ə)rt\ *n* : any of a genus (*Pinguicula*) of herbs of the bladderwort family with fleshy greasy leaves that produce a viscid secretion serving to capture and digest insects

¹but·tery \'bət-ə-rē, 'bə-trē\ *n, pl* **-ter·ies** [ME *boterie*, fr. MF, fr. *botte* cask, butt — more at BUTT] **1** : a storeroom for liquors **2 a** *chiefly dial* : PANTRY **b** : a room (as in an English college) stocking provisions for sale to students

²but·tery \'bət-ə-rē\ *adj* **1 a** : having the qualities, consistency, or appearance of butter **b** : containing or spread with butter **2** : marked by flattery

butt hinge *n* : a hinge usu. mortised flush into the edge of a door

butt in *vi* : to meddle in the affairs of others : INTERFERE, INTRUDE

butt·in·sky *also* **butt·in·ski** \ˌbət-'in-skē\ *n, pl* **-skies** [*butt in* + *-sky, -ski* (last element in many Slavic names)] : one given to butting in : a troublesome meddler

butt joint *n* : a joint made by fastening the parts together end-to-end without overlap and often with reinforcement

but·tock \'bət-ək\ *n* [ME *buttok* — more at BUTT] **1** : the back of a hip that forms one of the fleshy parts on which a person sits **2** *pl* **a** : the seat of the body **b** : RUMP

¹but·ton \'bət-ᵊn\ *n, often attrib* [ME *boton*, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *boter* to thrust — more at BUTT] **1 a** : a small knob or disk secured to an article (as of clothing) and used as a fastener by passing it through a buttonhole or loop **b** : a usu. circular metal or plastic badge bearing a stamped design or printed slogan ⟨campaign ~⟩ **2** : something that resembles a button: as **a** : any of various parts or growths of a plant or of an animal: as (1) : an immature whole mushroom (2) : the terminal segment of a rattlesnake's rattle **b** : a small globule of metal remaining after fusion in assaying **c** : a guard on the tip of a fencing foil **3** : PUSH BUTTON **4** : the point of the chin esp. as a target for a knockout blow — **on the button** : PRECISELY

²but·ton \'bət-ᵊn\ *vb* **but·toned; but·ton·ing** \'bət-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ *vt* **1** : to furnish or decorate with buttons **2** : to close or fasten with buttons — often used with *up* ⟨~ up your overcoat⟩ **3** : to close (the lips) to prevent speech ⟨~ your lip⟩ ~ *vi* : to have buttons for fastening ⟨this dress ~*s* at the back⟩ — **but·ton·er** \-nər, -ᵊn-ər\ *n* — **but·ton·less** \'bət-ᵊn-ləs\ *adj*

but·ton·ball \'bət-ᵊn-ˌbȯl\ *n* : ²PLANE

but·ton·bush \-ˌbu̇sh\ *n* : a No. American shrub (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) of the madder family with globular flower heads

but·ton–down \-ˌdau̇n\ *adj* **1 a** *of a collar* : having the ends fastened to the garment with buttons **b** *of a garment* : having a button-down collar **2** *also* **but·toned–down** \-ᵊn-ˌdau̇n\ : lacking originality and imagination and adhering to conventional ideals esp. in dress and behavior

¹but·ton·hole \'bət-ᵊn-ˌhōl\ *n* : a slit or loop through which a button is passed

²buttonhole *vt* **1** : to furnish with buttonholes **2** : to work with buttonhole stitch — **but·ton·hol·er** *n*

³buttonhole *vt* [alter. of *buttonhold*] : to detain in conversation by or as if by holding on to the outer garments of

buttonhole stitch *n* : a closely worked loop stitch used to make a firm edge (as on a buttonhole)

but·ton·hook \'bət-ᵊn-ˌhu̇k\ *n* **1** : a hook for drawing small buttons through buttonholes **2** : an offensive play in football in which the pass receiver runs straight downfield and then abruptly cuts back toward the line of scrimmage — **buttonhook** *vi*

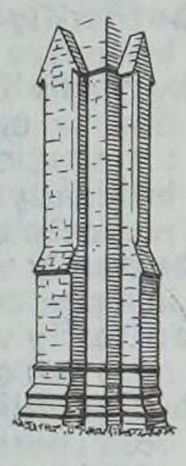
button quail *n* : any of various small terrestrial Old World birds (family Turnicidae) that resemble quails, have only three toes on a foot with the hind toe being absent, and are related to the cranes and bustards

button snakeroot *n* **1** : any of a genus (*Liatris*) of composite plants with spikes of rosy-purple rayless flower heads **2** : any of several usu. prickly herbs (genus *Eryngium*) of the carrot family

but·ton·wood \'bət-ᵊn-ˌwu̇d\ *n* : ²PLANE

but·tony \'bət-ᵊn-ē, 'bət-nē\ *adj* **1** : ornamented with buttons **2** : resembling a button ⟨~ eyes⟩

¹but·tress \'bə-trəs\ *n* [ME *butres*, fr. MF *bouterez*, fr. OF *boterez*, fr. *boter*] **1** : a projecting structure of masonry or wood for supporting or giving stability to a wall or building **2** : something that resembles a buttress: as **a** : a projecting part of a mountain or hill **b** : a horny protuberance on a horse's hoof at the heel — see HOOF illustration **c** : the broadened base of a tree trunk or a thickened vertical part of it **3** : something that supports or strengthens ⟨a ~ of the cause of peace⟩ — **but·tressed** \-trəst\ *adj*



buttress 1

²buttress *vt* : to furnish or shore up with a buttress; *also* : SUPPORT, STRENGTHEN ⟨arguments ~*ed* by solid facts⟩

butt shaft *n* : a target arrow without a barb

butt·stock \'bət-ˌstäk\ *n* : the stock of a firearm in the rear of the breech mechanism

butt weld *n* : a butt joint made by welding — **butt–weld** *vt* — **butt welding** *n*

but·ty \'bət-ē\ *n, pl* **butties** [origin unknown] *chiefly Brit* : a fellow workman : CHUM, PARTNER

bu·tut \bù-'tüt\ *n* [native word in the Gambia] — see *dalasi* at MONEY table

bu·tyl \'byüt-ᵊl\ *n* [ISV *butyric* + *-yl*] : any of four isomeric univalent radicals C_4H_9 derived from butanes

Butyl *trademark* — used for any of various synthetic rubbers made by polymerizing isobutylene

butyl alcohol *n* : any of four flammable alcohols C_4H_9OH derived from butanes and used in organic synthesis and as solvents

bu·tyl·ate \'byüt-ᵊl-ˌāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** : to introduce the butyl group into (a compound) — **bu·tyl·ation** \ˌbyüt-ᵊl-'ā-shən\ *n*

butylated hy·droxy·tol·u·ene \-(ˌ)hī-ˌdräk-sē-'täl-yə-ˌwēn\ *n* : a crystalline phenolic antioxidant $C_{15}H_{24}O$ used esp. in dry cereals

bu·tyl·ene \'byüt-ᵊl-ˌēn\ *n* : any of three isomeric hydrocarbons C_4H_8 of the ethylene series obtained usu. by cracking petroleum

butyr- *or* **butyro-** *comb form* [ISV, fr. *butyric*] : butyric ⟨*butyr*al⟩

bu·ty·ra·ceous \ˌbyüt-ə-'rā-shəs\ *adj* [L *butyrum* butter — more at BUTTER] **1** : resembling or having the qualities of butter **2** : yielding a buttery substance

bu·ty·ral \'byüt-ə-ˌral\ *n* : an acetal of butyraldehyde

bu·tyr·al·de·hyde \ˌbyüt-ə-'ral-də-ˌhīd\ *n* [ISV] : either of two aldehydes C_4H_8O used esp. in making polyvinyl butyral resins

bu·ty·rate \'byüt-ə-ˌrāt\ *n* : a salt or ester of butyric acid

bu·tyr·ic \byü-'tir-ik\ *adj* [F *butyrique*, fr. L *butyrum*] : relating to or producing butyric acid ⟨~ fermentation⟩

butyric acid *n* : either of two isomeric fatty acids $C_4H_8O_2$; *esp* : a normal acid of unpleasant odor found in rancid butter and in perspiration

bux·om \'bək-səm\ *adj* [ME *buxsum*, fr. (assumed) OE *būhsum*, fr. OE *būgan* to bend — more at BOW] **1** *obs* **a** : OBEDIENT, TRACTABLE **b** : offering little resistance : FLEXIBLE, PLIANT ⟨wing silently the ~ air —John Milton⟩ **2** *archaic* : full of gaiety : BLITHE **3** : vigorously or healthily plump; *specif* : full-bosomed — **bux·om·ly** *adv* — **bux·om·ness** *n*

¹buy \'bī\ *vb* **bought** \'bȯt\; **buy·ing** [ME *byen*, fr. OE *bycgan*; akin to Goth *bugjan* to buy] *vt* **1** : to acquire possession, ownership, or rights to the use or services of by payment esp. of money : PURCHASE **2** **a** : to obtain in exchange for something often at a sacrifice ⟨they *bought* peace with their freedom⟩ **b** : REDEEM 6 **3** : BRIBE, HIRE **4** : to be the purchasing equivalent of ⟨the dollar ~*s* less today than it used to⟩ **5** : ACCEPT, BELIEVE ⟨I don't ~ that hooey⟩ ~ *vi* : to make a purchase — **buy time** : to delay an imminent action or decision : STALL ⟨*buying time* against the day when air pollution . . . reaches critical and dangerous proportions — *Plainsman*⟩

²buy *n* **1** : an act of buying : PURCHASE **2** : something of value at a favorable price; *esp* : BARGAIN ⟨it's a real ~ at that price⟩

buy·er \'bī(-ə)r\ *n* : one that buys; *esp* : a department head of a retail store

buyer's market *n* : a market in which goods are plentiful, buyers have a wide range of choice, and prices tend to be low — compare SELLER'S MARKET

buy in *vt* : to obtain (a stock or supply of something) by purchase; *also* : to complete an outstanding securities transaction by purchase against the account of (a delaying or defaulting speculator or dealer) — **buy–in** *n*

buy off *vt* **1** : to induce to refrain (as from prosecution) by a payment or other consideration **2** : to free (as from military service) by payment

buy out *vt* : to purchase the share or interest of

buy up *vt* **1** : to buy freely or extensively **2** : to buy the entire available supply of

¹buzz \'bəz\ *vb* [ME *bussen*, of imit. origin] *vi* **1** : to make a low continuous humming sound like that of a bee **2** **a** : MURMUR, WHISPER **b** : to be filled with a confused murmur ⟨the room ~*ed* with excitement⟩ **3** : to make a signal with a buzzer **4** : to go quickly : HURRY; *also* : SCRAM — usu. used with *off* ~ *vt* **1** : to utter covertly by or as if by whispering **2** : to cause to buzz **3** : to fly low and fast over ⟨planes ~ the crowd⟩ **4** : to summon or signal with a buzzer **5** *dial Eng* : to drink to the last drop ⟨get some more port whilst I ~ this bottle —W. M. Thackeray⟩

²buzz *n* **1** : a persistent vibratory sound **2** **a** : a confused murmur or flurry of activity **b** : RUMOR, GOSSIP **3** : a signal conveyed by buzzer; *specif* : a telephone call

buz·zard \'bəz-ərd\ *n* [ME *busard*, fr. OF, alter. of *buison*, fr. L *buteon-*, *buteo*] **1** *chiefly Brit* : BUTEO **2** : any of various usu. large birds of prey (as the turkey buzzard) **3** : a contemptible or rapacious person

buzz bomb *n* : ROBOT BOMB

buzz·er \'bəz-ər\ *n* **1** : one that buzzes; *specif* : an electric signaling device that makes a buzzing sound **2** : the sound of a buzzer ⟨sank a 20-foot jump shot at the ~⟩

buzz saw *n* : a circular saw having teeth on its periphery and revolving on a spindle

buzz·word \'bəz-ˌwərd\ *n* : an important-sounding usu. technical word or phrase often of little meaning used chiefly to impress laymen

BV *abbr* Blessed Virgin

B.V.D. \ˌbē-(ˌ)vē-'dē\ *trademark* — used for underwear

bvt *abbr* brevet

BW *abbr* **1** bacteriological warfare; biological warfare **2** black and white **3** bread and water

bwa·na \'bwän-ə\ *n* [Swahili, fr. Ar *abūna* our father] *chiefly East Africa* : MASTER, BOSS — often used as a noun of address

BWI *abbr* British West Indies

bx *abbr* box

BX *abbr* base exchange

¹by \(')bī, *esp before consonants* bə\ *prep* [ME, prep. & adv., fr. OE, prep., *be*, *bī*; akin to OHG *bī* by, near, L *ambi-* on both sides, around, Gk *amphi*] **1** : in proximity to : NEAR ⟨standing ~ the window⟩ **2** **a** : through or through the medium of : VIA ⟨enter ~ the door⟩ **b** : in the direction of : TOWARD ⟨north ~ east⟩ **c** : into the vicinity of and beyond : PAST ⟨went right ~ him⟩ **3** **a** : during the course of ⟨studied ~ night⟩ **b** : not later than ⟨~ 2 p.m.⟩ **4** **a** : through the agency or instrumentality of ⟨~ force⟩ **b** : sired by **5** : with the witness or sanction of ⟨swear ~ all that is holy⟩ **6** **a** : in conformity with ⟨acted ~ the rules⟩ **b** : in terms of ⟨always bought ~ brand⟩ ⟨called her ~ name⟩ **7** : with respect to **8** **a** : in or to the amount or extent of ⟨win ~ a nose⟩ **b** *chiefly Scot* : in comparison with : BESIDE **9** : in successive units or increments ⟨succeeded little ~ little⟩ ⟨walk two ~ two⟩ **10** — used as a function word in multiplication, in division, and in measurements ⟨divide *a* ~ *b*⟩ ⟨multiply 10 ~ 4⟩ ⟨a room 15 feet ~ 20 feet⟩

syn BY, THROUGH, WITH *shared meaning element* — used as a function word to qualify (a following word or phrase) as an agent, means, or instrument. BY is followed commonly by the agent or causative agency ⟨a wall built *by* the Romans⟩ ⟨destroyed *by* fire⟩ ⟨books *by* modern writers⟩ THROUGH implies intermediacy and is followed by the name of someone or something felt as the medium or means by which an end is gained or an effect produced ⟨he spoke *through* an interpreter⟩ ⟨gained his position *through* influence⟩ WITH is more often followed by the name of the instrument through which a causative agent or agency works ⟨ate *with* a fork⟩ ⟨struck a blow *with* his fist⟩ or it may take for its object something not consciously used as an instrument though serving as the instrumentality by which an effect is produced ⟨his speech impressed us *with* its brevity⟩ ⟨a face contorted *with* anger⟩

²by \'bī\ *adv* **1** **a** : close at hand : NEAR **b** : at or to another's home ⟨stop ~ for a chat⟩ **2** : PAST ⟨saw him go ~⟩ **3** : ASIDE, AWAY

³by *or* **bye** \'bī\ *adj* **1** : off the main route : SIDE **2** : INCIDENTAL

⁴by *or* **bye** \'bī\ *n, pl* **byes** \'bīz\ : something of secondary importance : a side issue — **by the by** : by the way : INCIDENTALLY

⁵by *or* **bye** \'bī\ *interj* [short for *goodbye*] — used to express farewell; often used with following *now*

by–and–by \ˌbī-ən-'bī\ *n* : a future time or occasion

by and by \ˌbī-ən-'bī\ *adv* : before long : SOON

by and large \ˌbī-ən-'lärj\ *adv* : on the whole : in general

by–blow \'bī-ˌblō\ *n* **1** : an indirect blow **2** : an illegitimate child

bye \'bī\ *n* [alter. of ²*by*] : the position of a participant in a tournament who has no opponent after pairs are drawn and advances to the next round without playing

¹bye–bye *or* **by–by** \'bī-ˌbī, bī-'bī\ *interj* [baby-talk redupl. of *goodbye*] — used to express farewell

²bye–bye *or* **by–by** \'bī-ˌbī\ *adv* : out esp. for a walk or ride — used with the verb *go* ⟨if he wants to go ~ the baby may pat his head to indicate his desire for a hat —A.L. Gesell & Frances L. Ilg⟩

³bye–bye *or* **by–by** \'bī-ˌbī\ *n* : BED, SLEEP ⟨lie down . . . and go to ~ —Rudyard Kipling⟩

⁴bye–bye *or* **by–by** \'bī-ˌbī\ *adv* : to bed or sleep — used with the verb *go* ⟨I'll run in and read for just a second . . . and then perhaps I'll go ~ —Sinclair Lewis⟩

by–elec·tion *also* **bye–election** \'bī-ə-ˌlek-shən\ *n* : a special election held between regular elections in order to fill a vacancy

by·gone \'bī-ˌgȯn *also* -ˌgän\ *adj* : gone by : PAST; *esp* : OUTMODED — **bygone** *n*

by·law *or* **bye·law** \'bī-ˌlȯ\ *n* [ME *bilawe*, prob. fr. (assumed) ON *bȳlǫg*, fr. ON *bȳr* town + *lǫg* law] : a rule adopted by an organization chiefly for the government of its members and the regulation of its affairs

¹by–line \'bī-ˌlīn\ *n* **1** : a secondary line : SIDELINE **2** : a line at the head of a newspaper or magazine article giving the writer's name

²by–line *vt* : to write (an article) under a by-line — **by·lin·er** \-ˌlī-nər\ *n*

by·name \'bī-ˌnām\ *n* **1** : a secondary name **2** : NICKNAME

BYO *abbr* bring your own

BYOB *abbr* bring your own booze; bring your own bottle

byp *abbr* bypass

¹by·pass \'bī-ˌpas\ *n* **1** : a passage to one side; *esp* : a deflected route usu. around a town **2** **a** : a channel carrying a fluid around a part and back to the main stream **b** : SHUNT 1b

²bypass *vt* **1** **a** : to avoid by means of a bypass **b** : to cause to follow a bypass **2** **a** : to neglect or ignore usu. intentionally **b** : CIRCUMVENT

by·past \'bī-ˌpast\ *adj* : BYGONE

by·path \-ˌpath, -ˌpȧth\ *n* : BYWAY

by·play \-ˌplā\ *n* : action engaged in on the side while the main action proceeds (as during a dramatic production)

by–prod·uct \-ˌpräd-(ˌ)əkt\ *n* **1** : something produced (as in manufacturing) in addition to the principal product **2** : a secondary and sometimes unexpected or unintended result

byre \'bī(ə)r\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bȳre;* akin to OE *būr* dwelling — more at BOWER] *chiefly Brit* : a cow barn
by·road \'bī-ˌrōd\ *n* : BYWAY
By·ron·ic \bī-'rän-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of the poet Byron or his writings — **By·ron·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **By·ron·ism** \'bī-rə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*
bys·si·no·sis \ˌbis-ə-'nō-səs\ *n, pl* **-no·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. L *byssinus* of fine linen, fr. Gk *byssinos*, fr. *byssos* byssus] : a chronic industrial disease associated with the inhalation of cotton dust over a long period of time and characterized by chronic bronchitis sometimes complicated by emphysema or asthma
bys·sus \'bis-əs\ *n, pl* **bys·sus·es** *or* **bys·si** \-ˌī, -(ˌ)ē\ [L, fr. Gk *byssos* flax, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *būs* linen cloth] **1** : a fine prob. linen cloth of ancient times **2** [NL, fr. L] : a tuft of long tough filaments by which some bivalve mollusks (as mussels) make themselves fast
by·stand·er \'bī-ˌstan-dər\ *n* : one present but not taking part in a situation or event : a chance spectator
by·street \-ˌstrēt\ *n* : a street off a main thoroughfare : side street
byte \'bīt\ *n* [perh. alter. of ²*bite*] : a group of adjacent binary digits often shorter than a word that a computer processes as a unit ⟨an 8-bit ~⟩
by the way *adv* : in passing : INCIDENTALLY
by virtue of *prep* : as a result of
by·way \'bī-ˌwā\ *n* **1** : a little traveled side road **2** : a secondary or little known aspect or field ⟨meandering more and more in the fascinating ~*s* of learning —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩
by·word \-ˌwərd\ *n* **1** : a proverbial saying : PROVERB **2 a** : one that personifies a type **b** : one that is noteworthy or notorious **3** : EPITHET **4** : a frequently used word or phrase
¹Byz·an·tine \'biz-ᵊn-ˌtēn *also* -ˌtīn\ *n* : a native or inhabitant of Byzantium
²Byzantine *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the ancient city of Byzantium **2** : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a style of architecture developed in the Byzantine Empire esp. in the 5th and 6th centuries featuring the dome carried on pendentives over a square and incrustation with marble veneering and with colored mosaics on grounds of gold **3** : of or relating to the churches using a traditional Greek rite and subject to Eastern canon law **4** : LABYRINTHINE ⟨searching in the ~ complexity of the record for leads, defenses, and, in the case of Government lawyers, evidence of perjured testimony —B. L. Collier⟩
By·zan·tin·ist \'biz-ᵊn-ˌtē-nəst, -ˌtī-\ *n* : a student of Byzantine culture



¹c \'sē\ *n, pl* **c's** *or* **cs** \'sēz\ **1 a** : the 3d letter of the English alphabet **b** : a graphic representation of this letter **c** : a speech counterpart of orthographic *c* **2 a** : one hundred — see NUMBER table **b** *slang* : a sum of $100 **3** : the keynote of a C-major scale **4** : a graphic device for reproducing the letter *c* **5** : one designated *c* esp. as the 3d in order or class **6 a** : a grade rating a student's work as fair or mediocre in quality **b** : one graded or rated with a C **7** : something shaped like the letter C
²c *abbr, often cap* **1** calm **2** calorie **3** Canadian **4** canceled **5** candle **6** carat **7** case **8** castle **9** catcher **10** Catholic **11** cedi **12** Celsius **13** cent **14** centavo **15** center **16** centi- **17** centigrade **18** centime **19** centimeter **20** centum **21** century **22** chairman **23** chapter **24** circa **25** circuit **26** circumference **27** clockwise **28** cloudy **29** cobalt **30** cocaine **31** codex **32** coefficient **33** college **34** colon **35** color **36** colt **37** [L *congius*] gallon **38** congress **39** conservative **40** contralto **41** copyright **42** cost **43** cubic
³c *symbol* speed of light
C *symbol* **1** capacitance **2** carbon
ca *abbr* **1** centare **2** circa
Ca *symbol* calcium
CA *abbr* **1** California **2** chartered accountant **3** chief accountant **4** chronological age **5** commercial agent **6** controller of accounts **7** current account
ca' \'kȯ, 'kȧ\ *Scot var of* CALL
¹cab \'kab\ *n* [Heb *qabh*] : an ancient Hebrew unit of capacity equal to about two quarts
²cab \'kab\ *n* [short for *cabriolet*] **1 a** (1) : CABRIOLET (2) : a similar light closed carriage (as a hansom) **b** : a carriage for hire **2** : TAXICAB **3** [short for *cabin*] **a** : the part of a locomotive that houses the engineer and operating controls **b** : a comparable shelter on a truck, tractor, or crane
CAB *abbr* Civil Aeronautics Board
¹ca·bal \kə-'bal\ *n* [F *cabale* cabala, intrigue, cabal, fr. ML *cabbala* cabala, fr. LHeb *qabbālāh*, lit., received (lore)] **1** : a number of persons secretly united to bring about an overturn or usurpation esp. in public affairs **2** : the artifices and intrigues of such a group
²cabal *vi* **ca·balled; ca·bal·ling** : to unite in or form a cabal
ca·ba·la *or* **cab·ba·la** *or* **cab·ba·lah** \'kab-ə-lə, kə-'bäl-ə\ *n, often cap* [ML *cabbala*] **1** : a medieval and modern system of Jewish theosophy, mysticism, and thaumaturgy marked by belief in creation through emanation and a cipher method of interpreting Scripture **2 a** : a traditional, esoteric, occult, or secret matter **b** : esoteric doctrine or mysterious art — **cab·a·lism** \'kab-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* — **cab·a·lis·tic** \ˌkab-ə-'lis-tik\ *adj*
ca·ba·let·ta \ˌkab-ə-'let-ə, ˌkäb-\ *n* [It] : an operatic song in simple popular style characterized by a uniform rhythm
¹ca·ba·list \'kab-ə-ləst, kə-'bäl-əst\ *n* **1** *often cap* : a student, interpreter, or devotee of the Jewish cabala **2** : one skilled in esoteric doctrine or mysterious art
²ca·bal·ist \kə-'bal-əst\ *n* : a member of a cabal
ca·bal·le·ro \ˌkab-ə-'le(ə)r-(ˌ)ō, -ə(l)-'ye(ə)r-\ *n, pl* **-ros** [Sp, fr. LL *caballarius* hostler — more at CAVALIER] **1** : KNIGHT, CAVALIER **2** *chiefly Southwest* : HORSEMAN
ca·bana \kə-'ban-(y)ə\ *n* [Sp *cabaña*, lit., hut, fr. ML *capanna*] **1** : a shelter resembling a cabin usu. with an open side facing a beach or swimming pool **2** : a lightweight structure with living facilities
cabana set *n* : a two-piece beachwear ensemble for men consisting of loosely fitting shorts and a short-sleeved jacket
cab·a·ret \ˌkab-ə-'rā\ *n* [F, fr. ONF] **1** *archaic* : a shop selling wines and liquors **2** : a restaurant serving liquor and providing entertainment (as by singers or dancers); *also* : the show provided
¹cab·bage \'kab-ij\ *n, often attrib* [ME *caboche*, fr. ONF, head] **1** : a leafy garden plant (*Brassica oleracea capitata*) of European origin that has a short stem and a dense globular head of usu. green leaves and is used as a vegetable **2** : a terminal bud of a palm tree that resembles a head of cabbage and is eaten as a vegetable **3** *slang* : paper money or bank notes
²cabbage *n* [perh. by folk etymology fr. MF *cabas* cheating, theft] *Brit* : pieces of cloth left in cutting out garments and traditionally kept by tailors as perquisites
³cabbage *vt* **cab·baged; cab·bag·ing** : to take surreptitiously : STEAL, FILCH
cabbage butterfly *n* : any of several largely white butterflies (family Pieridae) whose green larvae are cabbageworms; *esp* : a small cosmopolitan butterfly (*Pieris rapae*) that is a universal pest on cabbage
cabbage looper *n* : a moth (*Trichoplusia ni*) whose pale green white-striped larva is a measuring worm that feeds on cruciferous plants (as the cabbage)
cabbage palm *n* : a palm with terminal buds eaten as a vegetable
cabbage palmetto *n* : a fan-leaved cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) native to coastal southern U.S. and the Bahamas
cab·bage·worm \'kab-ij-ˌwərm\ *n* : an insect larva (as of a cabbage butterfly) that feeds on cabbages
cab·by *or* **cab·bie** \'kab-ē\ *n, pl* **cabbies** : CABDRIVER
cab·driv·er \'kab-ˌdrī-vər\ *n* : a driver of a cab
ca·ber \'käb-ər, 'kā-bər\ *n* [ScGael *cabar*] : POLE; *esp* : a young tree trunk used for tossing as a trial of strength in a Scottish sport
¹cab·in \'kab-ən\ *n* [ME *cabane*, fr. MF, fr. OProv *cabana* hut, fr. ML *capanna*] **1 a** : a private room on a ship for one or a few persons — compare CABIN CLASS **b** : a compartment below deck on a small boat for passengers or crew **c** : an airplane or airship compartment for cargo, crew, or passengers **2** : a small one-story dwelling usu. of simple construction **3 a** *chiefly Brit* : CAB 3 **b** : the part of a passenger trailer used for living quarters
²cabin *vi* : to live in or as if in a cabin ~ *vt* : CONFINE
cabin boy *n* : a boy acting as servant on a ship
cabin car *n* : CABOOSE
cabin class *n* : a class of accommodations on a passenger ship superior to tourist class and inferior to first class
cabin cruiser *n* : CRUISER 3
¹cab·i·net \'kab-(ə-)nət\ *n* [MF, small room, dim. of ONF *cabine* gambling house] **1 a** : a case or cupboard usu. having doors and shelves **b** : a collection of specimens esp. of mineralogical, biological, or numismatic interest **c** : an upright case housing a radio or television receiver : CONSOLE **d** : a chamber having temperature and humidity controls and used esp. for incubating biological samples **2 a** *archaic* : a small room providing seclusion **b** : a small exhibition room in a museum **3 a** *archaic* (1) : the private room serving as council chamber of the chief councillors or ministers of a sovereign (2) : the consultations and actions of these councillors **b** (1) *often cap* : a body of advisers of a head of state (as a sovereign or president) (2) : a similar advisory council of a governor of a state or a mayor **c** *Brit* : a meeting of a cabinet
²cabinet *adj* **1** : suitable by reason of size for a small room or by reason of attractiveness or perfection for preservation and display

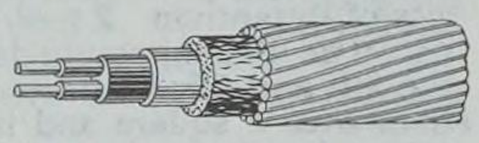
in a cabinet **2** : of or relating to a governmental cabinet **3 a** : used or adapted for cabinetmaking **b** : done or used by a cabinetmaker

cab·i·net·mak·er \-ˌmā-kər\ *n* : a skilled woodworker who makes fine furniture — **cab·i·net·mak·ing** \-ˌmā-kiŋ\ *n*

cab·i·net·work \-ˌwərk\ *n* : finished woodwork made by a cabinetmaker

cabin fever *n* : extreme irritability and restlessness resulting from the boredom of living in a remote region alone or with only a few companions; *also* : the same emotions resulting from living in a small enclosed space

¹ca·ble \'kā-bəl\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. ONF, fr. ML *capulum* lasso, fr. L *capere* to take — more at HEAVE] **1 a** : a strong rope esp. of 10 or more inches in circumference **b** : a cable-laid rope **c** : a wire rope or metal chain of great tensile strength **d** : a wire or wire rope by which force is exerted to control or operate a mechanism **2** : CABLE LENGTH **3 a** : an assembly of electrical conductors insulated from each other but laid up together usu. by being twisted around a central core **b** : CABLEGRAM **4** : something resembling or fashioned like a cable



cable 3a

²cable *vb* **ca·bled; ca·bling** \'kā-b(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* **1** : to fasten with or as if with a cable **2** : to provide with cables **3** : to telegraph by submarine cable **4** : to make into a cable or into a form resembling a cable ~ *vi* : to communicate by a submarine cable

cable car *n* : a car made to be moved on a railway by an endless cable operated by a stationary motor or along an overhead cable

ca·ble·gram \'kā-bəl-ˌgram\ *n* : a message sent by a submarine telegraph cable

ca·ble–laid \ˌkā-bəl-'lād\ *adj* : composed of three ropes laid together left-handed with each containing three strands twisted together ⟨~ rope⟩

cable length *n* : a maritime unit of length variously reckoned as 100 fathoms, 120 fathoms, or 608 feet

ca·blet \'kā-blət\ *n* : a small cable; *specif* : a cable-laid rope less than 10 inches in circumference

cable TV *n* : COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION — called also *cable television*

ca·ble·way \'kā-bəl-ˌwā\ *n* : a suspended cable used as a track along which carriers can be pulled

cab·man \'kab-mən\ *n* : CABDRIVER

cab·o·chon \'kab-ə-ˌshän\ *n* [MF, aug. of ONF *caboche* head] : a gem or bead cut in convex form and highly polished but not faceted; *also* : this style of cutting — **cabochon** *adv*

ca·boo·dle \kə-'büd-ᵊl\ *n* [prob. fr. *ca-* (intensive prefix, prob. of imit. origin) + *boodle*] : COLLECTION, LOT ⟨sell the whole ~⟩

ca·boose \kə-'büs\ *n* [prob. fr. D *kabuis*, fr. MLG *kabūse*] **1 a** : a ship's galley **b** : an open-air cooking oven **2** : a freight-train car attached usu. to the rear mainly for the use of the train crew **3** : one that follows or brings up the rear

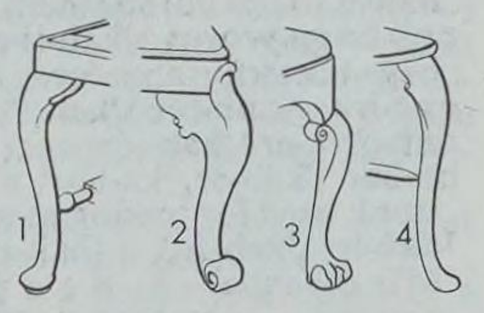
cab·o·tage \'kab-ə-ˌtäzh\ *n* [F, fr. *caboter* to sail along the coast] **1** : trade or transport in coastal waters or between two points within a country **2** : the right to engage in cabotage

ca·bret·ta \kə-'bret-ə\ *n* [modif. of Pg and Sp *cabra* goat] : a light soft leather from hair sheepskins

ca·bril·la \kə-'brē-(y)ə, -'bril-ə\ *n* [Sp, fr. dim. of *cabra* goat, fr. L *capra* she-goat, fem. of *caper* he-goat — more at CAPRIOLE] : any of various sea basses of the Mediterranean, the California coast, and the warmer parts of the western Atlantic

cab·ri·ole \'kab-rē-ˌōl\ *n* [F, caper] **1** : a curved furniture leg ending in an ornamental foot **2** : a ballet leap in which one leg is extended in mid-air and the other struck against it

cab·ri·o·let \ˌkab-rē-ə-'lā\ *n* [F, fr. dim. of *cabriole* caper, alter. of MF *capriole*] **1** : a light 2-wheeled one-horse carriage with a folding leather hood, a large apron, and upward-curving shafts **2** : a convertible coupe



cabrioles 1: *1* early 18th century, *2* mid-18th century, *3* early Georgian, *4* second half of 18th century

cab·stand \'kab-ˌstand\ *n* : a place where cabs await hire

cac- *or* **caco-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *kak-, kako-*, fr. *kakos* bad] : bad ⟨*caco*genics⟩

ca' can·ny \kȯ-'kan-ē\ *n, Brit* : SLOWDOWN — **ca' canny** *vi, Brit*

ca·cao \kə-'kaù, kə-'kā-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **cacaos** [Sp, fr. Nahuatl *cacahuatl* cacao beans] **1** : a So. American tree (*Theobroma cacao* of the family Sterculiaceae) with small yellowish flowers followed by fleshy yellow pods with many seeds — called also *chocolate tree* **2** : the dried partly fermented fatty seeds of the cacao used in making cocoa, chocolate, and cocoa butter — called also *cacao bean, cocoa bean*

cacao butter *var of* COCOA BUTTER

cac·cia·to·re \ˌkäch-ə-'tōr-ē, -'tȯr-\ *adj* [It, fr. *cacciatore* hunter] : cooked with tomatoes and herbs and sometimes with wine ⟨veal ~⟩

cach·a·lot \'kash-ə-ˌlät, -ˌlō\ *n* [F] : SPERM WHALE

¹cache \'kash\ *n* [F, fr. *cacher* to press, hide, fr. (assumed) VL *coacticare* to press together, fr. L *coactare* to compel, fr. *coactus*, pp. of *cogere* to compel — more at COGENT] **1 a** : a hiding place esp. for concealing and preserving provisions or implements **b** : a secure place of storage **2** : something hidden or stored in a cache

²cache *vt* **cached; cach·ing** : to place, hide, or store in a cache

ca·chec·tic \kə-'kek-tik, ka-\ *adj* [F *cachectique*, fr. L *cachecticus*, fr. Gk *kachektikos*, fr. *kak-* + *echein*] : affected by cachexia

cache·pot \'kash-ˌpät, 'kash-(ə-)ˌpō\ *n* [F, fr. *cacher* to hide + *pot* pot] : an ornamental receptacle to hold and usu. to conceal a flowerpot

ca·chet \ka-'shā\ *n* [MF, fr. *cacher* to press, hide] **1 a** : a seal used esp. as a mark of official approval **b** : an indication of approval carrying great prestige **2 a** : a characteristic feature or quality conferring prestige **b** : PRESTIGE **3** : a flour-paste case in which an unpleasant medicine is swallowed **4 a** : a design or inscription on an envelope to commemorate a postal or philatelic event **b** : an advertisement forming part of a postal meter impression **c** : a motto or slogan included in a postal cancellation

ca·chex·ia \kə-'kek-sē-ə, ka-\ *also* **ca·chexy** \kə-'kek-sē, ka-; 'kak-ˌek-\ *n* [LL *cachexia*, fr. Gk *kachexia* bad condition, fr. *kak-* cac- + *hexis* condition, fr. *echein* to have, be disposed — more at SCHEME] : general physical wasting and malnutrition usu. associated with chronic disease

cach·in·nate \'kak-ə-ˌnāt\ *vi* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [L *cachinnatus*, pp. of *cachinnare*, of imit. origin] : to laugh loudly or immoderately — **cach·in·na·tion** \ˌkak-ə-'nā-shən\ *n*

ca·chou \ka-'shü, 'kash-(ˌ)ü\ *n* [F, fr. Pg *cachu*, fr. Malayalam *kāccu*] **1** : CATECHU **2** : a pill or pastille used to sweeten the breath

ca·chu·cha \kə-'chü-chə\ *n* [Sp, small boat, cachucha] : a gay Andalusian solo dance in triple time done with castanets

ca·cique \kə-'sēk\ *n* [Sp, of Arawakan origin; akin to Taino *cacique* chief] **1 a** : a native Indian chief in areas dominated primarily by a Spanish culture **b** : a local political boss in Spain and Latin America **2** [AmerSp, fr. Sp] : any of numerous tropical American orioles (as of the genus *Cacicus*) having the base of the bill expanded into a frontal shield — **ca·ciqu·ism** \-'sē-ˌkiz-əm\ *n*

cack·le \'kak-əl\ *vi* **cack·led; cack·ling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *cakelen*, of imit. origin] **1** : to make the sharp broken noise or cry characteristic of a hen esp. after laying **2** : to laugh in a way suggestive of a hen's cackle **3** : CHATTER — **cackle** *n* — **cack·ler** \-(ə-)lər\ *n*

caco·de·mon \ˌkak-ə-'dē-mən\ *n* [Gk *kakodaimōn*, fr. *kak-* cac- + *daimōn* spirit] : DEMON — **caco·de·mon·ic** \-di-'män-ik\ *adj*

cac·o·dyl \'kak-ə-ˌdil\ *n* [ISV, fr. Gk *kakōdēs* ill smelling, fr. *kak-* + *-ōdēs* (akin to Gk *ozein* to smell) — more at ODOR] **1** : an arsenical radical $As(CH_3)_2$ whose compounds have a vile smell and are usu. poisonous **2** : a colorless liquid $As_2(CH_3)_4$ consisting of two cacodyl radicals

cac·o·dyl·ic acid \ˌkak-ə-ˌdil-ik-\ *n* : a toxic crystalline compound of arsenic $C_2H_7AsO_2$ used esp. as an herbicide

caco·ë·thes \ˌkak-ə-'wē-(ˌ)thēz\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *kakoēthes* wickedness, fr. neut. of *kakoēthēs* malignant, fr. *kak-* cac- + *ēthos* character — more at ETHICAL] : an insatiable desire : MANIA

caco·gen·e·sis \ˌkak-ə-'jen-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] : racial deterioration esp. when due to the retention of inferior breeding stock — **caco·gen·ic** \-'jen-ik\ *adj*

caco·gen·ics \-'jen-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [*cac-* + *-genics* (as in *eugenics*)] **1** : DYSGENICS **2** : CACOGENESIS

ca·cog·ra·phy \ka-'käg-rə-fē\ *n* **1** : bad handwriting — compare CALLIGRAPHY **2** : bad spelling — compare ORTHOGRAPHY — **caco·graph·i·cal** \ˌkak-ə-'graf-i-kəl\ *adj*

cac·o·mis·tle \'kak-ə-ˌmis-əl, ˌkak-ə-'mis(t)-lē\ *n* [MexSp, fr. Nahuatl *tlacomiztli*, fr. *tlaco* half + *miztli* mountain lion] : a carnivore (*Bassariscus astutus*) related to and resembling the raccoon; *also* : its fur or pelt

ca·coph·o·nous \ka-'käf-ə-nəs\ *adj* [Gk *kakophōnos*, fr. *kak-* + *phōnē* voice, sound — more at BAN] : marked by cacophony : harsh-sounding — **ca·coph·o·nous·ly** *adv*

ca·coph·o·ny \-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** : harsh or discordant sound : DISSONANCE; *specif* : harshness in the sound of words or phrases

cac·tus \'kak-təs\ *n, pl* **cac·ti** \-ˌtī, -(ˌ)tē\ *or* **cac·tus·es** [NL, genus name, fr. L, cardoon, fr. Gk *kaktos*] : any of a family (Cactaceae, the cactus family) of plants that have fleshy stems and branches with scales or spines instead of leaves and are found esp. in dry areas (as deserts)

ca·cu·mi·nal \ka-'kyü-mən-ᵊl, kə-\ *adj* [ISV, fr. L *cacumin-, cacumen* top, point] : RETROFLEX

cad \'kad\ *n* [E dial., unskilled assistant, short for Sc *caddie*] **1** *obs* : an omnibus conductor **2** : a person without gentlemanly instincts

ca·das·tral \kə-'das-trəl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a cadastre **2** : showing or recording property boundaries, subdivision lines, buildings, and related details — **ca·das·tral·ly** \-trə-lē\ *adv*

ca·das·tre \kə-'das-tər\ *n* [F, fr. It *catastro*, fr. OIt *catastico*, fr. LGk *katastichon* notebook, fr. Gk *kata* by + *stichos* row, line — more at CATA-, DISTICH] : an official register of the quantity, value, and ownership of real estate used in apportioning taxes

ca·dav·er \kə-'dav-ər\ *n* [L, fr. *cadere* to fall] : a dead body usu. intended for dissection — **ca·dav·er·ic** \-(ə-)rik\ *adj*

ca·dav·er·ine \kə-'dav-ə-ˌrēn\ *n* : a syrupy colorless poisonous ptomaine $C_5H_{14}N_2$ formed by decarboxylation of lysine esp. in putrefaction of flesh

ca·dav·er·ous \kə-'dav-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to a corpse **b** : suggestive of corpses or tombs **2 a** : PALLID, LIVID **b** : GAUNT, EMACIATED — **ca·dav·er·ous·ly** *adv*

cad·die *or* **cad·dy** \'kad-ē\ *n, pl* **caddies** [F *cadet* military cadet] **1** *Scot* : one that waits about for odd jobs **2 a** : one that assists a golfer esp. by carrying his clubs **b** : a wheeled device for conveying things not readily carried by hand — **caddie** *or* **caddy** *vi*

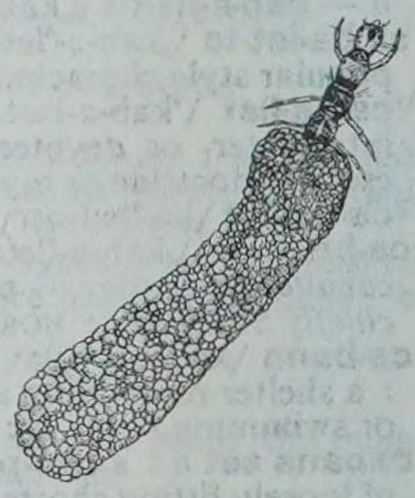
¹cad·dis *also* **cad·dice** \'kad-əs\ *n* [ME *cadas* cotton wool, prob. fr. MF *cadaz*, fr. OProv *cadarz*] : worsted yarn; *specif* : a worsted ribbon or binding formerly used for garters and girdles

²caddis *or* **caddice** *n* : CADDISWORM

caddis fly *n* : any of an order (Trichoptera) of insects with four membranous wings, vestigial mouthparts, slender many-jointed antennae, and aquatic larvae — compare CADDISWORM

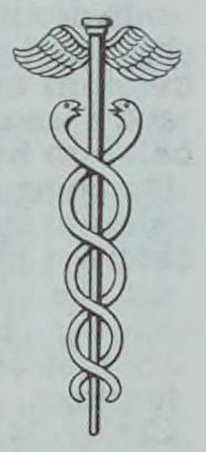
cad·dish \'kad-ish\ *adj* : resembling a cad — **cad·dish·ly** *adv* — **cad·dish·ness** *n*

cad·dis·worm \'kad-ə-ˌswərm\ *n* [prob. alter. of obs. *codworm;* fr. the case or tube in which it lives] : the larva of a caddis fly that lives in and carries around a silken case covered with bits of debris

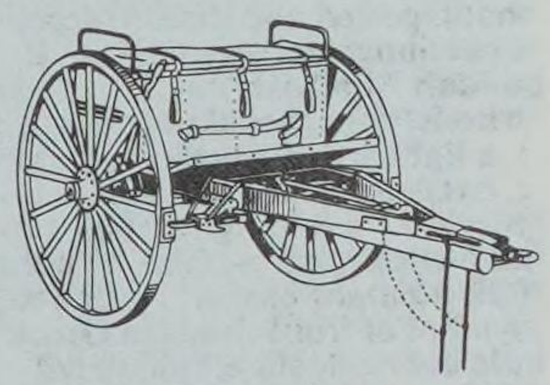


caddisworm

Cad·do \'kad-(,)ō\ *n, pl* **Caddo** *or* **Caddos** : a member of an Amerindian people ranging from No. Dakota south to Texas
cad·dy \'kad-ē\ *n, pl* **caddies** [Malay *kati* catty] **1** : a small box, can, or chest used esp. to keep tea in **2** : a container or device for storing or holding objects when they are not in use
[1]cade \'kād\ *adj* [E dial. *cade* pet lamb, fr. ME *cad*] : left by its mother and reared by hand : PET ⟨a ~ lamb⟩ ⟨a ~ colt⟩
[2]cade *n* [MF, fr. OProv, fr. ML *catanus*] : a European juniper (*Juniperus oxycedrus*) whose wood yields by distillation a dark tarry liquid used locally in treating skin diseases
-cade \ˌkād, 'kād\ *n comb form* [*cavalcade*] : procession ⟨motor*cade*⟩
ca·delle \kə-'del\ *n* [F, fr. Prov *cadello*, fr. L *catella*, fem. of *catellus* little dog, dim. of *catulus* young animal] : a small cosmopolitan black beetle (*Tenebroides mauritanicus*) destructive to stored grain
ca·dence \'kād-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* [ME, fr. OIt *cadenza*, fr. *cadere* to fall, fr. L — more at CHANCE] **1 a** : a rhythmic sequence or flow of sounds in language **b** : the beat, time, or measure of rhythmical motion or activity **2 a** : a falling inflection of the voice **b** : a concluding and usu. falling strain; *specif* : a musical chord sequence moving to a harmonic close or point of rest and giving the sense of harmonic completion **3** : the modulated and rhythmic recurrence of a sound esp. in nature — **ca·denced** \-ᵊn(t)st\ *adj* — **ca·den·tial** \kā-'den-chəl\ *adj*
ca·den·cy \'kād-ᵊn-sē\ *n* : CADENCE
ca·dent \'kād-ᵊnt\ *adj* [L *cadent-, cadens*, prp. of *cadere*] **1** *archaic* : being in the process of falling ⟨with ~ tears fret channels in her cheeks—Shak.⟩ **2** : having rhythmic fall
ca·den·za \kə-'den-zə\ *n* [It, cadence, cadenza] **1** : a parenthetic flourish in an aria or other solo piece commonly just before a final or other important cadence **2** : a technically brilliant sometimes improvised solo passage toward the close of a concerto
ca·det \kə-'det\ *n, often attrib* [F, fr. F dial. *capdet* chief, fr. LL *capitellum*, dim. of L *capit-, caput* head — more at HEAD] **1 a** : a younger brother or son **b** : youngest son **c** : a younger branch of a family or a member of it **2** : one in training for a military or naval commission; *esp* : a student in a service academy **3** : a junior in a business or occupation who is engaged principally in learning **4** *slang* : PIMP — **ca·det·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
Ca·dette scout \kə-ˌdet-\ *n* [fr. *cadet*, after such pairs as F *brunet* male brunet: *brunette* female brunet] : a member of the Girl Scouts from 12 through 14 years of age
cadge \'kaj\ *vb* **cadged; cadg·ing** [back-formation fr. Sc *cadger* carrier, huckster, fr. ME *cadgear*, fr. *caggen* to tie] : BEG, SPONGE — **cadg·er** *n*
cad·mi·um \'kad-mē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. L *cadmia* calamine; fr. the occurrence of its ores together with calamine — more at CALAMINE] : a bluish white malleable ductile toxic bivalent metallic element used esp. in protective platings and in bearing metals — see ELEMENT table
Cad·mus \'kad-məs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kadmos*] : the legendary founder of Thebes
CADO *abbr* Central Air Documents Office
cad·re \'kad-rē, 'käd-, -ˌrā\ *n* [F, fr. It *quadro*, fr. L *quadrum* square — more at QUARREL] **1** : FRAME, FRAMEWORK **2** : a nucleus esp. of trained personnel capable of assuming control and of training others
ca·du·ceus \kə-'d(y)ü-sē-əs, -shəs\ *n, pl* **-cei** \-sē-ˌī\ [L, modif. of Gk *karykeion*, fr. *karyx, kēryx* herald; akin to OE *hrēth* glory] **1** : the symbolic staff of a herald; *specif* : a representation of a staff with two entwined snakes and two wings at the top **2** : an insignia bearing a caduceus and symbolizing a physician — **ca·du·cean** \-sē-ən, -shən\ *adj*


caduceus 2

ca·du·ci·ty \kə-'d(y)ü-sət-ē\ *n* [F *caducité*, fr. *caduc* transitory, fr. L *caducus*] **1** : the quality of being transitory or perishable **2** : SENILITY
ca·du·cous \kə-'d(y)ü-kəs\ *adj* [L *caducus* tending to fall, transitory, fr. *cadere* to fall — more at CHANCE] : falling off easily or before the usual time — used esp. of floral organs
cae·cal, cae·cum *var of* CECAL, CECUM
cae·ci·lian \si-'sil-yən, -'sēl-, -ē-ən\ *n* [deriv. of L *caecilia*, a lizard, fr. *caecus* blind] : any of an order (Gymnophiona) of chiefly tropical burrowing amphibians resembling worms — **caecilian** *adj*
caen- *or* **caeno-** — see CEN-
Caer·phil·ly \kär-'fil-ē\ *n* [*Caerphilly*, urban district in Wales] : a mild white whole-milk Welsh cheese
Cae·sar \'sē-zər\ *n* [Gaius Julius *Caesar*] **1** : any of the Roman emperors succeeding Augustus Caesar — used as a title **2 a** *often not cap* : a powerful ruler: (1) : EMPEROR (2) : AUTOCRAT, DICTATOR **b** [fr. the reference in Mt 22:21] : the civil power : a temporal ruler
caesarean *or* **caesarian** *often cap, var of* CESAREAN
Cae·sar·ism \'sē-zə-ˌriz-əm\ *n* : imperial authority or system : political absolutism : DICTATORSHIP — **Cae·sar·ist** \-zə-rəst\ *n*
Cae·sar salad \ˌsē-zər-\ *n* [*Caesar*'s, restaurant in Tijuana, Mexico] : a tossed salad made typically with romaine, garlic, anchovies, and croutons and served with a dressing of olive oil, coddled egg, lemon juice, and grated cheese
cae·si·um *var of* CESIUM
caes·pi·tose \'ses-pə-ˌtōs\ *adj* [NL *caespitosus*, fr. L *caespit-, caespes* turf] **1** : forming a dense turf **2** : growing in clusters or tufts
cae·su·ra \si-'z(h)ůr-ə\ *n, pl* **-suras** *or* **-su·rae** \-'z(h)ů(ə)r-(ˌ)ē\ [LL, fr. L, act of cutting, fr. *caedere* to cut — more at CONCISE] **1** *in Greek and Latin prosody* : a break in the flow of sound in a verse caused by the ending of a word within a foot **2** *in modern prosody* : a usu. rhetorical break in the flow of sound in the middle of a line of verse **3** : BREAK, INTERRUPTION **4** : a pause marking a rhythmic point of division in a melody — **cae·su·ral** \-'z(h)ůr-əl\ *adj*
CAF *abbr* cost and freight
ca·fé *also* **ca·fe** \ka-'fā, kə-\ *n, often attrib* [F *café* coffee, café, fr. Turk *kahve* — more at COFFEE] **1** : COFFEE **2** : RESTAURANT **3** : BARROOM **4** : CABARET, NIGHTCLUB
ca·fé au lait \(ˌ)ka-ˌfā-ō-'lā\ *n* [F, coffee with milk] **1** : coffee with usu. hot milk in about equal parts **2** : the color of coffee with milk
ca·fé noir \(ˌ)ka-ˌfān-(ə-)'wär\ *n* [F, black coffee] : coffee without milk or cream; *also* : DEMITASSE
caf·e·te·ria \ˌkaf-ə-'tir-ē-ə\ *n* [AmerSp *cafetería* retail coffee store, fr. Sp *café* coffee] : a restaurant in which the customers serve themselves or are served at a counter and take the food to tables to eat
caf·e·to·ri·um \-'tōr-ē-əm, -'tȯr-\ *n* [blend of *cafeteria* and *auditorium*] : a large room (as in a school building) designed for use both as a cafeteria and an auditorium
caf·feine \ka-'fēn, 'ka-ˌ\ *n* [G *kaffein*, fr. *kaffee* coffee, fr. F *café*] : a bitter compound $C_8H_{10}N_4O_2$ found esp. in coffee, tea, and kola nuts and used medicinally as a stimulant and diuretic — **caf·feinic** \ka-'fē-nik, ˌkaf-ē-'in-ik\ *adj*
caf·tan \kaf-'tan, 'kaf-ˌ\ *n* [Russ *kaftan*, fr. Turk, fr. Per *qaftān*] : a usu. cotton or silk ankle-length garment with long sleeves that is common throughout the Levant
[1]cage \'kāj\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *cavea* cavity, cage, fr. *cavus* hollow — more at CAVE] **1** : a box or enclosure having some openwork for confining or carrying animals (as birds) **2 a** : a barred cell for confining prisoners **b** : a fenced area for prisoners of war **3** : a framework serving as support ⟨the steel ~ of a skyscraper⟩ **4** : an enclosure resembling a cage in form or purpose **5 a** : a screen placed behind home plate to stop baseballs during batting practice **b** : a goal structure consisting of posts or a frame with a net attached (as in ice hockey) **c** : FIELD HOUSE 2; *also* : a basketball court **6** : a large building with unobstructed area for practicing outdoor sports and often adapted for indoor events **7** : a sheer one-piece dress that has no waistline, is often gathered at the neck, and is worn over a close-fitting underdress or slip
[2]cage *vt* **caged; cag·ing** **1** : to confine or keep in or as if in a cage **2** : to put (as a puck) into a cage and score a goal
cage bird *n* : a bird adaptable to being kept in a cage
cage·ling \'kāj-liŋ\ *n* : a caged bird
ca·gey *also* **ca·gy** \'kā-jē\ *adj* **ca·gi·er; -est** [origin unknown] **1** : hesitant about committing oneself **2** : wary of being trapped or deceived : SHREWD — **ca·gi·ly** \-jə-lē\ *adv* — **ca·gi·ness** *also* **ca·gey·ness** \-jē-nəs\ *n*
CAGS *abbr* Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study
ca·hier \kä-'yā, kī-'ā\ *n* [F, fr. MF *quaer, caier* quire — more at QUIRE] **1** : a report or memorial concerning policy esp. of a parliamentary body **2** : a number of sheets of paper put together for binding or bound loosely
ca·hoot \kə-'hüt\ *n* [perh. fr. F *cahute* cabin, hut] : PARTNERSHIP, LEAGUE — usu. used in pl. ⟨in ~s with the devil⟩
ca·how \kə-'haů\ *n* [imit.] : a brown-and-white earth-burrowing nocturnal bird (*Pterodroma cahow*) formerly abundant in Bermuda but now nearly extinct
CAI *abbr* computer-aided instruction; computer-assisted instruction
cai·man \'kā-mən; kā-'man, kī-\ *n* [Sp *caimán*, prob. fr. Carib *caymán*] : any of several Central and So. American crocodilians similar to alligators but often superficially resembling crocodiles
Cain \'kān\ *n* [Heb *Qayin*] : the brother and murderer of Abel
-caine \ˌkān, 'kān\ *n comb form* [G *-kain*, fr. *kokain* cocaine] : synthetic alkaloid anesthetic ⟨pro*caine*⟩
ca·ïque \kä-'ēk, 'kīk\ *n* [Turk *kayık*] **1** : a light skiff used on the Bosporus **2** : a Levantine sailing vessel
caird \'ke(ə)rd\ *n* [ScGael *ceard;* akin to Gk *kerdos* profit] *Scot* : a traveling tinker; *also* : TRAMP, GYPSY
cairn \'ka(ə)rn, 'ke(ə)rn\ *n* [ME *carne*, fr. ScGael *carn;* akin to OIr & W *carn* cairn] : a heap of stones piled up as a memorial or as a landmark — **cairned** \'ka(ə)rnd, 'ke(ə)rnd\ *adj*
cairn·gorm \'ka(ə)rn-ˌgȯ(ə)rm, 'ke(ə)rn-\ *n* [*Cairngorm*, mountain in Scotland] : a yellow or smoky-brown crystalline quartz
cairn terrier *n* [fr. its use in hunting among cairns] : a small compactly built hard-coated terrier of Scottish origin
cais·son \'kā-ˌsän, 'kās-ᵊn\ *n* [F, aug. of *caisse* box, fr. OProv *caisa*, fr. L *capsa* chest, case — more at CASE] **1 a** : a chest to hold ammunition **b** : a usu. 2-wheeled vehicle for artillery ammunition attachable to a horse-drawn limber **2 a** : a watertight chamber used in construction work under water or as a foundation **b** : a float for raising a sunken vessel **c** : a hollow floating box or a boat used as a floodgate for a dock or basin **3** : COFFER 4


caisson 1b

caisson disease *n* : a sometimes fatal disorder that is marked by neuralgic pains and paralysis, distress in breathing, and often collapse and that is caused by the release of gas bubbles in tissue upon too rapid decrease in air pressure after a stay in a compressed atmosphere — called also *bends*
Caith *abbr* Caithness
cai·tiff \'kāt-əf\ *adj* [ME *caitif*, fr. ONF, captive, vile, fr. L *captivus* captive] : being base, cowardly, or despicable — **caitiff** *n*
ca·jole \kə-'jōl\ *vt* **ca·joled; ca·jol·ing** [F *cajoler* to chatter like a jay in a cage, cajole, alter. of MF *gaioler*, fr. ONF *gaiole* birdcage,

fr. LL *caveola*, dim. of L *cavea* cage — more at CAGE] **1** : to persuade with deliberate flattery esp. in the face of reluctance ⟨the women ~ their husbands into giving them a vote —Kathleen Karr⟩ **2** : to deceive with soothing words or false promises — **ca·jole·ment** \-'jōl-mənt\ *n* — **ca·jol·er** *n* — **ca·jol·ery** \-'jōl-(ə-)rē\ *n*

Ca·jun *also* **Ca·jan** \'kā-jən\ *n* [by alter. of *Acadian*] **1** : ACADIAN 2a **2** *usu Cajan* : one of a people of mixed white, Indian, and Negro ancestry in southwest Alabama and southeast Mississippi

[1]cake \'kāk\ *n* [ME, fr. ON *kaka*; akin to OHG *kuocho* cake] **1 a** : batter that may be fried or baked into a usu. small round flat shape **b** : sweet batter or dough usu. containing a leaven (as baking powder) that is first baked and then often coated with an icing **c** : a flattened usu. round mass of food that is baked or fried ⟨a codfish ~⟩ **2 a** : a block of compacted or congealed matter ⟨a ~ of ice⟩ **b** : a hard or brittle layer or deposit ⟨~ formed in a smoker's pipe⟩

[2]cake *vb* **caked; cak·ing** *vt* **1** : ENCRUST ⟨*caked* with dust⟩ **2** : to fill (a space) with a packed mass ~ *vi* : to form or harden into a mass

cake·walk \'kā-ˌkwȯk\ *n* **1** : an American Negro entertainment having a cake as prize for the most accomplished steps and figures in walking **2** : a stage dance developed from walking steps and figures typically involving a high prance with backward tilt **3** : a one-sided contest — **cakewalk** *vi* — **cake·walk·er** *n*

cal *abbr* **1** calendar **2** caliber **3** calorie

Cal *abbr* **1** California **2** large calorie

Cal·a·bar bean \ˌkal-ə-ˌbär-\ *n* [*Calabar*, Nigeria] : the dark brown highly poisonous seed of a tropical African woody vine (*Physostigma venenosum*) that is used as a source of physostigmine and as an ordeal poison in native witchcraft trials

cal·a·bash \'kal-ə-ˌbash\ *n* [F & Sp; F *calebasse* gourd, fr. Sp *calabaza*, prob. fr. Ar *qar'ah yābisah* dry gourd] **1** : GOURD; *esp* : one whose hard shell is used for a utensil (as a bottle) **2** : a tropical American tree (*Crescentia cujete*) of the trumpet-creeper family; *also* : its hard globose fruit **3** : a utensil made from the shell of a calabash

cal·a·boose \'kal-ə-ˌbüs\ *n* [Sp *calabozo* dungeon] *dial* : JAIL; *esp* : a local jail

ca·la·di·um \kə-'lād-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Malay *kĕladi*, an aroid plant] : any of a genus (*Caladium*, esp. *C. bicolor*) of tropical American ornamental plants of the arum family with showy variously colored leaves

cal·a·man·der \'kal-ə-ˌman-dər, ˌkal-ə-'\ *n* [prob. fr. D *kalamanderhout* calamander wood] : the hazel-brown black-striped wood of an East Indian tree (genus *Diospyros*, esp. *D. quaesita*) that is used in furniture manufacturing

cal·a·mary \'kal-ə-ˌmer-ē\ *or* **cal·a·mar** \-ˌmär\ *n, pl* **-maries** *or* **-mars** [L *calamarius* of a pen, fr. *calamus* reed; fr. the shape of its inner shell] : SQUID

cal·a·mine \'kal-ə-ˌmīn, -mən\ *n* [F, ore of zinc, fr. ML *calamina*, alter. of L *cadmia*, fr. Gk *kadmeia*, lit., Theban (earth), fr. fem. of *kadmeios* Theban, fr. *Kadmos* Cadmus, founder of Thebes] : a mixture of zinc oxide with a small amount of ferric oxide used in lotions, liniments, and ointments

cal·a·mint \'kal-ə-ˌmint\ *n* [ME *calament*, fr. OF, fr. ML *calamentum*, fr. Gk *kalaminthē*] : any of a genus (*Satureja*, esp. *S. calamintha*) of mints — called also *basil thyme*

cal·a·mite \'kal-ə-ˌmīt\ *n* [NL *Calamites*, genus of fossil plants, fr. L *calamus*] : a Paleozoic fossil plant (esp. genus *Calamites*) resembling a giant horsetail

ca·lam·i·tous \kə-'lam-ət-əs\ *adj* : causing or accompanied by calamity — **ca·lam·i·tous·ly** *adv* — **ca·lam·i·tous·ness** *n*

ca·lam·i·ty \kə-'lam-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [MF *calamité*, fr. L *calamitat-, calamitas*; akin to L *clades* destruction — more at HALT] **1** : a state of deep distress or misery caused by major misfortune or loss **2** : an extraordinarily grave event marked by great loss and lasting distress and affliction ***syn*** see DISASTER

cal·a·mon·din \ˌkal-ə-'män-dən\ *n* [Tag *kalamundíng*] : a small spiny citrus tree (*Citrus mitis*) of the Philippines; *also* : its fruit

cal·a·mus \'kal-ə-məs\ *n, pl* **-mi** \-ˌmī, -ˌmē\ [L, reed, reed pen, fr. Gk *kalamos* — more at HAULM] **1 a** : SWEET FLAG **b** : the aromatic peeled and dried rhizome of the calamus that is the source of a carcinogenic essential oil **2** : the barrel of a feather : QUILL

ca·lash \kə-'lash\ *n* [F *calèche*, fr. G *kalesche*, fr. Czech *kolesa* wheels, carriage; akin to Gk *kyklos* wheel — more at WHEEL] **1 a** : a light small-wheeled 4-passenger carriage with a folding top **b** : CALÈCHE 2 **2 a** : a large hood worn by women in the 18th century **b** : a folding carriage top

cal·a·thos \'kal-ə-ˌthäs\ *or* **cal·a·thus** \-thəs\ *n, pl* **-thi** \-ˌthī, -ˌthē\ [Gk *kalathos* basket] : a flared fruit basket borne on the head as a symbol of fruitfulness in Greek and Egyptian art

calc *abbr* calculate; calculated

calc- *or* **calci-** *or* **calco-** *comb form* [L *calc-, calx* lime — more at CHALK] : calcium : calcium salt ⟨*calc*ic⟩ ⟨*calci*fy⟩

cal·ca·ne·al \kal-'kā-nē-əl\ *adj* : relating to the heel or calcaneus

cal·ca·ne·um \-nē-əm\ *n, pl* **-nea** \-nē-ə\ [L, heel — more at CALK] **1** : CALCANEUS **2** : a process of the tarsometatarsus of a bird analogous to the calcaneus

cal·ca·ne·us \-nē-əs\ *n, pl* **-nei** \-nē-ˌī\ [LL, heel, alter. of L *calcaneum*] : a tarsal bone that in man is the great bone of the heel

cal·car \'kal-ˌkär\ *n, pl* **cal·car·ia** \kal-'kar-ē-ə, -'ker-\ [L, fr. *calc-, calx* heel — more at CALK] : a spurred prominence (as of the calcaneum of a bat)

cal·car·e·ous \kal-'kar-ē-əs, -'ker-\ *adj* [L *calcarius* of lime, fr. *calc-, calx* lime] **1 a** : resembling calcite or calcium carbonate esp. in hardness **b** : consisting of or containing calcium carbonate; *also* : containing calcium **2** : growing on limestone or in soil impregnated with lime — **cal·car·e·ous·ly** *adv* — **cal·car·e·ous·ness** *n*

cal·ce·o·lar·ia \ˌkal-sē-ə-'lar-ē-ə, -'ler-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L *calceolus* small shoe, dim. of *calceus* shoe, fr. *calc-, calx* heel] : any of a genus (*Calceolaria*) of tropical American plants of the snapdragon family with showy pouch-shaped flowers

calces *pl of* CALX

cal·cic \'kal-sik\ *adj* : derived from or containing calcium or lime : rich in calcium

cal·ci·cole \'kal-sə-ˌkōl\ *n* [F, calcicolous, fr. *calc-* + *-cole* -colous] : a plant normally growing on calcareous soils — **cal·cic·o·lous** \kal-'sik-ə-ləs\ *adj*

cal·cif·er·ol \kal-'sif-ə-ˌrȯl, -ˌrōl\ *n* [blend of *calciferous* + *ergosterol*] : VITAMIN D_2

cal·cif·er·ous \kal-'sif-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* : producing or containing calcium carbonate

cal·cif·ic \kal-'sif-ik\ *adj* [*calcify*] : involving or caused by calcification ⟨~ lesions⟩

cal·ci·fi·ca·tion \ˌkal-sə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* **1** : the process of calcifying; *specif* : deposition of insoluble lime salts (as in tissue) **2** : a calcified structure

cal·ci·fuge \'kal-sə-ˌfyüj\ *n* [F, calcifugous, fr. *calc-* + L *fugere* to flee — more at FUGITIVE] : a plant not normally growing on calcareous soils — **cal·cif·u·gous** \kal-'sif-yə-gəs\ *adj*

cal·ci·fy \'kal-sə-ˌfī\ *vb* **-fied; -fy·ing** *vt* **1** : to make calcareous by deposit of calcium salts **2** : to make inflexible or unchangeable ~ *vi* **1** : to become calcareous **2** : to become inflexible and changeless : HARDEN

cal·ci·mine \'kal-sə-ˌmīn\ *n* [alter. of *kalsomine*, of unknown origin] : a white or tinted wash that consists of glue, whiting or zinc white, and water and that is used esp. on plastered surfaces — **calcimine** *vt*

cal·ci·na·tion \ˌkal-sə-'nā-shən\ *n* : the act or process of calcining : the state of being calcined

[1]cal·cine \kal-'sīn, 'kal-ˌ\ *vb* **cal·cined; cal·cin·ing** [ME *calcenen*, fr. MF *calciner*, fr. L *calc-, calx* lime — more at CHALK] *vt* : to heat (as inorganic materials) to a high temperature but without fusing in order to drive off volatile matter or to effect changes (as oxidation or pulverization) ~ *vi* : to undergo calcination

[2]cal·cine \'kal-ˌsīn\ *n* : a product (as a metal oxide) of calcination or roasting

cal·ci·no·sis \ˌkal-sə-'nō-səs\ *n, pl* **-no·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, irreg. (influenced by ISV *calcine*) fr. *calc-* + *-osis*] : the abnormal deposition of calcium salts in a part or tissue of the body

cal·ci·phy·lax·is \ˌkal-sə-fə-'lak-səs\ *n, pl* **-lax·es** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *calc-* + ana*phylaxis*] : an adaptive response that follows systemic sensitization by a calcifying factor (as a vitamin D) and a challenge (as with a metallic salt) and that involves local inflammation and sclerosis with calcium deposition — **cal·ci·phy·lac·tic** \-'lak-tik\ *adj* — **cal·ci·phy·lac·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

cal·cite \'kal-ˌsīt\ *n* : a mineral $CaCO_3$ consisting of calcium carbonate crystallized in hexagonal form and including common limestone, chalk, and marble — **cal·cit·ic** \kal-'sit-ik\ *adj*

cal·ci·to·nin \ˌkal-sə-'tō-nən\ *n* [*calci-* + [1]*tonic* + *-in*] : THYROCALCITONIN

cal·ci·um \'kal-sē-əm\ *n, often attrib* [NL, fr. L *calc-, calx* lime] : a silver-white bivalent metallic element of the alkaline-earth group occurring only in combination — see ELEMENT table

calcium carbide *n* : a usu. dark gray crystalline compound CaC_2 used esp. for the generation of acetylene and for making calcium cyanamide

calcium carbonate *n* : a compound $CaCO_3$ found in nature as calcite and aragonite and in plant ashes, bones, and shells and used in making lime and portland cement

calcium chloride *n* : a white deliquescent salt $CaCl_2$ used in its anhydrous state as a drying and dehumidifying agent and in a hydrated state for controlling dust and ice on roads

calcium cyanamide *n* : a compound $CaCN_2$ used as a fertilizer and a weed killer and as a source of other nitrogen compounds

calcium hypochlorite *n* : a white powder $CaCl_2O_2$ used esp. as a bleaching agent and disinfectant

calcium light *n* : LIMELIGHT 1a, 1b

calcium phosphate *n* : any of various phosphates of calcium: as **a** : the phosphate $CaH_4P_2O_8$ used as a fertilizer and in baking powder **b** : the phosphate $CaHPO_4$ used in pharmaceutical preparations and animal feeds **c** : the phosphate $Ca_3P_2O_8$ used as a fertilizer **d** : a naturally occurring phosphate of calcium $Ca_5(F, Cl, OH, {}^1/_2CO_3)(PO_4)_3$ that contains other elements or radicals and is the chief constituent of phosphate rock, bones, and teeth

calcium silicate *n* : any of several silicates of calicum; *esp* : either of two Ca_3SiO_5 or Ca_2SiO_4 that are essential constituents of portland cement

calc·spar \'kalk-ˌspär\ *n* [part trans. of Sw *kalkspat*, fr. *kalk* lime + *spat* spar] : CALCITE

cal·cu·la·bil·i·ty \ˌkal-kyə-lə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* : the quality of being calculable

cal·cu·la·ble \'kal-kyə-lə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : subject to or ascertainable by calculation **2** : that may be counted on : DEPENDABLE ⟨a systematic man, as ~ as the stars⟩ — **cal·cu·la·ble·ness** *n* — **cal·cu·la·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

cal·cu·late \'kal-kyə-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *calculatus*, pp. of *calculare*, fr. *calculus* pebble (used in reckoning), dim. of *calc-, calx* stone used in gaming, lime — more at CHALK] *vt* **1 a** : to determine by mathematical processes **b** : to reckon by exercise of practical judgment : ESTIMATE **c** : to solve or probe the meaning of : figure out ⟨trying to ~ his expression —Hugh MacLennan⟩ **2** : to design or adapt for a purpose **3** *chiefly North* **a** : to judge to be true or probable **b** : INTEND ~ *vi* **1 a** : to make a calculation **b** : to forecast consequences **2** : COUNT, RELY

cal·cu·lat·ed \-ˌlāt-əd\ *adj* **1 a** : worked out by mathematical calculation **b** : engaged in, undertaken, or displayed after reckoning or estimating the statistical probability of success or failure ⟨a ~ risk⟩ **2** : planned or contrived to accomplish a purpose **3** : brought about by deliberate intent **4** : APT, LIKELY — **cal·cu·lat·ed·ly** *adv* — **cal·cu·lat·ed·ness** *n*

cal·cu·lat·ing \-ˌlāt-iŋ\ *adj* **1** : making calculations ⟨~ machine⟩ **2** : marked by prudent and deliberate analysis or by shrewd consideration of self-interest : SCHEMING — **cal·cu·lat·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

cal·cu·la·tion \ˌkal-kyə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the process or an act of calculating **b** : the result of an act of calculating **2 a** : studied

care in analyzing or planning **b** : cold heartless planning to promote self-interest ⟨by every effort of subterfuge and ~ —Hilaire Belloc⟩ — **cal·cu·lat·ive** \'kal-kyə-ˌlāt-iv\ *adj*

cal·cu·la·tor \'kal-kyə-ˌlāt-ər\ *n* **1** : one that calculates: as **a** : a mechanical or electronic device for performing mathematical calculations automatically **b** : a person who operates a calculator **2** : a set or book of tables for facilitating computations

cal·cu·lous \'kal-kyə-ləs\ *adj* : caused or characterized by a calculus or calculi

cal·cu·lus \-ləs\ *n, pl* **-li** \-ˌlī, -ˌlē\ *also* **-lus·es** [L, pebble, stone in the bladder or kidney, stone used in reckoning] **1** : a concretion usu. of mineral salts around organic material found esp. in hollow organs or ducts **2** *archaic* : CALCULATION **3** **a** : a method of computation or calculation in a special notation (as of logic or symbolic logic) **b** : the mathematical methods comprising differential and integral calculus

calculus of variations : a branch of mathematics dealing with maxima and minima of definite integrals which have an integrand that is a function of independent variables and of dependent variables and their derivatives

cal·de·ra \kal-'der-ə, kȯl-, -'dir-\ *n* [Sp, lit., caldron, fr. LL *caldaria*] : a crater with a diameter many times that of the volcanic vent formed by collapse of the central part of a volcano or by explosions of extraordinary violence

cal·dron \'kȯl-drən\ *n* [ME, alter. of *cauderon*, fr. ONF, dim. of *caudiere*, fr. LL *caldaria*, fr. L, warm bath, fr. fem. of *caldarius* suitable for warming, fr. *calidus* warm, fr. *calēre* to be warm — more at LEE] **1** : a large kettle or boiler **2** : something resembling a boiling caldron ⟨a ~ of intense emotions⟩

ca·lèche *or* **ca·leche** \kə-'lesh, -'lash\ *n* [F *calèche* — more at CALASH] **1** : CALASH 1a **2** : a 2-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle with a driver's seat on the splashboard used in Quebec **3** : CALASH 2a

cal·e·fac·to·ry \ˌkal-ə-'fak-t(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [ML *calefactorium*, fr. L *calefactus*, pp. of *calefacere* to warm — more at CHAFE] : a monastery room warmed and used as a sitting room

¹cal·en·dar \'kal-ən-dər\ *n* [ME *calender*, fr. AF or ML; AF *calender*, fr. ML *kalendarium*, fr. L, moneylender's account book, fr. *kalendae* calends] **1** : a system for fixing the beginning, length, and divisions of the civil year and arranging days and longer divisions of time (as weeks and months) in a definite order — see MONTH table **2** : a tabular register of days according to a system usu. covering one year and referring the days of each month to the days of the week **3** : an orderly list: as **a** : a list of cases to be tried in court **b** : a list of bills or other items reported out of committee for consideration by a legislative assembly **c** : a list of events giving dates and details **4** *Brit* : a university catalog

²calendar *vt* **-dared; -dar·ing** \-d(ə-)riŋ\ : to enter in a calendar

calendar year *n* **1** : a period of a year beginning and ending with the dates that are conventionally accepted as marking the beginning and end of a numbered year (as January 1 and December 31 in the Gregorian calendar) **2** : a period of time equal in length to that of the year in the calendar conventionally in use (as 365 days in the Gregorian calendar or when a Feb. 29 is included 366 days)

¹cal·en·der \'kal-ən-dər\ *vt* **-dered; -der·ing** \-d(ə-)riŋ\ [MF *calandrer*, fr. *calandre* machine for calendering, modif. of Gk *kylindros* cylinder — more at CYLINDER] : to press (as cloth, rubber, or paper) between rollers or plates in order to smooth and glaze or to thin into sheets — **cal·en·der·er** \-dər-ər\ *n*

²calender *n* : a machine for calendering something

³calender *n* [Per *qalandar*, fr. Ar, fr. Per *kalandar* uncouth man] : one of a Sufic order of wandering mendicant dervishes

ca·len·dri·cal \kə-'len-dri-kəl, ka-\ *also* **ca·len·dric** \-drik\ *adj* : of, relating to, characteristic of, or used in a calendar

cal·ends \'kal-ən(d)z, 'kāl-\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [ME *kalendes*, fr. L *kalendae, calendae*] : the 1st day of the ancient Roman month from which days were counted backward to the ides

ca·len·du·la \kə-'len-jə-lə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. ML, fr. L *calendae* calends] : any of a small genus (*Calendula*) of yellow-rayed composite herbs of temperate regions

cal·en·ture \'kal-ən-ˌchu̇(ə)r\ *n* [Sp *calentura*, fr. *calentar* to heat, fr. L *calent-, calens*, prp. of *calēre* to be warm — more at LEE] : a tropical fever caused by exposure to heat

¹calf \'kaf, 'kȧf\ *n, pl* **calves** \'kavz, 'kȧvz\ *also* **calfs** *often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *cealf*; akin to OHG *kalb* calf, ON *kālfi* calf of the leg, L *galla* gallnut] **1** **a** : the young of the domestic cow; *also* : that of a closely related mammal (as a bison or water buffalo) **b** : the young of various large animals (as the elephant and whale) **2** *pl* *calfs* : the hide of the domestic calf; *esp* : CALFSKIN **3** : an awkward or silly boy or youth **4** : a small mass of ice set free from a coast glacier or from an iceberg or floe — **calf·like** \'kaf-ˌlīk, 'kȧf-\ *adj* — **in calf** : PREGNANT — used of a cow

²calf *n, pl* **calves** \'kavz, 'kȧvz\ [ME, fr. ON *kālfi*] : the fleshy hinder part of the leg below the knee

calf love *n* : PUPPY LOVE

calf's–foot jelly \ˌkavz-ˌfu̇t-, ˌkafs-, ˌkȧvz-, ˌkȧfs-\ *n* : jelly made from gelatin obtained by boiling calves' feet

calf·skin \'kaf-ˌskin, 'kȧf-\ *n* : leather made of the skin of a calf

Cal·gon \'kal-ˌgän\ *trademark* — used for a water softener that is essentially a complex phosphate of sodium

Cal·i·ban \'kal-ə-ˌban\ *n* : a savage and deformed slave in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

cal·i·ber *or* **cal·i·bre** \'kal-ə-bər, *Brit also* kə-'lē-\ *n* [MF *calibre*, fr. OIt *calibro*, fr. Ar *qālib* shoemaker's last] **1** **a** : the diameter of a bullet or other projectile **b** : the diameter of a bore of a gun usu. expressed in modern U.S. and British usage in hundredths or thousandths of an inch and typically written as a decimal fraction ⟨.32 ~⟩ **2** : the diameter of a round body; *esp* : the internal diameter of a hollow cylinder **3** **a** : degree of mental capacity or moral quality **b** : degree of excellence or importance ***syn*** see QUALITY

cal·i·brate \'kal-ə-ˌbrāt\ *vt* **-brat·ed; -brat·ing** **1** : to ascertain the caliber of (as a thermometer tube) **2** : to determine, rectify, or mark the graduations of (as a thermometer tube) **3** : to standardize (as a measuring instrument) by determining the deviation from a standard so as to ascertain the proper correction factors — **cal·i·bra·tor** \-ˌbrāt-ər\ *n*

cal·i·bra·tion \ˌkal-ə-'brā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of calibrating : the state of being calibrated **2** : a set of graduations to indicate values or positions — usu. used in pl. ⟨~*s* on a gauge⟩ ⟨~*s* on a radio dial⟩

ca·li·che \kə-'lē-chē\ *n* [AmerSp, fr. Sp, flake of lime, fr. *cal* lime, fr. L *calx* — more at CHALK] **1** : the nitrate-bearing gravel or rock of the sodium nitrate deposits of Chile and Peru **2** : a crust of calcium carbonate that forms on the stony soil of arid regions

cal·i·co \'kal-i-ˌkō\ *n, pl* **-coes** *or* **-cos** [*Calicut*, India] **1** **a** : cotton cloth imported from India **b** *Brit* : a plain white cotton fabric that is heavier than muslin **c** : any of various cheap cotton fabrics with figured patterns **2** : a blotched or spotted animal (as a piebald horse) — **calico** *adj*

calico bass *n* **1** : BLACK CRAPPIE **2** : KELP BASS

calico bush *n* : MOUNTAIN LAUREL

calico printing *n* : the process of making fast-color designs on cotton fabrics (as calico)

Calif *abbr* California

Cal·i·for·nia condor \ˌkal-ə-ˌfȯr-nyə-\ *n* [*California*, state of U.S.] : a large nearly extinct vulture (*Gymnogyps californianus*) that is related to the condor of So. America and is found in the mountains of southern California

California laurel *n* : a Pacific coast tree (*Umbellularia californica*) of the laurel family with evergreen foliage and small umbellate flowers

California poppy *n* : any of a genus (*Eschscholtzia*) of herbs of the poppy family; *esp* : one (*E. californica*) widely cultivated for its pale yellow to red flowers

California rosebay *n* : a usu. pink-flowered rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*) of the Pacific coast

Cal·i·for·nio \ˌkal-ə-'fȯr-nē-ˌō\ *n, pl* **-nios** [Sp, fr. *California*] : one of the original Spanish colonists of California or their descendants

cal·i·for·ni·um \ˌkal-ə-'fȯr-nē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. *California*, U.S.] : a radioactive element discovered by bombarding curium 242 with alpha particles — see ELEMENT table

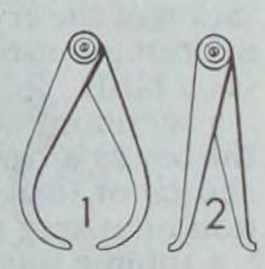
ca·lig·i·nous \kə-'lij-ə-nəs\ *adj* [MF or L; MF *caligineux*, fr. L *caliginosus*, fr. *caligin-, caligo* darkness; akin to Gk *kelainos* black — more at COLUMBINE] : MISTY, DARK

Ca·li·na·go \ˌkal-ə-'nä-(ˌ)gō\ *n* : an Arawakan language of the Lesser Antilles and Central America

cal·i·pash \'kal-ə-ˌpash, ˌkal-ə-'\ *n* : a fatty gelatinous dull greenish edible substance next to the upper shell of a turtle

cal·i·pee \'kal-ə-ˌpē, ˌkal-ə-'\ *n* : a fatty gelatinous light yellow edible substance attached to the lower shell of a turtle

¹cal·i·per *or* **cal·li·per** \'kal-ə-pər\ *n* [alter. of *caliber*] **1** **a** : a measuring instrument with two legs or jaws that can be adjusted to determine thickness, diameter, and distance between surfaces — usu. used in pl. ⟨a pair of ~*s*⟩ **b** : an instrument for measuring diameters (as of logs or trees) consisting of a graduated beam and at right angles to it a fixed arm and a movable arm **c** : a device consisting of two plates lined with a frictional material that press against the sides of a rotating wheel or disc in certain brake systems **2** : thickness esp. of paper, paperboard, or a tree



calipers 1a: *1* outside, *2* inside

²caliper *or* **calliper** *vt* **-pered; -per·ing** \-p(ə-)riŋ\ : to measure by or as if by calipers

ca·liph *or* **ca·lif** \'kā-ləf, 'kal-əf\ *n* [ME *caliphe*, fr. MF *calife*, fr. Ar *khalīfah* successor] : a successor of Muhammad as temporal and spiritual head of Islam — used as a title — **ca·liph·al** \-əl\ *adj*

ca·liph·ate \-ˌāt, -ət\ *n* : the office or dominion of a caliph

cal·is·then·ic \ˌkal-əs-'then-ik\ *adj* : of or relating to calisthenics

cal·is·then·ics \-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [Gk *kalos* beautiful + *sthenos* strength — more at CALLIGRAPHY] **1** : systematic rhythmic bodily exercises performed usu. without apparatus **2** *usu sing in constr* : the art or practice of calisthenics

ca·lix \'kā-liks, 'kal-iks\ *n, pl* **ca·li·ces** \'kā-lə-ˌsēz, 'kal-ə-\ [L *calic-, calix* — more at CHALICE] : CUP

¹calk \'kȯk\, **calk·er** \'kȯ-kər\ *var of* CAULK, CAULKER

²calk \'kȯk\ *n* [prob. alter. of *calkin*, fr. ME *kakun*, fr. MD or ONF; MD *calcoen* horse's hoof, fr. ONF *calcain* heel, fr. L *calcaneum*, fr. *calc-, calx* heel; akin to Gk *kōlon* limb, *skelos* leg] : a tapered piece projecting downward on the shoe of a horse to prevent slipping; *also* : a similar device worn on the sole of a shoe

³calk *vt* **1** : to furnish with calks **2** : to wound with a calk

¹call \'kȯl\ *vb* [ME *callen*, prob. fr. ON *kalla*; akin to OE hilde*calla* battle herald, OHG *kallōn* to talk loudly, OSlav *glasŭ* voice] *vi* **1** **a** : to speak in a loud distinct voice so as to be heard at a distance : SHOUT ⟨~ for help⟩ **b** : to make a request or demand ⟨~ for an investigation⟩ **c** *of an animal* : to utter a characteristic note or cry **d** : to get or try to get into communication by telephone — often used with *up* **e** : to make a demand in card games (as for a particular card or for a show of hands) **f** : to give the calls for a square dance **2** *Scot* : DRIVE **3** : to make a brief visit ⟨~*ed* to pay his respects⟩ ⟨~*ed* on a friend⟩ ~ *vt* **1** **a** (1) : to utter in a loud distinct voice — often used with *out* ⟨~ out a number⟩ (2) : to announce or read loudly or authoritatively ⟨~ the roll⟩ ⟨~ off a row of figures⟩ **b** (1) : to command or request to come or be present ⟨~*ed* to testify⟩ (2) : to cause to come : BRING ⟨~*s* to mind an old saying⟩ **c** : to summon to a particular activity, employment, or office ⟨was ~*ed* to active duty⟩ **d** : to invite or command to meet : CONVOKE ⟨~ a meeting⟩ **e** : to rouse from sleep or summon to get up **f** (1) : to give the order for : bring into action

⟨~ a strike against the company⟩ (2) : to manage (as an offensive game) by giving the signals or orders ⟨that catcher ~*s* a good game⟩ **g** (1) : to make a demand in bridge for (a card or suit) (2) : to require (a player) to show the hand in poker by making an equal bet (3) : to challenge to make good on a statement (4) : to charge with or censure for an offense ⟨deserves to be ~*ed* on that⟩ **h** : to attract (as game) by imitating the characteristic cry **i** : to halt (as a baseball game) because of unsuitable conditions **j** : to rule on the status of (as a pitched ball or a player's action) ⟨~ balls and strikes⟩ ⟨~ a base runner safe⟩ **k** : to give the calls for (a square dance) — often used with *off* **l** (1) : to get or try to get in communication with by telephone (2) : to deliver (a message) by telephone (3) : to make a signal to in order to transmit a message ⟨~ the flagship⟩ **m** : SUSPEND ⟨time was ~*ed* while the field was cleared⟩ **n** (1) : to demand payment of esp. by formal notice ⟨~ a loan⟩ (2) : to demand presentation of (a bond issue) for redemption **2 a** : to speak of or address by a specified name : give a name to ⟨~ her Kitty⟩ **b** (1) : to regard or characterize as of a certain kind : CONSIDER ⟨can hardly be ~*ed* generous⟩ (2) : to estimate or consider for purposes of an estimate or for convenience ⟨~ it an even dollar⟩ **c** (1) : to describe correctly in advance of or without knowledge of the event : PREDICT (2) : to name or specify in advance ⟨~ the toss of a coin⟩ ***syn*** see SUMMON — **call a spade a spade** : to speak frankly — **call for** **1** : to call (as at one's house) to get ⟨I'll *call for* you after dinner⟩ **2a** : to require as necessary or appropriate ⟨lifting the box *called for* all her strength⟩ **b** : to make necessary **3a** : to give an order for : DIRECT ⟨legislation *calling for* the establishment of new schools⟩ **b** : to provide for ⟨the design *calls for* three windows⟩ — **call forth** : to bring into being or action : ELICIT ⟨these events *call forth* great emotions⟩ — **call in question** : to cast doubt upon — **call it a day** : to stop at least for the present whatever one has been doing — **call it quits** : to call it a day — **call names** : to address or speak of a person or thing contemptuously or offensively — **call on** **1** : to call upon **2** : to cause (as a student) to recite ⟨the teacher always *called on* her first⟩ — **call one's bluff** : to challenge and expose an empty pretense or threat — **call one's shot** : to predict the result of a shot in a game or sport — **call the shots** : to be in charge or control : determine the policy or procedure — **call the tune** : to call the shots — **call to account** : to hold responsible : REPRIMAND ⟨*called to account* for violation of the rules⟩ — **call to the colors** : to summon for active military duty — **call upon** **1** : REQUIRE, OBLIGE ⟨may be *called upon* to do several jobs⟩ **2** : to make a demand on : depend on ⟨universities are *called upon* to produce trained men⟩

²call *n* **1 a** : an act of calling with the voice : SHOUT **b** : an imitation of the cry of a bird or other animal made to attract it **c** : an instrument used for calling ⟨a duck ~⟩ **d** : the cry of an animal (as a bird) **2 a** : a request or command to come or assemble **b** : a summons or signal on a drum, bugle, or pipe **c** : admission to the bar as a barrister **d** : an invitation to become the minister of a church or to accept a professional appointment **e** : a divine vocation or strong inner prompting to a particular course of action **f** : a summoning of actors to rehearsal ⟨the ~ is for 11 o'clock⟩ **g** : the attraction or appeal of a particular activity, condition, or place ⟨the ~ of the wild⟩ **h** : an order specifying the number of men to be inducted into the armed services during a specified period **i** : the selection of a play in football **3 a** : DEMAND, CLAIM **b** : NEED, JUSTIFICATION **c** : a demand for payment of money **d** : an option to buy a specified amount of a security (as stock) or commodity (as wheat) at a fixed price at or within a specified time — compare ²PUT 2 **e** : an instance of asking for something : REQUEST ⟨many ~*s* for Christmas stories⟩ **4** : ROLL CALL **5** : a short usu. formal visit **6** : the name or thing called ⟨the ~ was heads⟩ **7** : the act of calling in a card game **8** : the act of calling on the telephone **9** : the score at any given time in a tennis game **10** : a direction or a succession of directions for a square dance rhythmically called to the dancers **11** : a decision or ruling made by an official of a sports contest ***syn*** see VISIT — **at call** *or* **on call** **1a** : available for use : at the service of ⟨thousands of men *at* his *call*⟩ **b** : ready to respond to a summons or command ⟨a doctor *on call*⟩ **2** : subject to demand for payment or return without previous notice ⟨money lent *at call*⟩ — **within call** : within hearing or reach of a summons : subject to summons

cal·la \'kal-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, modif. of Gk *kallaia* rooster's wattles] **1** : a house or greenhouse plant (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) of the arum family with a white showy spathe and yellow spadix — called also *calla lily* **2** : a plant resembling the calla

call·able \'kȯ-lə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being called; *specif* : subject to a demand for presentation for payment ⟨~ bond⟩

cal·lant \'kal-ənt, 'käl-\ *or* **cal·lan** \-ən\ *n* [D or ONF; D *kalant* customer, fellow, fr. ONF *calland* customer, fr. L *calent-, calens,* prp. of *calēre* to be warm — more at LEE] *chiefly Scot* : BOY, LAD

call·back \'kȯl-ˌbak\ *n* : a recall by a manufacturer of a recently sold product (as an automobile) for correction of a defect

call–board \-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a bulletin board

call box *n* **1** *Brit* : a public telephone booth **2** : a telephone usu. located on the side of a road for reporting emergencies (as fires or automobile breakdowns)

call·boy \'kȯl-ˌbȯi\ *n* **1** : BELLHOP, PAGE **2** : a boy who summons actors to go on stage

call down *vt* **1** : to cause or entreat to descend ⟨*call down* a blessing on the crops⟩ **2** : REPRIMAND ⟨*called* me *down* for being late⟩

called strike *n* : a pitched baseball not struck at by the batter that passes through the strike zone

¹cal·ler \'kal-ər\ *adj* [ME *callour*] **1** *Scot* : FRESH **2** *Scot* : COOL

²call·er \'kȯ-lər\ *n* : one that calls

cal·let \'kal-ət\ *n* [perh. fr. MF *caillette* frivolous person, fr. *Caillette fl* 1500 F court fool] *chiefly Scot* : PROSTITUTE

call girl *n* : a prostitute with whom an appointment may be made by telephone

call house *n* : a house or apartment where call girls may be procured

cal·lig·ra·pher \kə-'lig-rə-fər\ *n* **1** : one that writes a beautiful hand **2** : PENMAN ⟨a fair ~⟩ **3** : a professional copyist or engrosser

cal·lig·ra·phist \-fəst\ *n* : CALLIGRAPHER

cal·lig·ra·phy \-fē\ *n* [F or Gk; F *calligraphie,* fr. Gk *kalligraphia,* fr. *kalli-* beautiful (fr. *kallos* beauty) + *-graphia* -graphy; akin to Gk *kalos* beautiful, Skt *kalya* healthy] **1 a** : beautiful or elegant handwriting — compare CACOGRAPHY **b** : the art of producing such writing **2** : PENMANSHIP — **cal·li·graph·ic** \ˌkal-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj* — **cal·li·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

call in *vt* **1** : to order to return or to be returned: as **a** : to withdraw from an advanced position ⟨*call in* the outposts⟩ **b** : to withdraw from circulation ⟨*call in* bank notes and issue new ones⟩ **2** : to summon to one's aid or for consultation ⟨*call in* a mediator to settle the dispute⟩ ~ *vi* : to communicate with a person by telephone — **call in sick** : to report by telephone that one will be absent because of illness

call·ing \'kȯ-liŋ\ *n* **1** : a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action esp. when accompanied by conviction of divine influence **2** : the vocation or profession in which one customarily engages **3** : the characteristic cry of a female cat in heat; *also* : the period of heat

calling card *n* : VISITING CARD

cal·li·ope \kə-'lī-ə-(ˌ)pē, *in sense 2 also* 'kal-ē-ˌōp\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kalliopē*] **1** *cap* : the Greek Muse of heroic poetry **2** : a keyboard musical instrument resembling an organ and consisting of a series of whistles sounded by steam or compressed air

cal·li·op·sis \ˌkal-ē-'äp-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *kalli-* + *opsis* appearance — more at OPTIC] : COREOPSIS — used esp. of annual forms

Cal·lis·to \kə-'lis-(ˌ)tō\ *n* [*Callisto,* Gk nymph] **1** : a nymph loved by Zeus, changed into a she-bear by Hera, and subsequently changed into the Great Bear constellation **2** : the so-called fourth but really fifth satellite of Jupiter

cal·li·thump \'kal-ə-ˌthəmp\ *n* [back-formation fr. *callithumpian,* adj., alter. of E dial. *gallithumpian* disturber of order at elections in 18th cent.] : a noisy boisterous parade — **cal·li·thump·ian** \ˌkal-ə-'thəm-pē-ən\ *adj*

call letters *n pl* : CALL SIGN

call loan *n* : a loan payable on demand of either party

call number *n* : a combination of characters assigned to a library book to indicate its place on a shelf

call off *vt* **1** : to draw away : DIVERT ⟨her attention was *called off* by a new arrival⟩ **2** : to give up : CANCEL ⟨*call* the trip *off*⟩

call of nature : the need to expel body wastes

cal·lose \'kal-ˌōs, -ˌōz\ *n* [L *callosus* callous] : a carbohydrate component of plant cell walls

cal·los·i·ty \ka-'läs-ət-ē, kə-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being callous: as **a** : marked or abnormal hardness and thickness **b** : lack of feeling or capacity for emotion **2** : CALLUS 1

¹cal·lous \'kal-əs\ *adj* [MF *calleux,* fr. L *callosus,* fr. *callum, callus* callous skin; akin to Skt *kiṇa* callosity] **1 a** : being hardened and thickened **b** : having calluses **2 a** : feeling no emotion **b** : feeling no sympathy for others — **cal·lous·ly** *adv* — **cal·lous·ness** *n*

²callous *vt* : to make callous

call out *vt* **1** : to summon into action ⟨*call out* troops⟩ **2** : to challenge to a duel **3** : to order on strike ⟨*call out* the workers⟩

cal·low \'kal-(ˌ)ō, -ə(-w)\ *adj* [ME *calu* bald, fr. OE; akin to OHG *kalo* bald] **1** *of a bird* : not yet having enough feathers to fly **2** : lacking adult sophistication : IMMATURE ⟨~ youth⟩ ***syn*** see RUDE — **cal·low·ness** \'kal-ō-nəs, -ə-nəs\ *n*

call sign *n* : the combination of identifying letters or letters and numbers assigned to an operator, office, activity, or station for use in communication (as in the address of a message sent by radio)

call slip *n* : a form filled out by a library patron for a desired book

call to quarters : a bugle call usu. shortly before taps that summons soldiers to their quarters

call–up \'kō-ˌləp\ *n* : an order to report for military service

call up \(')kȯ-'ləp\ *vt* **1** : to bring to mind : EVOKE **2** : to summon before an authority **3** : to summon together or collect (as for a united effort) ⟨*call up* all his forces for the attack⟩ **4** : to summon for active military duty **5** : to bring forward for consideration or action ⟨*call up* a bill for senate approval⟩

¹cal·lus \'kal-əs\ *n* [L] **1** : a thickening of or a hard thickened area on skin or bark **2** : a mass of exudate and connective tissue that forms around a break in a bone and is converted into bone in the healing of the break **3** : soft tissue that forms over a wounded or cut plant surface

²callus *vi* : to form callus ~ *vi* : to cause callus to form on

¹calm \'käm, 'kälm\ *n* [ME *calme,* fr. MF, fr. OIt *calma,* fr. LL *cauma* heat, fr. Gk *kauma,* fr. *kaiein* to burn — more at CAUSTIC] **1 a** : a period or condition of freedom from storms, high winds, or rough activity of water **b** : complete absence of wind or presence of wind having a speed no greater than one mile per hour **2** : a state of repose and freedom from turmoil or agitation

²calm *adj* **1** : marked by calm : STILL ⟨a ~ sea⟩ **2** : free from agitation, excitement, or disturbance ⟨a ~ manner⟩ — **calm·ly** *adv* — **calm·ness** *n*

syn CALM, TRANQUIL, SERENE, PLACID, PEACEFUL *shared meaning element* : quiet and free from whatever distrubs or hurts ***ant*** stormy, agitated

³calm *vi* : to become calm ~ *vt* : to make calm

calm·ative \'käm-ət-iv, 'käl-mət-\ *n or adj* [³*calm* + *-ative* (as in *sedative*)] : SEDATIVE

cal·o·mel \'kal-ə-məl, -ˌmel\ *n* [prob. fr. (assumed) NL *calomelas,* fr. Gk *kalos* beautiful + *melas* black — more at CALLIGRAPHY, MULLET] : a white tasteless compound Hg_2Cl_2 used in medicine esp. as a purgative and fungicide — called also *mercurous chloride*

¹ca·lo·ric \kə-'lȯr-ik, -'lōr-, -'lär-; 'kal-ə-rik\ *n* [F *calorique,* fr. L *calor*] **1** : a supposed form of matter formerly held responsible for the phenomena of heat and combustion **2** *archaic* : HEAT

²caloric *adj* **1** : of or relating to heat **2** : of or relating to calories — **ca·lo·ri·cal·ly** \kə-'lȯr-i-k(ə-)lē, -'lōr-, -'lär-\ *adv*

cal·o·rie *also* **cal·o·ry** \'kal-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [F *calorie,* fr. L *calor* heat, fr. *calēre* to be warm — more at LEE] **1 a** : the amount of heat required at a pressure of one atmosphere to raise the temperature of one gram of water one degree centigrade — called also *gram calorie, small calorie;* abbr. *cal* **b** : the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one kilogram of water one degree centigrade : 1000 gram calories or 3.968 Btu — called also *kilogram calorie, large calorie;* abbr. *Cal* **2 a** : a unit equivalent to the large calorie expressing heat-producing or energy-producing value in food when oxidized in the body **b** : an amount of food having an energy-producing value of one large calorie

cal·o·rif·ic \ˌkal-ə-'rif-ik\ *adj* [F or L; F *calorifique,* fr. L *calorificus,* fr. *calor*] **1** : CALORIC **2** : of or relating to the production of heat

cal·o·rim·e·ter \ˌkal-ə-'rim-ət-ər\ *n* [ISV, fr. L *calor*] : any of several apparatuses for measuring quantities of absorbed or evolved heat or for determining specific heats — **ca·lo·ri·met·ric** \ˌkal-ə-rə-'me-trik; kə-ˌlȯr-ə-, -ˌlōr, -ˌlär-\ *adj* — **ca·lo·ri·met·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **cal·o·rim·e·try** \ˌkal-ə-'rim-ə-trē\ *n*

ca·lotte \kə-'lät\ *n* [F] : SKULLCAP; *esp* : ZUCCHETTO

ca·loy·er \kə-'lȯi(-ə)r, 'kal-ə-yər\ *n* [It & F; F *caloyer,* fr. obs. It *caloiero,* fr. MGk *kalogēros* venerable, fr. *kalos* beautiful + *gēras* old age] : a monk of the Eastern Church

cal·pac *or* **cal·pack** \'kal-ˌpak, kal-'\ *n* [Turk *kalpak*] : a high-crowned cap worn in Turkey, Iran, and neighboring countries

calque \'kalk\ *n* [F, lit., copy, fr. *calquer* to trace, fr. It *calcare* to trample, trace, fr. L, to trample — more at CAULK] : LOAN TRANSLATION

cal·trop \'kal-trəp, 'kȯl-\ *also* **cal·throp** \-thrəp\ *n* [ME *calketrappe* star thistle, fr. OE *calcatrippe,* fr. ML *calcatrippa*] **1 a** *pl but sing or pl in constr* : STAR THISTLE 1 **b** : PUNCTURE VINE; *also* : any of various related herbs (genera *Tribulus* and *Kallstroemia*) **c** : WATER CHESTNUT 1 **2** : a device with four metal points so arranged that when any three are on the ground the fourth projects upward as a hazard to the hoofs of horses or to pneumatic tires



caltrop 2

cal·u·met \'kal-yə-ˌmet, -mət\ *n* [AmerF, fr. F dial., straw, fr. LL *calamellus,* dim. of L *calamus* reed — more at CALAMUS] : a highly ornamented ceremonial pipe of the American Indians

ca·lum·ni·ate \kə-'ləm-nē-ˌāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** **1** : to utter maliciously false statements, charges, or imputations about **2** : to injure the reputation of by calumny ***syn*** see MALIGN ***ant*** eulogize, vindicate — **ca·lum·ni·a·tion** \-ˌləm-nē-'ā-shən\ *n* — **ca·lum·ni·a·tor** \-'ləm-nē-ˌāt-ər\ *n*

ca·lum·ni·ous \kə-'ləm-nē-əs\ *adj* : constituting or marked by calumny : SLANDEROUS — **ca·lum·ni·ous·ly** *adv*

cal·um·ny \'kal-əm-nē *also* -yəm-\ *n, pl* **-nies** [MF & L; MF *calomnie,* fr. L *calumnia,* fr. *calvi* to deceive; akin to OE *hōl* calumny, Gk *kēlein* to beguile] **1** : the act of uttering false charges or misrepresentations maliciously calculated to damage another's reputation **2** : a misrepresentation intended to blacken another's reputation

cal·va·dos \ˌkal-və-'dōs\ *n, often cap* [F, fr. *Calvados,* Normandy, France] : a dry brown apple brandy

cal·var·i·um \kal-'var-ē-əm, -'ver-\ *n, pl* **-ia** \-ē-ə\ [NL, fr. L *calvaria* skull, fr. *calvus* bald; akin to Skt ati*kulva* completely bald] : a skull lacking the lower jaw or lower jaw and facial portion

cal·va·ry \'kalv-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [*Calvary,* the hill near Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified] **1** : an open-air representation of the crucifixion of Christ **2** : an experience of usu. intense mental suffering

Calvary cross *n* : a Latin cross usually mounted on three steps — see CROSS illustration

calve \'kav, 'kȧv\ *vb* **calved; calv·ing** [ME *calven,* fr. OE *cealfian,* fr. *cealf* calf] *vi* **1** : to give birth to a calf; *also* : to produce offspring **2** *of an ice mass* : to separate or break so that a part becomes detached ~ *vt* **1** : to produce by birth **2** *of an ice mass* : to let become detached

calves *pl of* CALF

Cal·vin·ism \'kal-və-ˌniz-əm\ *n* [John *Calvin*] : the theological system of Calvin and his followers marked by strong emphasis on the sovereignty of God and esp. by the doctrine of predestination — **Cal·vin·ist** \-və-nəst\ *n or adj* — **Cal·vin·is·tic** \ˌkal-və-'nis-tik\ *adj* — **Cal·vin·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

calx \'kalks\ *n, pl* **calx·es** *or* **cal·ces** \'kal-ˌsēz\ [ME *cals,* fr. L *calx* lime — more at CHALK] : the crumbly residue left when a metal or mineral has been subjected to calcination or combustion

ca·lyc·u·late \kə-'lik-yə-ˌlāt, -lət\ *adj* : having a calyculus

ca·lyc·u·lus \-ləs\ *n, pl* **-li** \-ˌlī, -ˌlē\ [NL, modif. of E *caticle*] : a small cup-shaped structure (as a taste bud)

1ca·lyp·so \kə-'lip-(ˌ)sō\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kalypsō*] **1** *cap* : a sea nymph in Homer's *Odyssey* who kept Odysseus seven years on the island of Ogygia **2** *pl* **calypsos** [NL, genus name, prob. fr. L] : a bulbous bog orchid (genus *Calypso*) of northern regions bearing a single flower variegated with white, purple, pink, and yellow

2calypso *n, pl* **-sos** *also* **-soes** [prob. fr. *Calypso*] : an improvised ballad usu. satirizing current events in a style originating in the West Indies — **ca·lyp·so·ni·an** \kə-ˌlip-'sō-nē-ən, ˌkal-(ˌ)ip-\ *n or adj*

ca·lyp·tra \kə-'lip -trə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *kalyptra* veil, fr. *kalyptein* to cover — more at HELL] **1** : the archegonium of a liverwort or moss; *esp* : one forming a membranous hood over the capsule in a moss **2** : a covering (as the calyx of a California poppy) of a flower or fruit suggestive of a cap or hood **3** : ROOT CAP — **ca·lyp·trate** \kə-'lip-ˌtrāt, 'kal-əp-\ *adj*

ca·lyx \'kā-liks, *also* 'kal-iks\ *n, pl* **ca·lyx·es** *or* **ca·ly·ces** \'kā-lə-ˌsēz *also* 'kal-ə-\ [L *calyc-, calyx,* fr. Gk *kalyx* — more at CHALICE] **1** : the external usu. green or leafy part of a flower consisting of sepals **2** : a cuplike animal structure — **ca·ly·ce·al** \ˌkā-lə-'sē-əl, ˌkal-ə-\ *adj*

cam \'kam\ *n* [perh. fr. F *came,* fr. G *kamm,* lit., comb, fr. OHG *kamb*] : a rotating or sliding piece that imparts motion to a roller moving against its edge or to a pin free to move in a groove on its face or that receives motion from such a roller or pin

ca·ma·ra·de·rie \ˌkäm(-ə)-'räd-ə-rē, ˌkam-, -'rad-\ *n* [F, fr. *camarade* comrade] : a spirit of friendly good-fellowship existing among comrades

cam·a·ril·la \ˌkam-ə-'ril-ə, -'rē-(y)ə\ *n* [Sp, lit., small room] : a group of unofficial often secret and scheming advisers; *also* : CABAL

cam·as *or* **cam·ass** \'kam-əs\ *n* [Chinook Jargon *kamass*] : any of a genus (*Camassia*) of plants of the lily family of the western U.S. with edible bulbs — compare DEATH CAMAS

1cam·ber \'kam-bər\ *vb* **cam·bered; cam·ber·ing** \-b(ə-)riŋ\ [F *cambrer,* fr. MF *cambre* curved, fr. L *camur* — more at CHAMBER] *vi* : to curve upward in the middle ~ *vt* **1** : to arch slightly **2** : to impart camber to

2camber *n* **1** : a slight convexity, arching, or curvature (as of a beam, deck, or road) **2** : the convexity of the curve of an airfoil from the leading edge to the trailing edge **3** : a setting of the wheels of an automotive vehicle closer together at the bottom than at the top

cam·bi·um \'kam-bē-əm\ *n, pl* **-bi·ums** *or* **-bia** \-bē-ə\ [NL, fr. ML, exchange, fr. L *cambiare* to exchange — more at CHANGE] : a thin formative layer between the xylem and phloem of most vascular plants that gives rise to new cells and is responsible for secondary growth — **cam·bi·al** \-bē-əl\ *adj*

Cam·bo·di·an \kam-'bōd-ē-ən\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Cambodia **2** : KHMER 2 — **Cambodian** *adj*

Cam·bri·an \'kam-brē-ən\ *adj* [ML *Cambria* Wales, fr. MW *Cymry* Wales, Welshmen] **1** : WELSH **2** : of, relating to, or being the earliest geologic period of the Paleozoic era or the corresponding system of rocks marked by fossils of every great animal type except the vertebrate and by scarcely recognizable plant fossils — **Cambrian** *n*

cam·bric \'kām-brik\ *n* [obs. Flem *Kameryk* Cambrai, city of France] **1** : a fine thin white linen fabric **2** : a cotton fabric that resembles cambric

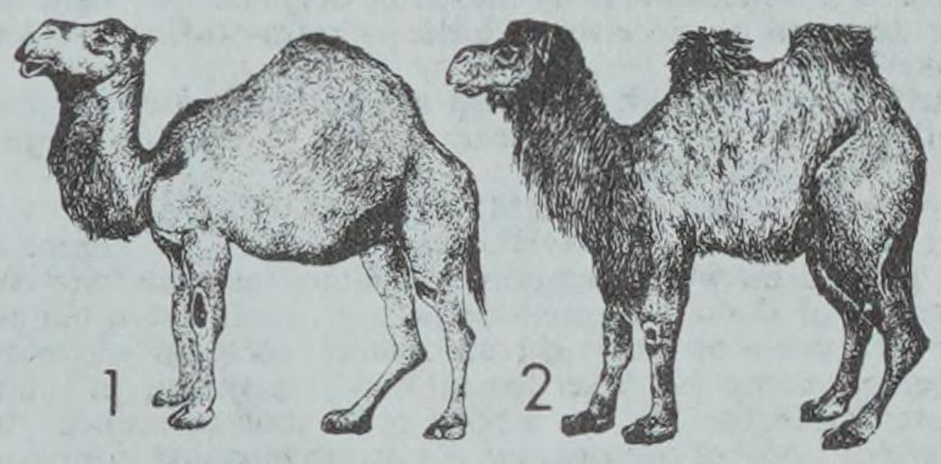
cambric tea *n* : a hot drink of water, milk, sugar, and often a small amount of tea

Cambs *abbr* Cambridgeshire

1came *past of* COME

2came \'kām\ *n* [origin unknown] : a slender grooved lead rod used to hold together panes of glass esp. in a stained-glass window

cam·el \'kam-əl\ *n* [ME, fr. OE & ONF, fr. L *camelus,* fr. Gk *kamēlos,* of Sem origin; akin to Heb & Phoenician *gāmāl* camel] **1** : either of two large ruminant mammals used as draft and saddle animals in desert regions esp. of Africa and Asia: **a** : the Arabian camel (*Camelus dromedarius*) with a single large hump on the back **b** : the camel (*C. bactrianus*) with two humps — called also *Bactrian camel* **2** : a watertight structure used esp. to lift submerged ships **3** : a variable color averaging a light yellowish brown



camels 1: *1* Arabian, *2* Bactrian

cam·el·back \'kam-əl-ˌbak\ *n* **1** : the back of a camel **2** : a steam locomotive with the cab astride the boiler **3** : an uncured compound chiefly of reclaimed or synthetic rubber used for retreading or recapping pneumatic tires

cam·el·eer \ˌkam-ə-'li(ə)r\ *n* : a camel driver

ca·mel·lia *also* **ca·me·lia** \kə-'mēl-yə\ *n* [NL *Camellia,* genus name, fr. *Camellus* (Georg Josef Kamel †1706 Moravian Jesuit missionary)] : any of several shrubs or trees (genus *Camellia*) of the tea family; *esp* : an ornamental greenhouse shrub (*C. japonica*) with glossy evergreen leaves and showy roselike flowers

ca·mel·o·pard \kə-'mel-ə-ˌpärd\ *n* [LL *camelopardus,* alter. of L *camelopardalis,* fr. Gk *kamēlopardalis,* fr. *kamēlos* + *pardalis* leopard] **1** : GIRAFFE **2** *cap* : CAMELOPARDALIS

Ca·mel·o·par·da·lis \kə-ˌmel-ə-'pärd-ᵊl-əs\ *n* [L (gen. *Camelopardalis*), camelopard] : a northern constellation between Cassiopeia and Ursa Major

Cam·e·lot \'kam-ə-ˌlät\ *n* **1** : the site of King Arthur's palace and court in Arthurian legend **2** : a time, place, or atmosphere of idyllic happiness

camel's hair *n* **1** : the hair of the camel or a substitute for it (as hair from squirrels' tails) **2** : cloth made of camel's hair or a mixture of camel's hair and wool usu. light tan and of soft silky texture

Cam·em·bert \'kam-əm-ˌbe(ə)r\ *n* [F, fr. *Camembert,* Normandy, France] : a soft surface-ripened cheese with a thin grayish white rind and a yellow interior

cam·eo \'kam-ē-ˌō\ *n, pl* **-eos** [It] **1 a** : a gem carved in relief; *esp* : a small piece of sculpture on a stone or shell cut in relief in one layer with another contrasting layer serving as background **b** : a small medallion with a profiled head in relief **2** : a carving or sculpture made in the manner of a cameo **3** : a usu. brief literary or filmic piece that brings into delicate or sharp relief the character of a person, place, or event **4** : a small theatrical role (as in televi-

sion) performed by a well-known actor and often limited to a single scene — **cameo** *adj* — **cameo** *vt*

cam·era \'kam(ə-)rə\ *n* [LL, room — more at CHAMBER] **1** : the treasury department of the papal curia **2 a** : CAMERA OBSCURA **b** : a lightproof box fitted with a lens through the aperture of which the image of an object is recorded on a light-sensitive material **c** : the part of a television transmitting apparatus in which the image to be televised is formed for conversion into electrical impulses — **on camera** : before a live televising camera

cam·er·a·lism \'kam-(ə-)rə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* [G *kameralismus*, fr. ML *cameralis* of the royal treasury, fr. *camera* royal treasury, fr. LL, chamber] : the mercantilism of a group of 18th century German public administrators emphasizing economic policies designed to strengthen the power of the ruler — **cam·er·a·list** \-ləst\ *n*

camera lu·ci·da \ˌkam-(ə-)rə-'lü-səd-ə\ *n* [NL, lit., light chamber] : an instrument that by means of a prism or mirrors and often a microscope causes a virtual image of an object to appear as if projected upon a plane surface so that an outline may be traced

cam·era·man \'kam-(ə-)rə-ˌman, -mən\ *n* **1** : one who operates a camera **2** : one who sells photographic equipment

camera ob·scu·ra \ˌkam-(ə-)rə-əb-'skyůr-ə\ *n* [NL, lit., dark chamber] : a darkened enclosure having an aperture usu. provided with a lens through which light from external objects enters to form an image of the objects on the opposite surface

cam·er·len·go \ˌkam-ər-'leŋ-(ˌ)gō\ *n, pl* **-gos** [It *camarlingo*] : a cardinal who heads the Apostolic Camera

ca·mion \kȧ-myō⁽ⁿ⁾\ *n* [F] : MOTORTRUCK; *also* : BUS

cam·i·sa·do \ˌkam-ə-'sād-(ˌ)ō, -'säd-\ *n, pl* **-does** [prob. fr. obs. Sp. *camisada*] *archaic* : an attack by night

ca·mise \kə-'mēz, -'mēs\ *n* [Ar *gamīṣ*, fr. LL *camisia*] : a light loose long-sleeved shirt, gown, or tunic

cam·i·sole \'kam-ə-ˌsōl\ *n* [F, prob. fr. OProv *camisolla*, dim. of *camisa* shirt, fr. LL *camisia*] **1** : a short negligee jacket for women **2** : a short sleeveless undergarment for women

cam·let \'kam-lət\ *n* [ME *cameloit*, fr. MF *camelot*, fr. Ar *hamlat* woolen plush] **1 a** : a medieval Asian fabric of camel's hair or angora wool **b** : a European fabric of silk and wool **c** : a fine lustrous woolen **2** : a garment made of camlet

camomile *var of* CHAMOMILE

ca·mor·ra \kə-'mȯr-ə, -'mär-\ *n* [It] : a group of persons united for dishonest or dishonorable ends; *esp* : a secret organization formed about 1820 at Naples, Italy

ca·mor·ris·ta \ˌkäm-ȯ-'rē-stə\ *n, pl* **-ti** \-(ˌ)stē\ [It, fr. *camorra* + *-ista* -ist] : a member of a camorra

¹cam·ou·flage \'kam-ə-ˌfläzh, -ˌfläj\ *n* [F, fr. *camoufler* to disguise, fr. It *camuffare*] **1** : the disguising esp. of military equipment or installations with paint, nets, or foilage; *also* : the disguise so applied **2 a** : concealment by means of disguise **b** : behavior or artifice designed to deceive or hide — **cam·ou·flag·ic** \ˌkam-ə-'fläzh-ik, -'fläj-\ *adj*

²camouflage *vb* **-flaged; -flag·ing** *vt* : to conceal or disguise by camouflage ~ *vi* : to practice camouflage — **cam·ou·flage·able** \'kam-ə-ˌfläzh-ə-bəl, -'fläj-\ *adj*

¹camp \'kamp\ *n, often attrib* [MF, prob. fr. ONF or OProv, fr. L *campus* plain, field; akin to OHG *hamf* crippled, Gk *kampē* bend] **1 a** : ground on which temporary shelters (as tents) are erected **b** : a group of shelters erected on such ground **c** : a temporary shelter (as a cabin or tent) **d** : an open-air location where one or more persons camp **e** : a settlement newly sprung up in a lumbering or mining region **2 a** : a body of persons encamped **b** (1) : a group or body of persons; *esp* : a group engaged in promoting or defending a theory, doctrine, or position ⟨liberal and conservative ~*s*⟩ (2) : an ideological position **3** : military service or life

²camp *vi* **1** : to pitch or occupy a camp **2** : to live temporarily in a camp or outdoors — often used with *out* **3** : to take up one's quarters : LODGE **4** : to take up one's position : settle down ~ *vt* : to put into a camp; *also* : ACCOMMODATE

³camp *n* [origin unknown] **1** : HOMOSEXUAL **2** : exaggerated effeminate mannerisms exhibited esp. by homosexuals **3** : something so outrageously artificial, affected, inappropriate, or out-of-date as to be considered amusing — **camp·i·ly** \-pə-lē\ *adv* — **camp·i·ness** \-pē-nəs\ *n* — **campy** \'kam-pē\ *adj*

⁴camp *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or displaying camp ⟨~ send-ups of the songs of the fifties and sixties — John Elsom⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or being a camp ⟨loose-limbed sensuality, which was sometimes macho and sometimes ~ — Jane Margold⟩

⁵camp *vi* : to engage in camp : exhibit the qualities of camp ⟨he . . . was ~*ing*, hands on hips, with a quick eye to notice every man who passed by —R. M. McAlmon⟩

¹cam·paign \(')kam-'pān\ *n* [F *campagne*, prob. fr. It *campagna* level country, campaign, fr. LL *campania* level country, fr. L, the level country around Naples] **1** : a connected series of military operations forming a distinct phase of a war **2** : a connected series of operations designed to bring about a particular result ⟨election ~⟩

²campaign *vi* : to go on, engage in, or conduct a campaign — **cam·paign·er** *n*

campaign ribbon *n* : a narrow ribbon-covered bar or a strip of ribbon whose distinctive coloring indicates a military campaign in which the wearer has taken part

cam·pa·nile \ˌkam-pə-'nē-lē, *esp of U.S. structures also* -'nē(ə)l\ *n, pl* **-ni·les** *or* **-ni·li** \-'nē-lē\ [It, fr. *campana* bell, fr. LL] : a usu. free-standing bell tower

cam·pa·nol·o·gist \ˌkam-pə-'näl-ə-jəst\ *n* : one that practices or is skilled in campanology

cam·pa·nol·o·gy \-jē\ *n* [NL *campanologia*, fr. LL *campana* + NL *-o-* + *-logia* -logy] : the art of bell ringing

cam·pan·u·la \kam-'pan-yə-lə\ *n* [NL, dim. of LL *campana*] : BELLFLOWER

cam·pan·u·late \-lət, -ˌlāt\ *adj* [NL *campanula* bell-shaped part, dim. of LL *campana*] : shaped like a bell

Camp·bell·ite \'kam-(b)ə-ˌlīt\ *n* [Alexander *Campbell* †1866 Am preacher] : DISCIPLE 2 — often taken to be offensive

camp·craft \'kamp-ˌkraft\ *n* : skill and practice in the activities relating to camping

camp·er \'kam-pər\ *n* **1** : one that camps **2** : a portable dwelling (as a specially equipped trailer or automotive vehicle) for use during casual travel and camping

camp·er·ship \-ˌship\ *n* [*camper* + *ship* (as in *scholarship*)] : a grant that enables a youngster to attend a summer camp

cam·pe·si·no \ˌkam-pə-'sē-(')nō\ *n, pl* **-nos** [Sp, fr. *campo* field, country, fr. L *campus* field — more at CAMP] : a native of a Latin-American rural area; *esp* : a Latin-American Indian farmer or farm laborer

cam·pes·tral \kam-'pes-trəl\ *adj* [L *campestr-*, *campester*, fr. *campus*] : of or relating to fields or open country : RURAL

camp fire girl *n* [fr. *Camp Fire Girls*, Inc.] : a member of a national organization of girls from 7 to 18

camp follower *n* **1** : a civilian who follows a military unit to attend or exploit military personnel; *specif* : PROSTITUTE **2** : a disciple or follower who is not of the main body of members or adherents; *esp* : a politician who joins the party or movement solely for personal gain

camp·ground \'kamp-ˌgraůnd\ *n* : the area or place (as a field or grove) used for a camp, for camping, or for a camp meeting

cam·phene \'kam-ˌfēn\ *n* : any of several terpenes related to camphor; *esp* : a colorless crystalline terpene $C_{10}H_{16}$ used in insecticides

cam·phine *or* **cam·phene** \'kam-ˌfēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. *camphor*] : an explosive mixture of turpentine and alcohol formerly used as an illuminant

cam·phor \'kam(p)-fər\ *n* [ME *caumfre*, fr. AF, fr. ML *camphora*, fr. Ar *kāfūr*, fr. Malay *kāpūr*] : a tough gummy volatile fragrant crystalline compound $C_{10}H_{16}O$ obtained esp. from the wood and bark of the camphor tree and used as a carminative and stimulant in medicine, as a plasticizer, and as an insect repellent; *also* : any of several similar compounds (as some terpene alcohols and ketones) — **cam·pho·ra·ceous** \ˌkam(p)-fə-'rā-shəs\ *adj* — **cam·phor·ic** \kam-'fȯr-ik, -'fär-\ *adj*

cam·phor·ate \'kam(p)-fə-ˌrāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** : to impregnate or treat with camphor

camphor tree *n* : a large evergreen tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) of the laurel family grown in most warm countries

cam·pi·on \'kam-pē-ən\ *n* [prob. fr. obs. *campion* (champion)] : any of various plants (genera *Lychnis* and *Silene*) of the pink family: as **a** : a European crimson-flowered plant (*L. coronaria*) **b** : an herb (*S. cucubalus*) with white flowers

camp meeting *n* : a series of evangelistic meetings usu. held outdoors or in a tent or wooden structure and attended by families who often camp nearby

cam·po \'kam-(ˌ)pō, 'käm-\ *n, pl* **campos** [AmerSp, fr. Sp, field, fr. L *campus*] : a grassland plain in So. America with scattered perennial herbs

campong *var of* KAMPONG

camp·o·ree \ˌkam-pə-'rē\ *n* [*camp* + jamb*oree*] : a gathering of boy scouts or girl scouts from a given geographic area

camp–out \'kam-ˌpaůt\ *n* : an occasion on which a group camps out

camp·site \'kamp-ˌsīt\ *n* : a place suitable for or used as the site of a camp

camp·stool \-ˌstül\ *n* : a small portable backless folding stool

cam·pus \'kam-pəs\ *n* [L, plain — more at CAMP] : the grounds and buildings of a university, college, or school; *also* : the grassy area in the central part of the grounds

cam·py·lot·ro·pous \ˌkam-pi-'lä-trə-pəs\ *adj* [Gk *kampylos* bent + ISV *-tropous*; akin to Gk *kampē* bend — more at CAMP] : having the ovule curved

cam·shaft \'kam-ˌshaft\ *n* : a shaft to which a cam is fastened or of which a cam forms an integral part

cam wheel *n* : a wheel set or shaped to act as a cam

¹can \kən, (')kan *sometimes* k³ŋ\ *vb, past* **could** \kəd, (')kůd\; *pres sing & pl* **can** [ME (1st & 3d sing. pres. indic.), fr. OE; akin to OHG *kan* (1st & 3d sing. pres. indic.) know, am able, OE *cnāwan* to know — more at KNOW] *vt* **1** *obs* : KNOW, UNDERSTAND **2** : to be able to do, make, or accomplish ~ *vi, archaic* : to have knowledge or skill ~ *verbal auxiliary* **1 a** : know how to ⟨he ~ read⟩ **b** : be physically or mentally able to ⟨he ~ lift 200 pounds⟩ **c** : may perhaps ⟨do you think he ~ still be living⟩ **d** : be permitted by conscience or feeling to ⟨~ hardly blame him⟩ **e** : be made possible or probable by circumstances to ⟨he ~ hardly have meant that⟩ **f** : be inherently able or designed to ⟨everything that money ~ buy⟩ **g** : be logically or axiologically able to ⟨2 + 2 ~ also be written 3 + 1⟩ **h** : be enabled by law, agreement, or custom to **2** : have permission to — used interchangeably with *may* ⟨you ~ go now if you like⟩

²can \'kan\ *n* [ME *canne*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *channa*] **1** : a usu. cylindrical receptacle: **a** : a vessel for holding liquids; *specif* : a drinking vessel **b** : a typically cylindrical metal receptacle usu. with an open top, often with a removable cover, and sometimes with a spout or side handles (as for holding milk, oil, coffee, tobacco, ashes, or garbage) **c** : a container (as of tinplate) in which perishable foods or other products are hermetically sealed for preservation until use **d** : a jar for packing or preserving fruit or vegetables **2** *slang* : JAIL **3** : TOILET **4** : BUTTOCKS **5** : DEPTH CHARGE **6** : DESTROYER 2 **7** *slang* : an ounce of marijuana — **can·ful** \'kan-ˌfůl\ *adj* — **in the can** *of a film or videotape* : completed and ready for release

³can \'kan\ *vt* **canned; can·ning** **1 a** : to put in a can : preserve by sealing in airtight cans or jars **b** : to hit (a golf ball) into the cup **2** *slang* : to expel from school : discharge from employment **3** *slang* : to put a stop or end to ⟨~ that racket —Nathaniel Burt⟩ **4** : to record on discs or tape ⟨they *canned* the music for the broadcast⟩ — **can·ner** *n*

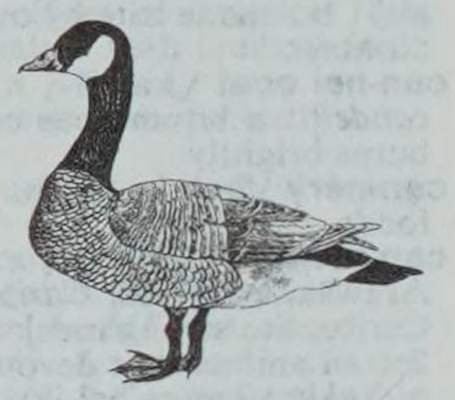
⁴can *abbr* **1** canceled; cancellation **2** cannon **3** canto

Can *or* **Canad** *abbr* Canada; Canadian

Ca·naan·ite \'kā-nə-ˌnīt\ *n* [Gk *Kananitēs*, fr. *Kanaan* Canaan] : a member of a Semitic people inhabiting ancient Palestine and Phoenicia from about 3000 B.C. — **Canaanite** *adj*

Can·a·da balsam \ˌkan-əd-ə-\ *n* [Canada, country in No. America] : a viscid yellowish to greenish oleoresin exudate of the balsam fir (*Abies balsmea*) that solidifies to a transparent mass and is used as a transparent cement esp. in microscopy

Canada goose *n* : the common wild goose (*Branta canadensis*) of No. America that is chiefly gray and brownish with black head and neck and a white patch running from the sides of the head under the throat



Canada goose

Canada lynx *n* : LYNX c

Canada thistle *n* : a European thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) that is a naturalized weed in No. America

Ca·na·di·an \kə-'nād-ē-ən\ *n* : a native or inhabitant of Canada — **Canadian** *adj*

Ca·na·di·an bacon \kə-ˌnād-ē-ən-\ *n* : bacon cut from the loin of a pig

Canadian football *n* : a game resembling both American football and rugby that is played on a turfed field between two teams of 12 players each

Canadian French *n* : the language of the French Canadians

ca·naille \kə-'nī, -'nā(ə)l\ *n* [F, fr. It *canaglia*, fr. *cane* dog, fr. L *canis* — more at HOUND] **1** : RABBLE, RIFFRAFF **2** : PROLETARIAN

¹ca·nal \kə-'nal\ *n* [ME, fr. L *canalis* pipe, channel, fr. *canna* reed — more at CANE] **1** : CHANNEL, WATERCOURSE **2** : a tubular anatomical passage or channel : DUCT **3** : an artificial waterway for navigation or for draining or irrigating land **4** : any of various faint narrow markings on the planet Mars

²canal *vt* **-naled** *or* **-naled; -nal·ing** *or* **-nal·ing** : to construct a canal through or across

ca·nal·boat \kə-'nal-ˌbōt\ *n* : a boat for use on a canal

can·a·lic·u·late \ˌkan-ᵊl-'ik-yə-lət, -ˌlāt\ *adj* : grooved or channeled longitudinally ⟨a ~ leafstalk⟩

can·a·lic·u·lus \-yə-ləs\ *n, pl* **-li** \-ˌlī, -ˌlē\ [L, dim. of *canalis*] : a minute canal in a bodily structure

can·a·li·za·tion \ˌkan-ᵊl-ə-'zā-shən\ *n* **1** : an act or instance of canalizing **2** : a system of channels

can·a·lize \'kan-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vb* **-lized; -liz·ing** *vt* **1 a** : to provide with a canal or channel **b** : to make into or similar to a canal **2** : to provide with an outlet; *esp* : to direct into preferred channels ~ *vi* **1** : to flow in or into a channel **2** : to establish new channels

can·a·pé \'kan-ə-pē, -ˌpā\ *n* [F, lit., sofa, fr. ML *canopeum, canapeum* mosquito net — more at CANOPY] : an appetizer consisting of a piece of bread or toast or a cracker topped with a savory spread (as caviar or cheese) — compare HORS D'OEUVRE

ca·nard \kə-'närd *also* -'närˌ\ *n* [F, lit., duck, fr. MF *vendre des canards à moitié* to cheat, lit., to half-sell ducks] : a false or unfounded report or story; *esp* : a fabricated report

ca·nary \kə-'ne(ə)r-ē\ *n, pl* **ca·nar·ies** [MF *canarie*, fr. OSp *canario*, fr. *Islas Canarias* Canary islands] **1** : a lively 16th century court dance **2** : a Canary islands usu. sweet wine similar to Madeira **3 a** : a small finch (*Serinus canarius*) of the Canary islands that is usu. greenish to yellow and is kept as a cage bird and singer **b** : any of various small birds largely yellow in color **4** [fr. his singing] *slang* : INFORMER 2

canary seed *n* **1** : seed of a Canary island grass (*Phalaris canariensis*) used as food for cage birds **2** : seed of a common plantain (*Plantago major*)

canary yellow *n* : a light to a moderate or vivid yellow

ca·nas·ta \kə-'nas-tə\ *n* [Sp, lit., basket] **1** : a form of rummy using two full decks in which players or partnerships try to meld groups of three or more cards of the same rank and score bonuses for 7-card melds **2** : a meld of seven cards of the same rank in canasta

canc *abbr* canceled

can·can \'kan-ˌkan\ *n* [F] : a woman's dance of French origin characterized by high kicking usu. while holding up the front of a full ruffled skirt

¹can·cel \'kan(t)-səl\ *vb* **-celed** *or* **-celled; -cel·ing** *or* **-cel·ling** \-s(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *cancellen*, fr. MF *canceller*, fr. LL *cancellare*, fr. L, to make like a lattice, fr. *cancelli* (pl.), dim. of *cancer* lattice, alter. of *carcer* prison] *vt* **1 a** : to mark or strike out for deletion **b** : OMIT, DELETE **2 a** : to destroy the force, effectiveness, or validity of : ANNUL ⟨~ a magazine subscription⟩ **b** : to bring to nothingness : DESTROY **c** : to match in force or effect : OFFSET — often used with *out* ⟨his irritability ~*ed* out his natural kindness — Osbert Sitwell⟩ **d** : to call off usu. without expectation of conducting or performing at a later time ⟨~ a football game⟩ **3 a** : to remove (a common divisor) from numerator and denominator **b** : to remove (equivalents) on opposite sides of an equation or account **4** : to deface (a postage or revenue stamp) esp. with a set of parallel lines so as to invalidate for reuse ~ *vi* : to neutralize each other's strength or effect : COUNTERBALANCE ***syn*** see ERASE — **can·cel·able** *or* **can·cel·la·ble** \-s(ə-)lə-bəl\ *adj* — **can·cel·er** *or* **can·cel·ler** \-s(ə)lər\ *n*

²cancel *n* **1** : CANCELLATION **2 a** : a deleted part or passage **b** : a passage or page from which something has been deleted **c** (1) : a leaf containing deleted matter (2) : a new leaf or slip substituted for matter already printed

can·cel·late \kan-'sel-ət, 'kan(t)-sə-ˌlāt\ *adj* [L *cancellatus*, pp. of *cancellare*] : RETICULATE, CHAMBERED ⟨~ leaves⟩; *specif* : CANCELLOUS

can·cel·la·tion *also* **can·cel·ation** \ˌkan(t)-sə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or an instance of canceling **2** : a released accommodation **3** : a mark made to cancel something (as a postage stamp)

can·cel·lous \kan-'sel-əs, 'kan(t)-sə-ləs\ *adj* [NL *cancelli* intersecting osseous plates and bars in cancellous bone, fr. L, lattice] *of bone* : having a porous structure

can·cer \'kan(t)-sər\ *n* [ME, fr. L (gen. *Cancri*), lit., crab; akin to Gk *karkinos* crab, cancer] **1** *cap* **a** : a northern zodiacal constellation between Gemini and Leo **b** (1) : the 4th sign of the zodiac in astrology — see ZODIAC table (2) : one born under this sign **2** [L, crab, cancer] **a** : a malignant tumor of potentially unlimited growth that expands locally by invasion and systemically by metastasis **b** : an abnormal state marked by such tumors **3** : a source of evil or anguish ⟨the ~ of hidden resentment — *Irish Digest*⟩ **4 a** : an enlarged tumorlike growth **b** : a disease marked by such growths — **can·cer·ous** \'kan(t)s-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* — **can·cer·ous·ly** *adv*

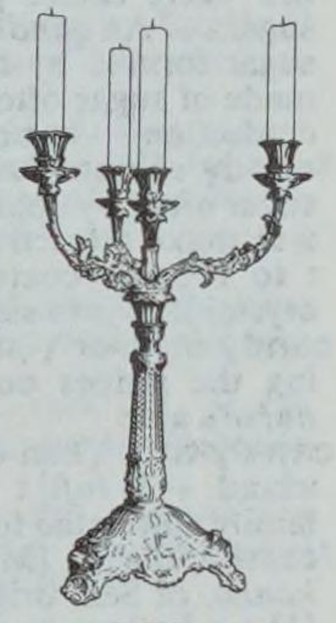
can·cha \'kän-(ˌ)chä\ *n* [Sp, yard, court, fr. Quechua, yard] : a jai alai court

can·croid \'kaŋ-ˌkrȯid\ *adj* [L *cancr-, cancer* crab, cancer] **1** : resembling a crab **2** : resembling a cancer

can·de·la \kan-'dē-lə, -'del-ə\ *n* [L, candle] : CANDLE 3

can·de·la·bra \ˌkan-də-'läb-rə, -'lab-, -'lāb-\ *n* : CANDELABRUM

can·de·la·brum \-rəm\ *n, pl* **-bra** \-rə\ *also* **-brums** [L, fr. *candela*] : a branched candlestick or lamp with several lights



candelabrum

can·dent \'kan-dənt\ *adj* [L *candent-, candens*, prp. of *candēre*] : heated to whiteness : GLOWING

can·des·cence \kan-'des-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* : a candescent state : glowing whiteness

can·des·cent \-ᵊnt\ *adj* [L *candescent-, candescens*, prp. of *candescere* incho. of *candēre*] : glowing or dazzling esp. from great heat

C and F *abbr* cost and freight

can·did \'kan-dəd\ *adj* [F & L; F *candide*, fr. L *candidus* bright, white, fr. *candēre* to shine, glow; akin to LGk *kandaros* ember] **1** : WHITE ⟨~ flames⟩ **2** : free from bias, prejudice, or malice : FAIR ⟨a ~ observer⟩ **3 a** : marked by honest sincere expression **b** : indicating or suggesting sincere honesty and absence of deception **c** : disposed to criticize severely : BLUNT **4** : relating to photography of subjects acting naturally or spontaneously without being posed ⟨~ picture⟩ ***syn*** see FRANK ***ant*** evasive — **can·did·ly** *adv* — **can·did·ness** *n*

can·di·da \'kan-dəd-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, fem. of *candidus*, white] : any of a genus (*Candida*) of parasitic imperfect fungi that resemble yeasts, produce small amounts of mycelium, and include the causative agent of thrush

can·di·da·cy \'kan-(d)əd-ə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** : the state of being a candidate

can·di·date \'kan-(d)ə-ˌdāt, -(d)əd-ət\ *n* [L *candidatus*, fr. *candidatus* clothed in white, fr. *candidus* white; fr. the white toga worn by candidates for office in ancient Rome] : one that aspires to or is nominated or qualified for an office, membership, or award

can·di·da·ture \'kan-(d)əd-ə-ˌchu̇(ə)r, -chər\ *n, chiefly Brit* : CANDIDACY

candid camera *n* **1** : a usu. small camera equipped with a fast lens and used for taking informal photographs of unposed subjects often without their knowledge **2** : a miniature camera

can·di·di·a·sis \ˌkan-də-'dī-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-a·ses** \-ˌsēz\ : infection with a disease caused by a candida

can·died \'kan-dēd\ *adj* **1** : encrusted or coated with sugar **2** : baked with sugar or syrup until translucent

¹can·dle \'kan-dᵊl\ *n* [ME *candel*, fr. OE, fr. L *candela*, fr. *candēre*] **1** : a usu. long slender cylindrical mass of tallow or wax containing a loosely twisted linen or cotton wick that is burned to give light **2** : something resembling a candle in shape or use ⟨a sulfur ~ for fumigating⟩ **3** : a unit of luminous intensity equal to one sixtieth of the luminous intensity of one square centimeter of a blackbody surface at the solidification temperature of platinum — called also *candela, new candle*

²candle *vt* **can·dled; can·dling** \'kan-(d)liŋ, -dᵊl-iŋ\ : to examine by holding between the eye and a light; *esp* : to test (eggs) in this way for staleness, blood clots, fertility, and growth — **can·dler** \-(d)lər, -dᵊl-ər\ *n*

can·dle·ber·ry \'kan-dᵊl-ˌber-ē\ *n* **1 a** : CANDLENUT **b** : WAX MYRTLE **2** : the fruit of a candleberry

can·dle·fish \-ˌfish\ *n* **1** : EULACHON **2** : SABLEFISH

can·dle–foot \-'fu̇t\ *n* : FOOTCANDLE

can·dle·hold·er \-ˌhōl-dər\ *n* : CANDLESTICK

can·dle·light \'kan-dᵊl-(l)īt\ *n* **1 a** : the light of a candle **b** : a soft artificial light **2** : the time for lighting up : TWILIGHT

can·dle·light·er \-ər\ *n* **1** : a long-handled implement with a taper and a snuffer that is used for the ceremonial lighting and extinguishing of candles **2** : one who lights the candles for a ceremony (as a wedding)

Can·dle·mas \'kan-dᵊl-məs\ *n* [ME *candelmasse*, fr. OE *candelmæsse*, fr. *candel* + *mæsse* mass, feast; fr. the candles blessed and carried in celebration of the feast] : February 2 observed as a church festival in commemoration of the presentation of Christ in the temple and the purification of the Virgin Mary

can·dle·nut \-ˌnət\ *n* : the oily seed of a tropical tree (*Aleurites moluccana*) of the spurge family used locally to make candles and commercially as a source of oil; *also* : this tree

can·dle·pin \-ˌpin\ *n* **1** : a slender bowling pin tapering toward top and bottom **2** *pl but sing in constr* : a bowling game using candlepins and a smaller ball than that used in tenpins

can·dle·pow·er \-ˌpau̇(-ə)r\ *n* : luminous intensity expressed in candles

can·dle·snuff·er \-ˌsnəf-ər\ *n* : an implement for snuffing candles that consists of a small hollow cone attached to a handle
can·dle·stick \-ˌstik\ *n* : a holder with a socket for a candle
can·dle·wick \-ˌwik\ *n* **1** : the wick of a candle **2** : a soft cotton embroidery yarn; *also* : embroidery made with this yarn usu. in tufts
can·dle·wood \-ˌwůd\ *n* **1** : any of several trees or shrubs (as ocotillo) chiefly of resinous character **2** : slivers of resinous wood burned for light
can·dor \'kan-dər, -ˌdȯ(ə)r\ *n* [F&L; F *candeur*, fr. L *candor*, fr. *candēre* — more at CANDID] **1 a** : WHITENESS, BRILLIANCE **b** *obs* : unstained purity **2** : freedom from prejudice or malice : FAIRNESS **3** *archaic* : KINDLINESS **4** : unreserved, honest, or sincere expression : FORTHRIGHTNESS
can·dour \'kan-dər\ *chiefly Brit var of* CANDOR
C and W *abbr* country and western
¹can·dy \'kan-dē\ *n, pl* **candies** [ME *sugre candy*, part trans. of MF *sucre candi*, part trans. of OIt *zucchero candi*, fr. *zucchero* sugar + Ar *qandī* candied, fr. *qand* cane sugar] **1** : crystallized sugar formed by boiling down sugar syrup **2 a** : a confection made of sugar often with flavoring and filling **b** : a piece of such confection — **candy** *adj*
²candy *vb* **can·died; can·dy·ing** *vt* **1** : to encrust in or coat with sugar often by cooking to a thicker consistency in a heavy syrup **2** : to make attractive : SWEETEN **3** : to crystallize into sugar ~ *vi* : to become coated or encrusted with sugar crystals : become crystallized into sugar
candy strip·er \-ˌstrī-pər\ *n* [fr. the striped uniform worn suggesting the stripes on some sticks of candy] : a teenage volunteer nurse's aide
can·dy·tuft \'kan-dē-ˌtəft\ *n* [*Candy* (now *Candia*) Crete, Greek island + E *tuft*] : any of a genus (*Iberis*) of plants of the mustard family cultivated for their white, pink, or purple flowers
¹cane \'kān\ *n* [ME, fr MF, fr. OProv *cana*, fr. L *canna*, fr. Gk *kanna*, of Sem origin; akin to Ar *qanāh* hollow stick, reed] **1 a** (1) : a hollow or pithy and usu. slender and flexible jointed stem (as of a reed) (2) : any of various slender woody stems; *esp* : an elongated flowering or fruiting stem (as of a rose) usu. arising directly from the ground **b** : any of various tall woody grasses or reeds; as (1) : any of a genus (*Arundinaria*) of coarse grasses (2) : SUGARCANE (3) : SORGHUM **2** : cane dressed for use: as **a** : a cane walking stick; *broadly* : WALKING STICK **b** : a cane or rod for flogging **c** : RATTAN; *esp* : split rattan for wickerwork or basketry
²cane *vt* **caned; can·ing** **1** : to beat with a cane **2** : to weave or furnish with cane ⟨~ the seat of a chair⟩
cane·brake \'kān-ˌbrāk\ *n* : a thicket of cane
can·er \'kā-nər\ *n* : one that weaves cane seats and backs of chairs
ca·nes·cent \kə-'nes-ᵊnt, ka-\ *adj* [L *canescent-, canescens*, prp. of *canescere*, incho. of *canēre* to be gray, be white, fr. *canus* white, hoary — more at HARE] : growing white, whitish, or hoary; *esp* : having a fine grayish white pubescence ⟨~ leaves⟩
cane sugar *n* : sugar from sugarcane
cane·ware \'kān-ˌwa(ə)r, -ˌwe(ə)r\ *n* [fr. its color] : a buff or yellowish stoneware
ca·nic·o·la fever \kə-ˌnik-ə-lə-\ *n* [NL *canicola* (specific epithet of *Leptospira canicola*) fr. L *canis* dog + *-cola* inhabitant — more at HOUND, -COLOUS] : an acute disease in man and dogs characterized by gastroenteritis and mild jaundice and caused by a spirochete (*Leptospira canicola*)
Ca·nic·u·la \kə-'nik-yə-lə\ *n* [L, dim. of *canis*] : SIRIUS
ca·nic·u·lar \kə-'nik-yə-lər\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the Dog Star or its rising **2** : of or relating to the dog days
¹ca·nine \'kā-ˌnīn\ *adj* [L *caninus*, fr. *canis* dog — more at HOUND] **1** : of or relating to dogs or to the family (Canidae) including the dogs, wolves, jackals, and foxes **2** : of, relating to, or resembling a dog
²canine *n* **1** : a conical pointed tooth; *esp* : one situated between the lateral incisor and the first premolar — see TOOTH illustration **2** : DOG
Ca·nis Ma·jor \ˌkā-nə-'smā-jər, ˌkan-ə-\ *n* [L (gen. *Canis Majoris*), lit., greater dog] : a constellation to the southeast of Orion containing the Dog Star
Canis Mi·nor \-'smī-nər\ *n* [L, (gen. *Canis Minoris*), lit., lesser dog] : a constellation to the east of Orion containing Procyon
can·is·ter *also* **can·nis·ter** \'kan-ə-stər\ *n* [L *canistrum* basket, fr. Gk *kanastron*, fr. *kanna* reed — more at CANE] **1** : a small box or can for holding a dry product **2** : encased shot for close-range artillery fire **3** : a light perforated metal box for gas masks that contains material to adsorb, filter, or detoxify poisons and irritants in the air
¹can·ker \'kaŋ-kər\ *n* [ME, fr. ONF *cancre*, fr. L *cancer* crab, cancer] **1 a** (1) : an erosive or spreading sore (2) *obs* : GANGRENE 1 (3) : an area of necrosis in a plant **b** : any of various disorders of animals marked by chronic inflammatory changes **2** *archaic* : a caterpillar destructive to plants **3** *chiefly dial* **a** : RUST **b** : VERDIGRIS 2 **4** : a source of corruption or debasement **5** *chiefly dial* : a common European wild rose (*Rosa canina*) — **can·ker·ous** \-kaŋ-k(ə-)rəs\ *adj*
²canker *vb* **can·kered; can·ker·ing** \'kaŋ-k(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* **1** *obs* : to infect with a spreading sore **2** : to corrupt with a malignancy of mind or spirit ⟨God help that country, ~*ed* deep by doubt —Archibald MacLeish⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to become infested with canker **2** : to undergo corruption
canker sore *n* : a small painful ulcer esp. of the mouth
can·ker·worm \'kaŋ-kər-ˌwərm\ *n* : any of various insect larvae that injure plants esp. by feeding on buds and foliage
can·na \'kan-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, reed — more at CANE] : any of a genus (*Canna* of the family Cannaceae) of tropical herbs with simple stems, large leaves, and a terminal raceme of irregular flowers
can·na·bin \'kan-ə-bən\ *n* [L *cannabis*] : a dark resin from pistillate hemp plants that contains the physiologically active principles of cannabis
can·na·bis \-bəs\ *n* [L, hemp, fr. Gk *kannabis*, fr. the source of OE *hænep* hemp] : the dried flowering spikes of the pistillate plants of the hemp — compare HASHISH, MARIJUANA
canned \'kand\ *adj* **1** : sealed in a can or jar **2** : recorded for mechanical or electronic reproduction; *also* : prerecorded for addition to a sound track or a videotape ⟨~ laughter⟩ **3 a** : prepared in identical form for wide or repeated use : SYNDICATED ⟨~ editorials⟩ **b** : made trite by overuse : HACKNEYED ⟨~ phrases⟩ **4** *slang* : DRUNK
can·nel coal \ˌkan-ᵊl-\ *n* [prob. fr. E dial. *cannel* candle, fr. ME *candel*] : a bituminous coal containing much volatile matter that burns brightly
can·nery \'kan-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ner·ies** : a factory for the canning of foods
can·ni·bal \'kan-ə-bəl\ *n* [NL *Canibalis* Carib, fr. Sp *Caníbal*, fr. Arawakan *Caniba, Carib*, of Cariban origin; akin to Carib *Galibi* Caribs, lit., strong men] **1** : a human being who eats human flesh **2** : an animal that devours its own kind — **cannibal** *adj* — **can·ni·bal·ic** \ˌkan-ə-'bal-ik\ *adj* — **can·ni·bal·ism** \'kan-ə-bə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* — **can·ni·bal·is·tic** \ˌkan-ə-bə-'lis-tik\ *adj*
can·ni·bal·ize \'kan-ə-bə-ˌlīz\ *vb* **-ized; iz·ing** *vt* **1** : to dismantle (a machine) for parts to be used as replacements in other machines **2** : to deprive of parts or men in order to repair or strengthen another unit ~ *vi* **1** : to practice cannibalism **2** : to cannibalize one unit for the sake of another of the same kind — **can·ni·bal·iza·tion** \ˌkan-ə-bə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n*
can·ni·kin \'kan-i-kən\ *n* [prob. fr. obs. D *kanneken*, fr. MD *canneken*, dim. of *canne* can; akin to OE *canne* can] : a small can or drinking vessel
¹can·non \'kan-ən\ *n, pl* **cannons** *or* **cannon** [MF *canon*, fr. It *cannone*, lit., large tube, aug. of *canna* reed, tube, fr. L, cane, reed — more at CANE] **1** *pl usu cannon* **a** : an artillery piece : big gun **b** : a heavy-caliber automatic aircraft gun firing explosive shells **2** : a smooth round horse bit **3** *or* **can·on** : the projecting part of a bell by which it is hung : EAR **4** : the part of the leg in which the cannon bone is found
²cannon *vi* : to discharge cannon ~ *vt* : CANNONADE
³cannon *n* [alter. of *carom*] *Brit* : a carom in billiards and bagatelle
⁴cannon *vi, Brit* : to carom in billiards ~ *vt, Brit* : to carom into
¹can·non·ade \ˌkan-ə-'nād\ *n* : a heavy fire of artillery
²cannonade *vb* **-ad·ed; -ad·ing** *vt* : to attack with artillery ~ *vi* : to deliver artillery fire
¹can·non·ball \'kan-ən-ˌbȯl\ *n* **1 a** : a round solid missile made for firing from a cannon **b** : a missile of a solid or hollow shape made for cannon **2** : a jump into water made with the arms holding the knees tight against the chest **3** : a hard straight tennis service **4** : a fast train
²cannonball *vi* : to travel with great speed
cannon bone *n* [F *canon*, lit., cannon] : a bone in hoofed mammals that supports the leg from the hock joint to the fetlock
can·non·eer \ˌkan-ə-'ni(ə)r\ *n* : an artillery gunner
cannon fodder *n* : soldiers subject to the risk of being wounded or killed by artillery fire
can·non·ry \'kan-ən-rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1** : CANNONADE **2** : ARTILLERY
can·not \'kan-(ˌ)ät; kə-'nät, ka-'\ : can not — **cannot but** : to be bound to : MUST
can·nu·la \'kan-yə-lə\ *n, pl* **-las** *or* **-lae** \-ˌlē, -ˌlī\ [NL, fr. L, dim. of *canna* reed — more at CANE] : a small tube for insertion into a body cavity or into a duct or vessel
can·nu·lar \'kan-yə-lər\ *adj* : TUBULAR
can·nu·la·tion \ˌkan-yə-'lā-shən\ *n* : the act or process of inserting a cannula — **can·nu·late** \'kan-yə-ˌlāt\ *vt*
¹can·ny \'kan-ē\ *adj* **can·ni·er; -est** [¹*can*] **1** : being cautious and shrewd : CLEVER **2** *Scot* **a** : FORTUNATE, LUCKY **b** : free from unnatural powers or unfavorable aspects **c** : skilled in the supernatural or occult **3 a** *Scot* : CAREFUL, STEADY **b** *Scot* : QUIET, SNUG ⟨then ~, in some cozy place, they close the day — Robert Burns⟩ **c** *dial Brit* : agreeable to the eyes : PLEASANT — **can·ni·ly** \'kan-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **can·ni·ness** \'kan-ē-nəs\ *n*
²canny *adv, Scot* : in a canny manner
¹ca·noe \kə-'nü\ *n* [F, fr. NL *canoa*, fr. Sp, fr. Arawakan, of Cariban origin; akin to Galibi *canaoua*] : a long light narrow boat with both ends sharp and sides curved that is usu. propelled by hand-driven paddles
²canoe *vb* **ca·noed; ca·noe·ing** *vi* **1** : to paddle a canoe **2** : to go or travel in a canoe ~ *vt* : to transport in a canoe — **ca·noe·ist** *n*
can of worms : PANDORA'S BOX
¹canon \'kan-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. OE, fr. LL, fr. L, ruler, rule, model, standard, fr. Gk *kanōn;* akin to Gk *kanna* reed — more at CANE] **1 a** : a regulation or dogma decreed by a church council **b** : a provision of canon law **2** [ME, prob. fr. OF, fr. LL, fr. L, model] : the most solemn and unvarying part of the Mass including the consecration of the bread and wine **3** [ME, fr. LL, fr. L, standard] **a** : an authoritative list of books accepted as Holy Scripture **b** : the authentic works of a writer **4 a** : an accepted principle or rule **b** : a criterion or standard of judgment **c** : a body of principles, rules, standards, or norms **5** [LGk *kanōn*, fr. Gk, model] : a contrapuntal musical composition in two or more voice parts in which the melody is imitated exactly and completely by the successive voices though not always at the same pitch
²canon *n* [ME *canoun*, fr. AF *canunie*, fr. LL *canonicus* one living under a rule, fr. L, according to rule, fr. Gk *kanonikos*, fr. *kanōn*] **1** : a clergyman belonging to the chapter or the staff of a cathedral or collegiate church **2** : CANON REGULAR
ca·ñon \'kan-yən\ *var of* CANYON
can·on·ess \'kan-ə-nəs\ *n* **1** : a woman living in community under a religious rule but not under a perpetual vow **2** : a member of a Roman Catholic congregation of women corresponding to canons regular
ca·non·ic \kə-'nän-ik\ *adj* **1** : CANONICAL **2** : of or relating to musical canon
ca·non·i·cal \-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a canon **2** : conforming to a general rule : ORTHODOX **3** : accepted as forming the

canon of scripture **4** : of or relating to a clergyman who is a canon **5** : reduced to the simplest or clearest schema possible ⟨a ~ matrix⟩ — **ca·non·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

canonical form *n* : the simplest form of a matrix; *specif* : the form of a square matrix that has zero elements everywhere except along the principal diagonal

canonical hour *n* **1** : a time of day canonically appointed for an office of devotion **2** : one of the daily offices of devotion that compose the Divine Office and include matins with lauds, prime, terce, sext, none, vespers, and compline

ca·non·i·cals \kə-'nän-i-kəlz\ *n pl* : the vestments prescribed by canon for an officiating clergyman

can·on·ic·i·ty \ˌkan-ə-'nis-ət-ē\ *n* : the quality or state of being canonical

can·on·ist \'kan-ə-nəst\ *n* : a specialist in canon law

can·on·ize \'kan-ə-ˌnīz\ *vt* **can·on·ized** \-ˌnīzd; *in "Hamlet", usu* kə-'nän-ˌīzd\; **can·on·iz·ing** [ME *canonizen*, fr. ML *canonizare*, fr. LL *canon* catalog of saints, fr. L, standard] **1** : to declare (a deceased person) an officially recognized saint **2** : to make canonical **3** : to sanction by ecclesiastical authority **4** : to attribute authoritative sanction or approval to — **can·on·iza·tion** \ˌkan-ə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n*

canon law *n* : the usu. codified law governing a church

canon lawyer *n* : CANONIST

canon regular *n, pl* **canons regular** : a member of one of several Roman Catholic religious institutes of regular priests living in community under a usu. Augustinian rule

can·on·ry \'kan-ən-rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** : the office of a canon; *also* : the endowment that financially supports a canon

ca·no·pic jar \kə-ˌnō-pik-, -ˌnäp-ik-\ *n, often cap C* [*Canopus*, Egypt] : a jar in which the ancient Egyptians preserved the viscera of a deceased person usu. for burial with the mummy



canopic jars

Ca·no·pus \kə-'nō-pəs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kanōpos*] : a star of the first magnitude in the constellation Argo not visible north of 37° latitude

[1]can·o·py \'kan-ə-pē\ *n, pl* **-pies** [ME *canope*, fr. ML *canopeum* mosquito net, fr. L *conopeum*, fr. Gk *kōnōpion*, fr. *kōnōps* mosquito] **1 a** : a cloth covering suspended over a bed **b** : a cover (as of cloth) fixed or carried above a person of high rank or a sacred object : BALDACHIN **c** : the uppermost spreading branchy layer of a forest **d** : AWNING, MARQUEE **2** : an ornamental rooflike structure **3 a** : the transparent enclosure over an airplane cockpit **b** : the lifting or supporting surface of a parachute

[2]canopy *vt* **-pied; -py·ing** : to cover with or as if with a canopy

ca·no·rous \kə-'nōr-əs, -'nór-; 'kan-ə-rəs\ *adj* [L *canorus*, fr. *canor* melody, fr. *canere* to sing — more at CHANT] : sounding pleasantly : MELODIOUS — **ca·no·rous·ly** *adv* — **ca·no·rous·ness** *n*

canst \kən(t)st, (')kan(t)st\ *archaic pres 2d sing of* CAN

[1]cant \'kant\ *adj* [ME, prob. fr. (assumed) MLG *kant*] *dial Eng* : LIVELY, LUSTY

[2]cant *n* [ME, prob. fr. MD or ONF; MD, edge, corner, fr. ONF, fr. L *canthus, cantus* iron tire, perh. of Celt origin; akin to W *cant* rim; akin to Gk *kanthos* corner of the eye] **1** *obs* : CORNER, NICHE **2** : an external angle (as of a building) **3** : a log slabbed on one or more sides **4 a** : a sudden thrust producing a bias **b** : the bias so caused **5** : an oblique or slanting surface **6** : an inclination from a given line : SLOPE

[3]cant *vt* **1** : to give a cant or oblique edge to : BEVEL **2** : to set at an angle : tip or tilt up or over **3** : to turn or throw off or out by tilting or rotating ⟨~ a rifle⟩ **4** *chiefly Brit* : to give a sudden turn or new direction to ~ *vi* **1** : to pitch to one side : LEAN **2** : SLOPE

[4]cant *adj* **1** : having canted corners or sides **2** : slanting with respect to a particular straight line

[5]cant *vi* [prob. fr. ONF *canter* to tell, lit., to sing, fr. L *cantare* — more at CHANT] **1** : BEG **2** : to speak in cant or technical terms **3** : to talk hypocritically

[6]cant *n* **1** : affected singsong speech **2 a** : the argot of the underworld **b** *obs* : the phraseology peculiar to a religious class or sect **c** : JARGON 2 **3** : a set or stock phrase **4** : the expression or repetition of conventional, trite, or unconsidered opinions or sentiments; *esp* : the insincere use of pious phraseology ***syn*** see DIALECT

Cant *abbr* **1** Canticle of Canticles **2** Cantonese

can't \('k)kant, ('k)ként, ('k)känt, *esp South* ('k)kānt\ : can not

Can·tab \'kan-ˌtab\ *n* [by shortening] : CANTABRIGIAN

can·ta·bi·le \kän-'täb-ə-ˌlā, kan-'tab-ə-lē\ *adv or adj* [It, fr. LL *cantabilis* worthy to be sung, fr. L *cantare*] : in a singing manner — often used as a direction in music

Can·ta·bri·gian \ˌkant-ə-'brij-(ē-)ən\ *n* [ML *Cantabrigia* Cambridge] **1** : a student or graduate of Cambridge University **2** : a native or resident of Cambridge, Mass. — **Cantabrigian** *adj*

can·ta·la \kan-'täl-ə\ *n* [origin unknown] : a hard fiber produced from the leaves of an agave (*Agave cantala*)

can·ta·loupe \'kant-ᵊl-ˌōp\ *n* [*Cantalupo*, former papal villa near Rome, Italy] **1** : a muskmelon (*Cucumis melo cantalupensis*) with a hard ridged or warty rind and reddish orange flesh **2** : any of several muskmelons resembling the cantaloupe; *broadly* : MUSKMELON

can·tan·ker·ous \kan-'taŋ-k(ə-)rəs, kən-\ *adj* [perh. irreg. fr. obs. *contack* (contention)] : ILL-NATURED, QUARRELSOME — **can·tan·ker·ous·ly** *adv* — **can·tan·ker·ous·ness** *n*

can·ta·ta \kən-'tät-ə\ *n* [It, fr. L, sung mass, ecclesiastical chant, fr. fem. of *cantatus*, pp. of *cantare*] : a usu. sacred choral composition comprising choruses, solos, recitatives, and interludes usu. accompanied by organ, piano, or orchestra

can·ta·trice \ˌkänt-ə-'trē-(ˌ)chā, ˌkänᵑ-tə-'trēs\ *n, pl* **can·ta·trices** \-'trē-(ˌ)chāz, -'trēs(-əz)\ *or* **can·ta·tri·ci** \ˌkänt-ə-'trē-(ˌ)chē\ [It & F, fr. It, fr. LL *cantatric-, cantatrix*, fem. of L *cantator* singer, fr. *cantatus*, pp.] : a female singer; *esp* : an opera singer

cant dog *n* [*[2]cant*] : PEAVEY

can·teen \kan-'tēn\ *n* [F *cantine* bottle case, sutler's shop, fr. It *cantina* wine cellar, fr. *canto* corner, fr. L *canthus* iron tire — more at CANT] **1** : POST EXCHANGE **2** : a place of refreshment and recreation maintained by civilians for servicemen **3** : a temporary or mobile restaurant **4 a** : a partitioned chest or box for holding cutlery **b** : a soldier's mess kit **5** : a usu. cloth-jacketed flask for carrying liquids and esp. water

[1]can·ter \'kant-ər\ *n* : one that uses cant: as **a** : BEGGAR, VAGABOND **b** : a user of professional or religious cant

[2]can·ter \'kant-ər\ *vb* [short for obs. *canterbury*, fr. *canterbury*, n. (canter), fr. *Canterbury*, England; fr. the supposed gait of pilgrims to Canterbury] *vi* **1** : to move at or as if at a canter : LOPE **2** : to ride or go on a cantering horse ~ *vt* : to cause to go at a canter

[3]can·ter *n* **1** : a 3-beat gait resembling but smoother and slower than the gallop **2** : a ride at a canter

Can·ter·bury bell \ˌkant-ə(r)-ˌber-ē-\ *n* [*Canterbury*, England] : any of several bellflowers (as *Campanula medium*) cultivated for their showy flowers

can·tha·ris \'kan(t)-thə-rəs\ *n, pl* **can·thar·i·des** \kan-'thar-ə-ˌdēz\ [ME & L; ME *cantharide*, fr. L *cantharid-, cantharis*, fr. Gk *kantharid-, kantharis*] **1** : SPANISH FLY 1 **2** *pl but sing or pl in constr* : a preparation of dried beetles (as Spanish flies) used in medicine as a counterirritant and formerly as an aphrodisiac

cant hook *n* [*[2]cant*] : a stout wooden lever used esp. in handling logs that has a blunt usu. metal-clad end and a movable metal arm with a sharp spike

can·thus \'kan(t)-thəs\ *n, pl* **can·thi** \'kan-ˌthī, -ˌthē\ [LL, fr. Gk *kanthos* — more at CANT] : either of the angles formed by the meeting of the upper and lower eyelids

can·ti·cle \'kant-i-kəl\ *n* [ME, fr. L *canticulum*, dim. of *canticum* song, fr. *cantus*, pp. of *canere* to sing] : SONG; *specif* : one of several liturgical songs (as the Magnificat) taken from the Bible

Canticle of Canticles : SONG OF SOLOMON

Canticles *n pl but sing in constr* : SONG OF SOLOMON

can·ti·le·ver \'kant-ᵊl-ˌē-vər *also* -ˌev-ər\ *n* [perh. fr. *[2]cant* + *-i-* + *lever*] : a projecting beam or member supported at only one end: as **a** : a bracket-shaped member supporting a balcony or a cornice **b** : either of the two beams or trusses that project from piers toward each other and that when joined directly or by a suspended connecting member form a span of a cantilever bridge — see BRIDGE illustration

can·til·late \'kant-ᵊl-ˌāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *cantillatus*, pp. of *cantillare* to sing low, fr. *cantare* to sing — more at CHANT] : to recite with usu. improvised musical tones — **can·til·la·tion** \ˌkant-ᵊl-'ā-shən\ *n*

can·ti·na \kan-'tē-nə\ *n* [AmerSp, fr. Sp. canteen, fr. It, wine cellar — more at CANTEEN] **1** *Southwest* : a pouch or bag at the pommel of a saddle **2** *Southwest* : a small barroom : SALOON

cant·ing \'kant-iŋ\ *adj* [*[5]cant*] : affectedly pious or righteous ***syn*** see HYPOCRITICAL

can·tle \'kant-ᵊl\ *n* [ME *cantel*, fr. ONF, dim. of *cant* edge, corner — more at CANT] **1** : a segment cut off or out of something : PART, PORTION **2** : the upward projecting rear part of a saddle

can·to \'kan-(ˌ)tō\ *n, pl* **cantos** [It, fr. L *cantus* song, fr. *cantus*, pp. of *canere* to sing — more at CHANT] : one of the major divisions of a long poem

[1]can·ton \'kant-ᵊn, 'kan-ˌtän\ *n* [MF, fr. OProv, fr. *cant* edge, corner, fr. L *canthus* iron tire — more at CANT] **1** *obs* : DIVISION, SECTION **2** [MF, fr. It *cantone*, fr. *canto* corner, fr. L *canthus*] : a small territorial division of a country: as **a** : one of the states of the Swiss confederation **b** : a division of a French arrondissement **3** : the top inner quarter of a flag **4** : the dexter chief region of a heraldic field — **can·ton·al** \'kant-ᵊn-əl, kan-'tän-ᵊl\ *adj*

[2]can·ton \'kant-ᵊn, 'kan-ˌtän, *in sense 2 usu.* kan-'tōn *or* -'tän\ *vt* **1** : to divide into parts; *specif* : to divide into cantons **2** : to allot quarters to (as a body of troops)

can·ton crepe \ˌkan-ˌtän-\ *n, often cap 1st C* [*Canton*, China] : a soft thick dress crepe made in plain weave with fine crosswise ribs

Can·ton·ese \ˌkant-ᵊn-'ēz, -'ēs\ *n, pl* **Cantonese** **1** : a native or inhabitant of Canton, China **2** : the dialect of Chinese spoken in and around Canton — **Cantonese** *adj*

can·ton flannel \ˌkan-ˌtän-\ *n, often cap C* [*Canton*, China] : FLANNEL 1c

can·ton·ment \kan-'tōn-mənt, -'tän-\ *n* **1** : the quartering of troops **2 a** : a group of more or less temporary structures for housing troops **b** : a permanent military station in India

Can·ton ware \'kan-ˌtän-\ *n* : ceramic ware exported from China esp. during the 18th and 19th centuries by way of Canton and including blue-and-white and enameled porcelain and various ornamented stonewares

can·tor \'kant-ər\ *n* [L, singer, fr. *cantus*, pp. of *canere* to sing] **1** : a choir leader : PRECENTOR **2** : a synagogue official who sings or chants liturgical music and leads the congregation in prayer

can·trip \'kan-trəp\ *n* [prob. alter. of *caltrop*] **1** *chiefly Brit* : a witch's trick : SPELL **2** *chiefly Brit* : a mischievous or whimsically eccentric act

can·tus \'kant-əs\ *n, pl* **can·tus** \'kant-əs, 'kan-ˌtüs\ **1** : CANTUS FIRMUS **2** : the principal melody or voice

can·tus fir·mus \ˌkant-əs-'fi(ə)r-məs, -'fər-\ *n* [ML, lit., fixed song] **1** : the plainchant or simple Gregorian melody orig. sung in unison and prescribed as to form and use by ecclesiastical tradition **2** : a melodic theme or subject; *esp* : one for contrapuntal treatment

canty \'kant-ē\ *adj* [*[1]cant*] *dial Brit* : CHEERFUL, SPRIGHTLY

Ca·nuck \kə-'nək\ *n* [prob. alter. of *Canadian*] **1** : CANADIAN **2** *chiefly Canad* : FRENCH CANADIAN **3** : CANADIAN FRENCH — usu. used disparagingly

[1]can·vas *also* **can·vass** \'kan-vəs\ *n, often attrib* [ME *canevas*, fr. ONF, fr. (assumed) VL *cannabaceus* hempen, fr. L *cannabis* hemp — more at CANNABIS] **1** : a firm closely woven cloth usu. of linen, hemp, or cotton used for clothing and sails **2** : a set of sails : SAIL **3** : a piece of canvas used for a particular purpose **4** : a military or camping tent; *also* : a group of such tents **5 a** : a cloth surface prepared to receive an oil painting; *also* : the painting on such a surface **b** : the background, setting, or scope of an historical or fictional account or narrative ⟨the crowded ~ of history⟩ **6** : a coarse cloth so woven as to form regular meshes for working with the needle **7** : the floor of a boxing or wrestling ring — **can·vas-like** \-və-ˌslīk\ *adj*

[2]canvas *vt* **-vased** *or* **-vassed; -vas·ing** *or* **-vass·ing** : to cover, line, or furnish with canvas

can·vas·back \'kan-vəs-ˌbak\ *n* : a No. American wild duck (*Aythya valisineria*) characterized esp. by the elongate sloping profile of the bill and head

[1]can·vass *also* **can·vas** \'kan-vəs\ *vt* **1** *obs* : to toss in a canvas sheet in sport or punishment **2 a** *obs* : BEAT, TROUNCE **b** *archaic* : CASTIGATE **3 a** : to examine in detail; *specif* : to examine (votes) officially for authenticity **b** : DISCUSS, DEBATE **4** : to go through (a district) or go to (persons) in order to solicit orders or political support or to determine opinions or sentiments ~ *vi* : to seek orders or votes : SOLICIT — **can·vass·er** *also* **can·vas·er** *n*

[2]canvass *n* **1 a** : a detailed examination or discussion **b** : a scrutiny esp. of votes **2** : the act of canvassing ⟨a house-to-house ~⟩: as **a** : the personal solicitation of votes **b** : a survey to ascertain the probable vote before an election

can·yon \'kan-yən\ *n* [AmerSp *cañón*, prob. alter. of obs. Sp *callón*, aug. of *calle* street, fr. L *callis* footpath] : a deep narrow valley with precipitous sides often with a stream flowing through it

can·zo·ne \kan-'zō-nē, känt-'sō-(ˌ)nā\ *n, pl* **-nes** \-nēz, -(ˌ)nāz\ *or* **-ni** \-nē\ [It, fr. L *cantion-, cantio* song, fr. *cantus*, pp. of *canere* to sing — more at CHANT] **1** : a medieval Italian or Provençal lyric poem **2** : the melody of a canzone

can·zo·net \ˌkan-zə-'net\ *n* [It *canzonetta*, dim. of *canzone*] **1** : a part-song resembling but less elaborate than a madrigal **2** : a light and graceful song

caou·tchouc \'kaù-ˌchůk, -ˌchük, -ˌchü\ *n* [F, fr. obs. Sp *cauchuc* (now *caucho*), fr. Quechua] : [1]RUBBER 2a

[1]cap \'kap\ *n, often attrib* [ME *cappe*, fr. OE *cæppe*, fr. LL *cappa* head covering, cloak] **1** : a head covering; *esp* : one for men and boys that has a visor and no brim **2** : a natural cover or top: as **a** : an overlying rock layer that is usu. hard to penetrate **b** (1) : PILEUS (2) : CALYPTRA **c** : the top of a bird's head or a patch of distinctively colored feathers in this area **3 a** : something that serves as a cover or protection esp. for a tip, knob, or end ⟨a bottle ~⟩ **b** : a fitting for closing the end of a tube (as a water pipe or electric conduit) **c** : a layer of new rubber fused onto the worn surface of a pneumatic tire **4 a** : a cardinal's biretta **b** : MORTARBOARD **5** : an overlaying or covering structure ⟨the galleried ~ of the old water tower is open to visitors⟩ **6** : a paper or metal container holding an explosive charge (as for a toy pistol)

[2]cap *vt* **capped; cap·ping** **1 a** : to provide or protect with a cap **b** : to give a cap to as a symbol of honor or rank **2** : to form a cap over : CROWN ⟨the mountains were *capped* with mist —John Buchan⟩ **3 a** : to follow with something more noticeable or more significant : OUTDO **b** : MATCH **c** : CLIMAX

[3]cap *abbr* **1** capacity **2** capital **3** capitalize; capitalized

CAP *abbr* Civil Air Patrol

ca·pa·bil·i·ty \ˌkā-pə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being capable **2** : a feature or faculty capable of development : POTENTIALITY **3** : the capacity for an indicated use or development ⟨the ~ of a metal to be fused⟩

ca·pa·ble \'kā-pə-bəl, 'kāp-bəl\ *adj* [MF or LL; MF *capable*, fr. LL *capabilis*, irreg. fr. L *capere* to take — more at HEAVE] **1** : SUSCEPTIBLE ⟨a remark ~ of being misunderstood⟩ **2** *obs* : COMPREHENSIVE **3** : having attributes (as physical or mental power) required for performance or accomplishment ⟨a man ~ of intense concentration⟩ **4** : having traits conducive to or admitting of ⟨this woman is ~ of murder by violence —Robert Graves⟩ **5** : having general efficiency and ability **6** *obs* : having legal right to own, enjoy, or perform ***syn*** see ABLE ***ant*** incapable — **ca·pa·ble·ness** \'kā-pə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **ca·pa·bly** \-pə-blē\ *adv*

ca·pa·cious \kə-'pā-shəs\ *adj* [L *capac-, capax* capacious, capable, fr. L *capere*] : able to contain a great deal ***syn*** see SPACIOUS — **ca·pa·cious·ly** *adv* — **ca·pa·cious·ness** *n*

ca·pac·i·tance \kə-'pas-ət-ən(t)s\ *n* [*capacity*] **1 a** : the property of an electric nonconductor that permits the storage of energy as a result of electric displacement when opposite surfaces of the nonconductor are maintained at a difference of potential **b** : the measure of this property equal to the ratio of the charge on either surface to the potential difference between the surfaces **2** : a part of a circuit or network that possesses capacitance — **ca·pac·i·tive** \-'pas-ət-iv\ *adj* — **ca·pac·i·tive·ly** *adv*

ca·pac·i·tate \kə-'pas-ə-ˌtāt\ *vt* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** *archaic* : to make capable : QUALIFY

ca·pac·i·tor \kə-'pas-ət-ər\ *n* : a device giving capacitance and usu. consisting of conducting plates or foils separated by thin layers of dielectric (as air or mica) with the plates on opposite sides of the dielectric layers oppositely charged by a source of voltage and the electrical energy of the charged system stored in the polarized dielectric

[1]ca·pac·i·ty \kə-'pas-ət-ē, -'pas-tē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *capacite*, fr. MF *capacité*, fr. L *capacitat-, capacitas*, fr. *capac-, capax*] **1 a** : the ability to hold, receive, store, or accommodate **b** : a measure of content : the measured ability to contain : VOLUME ⟨a jug with a ~ of one gallon⟩ — see METRIC SYSTEM table, WEIGHT table **c** : maximum production or output **d** (1) : CAPACITANCE (2) : the quantity of electricity that a battery can deliver under specified conditions **2** : legal qualification, competency, power, or fitness **3 a** : ABILITY, CALIBER **b** : power to grasp and analyze ideas and cope with problems **c** : POTENTIALITY **4** : a position or character assigned or assumed ⟨in his ~ as a judge⟩

[2]capacity *adj* : attaining to or equaling maximum capacity ⟨a ~ crowd⟩ ⟨~ production of electricity⟩

cap–a–pie *or* **cap–à–pie** \ˌkap-ə-'pē, -'pā\ *adv* [MF *(de) cap a pé* from head to foot] : from head to foot : at all points ⟨armed ~⟩

ca·par·i·son \kə-'par-ə-sən\ *n* [MF *caparaçon*, fr. OSp *caparazón*] **1 a** : an ornamental covering for a horse **b** : decorative trappings and harness **2** : rich clothing : ADORNMENT — **caparison** *vt*

[1]cape \'kāp\ *n, often attrib* [ME *cap*, fr. MF, fr. OProv, fr. L *caput* head — more at HEAD] : a point or extension of land jutting out into water as a peninsula or as a projecting point

[2]cape *n* [prob. fr. Sp *capa* cloak, fr. LL *cappa* head covering, cloak] **1** : a sleeveless outer garment or part of a garment that fits closely at the neck and hangs loosely from the shoulders **2** : the short feathers covering the shoulders of a fowl below the hackle — see COCK illustration; see DUCK illustration

Cape buffalo \'kāp-\ *n* [*Cape* of Good Hope, Africa] : a large dangerous and often savage buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) of southern Africa

Cape Cod cottage \(ˌ)kāp-ˌkäd-\ *n* [*Cape Cod*, Mass.] : a compact rectangular dwelling of one or one-and-a-half stories usu. with a central chimney and steep gable roof

Cape crawfish *n* [*Cape* of Good Hope] : the common edible spiny lobster (*Jasus lalandii*) of southern Africa

Cape Horn·er \kāp-'hȯr-nər\ *n* : a ship that voyages around Cape Horn

cape·let \'kāp-lət\ *n* : a small cape usu. covering the shoulders

cap·e·lin \'kap-(ə-)lən\ *n* [CanF *capelan*, fr. F, codfish, fr. OProv, chaplain, codfish, fr. ML *cappellanus* chaplain — more at CHAPLAIN] : a small northern sea fish (*Mallotus villosus*) related to the smelts

Ca·pel·la \kə-'pel-ə\ *n* [L, lit., she-goat, fr. *caper* he-goat — more at CAPRIOLE] : a star of the first magnitude in Auriga

Cape marigold *n* [*Cape* of Good Hope] : DIMORPHOTHECA

[1]ca·per \'kā-pər\ *n* [back-formation fr. earlier *capers* (taken as a plural), fr. ME *caperis*, fr. L *capparis*, fr. Gk *kapparis*] **1** : any of a genus (*Capparis* of the family Capparidaceae, the caper family) of low prickly shrubs of the Mediterranean region; *esp* : one (*C. spinosa*) cultivated for its buds **2** : one of the greenish flower buds or young berries of the caper pickled for use as a relish

[2]caper *vi* **ca·pered; ca·per·ing** \-p(ə-)riŋ\ [prob. by shortening & alter. fr. *capriole*] : to leap about in a gay frolicsome way : PRANCE

[3]caper *n* **1** : a gay bounding leap **2** : a capricious escapade : PRANK **3** : an illegal enterprise : CRIME

cap·er·cail·lie \ˌkap-ər-'kāl-(y)ē\ *or* **cap·er·cail·zie** \-'kāl-zē\ *n* [ScGael *capalcoille*, lit., horse of the woods] : the largest Old World grouse (*Tetrao urogallus*)

cape·skin \'kāp-ˌskin\ *n* [*Cape* of Good Hope] : a light flexible leather made from sheepskins with the natural grain retained and used esp. for gloves and garments

Ca·pe·tian \kə-'pē-shən\ *adj* [Hugh *Capet*] : of or relating to the French royal house that ruled from 987 to 1328 — **Capetian** *n*

cape·work \'kāp-ˌwərk\ *n* : the art of the bullfighter in working a bull with the cape

cap·ful \'kap-ˌfůl\ *n* **1** : as much as a cap will hold ⟨a ~ of detergent⟩ **2** : a light puff ⟨a ~ of wind⟩

cap gun *n* : CAP PISTOL

ca·pi·as \'kā-pē-əs\ *n* [ME, fr. L, you should seize, fr. *capere* to take — more at HEAVE] : a legal writ or process commanding the officer to arrest the person named in it

cap·il·lar·i·ty \ˌkap-ə-'lar-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the property or state of being capillary **2** : the action by which the surface of a liquid where it is in contact with a solid (as in a capillary tube) is elevated or depressed depending on the relative attraction of the molecules of the liquid for each other and for those of the solid

[1]cap·il·lary \'kap-ə-ˌler-ē, *Brit usu* kə-'pil-ə-rē\ *adj* [F or L; F *capillaire*, fr. L *capillaris*, fr. *capillus* hair] **1** : resembling a hair esp. in slender elongated form; *esp* : having a very small bore ⟨a ~ tube⟩ **2** : involving, held by, or resulting from surface tension ⟨~ water in the soil⟩ **3** : of or relating to capillaries or capillarity

[2]capillary *n, pl* **-lar·ies** : a capillary tube; *esp* : any of the smallest vessels of the blood-vascular system connecting arterioles with venules and forming networks throughout the body

capillary attraction *n* : the force of adhesion between a solid and a liquid in capillarity

[1]cap·i·tal \'kap-ət-ᵊl, 'kap-tᵊl\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *capitalis*, fr. *capit-, caput* head — more at HEAD] **1 a** : punishable by death ⟨a ~ crime⟩ **b** : involving execution ⟨~ punishment⟩ **c** : most serious ⟨a ~ error⟩ **2** *of a letter* : of or conforming to the series A, B, C, etc. rather than a, b, c, etc. **3 a** : chief in importance or influence ⟨the ~ importance of criticism in the work of creation itself —T. S. Eliot⟩ **b** : being the seat of government **4** : of or relating to capital **5** : EXCELLENT ⟨a ~ book⟩

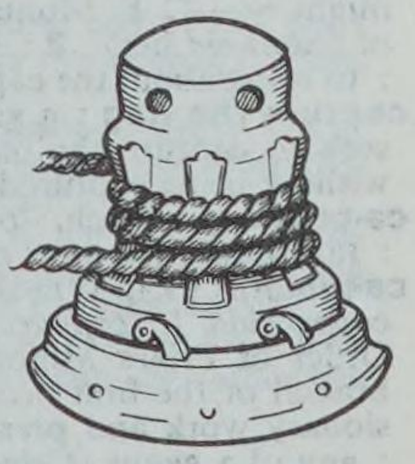
[2]capital *n* [F or It; F, fr. It *capitale*, fr. *capitale*, adj., chief, principal, fr. L *capitalis*] **1 a** (1) : a stock of accumulated goods esp. at a specified time and in contrast to income received during a specified period; *also* : the value of these accumulated goods (2) : accumulated goods devoted to the production of other goods (3) : accumulated possessions calculated to bring in income **b** (1) : net worth (2) : CAPITAL STOCK **c** : persons holding capital **d** : ADVANTAGE, GAIN **2** [[1]*capital*] **a** : a capital letter; *esp* : an initial capital letter **b** : a letter belonging to a style of alphabet modeled on the style customarily used in inscriptions **3** [[1]*capital*] **a** : a city serving as a seat of government **b** : a city preeminent in some special activity

[3]capital *n* [ME *capitale*, modif. of ONF *capitel*, fr. LL *capitellum* small head, top of column, dim. of L *capit-, caput*] : the uppermost member of a column or pilaster crowning the shaft and taking the weight of the entablature — see COLUMN illustration

capital assets *n pl* : tangible or intangible long-term assets

capital expenditure *n* : an expenditure for long-term additions or betterments properly chargeable to a capital assets account
capital gains distribution *n* : the part of a payment made by an investment company to its shareholders that consists of realized profits from the sale of securities and technically is not income
capital goods *n pl* : ²CAPITAL 1a(1), 1a(2)
cap·i·tal·ism \'kap-ət-ᵊl-ˌiz-əm, 'kap-tᵊl-\ *n* : an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods, by investments that are determined by private decision rather than by state control, and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined mainly by competition in a free market
¹cap·i·tal·ist \-əst\ *n* **1** : a person who has capital esp. invested in business; *broadly* : a person of wealth : PLUTOCRAT **2** : a person who favors capitalism
²capitalist *or* **cap·i·tal·is·tic** \ˌkap-ət-ᵊl-'is-tik, ˌkap-tᵊl-\ *adj* **1** : owning capital ⟨the ~ class⟩ **2 a** : practicing or advocating capitalism ⟨~ nations⟩ **b** : marked by capitalism ⟨the modern ~ period of history from 1815 to 1914 —Norman Thomas⟩ — **cap·i·tal·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cap·i·tal·iza·tion \ˌkap-ət-ᵊl-ə-'zā-shən, ˌkap-tᵊl-\ *n* **1 a** : the act or process of capitalizing **b** : a sum resulting from a process of capitalizing **c** : the total liabilities of a business including both ownership capital and borrowed capital **d** : the total par value or the stated value of no-par issues of authorized capital stock **2** : the use of a capital letter in writing or printing
cap·i·tal·ize \'kap-ət-ᵊl-ˌīz, 'kap-tᵊl-\ *vb* **-ized; -iz·ing** *vt* **1** : to write or print with an initial capital or in capitals **2** : to convert into capital ⟨~ the company's reserve fund⟩ **3 a** : to compute the present value of (an income extended over a period of time) **b** : to convert (a periodic payment) into an equivalent capital sum ⟨*capitalized* annuities⟩ **4** : to supply capital for ~ *vi* : to gain by turning something to advantage : PROFIT ⟨~ on an opponent's mistake⟩
capital levy *n* : a levy on personal or industrial capital in addition to income tax and other taxes : a general property tax
cap·i·tal·ly \'kap-ət-ᵊl-ē, 'kap-tᵊl-\ *adv* **1** : in a manner involving capital punishment **2** : in a capital manner : EXCELLENTLY, ADMIRABLY
capital ship *n* : a warship of the first rank in size and armament
capital sin *n* : DEADLY SIN
capital stock *n* **1** : the outstanding shares of a joint-stock company considered as an aggregate **2** : CAPITALIZATION 1d **3** : the ownership element of a corporation divided into shares and represented by certificates
capital structure *n* : the makeup of the capitalization of a business in terms of the amounts and kinds of equity and debt securities : the equity and debt securities of a business together with its surplus and reserves
cap·i·tate \'kap-ə-ˌtāt\ *adj* [L *capitatus* headed, fr. *capit-, caput* head] **1** : forming a head **2** : abruptly enlarged and globose
cap·i·ta·tion \ˌkap-ə-'tā-shən\ *n* [LL *capitation-, capitatio* poll tax, fr. L *capit-, caput*] **1** : a direct uniform tax imposed upon each head or person : POLL TAX **2** : a uniform per capita payment or fee
cap·i·tol \'kap-ət-ᵊl, 'kap-tᵊl\ *n* [L *Capitolium*, temple of Jupiter at Rome on the Capitoline hill] **1 a** : a building in which a state legislative body meets **b** : a group of buildings in which the functions of state government are carried out **2** *cap* : the building in which the U.S. Congress meets at Washington
Capitol Hill *n* [*Capitol Hill*, Washington, site of the U.S. Capitol] : the legislative branch of the U.S. government
Cap·i·to·line \'kap-ət-ᵊl-ˌīn, *Brit usu* kə-'pit-ə-ˌlīn\ *adj* [L *capitolinus*, fr. *Capitolium*] : of or relating to the smallest of the seven hills of ancient Rome, the temple on it, or the gods worshiped there
ca·pit·u·lar \kə-'pich-ə-lər\ *adj* [ML *capitularis*, fr. *capitulum* chapter] : of or relating to an ecclesiastical chapter
ca·pit·u·lary \-ˌler-ē\ *n, pl* **-lar·ies** [ML *capitulare*, lit., document divided into sections, fr. LL *capitulum* section, chapter — more at CHAPTER] : a civil or ecclesiastical ordinance; *also* : a collection of ordinances
ca·pit·u·late \kə-'pich-ə-ˌlāt\ *vi* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [ML *capitulatus*, pp. of *capitulare* to distinguish by heads or chapters, fr. LL *capitulum*] **1** *archaic* : PARLEY, NEGOTIATE **2 a** : to surrender often after negotiation of terms **b** : to cease resisting : ACQUIESCE ***syn*** see YIELD
ca·pit·u·la·tion \kə-ˌpich-ə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1** : a set of terms or articles constituting an agreement between governments **2** : the act or agreement of one that surrenders upon stipulated terms **3** : a giving over of resistance usu. to something that presses or dominates ***syn*** see SURRENDER
ca·pit·u·lum \kə-'pich-ə-ləm\ *n, pl* **-la** \-lə\ [NL, fr. L, small head — more at CHAPTER] **1** : a rounded protuberance of an anatomical part (as a bone) **2** : a racemose inflorescence (as of the buttonbush) with the axis shortened and dilated to form a rounded or flattened cluster of sessile flowers — see INFLORESCENSE illustration
ca·po \'kā-(ˌ)pō\ *n, pl* **capos** [short for *capotasto*, fr. It, lit., head of fingerboard] : a movable bar attached to the fingerboard esp. of a guitar to uniformly raise the pitch of all the strings
ca·pon \'kā-ˌpän, -pən\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *capūn*, prob. fr. ONF *capon*, fr. L *capon-, capo;* akin to Gk *koptein* to cut] : a castrated male chicken — **ca·pon·ize** \-pə-ˌnīz\ *vt*
cap·o·ral \'kap-(ə-)rəl, ˌkap-ə-'ral\ *n* [F, lit., corporal — more at CORPORAL] : a coarse tobacco
ca·pote \kə-'pōt\ *n* [F, fr. *cape* cloak, fr. LL *cappa*] : a usu. long and hooded cloak or overcoat
cap·per \'kap-ər\ *n* **1** : one that caps; *esp* : an operator or a machine that applies the closure or cap **2** : a lure or decoy esp. in an illicit or questionable activity : SHILL
cap·ping \'kap-iŋ\ *n* : something that caps
cap pistol *n* : a toy pistol that fires caps
cap·ric acid \ˌkap-rik-\ *n* [ISV, fr. L *capr-, caper* goat; fr. its odor — more at CAPRIOLE] : a fatty acid $C_{10}H_{20}O_2$ found in fats and oils and used in flavors and perfumes
ca·pric·cio \kə-'prē-ch(ē-ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-cios** [It] **1** : WHIMSY, FANCY **2** : CAPER, PRANK **3** : an instrumental piece in free form usu. lively in tempo and brilliant in style
ca·price \kə-'prēs\ *n* [F, fr. It *capriccio*, lit., head with hair standing on end, shudder, fr. *capo* head (fr. L *caput*) + *riccio* hedgehog, fr. L *ericius* — more at HEAD, URCHIN] **1 a** : a sudden, impulsive, and seemingly unmotivated change of mind **b** : a sudden change or series of changes hard to explain or predict ⟨the ~s of the weather⟩ **2** : a disposition to change one's mind impulsively **3** : CAPRICCIO 3

syn CAPRICE, FREAK, WHIM, VAGARY, CROTCHET *shared meaning element* : an arbitrary and typically fanciful or impracticable notion. CAPRICE emphasizes lack of evident motivation and suggests willfulness ⟨my cousin's pet *caprice* is to affect a distaste for art, to which she is passionately devoted —G. B. Shaw⟩ FREAK suggests an impulsive causeless change of mind befitting a child or a lunatic ⟨chose to work or loaf as the *freak* took him⟩ WHIM often implies a quaint, fantastic, or humorous turn of mind that may lead to freakish or capricious acts or behavior ⟨had a *whim* to dress only in white⟩ ⟨a man subject to sudden *whims* and moods⟩ VAGARY stresses the erratic, irresponsible, or extravagant quality of a notion or impulse ⟨the *vagaries* of fashion⟩ ⟨straight they changed their minds, flew off, and into strange *vagaries* fell — John Milton⟩ CROTCHET implies a perversely heretical or eccentric opinion or preference, especially on some trivial matter ⟨she was eccentric . . . full of *crotchets*. She never drank water without some vinegar in it —to cleanse it, she said —Robert Henderson⟩
ca·pri·cious \kə-'prish-əs, -'prē-shəs\ *adj* : governed or characterized by caprice : apt to change suddenly or unpredictably ***syn*** see INCONSTANT ***ant*** steadfast — **ca·pri·cious·ly** *adv* — **ca·pri·cious·ness** *n*
Cap·ri·corn \'kap-ri-ˌkȯ(ə)rn\ *n* [ME *Capricorne*, fr. L *Capricornus* (gen. *Capricorni*), fr. *caper* goat + *cornu* horn — more at HORN] **1** : a southern zodiacal constellation between Sagittarius and Aquarius **2 a** : the 10th sign of the zodiac in astrology — see ZODIAC table **b** : one born under this sign
cap·ri·fi·ca·tion \ˌkap-rə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* [L *caprification-, caprificatio*, fr. *caprificatus*, pp. of *caprificare* to pollinate by caprification, fr. *caprificus*] : artificial pollination of figs that usu. bear only pistillate flowers by hanging male flowering branches of the caprifig in the trees to facilitate pollen transfer by a wasp to the edible figs
cap·ri·fig \'kap-rə-ˌfig\ *n* [ME *caprifige*, part trans. of L *caprificus*, fr. *capr-, caper* goat + *ficus* fig — more at FIG] : a wild fig (*Ficus carica sylvestris*) of southern Europe and Asia Minor used for caprification of the edible fig; *also* : its fruit
cap·rine \'kap-ˌrīn\ *adj* [L *caprinus*, fr. *capr-, caper*] : of, relating to, or being a goat
cap·ri·ole \'kap-rē-ˌōl\ *n* [MF or OIt; MF *capriole*, fr. OIt *capriola*, fr. *capriolo* roebuck, fr. L *capreolus* goat, roebuck, fr. *capr-, caper* he-goat; akin to OE *hæfer* goat, Gk *kapros* wild boar] **1** : CAPER **2** *of a trained horse* : a vertical leap with a backward kick of the hind legs at the height of the leap — **capriole** *vi*
ca·pri pants \kə-ˌprē-\ *n pl, often cap C* [*Capri*, Italy] : close-fitting pants that have tapered legs with a slit on the outside of the leg bottom, extend almost to the ankle, and are used for informal wear esp. by women
ca·pro·ic acid \kə-ˌprō-ik-\ *n* [ISV, fr. L *capr-, caper*] : a liquid fatty acid $C_6H_{12}O_2$ that is found as a glycerol ester in fats and oils or made synthetically and used in pharmaceuticals and flavors
ca·pryl·ic acid \kə-ˌpril-ik-\ *n* [ISV *capryl*, a radical contained in it] : a fatty acid $C_8H_{16}O_2$ of rancid odor occurring in fats and oils and used in perfumes
caps *abbr* **1** capitals **2** capsule
cap·sa·icin \kap-'sā-ə-sən\ *n* [irreg. fr. NL *Capsicum*] : a colorless irritant phenolic amide $C_{18}H_{27}NO_3$ obtained from various capsicums
Cap·si·an \'kap-sē-ən\ *adj* [F *capsien*, fr. L *Capsa* Gafsa, Tunisia] : of or relating to a Paleolithic culture of northern Africa and southern Europe
cap·si·cum \'kap-si-kəm\ *n* [NL, genus name] **1** : any of a genus (*Capsicum*) of tropical herbs and shrubs of the nightshade family widely cultivated for their many-seeded usu. fleshy-walled berries — called also *pepper* **2** : the dried ripe fruit of some capsicums (as *C. frutescens*) used as a gastric and intestinal stimulant
cap·sid \'kap-səd\ *n* [L *capsa* case + E ²*-id* — more at CASE] : the outer protein shell of a virus particle — **cap·sid·al** \-səd-ᵊl\ *adj*
cap·size \'kap-ˌsīz, kap-'\ *vb* **cap·sized; cap·siz·ing** [origin unknown] *vt* : to cause to overturn ⟨~ a canoe⟩ ~ *vi* : to turn over : UPSET ⟨the canoe *capsized*⟩
cap·stan \'kap-stən, -ˌstan\ *n* [ME] **1** : a machine for moving or raising heavy weights by winding cable around a vertical spindle-mounted drum that is rotated manually or driven by steam or electric power **2** : a rotating shaft that drives tape at a constant speed in a recorder


capstan 1

cap·stone \'kap-ˌstōn\ *n* [¹*cap*] **1** : a coping stone : COPING **2** : the crowning point : ACME
cap·su·lar \'kap-sə-lər\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or resembling a capsule **2** : CAPSULATE
cap·su·late \-ˌlāt, -lət\ *or* **cap·su·lat·ed** \-ˌlāt-əd\ *adj* : enclosed in a capsule

[1]cap·sule \'kap-səl, -(ˌ)sül\ *n* [F, fr. L *capsula*, dim. of *capsa* box — more at CASE] **1 a** : a membrane or sac enclosing a body part **b** : either of two layers of white matter in the cerebrum **2** : a closed receptacle containing spores or seeds: as **a** : a dry dehiscent usu. many-seeded fruit composed of two or more carpels **b** : the spore sac of a moss **3** : a gelatin shell enclosing medicine **4** : an often polysaccharide envelope surrounding a microorganism **5** : an extremely brief condensation : OUTLINE, SURVEY **6** : a compact usu. detachable receptacle **7** : a small pressurized compartment for an aviator or astronaut for flight or emergency escape; *specif* : SPACECRAFT

[2]capsule *vt* **cap·suled; cap·sul·ing** **1** : to equip with or enclose in a capsule **2** : to condense into or formulate in a very brief compact form ⟨*capsuled* the news⟩

[3]capsule *adj* **1** : extremely brief **2** : small and very compact

cap·sul·ize \'kap-sə-ˌlīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : CAPSULE

Capt *abbr* captain

[1]cap·tain \'kap-tən\ *n* [ME *capitane*, fr. MF *capitain*, fr. LL *capitaneus*, adj. & n., chief, fr. L *capit-*, *caput* head — more at HEAD] **1 a** : the commander of a body of troops or of a military establishment **b** : a commander under a sovereign or general **c** (1) : an officer in charge of a ship (2) : a commissioned officer in the navy or coast guard ranking above a commander and below a rear admiral **d** : a commissioned officer in the army, air force, or marine corps ranking above a first lieutenant and below a major **e** : a distinguished military leader **f** : a leader of a side or team in a sports contest **g** : a fire or police department officer usu. ranking between a lieutenant and a chief **h** (1) : a restaurant functionary in charge of waiters (2) : a hotel functionary in charge of bellboys — called also *bell captain* **2** : a dominant figure ⟨~*s* of commerce⟩ — **cap·tain·cy** \-sē\ *n* — **cap·tain·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

[2]captain *vt* : to be captain of : LEAD ⟨~*ed* the football team⟩

captain of industry : the head of a great industrial enterprise : ENTREPRENEUR

captain's chair *n* : an armchair with a low curved back with vertical spindles and a saddle seat

captain's mast *n* : MAST 3

cap·tan \'kap-ˌtan\ *n* [origin unknown] : a fungicide $C_9H_8Cl_3NO_2S$ used on agricultural crops

[1]cap·tion \'kap-shən\ *n* [ME *capcioun*, fr. L *caption-*, *captio* act of taking, fr. *captus*, pp. of *capere* to take — more at HEAVE] **1** : the part of a legal instrument that shows where, when, and by what authority it was taken, found, or executed **2 a** : the heading esp. of an article or document : TITLE **b** : the explanatory comment or designation accompanying a pictorial illustration **c** : a motion-picture subtitle — **cap·tion·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

[2]caption *vt* **cap·tioned; cap·tion·ing** \-sh(ə-)niŋ\ : to furnish with a caption : ENTITLE

cap·tious \'kap-shəs\ *adj* [ME *capcious*, fr. MF or L; MF *captieux* fr. L *captiosus*, fr. *captio* act of taking, deception] **1** : calculated to confuse, entrap, or entangle in argument **2** : marked by an often ill-natured inclination to stress faults and raise objections ***syn*** see CRITICAL ***ant*** appreciative — **cap·tious·ly** *adv* — **cap·tious·ness** *n*

cap·ti·vate \'kap-tə-ˌvāt\ *vt* **-vat·ed; -vat·ing** **1** *archaic* : SEIZE, CAPTURE **2** : to influence and dominate by some special charm, art, or trait and with an irresistible appeal ***syn*** see ATTRACT ***ant*** repulse — **cap·ti·va·tion** \ˌkap-tə-'vā-shən\ *n* — **cap·ti·va·tor** \'kap-tə-ˌvāt-ər\ *n*

cap·tive \'kap-tiv\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *captivus*, fr. *captus*, pp. of *capere*] **1 a** : taken and held as prisoner esp. by an enemy in war **b** : kept within bounds : CONFINED **c** (1) : held under control (2) : owned or controlled by another concern and operated for its needs rather than for an open market ⟨a ~ mine⟩ **2** : of or relating to captivity **3** : extremely pleased or gratified : CAPTIVATED **4** : being in a situation that makes departure or inattention difficult ⟨a ~ audience⟩ — **captive** *n*

cap·tiv·i·ty \kap-'tiv-ət-ē\ *n* **1** : the state of being captive ⟨some birds thrive in ~⟩ **2** *obs* : a group of captives

cap·tor \'kap-tər, -ˌtȯ(ə)r\ *n* [LL, fr. L *captus*] : one that has captured a person or thing

[1]cap·ture \'kap-chər\ *n* [MF, fr. L *captura*, fr. *captus*, pp. of *capere*] **1** : the act of catching or gaining control by force, stratagem, or guile **2** : one that has been taken; *esp* : a prize ship **3** : a move in various board games (as checkers or chess) that gains an opponent's man **4** : the coalescence of an atomic nucleus with an elementary particle that may result in an emission from or fission of the nucleus

[2]capture *vt* **cap·tured; cap·tur·ing** \'kap-chə-riŋ, 'kap-shriŋ\ **1 a** : to take captive : WIN, GAIN ⟨~ a city⟩ **b** : to preserve in a relatively permanent form ⟨at any such moment as a photograph might ~ —C. E. Montague⟩ **c** : to captivate and hold the interest of ⟨*captured* her⟩ **2** : to take according to the rules of a game **3** : to bring about the capture of (an elementary particle)

capture the flag : a game in which players on each of two teams seek to capture the other team's flag and return it to their side without being captured and imprisoned

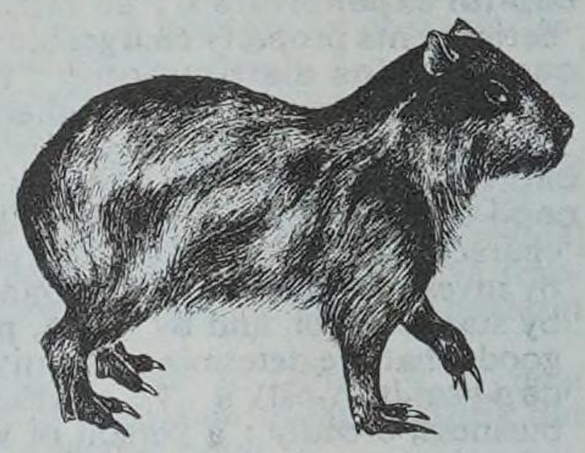
ca·puche \kə-'püch, -'püsh\ *n* [It *cappuccio*, fr. *cappa* cloak, fr. LL] : HOOD; *esp* : the cowl of a Capuchin friar

ca·pu·chin \'kap-(y)ə-shən, *esp for 3 also* kə-'p(y)ü-\ *n* [MF, fr. OIt *cappuccino*, fr. *cappuccio*; fr. his cowl] **1** *cap* : a member of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin forming since 1529 an austere branch of the first order of St. Francis of Assisi engaged in missionary work and preaching **2** : a hooded cloak for women **3** : any of a genus (*Cebus*) of So. American monkeys; *esp* : one (*C. capucinus*) with the hair on its crown resembling a monk's cowl

Cap·u·let \'kap-yə-lət\ *n* : the family of Juliet in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*

cap·y·bara \ˌkap-i-'bar-ə, -'bär-\ *n* [Pg *capibara*, fr. Tupi] : a tailless largely aquatic So. American rodent (*Hydrochoerus capybara*) often exceeding four feet in length

car \'kär\ *n* [ME *carre*, fr. AF, fr. L *carra*, pl. of *carrum*, alter. of *carrus*, of Celt origin; akin to OIr & MW *carr* vehicle; akin to L *currere* to run] **1** : a vehicle moving on wheels: **a** *archaic* : CARRIAGE, CART, WAGON **b** : a chariot of war or of triumph **c** : a vehicle adapted to the rails of a railroad or street railway **d** : AUTOMOBILE **2** : the cage of an elevator **3** : the part of an airship or balloon that carries the power plant, personnel, and cargo



capybara

Car *abbr* Carlow

CAR *abbr* civil air regulations

ca·ra·bao \ˌkar-ə-'baü, ˌkär-\ *n* [PhilSp, fr. Eastern Bisayan *karabáw*] : WATER BUFFALO

ca·ra·bid \'kar-ə-bəd, kə-'rab-əd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *karabos* horned beetle] : any of a large family (Carabidae) of usu. carnivorous and often shining black or metallic beetles — **carabid** *adj*

car·a·bi·neer *or* **car·a·bi·nier** \ˌkar-ə-bə-'ni(ə)r\ *n* [F *carabinier*, fr. *carabine* carbine] : a soldier armed with a carbine

car·a·bi·ner \ˌkar-ə-'bē-nər\ *n* [G *karabiner*] : an oblong ring that snaps to the eye or link of a piton to hold a freely running rope

ca·ra·bi·ne·ro \ˌkar-ə-bə-'ne(ə)r-(ˌ)ō, ˌkär-\ *n, pl* **-ros** [Sp, fr. *carabina* carbine, fr. F *carabine*] **1** : a member of a Spanish national police force serving esp. as frontier guards **2** : a customs or coast guard officer in the Philippines

ca·ra·bi·nie·re \ˌkar-ə-bən-'ye(ə)r-(ˌ)ā, ˌkär-\ *n, pl* **-nie·ri** \-'ye(ə)r-ē\ [It, fr. F *carabinier*] : a member of the Italian national police force

ca·ra·ca·ra \ˌkar-ə-'kar-ə, -ə-kə-'rä\ *n* [Sp *caracara* & Pg *caracará*, fr. Tupi *caracará*, of imit. origin] : any of various large long-legged mostly So. American hawks resembling vultures in habits

car·a·cole \'kar-ə-ˌkōl\ *n* [F, fr. Sp *caracol* snail, spiral stair, caracole] **1** : a half turn to right or left executed by a mounted horse **2** : a turning or capering movement — **caracole** *vb*

car·a·cul \'kar-ə-kəl\ *n* [alter. of *karakul*] : the pelt of a karakul lamb after the curl begins to loosen

ca·rafe \kə-'raf, -'räf\ *n* [F, fr. It *caraffa*, fr. Ar *gharrāfah*] : a bottle with a flaring lip used to hold water or beverages

car·a·ga·na \ˌkar-ə-'gän-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, of Turkic origin; akin to Kirghiz *karaghan* Siberian pea tree] : any of a genus (*Caragana*) of Asiatic leguminous shrubs or small trees extensively used in dry areas for hedges and in shelterbelts

car·a·geen *var of* CARRAGEEN

car·a·mel \'kar-ə-məl, -ˌmel; 'kär-məl\ *n* [F, fr. Sp *caramelo*, fr. Pg, icicle, caramel, fr. LL *calamellus* small reed — more at SHAWM] **1** : an amorphous brittle brown and somewhat bitter substance obtained by heating sugar and used as a coloring and flavoring agent **2** : a firm chewy usu. caramel-flavored candy

car·a·mel·ize \-mə-ˌlīz\ *vb* **-ized; -iz·ing** *vt* : to change (sugar or the sugar content of a food) into caramel ~ *vi* : to change to caramel

ca·ran·gid \kə-'ran-jəd, -'raŋ-gəd\ *adj* [deriv. of F *carangue* shad, horse mackerel, fr. Sp *caranga*] : of or relating to a large family (Carangidae) of marine spiny-finned fishes including important food fishes — **carangid** *n*

car·a·pace \'kar-ə-ˌpās\ *n* [F, fr. Sp *carapacho*] **1** : a bony or chitinous case or shield covering the back or part of the back of an animal (as a turtle or crab) **2** : a hard protective outer covering; *esp* : an attitude or state of mind (as indifference) serving to protect or isolate from external influence

[1]carat *var of* KARAT

[2]car·at \'kar-ət\ *n* [prob. fr. ML *carratus*, fr. Ar *qīrāt* bean pod, a small weight, fr. Gk *keration* carob bean, a small weight, fr. dim. of *kerat-*, *keras* horn — more at HORN] : a unit of weight for precious stones equal to 200 milligrams

[1]car·a·van \'kar-ə-ˌvan\ *n* [It *caravana*, fr. Per *kārwān*] **1 a** : a company of travelers on a journey through desert or hostile regions; *also* : a train of pack animals **b** : a group of vehicles traveling together in a file **2** : a covered vehicle: as **a** : a vehicle equipped as traveling living quarters **b** *Brit* : a nonautomotive vehicle designed to be hauled and to serve as a dwelling

[2]caravan *vi* **-vanned** *or* **-vaned** \-ˌvänd\; **-van·ning** *or* **-van·ing** : to travel in a caravan

car·a·van·ner \-ˌvan-ər\ *n* **1** *or* **car·a·van·er** \-ˌvan-\ : one that travels in a caravan **2** *Brit* : one that goes camping with a trailer

car·a·van·sa·ry \ˌkar-ə-'van(t)-sə-rē\ *or* **car·a·van·se·rai** \-sə-ˌrī\ *n, pl* **-ries** *or* **-rais** *or* **-rai** [Per *kārwānsarāī*, fr. *kārwān* caravan + *sarāī* palace, inn] **1** : a usu. large bare building surrounding a court in eastern countries where caravans rest at night **2** : HOTEL, INN

car·a·vel \'kar-ə-ˌvel, -vəl\ *n* [MF *caravelle*, fr. OPg *caravela*] : any of several sailing ships; *specif* : a small 15th and 16th century ship with broad bows, high narrow poop, and lateen sails

car·a·way \'kar-ə-ˌwā\ *n* [ME, prob. fr. ML *carvi*, fr. Ar *karawyā*, fr. Gk *karon*] : a biennial usu. white-flowered aromatic herb (*Carum carvi*) of the carrot family with pungent fruits

carb- *or* **carbo-** *comb form* [F, fr. *carbone*] : carbon : carbonic : carbonyl : carboxyl ⟨*carb*ide⟩ ⟨*carbo*hydrate⟩

car·ba·chol \'kär-bə-ˌkȯl, -ˌkōl\ *n* [*carba*mic acid + *cho*line] : a synthetic parasympathomimetic drug $C_6H_{15}ClN_2O_2$ that is used in veterinary medicine and topically in glaucoma

car·ba·mate \'kär-bə-ˌmāt, kär-'bam-ˌāt\ *n* : a salt or ester of carbamic acid; *esp* : one that is a synthetic organic insecticide

car·bam·ic acid \(ˌ)kär-ˌbam-ik-\ *n* [ISV *carb-* + *amide* + *-ic*] : an acid CH_3NO_2 known in the form of salts and esters that is a half amide of carbonic acid

carb·amide \'kär-bə-ˌmīd, kär-'bam-əd\ *n* [ISV *carb-* + *amide*] : UREA

carb·ami·no \ˌkär-bə-'mē-(ˌ)nō\ *adj* : relating to any carbamic acid derivative formed by reaction of carbon dioxide with an amino acid or a protein (as hemoglobin)

car·ba·myl \'kär-bə-ˌmil\ *or* **car·bam·o·yl** \kär-'bam-ə-ˌwil\ *n* : the radical NH_2CO of carbamic acid

carb·an·ion \kär-'ban-ˌī-ən, -ˌī-ˌän\ *n* : an organic ion carrying a negative charge at a carbon position — compare CARBONIUM

car·barn \'kär-ˌbärn\ *n* : a building that houses the cars of a street railway or the buses of a bus system
car·ba·ryl \'kär-bə-ˌril\ *n* [*carb*amate + *ar*omatic + *-yl*] : a carbamate insecticide effective against numerous crop, forage, and forest pests
car·ba·zole \'kär-bə-ˌzōl\ *n* [ISV] : a crystalline slightly basic cyclic compound $C_{12}H_9N$ found in anthracene and used in making dyes
car bed *n* [fr. its use in carrying infants in cars] : a portable bed for an infant
car·bide \'kär-ˌbīd\ *n* [ISV] : a binary compound of carbon with a more electropositive element; *esp* : CALCIUM CARBIDE
car·bine \'kär-ˌbēn, -ˌbīn\ *n* [F *carabine*, fr. MF *carabin* carabineer] **1** : a short-barreled lightweight firearm orig. used by cavalry **2** : a .30 caliber gas-operated magazine fed semiautomatic or automatic rifle that is shorter and lighter and fires lighter ammunition than the M1 rifle and that was used by U.S. troops in World War II and the Korean war
car·bi·nol \'kär-bə-ˌnȯl, -ˌnōl\ *n* [ISV, fr. obs. G *karbin* methyl, fr. G *karb-* carb-] : METHANOL; *also* : an alcohol derived from it
car·bo·cy·clic \ˌkär-bō-'sī-klik, -'sik-lik\ *adj* [ISV] : being or having an organic ring composed of carbon atoms
car·bo·hy·drase \ˌkär-bō-'hī-ˌdrās, -bə-, -ˌdrāz\ *n* [ISV *carbohydr*ate + *-ase*] : any of a group of enzymes (as amylase) that promote hydrolysis or synthesis of a carbohydrate (as a disaccharide)
car·bo·hy·drate \-ˌdrāt, -drət\ *n* : any of various neutral compounds of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen (as sugars, starches, and celluloses) most of which are formed by green plants and which constitute a major class of animal foods
car·bo·lat·ed \'kär-bə-ˌlāt-əd\ *adj* : impregnated with carbolic acid
car·bol·ic acid \(ˌ)kär-ˌbäl-ik-\ *n* [ISV *carb-* + L *oleum* oil — more at OIL] : PHENOL 1
car·bo·line \'kär-bə-ˌlēn\ *n* [*carb-* + ind*ole* + pyrid*ine*] : any of various isomers $C_{11}H_8N_2$ whose tricyclic structure is related to indole and pyridine and is found in many alkaloids
car·bon \'kär-bən\ *n, often attrib* [F *carbone*, fr. L *carbon-, carbo* ember, charcoal] **1** : a nonmetallic chiefly tetravalent element found native (as in the diamond and graphite) or as a constituent of coal, petroleum, and asphalt, of limestone and other carbonates, and of organic compounds or obtained artificially in varying degrees of purity esp. as carbon black, lampblack, activated carbon, charcoal, and coke — see ELEMENT table **2 a** : a sheet of carbon paper **b** : CARBON COPY **3 a** : a carbon rod used in an arc lamp **b** : a piece of carbon used as an element in a voltaic cell — **car·bon·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
car·bo·na·ceous \ˌkär-bə-'nā-shəs\ *adj* **1** : rich in carbon **2** : relating to, containing, or composed of carbon **3** : CARBONOUS 2
[1]car·bo·na·do \ˌkär-bə-'nād-(ˌ)ō, -'näd-\ *n, pl* **-dos** *or* **-does** [Sp *carbonada*] *archaic* : a broiled or grilled piece of meat scored before cooking
[2]carbonado *vt* **1** *archaic* : to make a carbonado of **2** *archaic* : CUT
[3]carbonado *n, pl* **-dos** [Pg, lit., carbonated] : an impure opaque dark-colored fine-grained aggregate of diamond particles valuable for its superior toughness
[1]car·bon·ate \'kär-bə-ˌnāt, -nət\ *n* : a salt or ester of carbonic acid
[2]car·bon·ate \-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** **1** : to convert into a carbonate **2** : to impregnate with carbon dioxide ⟨*carbonated* beverage⟩ — **car·bon·ation** \ˌkär-bə-'nā-shən\ *n*
carbon black *n* : any of various colloidal black substances consisting wholly or principally of carbon obtained usu. as soot and used esp. as pigments
carbon copy *n* **1** : a copy made by carbon paper **2** : DUPLICATE
carbon cycle *n* **1** : a cycle of thermonuclear reactions in which four hydrogen atoms synthesize into a helium atom with the release of nuclear energy and which is held to be the source of most of the energy radiated by the sun and stars **2** : the cycle of carbon in living beings in which carbon dioxide is fixed by photosynthesis to form organic nutrients and is ultimately restored to the inorganic state by respiration and protoplasmic decay
carbon dating *n* : the determination of the age of old material (as an archaeological or paleontological specimen) by means of the content of carbon 14
carbon dioxide *n* : a heavy colorless gas CO_2 that does not support combustion, dissolves in water to form carbonic acid, is formed esp. by the combustion and decomposition of organic substances, is absorbed from the air by plants in photosynthesis, and is used in the carbonation of beverages
carbon disulfide *n* : a colorless flammable poisonous liquid CS_2 used as a solvent for rubber and as an insect fumigant — called also *carbon bisulfide*
carbon 14 \-(')fōr(t)-'tēn, -(')fȯr(t)-\ *n* : a heavy radioactive isotope of carbon of mass number 14 used esp. in tracer studies and in dating archaeological and geological materials
car·bon·ic \kär-'bän-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or derived from carbon, carbonic acid, or carbon dioxide
carbonic acid *n* : a weak dibasic acid H_2CO_3 known only in solution that reacts with bases to form carbonates
carbonic acid gas *n* : CARBON DIOXIDE
carbonic an·hy·drase \-an-'hī-ˌdrās, -ˌdrāz\ *n* [*carbonic* + *anhydr*ous + *-ase*; fr. its promotion of dehydration] : a zinc-containing enzyme that occurs in living tissues (as red blood cells) and aids carbon-dioxide transport from the tissues and its release from the blood in the lungs by catalyzing the reversible hydration of carbon dioxide to carbonic acid
car·bon·if·er·ous \ˌkär-bə-'nif-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* **1** : producing or containing carbon or coal **2** *cap* : of, relating to, or being the period of the Paleozoic era between the Devonian and the Permian or the corresponding system of rocks that includes coal beds — **Carboniferous** *n*
car·bo·ni·um \kär-'bō-nē-əm\ *n* [*carb-* + *-onium*] : an organic ion carrying a positive charge at a carbon position — compare CARBANION
car·bon·iza·tion \ˌkär-bə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n* : the process of carbonizing; *esp* : destructive distillation (as of coal)
car·bon·ize \'kär-bə-ˌnīz\ *vb* **-ized; -iz·ing** *vt* **1** : to convert into carbon or a carbonic residue **2** : CARBURIZE 1 ~ *vi* : to become carbonized : CHAR
carbon monoxide *n* : a colorless odorless very toxic gas CO that burns to carbon dioxide with a blue flame and is formed as a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon
car·bon·ous \'kär-bə-nəs\ *adj* **1** : derived from, containing, or resembling carbon **2** : brittle and dark in color
carbon paper *n* **1** : a thin paper faced with a waxy pigmented coating so that when placed between two sheets of paper the pressure of writing or typing on the top sheet causes transfer of pigment to the bottom sheet **2** : gelatin-coated paper used in the carbon process
carbon process *n* : a photographic printing process utilizing a sheet of paper coated with bichromated gelatin mixed with a pigment
carbon tetrachloride *n* : a colorless nonflammable toxic liquid CCl_4 that has an odor resembling that of chloroform and is used as a solvent (as in dry cleaning) and a fire extinguisher
car·bon·yl \'kär-bə-ˌnil, -ˌnēl\ *n* **1** : a bivalent radical CO occurring in aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids, esters, acid halides, and amides **2** : a compound of the carbonyl radical with a metal — **car·bon·yl·ic** \ˌkär-bə-'nil-ik\ *adj*
Car·bo·run·dum \ˌkär-bə-'rən-dəm\ *trademark* — used for various abrasives
carboxy- *or* **carbox-** *comb form* : carboxyl
car·box·yl \kär-'bäk-səl\ *n* [ISV] : a univalent radical COOH typical of organic acids — **car·box·yl·ic** \ˌkär-(ˌ)bäk-'sil-ik\ *adj*
car·box·yl·ase \kär-'bäk-sə-ˌlās, -lāz\ *n* [ISV] : an enzyme that catalyzes decarboxylation or carboxylation
[1]car·box·yl·ate \-ˌlāt, -lət\ *n* : a salt or ester of a carboxylic acid
[2]car·box·yl·ate \-ˌlāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** : to introduce carboxyl or carbon dioxide into (a compound) with formation of a carboxylic acid — **car·box·yl·ation** \(ˌ)kär-ˌbäk-sə-'lā-shən\ *n*
carboxylic acid *n* : an organic acid (as acetic acid) containing one or more carboxyl groups
car·boxy·pep·ti·dase \kär-ˌbäk-sē-'pep-tə-ˌdās, -ˌdāz\ *n* : an enzyme that hydrolyzes peptides and esp. polypeptides by splitting off the amino acids containing free carboxyl groups
car·boy \'kär-ˌbȯi\ *n* [Per *qarāba*, fr. Ar *qarrābah* demijohn] : a bottle or rectangular container of about 5 to 15 gallons capacity for liquids that is made of glass, plastic, or metal and is often cushioned in a special container
car·bun·cle \'kär-ˌbəŋ-kəl\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *carbunculus* small coal, carbuncle, dim. of *carbon-, carbo* charcoal, ember — more at CARBON] **1 a** *obs* : any of several red precious stones **b** : the garnet cut cabochon **2** : a painful local purulent inflammation of the skin and deeper tissues with multiple openings for the discharge of pus and usu. necrosis and sloughing of dead tissue — **car·bun·cled** \-kəld\ *adj* — **car·bun·cu·lar** \kär-'bəŋ-kyə-lər\ *adj*
car·bu·ret \'kär-b(y)ə-ˌrāt, *esp by chemists* -ˌret\ *vt* **-ret·ed,** *also* **-ret·ted; -ret·ing** *also* **-ret·ting** [obs. *carburet* (carbide)] **1** : to combine chemically with carbon **2** : to enrich (as gas) by mixing with volatile carbon compounds (as hydrocarbons) — **car·bu·re·tion** \ˌkär-b(y)ə-'rā-shən\ *n*
car·bu·re·tor \'kär-b(y)ə-ˌrāt-ər\ *n* : an apparatus for supplying an internal-combustion engine with atomized and vaporized fuel mixed with air in an explosive mixture
car·bu·rize \'kär-b(y)ə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-rized; -riz·ing** [obs. *carburet* (carbide)] **1** : to combine or impregnate (as metal) with carbon **2** : CARBURET 2 — **car·bu·ri·za·tion** \ˌkär-b(y)ə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n*
car·ca·jou \'kär-kə-ˌjü, -ˌzhü\ *n* [CanF, of AmerInd origin] : WOLVERINE
car·ca·net \'kär-kə-nət\ *n* [MF *carcan*] *archaic* : an ornamental necklace or headband
car card *n* : a small cardboard placard for advertising esp. in or on streetcars and buses
car·case \'kär-kəs\ *Brit var of* CARCASS
car·cass \'kär-kəs\ *n* [MF *carcasse*, fr. OF *carcois*] **1** : a dead body : CORPSE; *esp* : the dressed body of a meat animal **2** : the living, material, or physical body **3** : the decaying or worthless remains of a structure ⟨the ~ of an abandoned automobile⟩ **4** : the foundation structure of something (as a tire)
carcin- *or* **carcino-** *comb form* [Gk *karkin-, karkino-*, fr. *karkinos* — more at CANCER] **1** : crab ⟨*carcino*logy⟩ **2** : tumor : cancer ⟨*carcino*genic⟩
car·cin·o·gen \kär-'sin-ə-jən, 'kärs-ᵊn-ə-ˌjen\ *n* : a substance or agent producing or inciting cancer — **car·ci·no·gen·e·sis** \ˌkärs-ᵊn-ō-'jen-ə-səs\ *n* — **car·ci·no·gen·ic** \-'jen-ik\ *adj* — **car·ci·no·ge·nic·i·ty** \-jə-'nis-ət-ē\ *n*
car·ci·noid \'kärs-ᵊn-ˌȯid\ *n* : a usu. benign tumor arising esp. from the mucosa of the gastrointestinal tract (as in the stomach or appendix)
car·ci·no·ma \ˌkärs-ᵊn-'ō-mə\ *n, pl* **-mas** *or* **-ma·ta** \-mət-ə\ [L, fr. Gk *karkinōma* cancer, fr. *karkinos*] : a malignant tumor of epithelial origin — **car·ci·no·ma·tous** \-'ō-mət-əs\ *adj*
car·ci·no·ma·to·sis \-ˌō-mə-'tō-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. L *carcinomat-, carcinoma*] : a condition in which multiple carcinomas are developing simultaneously usu. after dissemination from a primary source
car·ci·no·sar·co·ma \'kärs-ᵊn-ō-(ˌ)sär-'kō-mə\ *n, pl* **-mas** *or* **-ma·ta** \-mət-ə\ : a malignant tumor combining elements of carcinoma and sarcoma
car coat *n* : a three-quarter-length overcoat
[1]card \'kärd\ *vt* : to cleanse, disentangle, and collect together (as fibers) by the use of a card preparatory to spinning — **card·er** *n*

²card *n* [ME *carde*, fr. MF, fr. LL *cardus* thistle, fr. L *carduus* — more at CHARD] **1** : an implement for raising a nap on cloth **2** : an instrument or machine for carding fibers that consists usu. of bent wire teeth set closely in rows in a thick piece of leather fastened to a back

³card *n* [ME *carde*, modif. of MF *carte*, prob. fr. OIt *carta*, lit., leaf of paper, fr. L *charta* leaf of papyrus, fr. Gk *chartēs*] **1** : PLAYING CARD **2** *pl but sing or pl in constr* **a** : a game played with cards **b** : card playing **3** : something compared to a valuable playing card in one's hand **4** : a usu. clownishly amusing person : WAG **5** : COMPASS CARD **6** **a** : a flat stiff usu. small and rectangular piece of paper or thin paperboard: as (1) : POSTCARD (2) : VISITING CARD **b** : PROGRAM; *esp* : a sports program **c** (1) : a wine list (2) : MENU **d** : GREETING CARD

⁴card *vt* **1** : to place or fasten on or by means of a card **2** : to provide with a card **3** : to list or record on a card **4** : SCORE

⁵card *abbr* cardinal

Card *abbr* Cardiganshire

car·da·mom \'kärd-ə-məm, -ˌmäm\ *n* [L *cardamomum*, fr. Gk *kardamōmon*, blend of *kardamon* peppergrass & *amōmon*, an Indian spice plant] : the aromatic capsular fruit of an East Indian herb (*Elettaria cardamomum*) of the ginger family with seeds used as a condiment and in medicine; *also* : this plant

¹card·board \'kärd-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a stiff moderately thick paperboard

²cardboard *adj* **1** **a** : made of or as if of cardboard **b** : FLAT, TWO-DIMENSIONAL **2** : UNREAL, STEREOTYPED ⟨the story has too many ~ characters⟩

card–car·ry·ing \'kärd-ˌkar-ē-iŋ\ *adj* [fr. the assumption that such a person carries a card identifying him as a member] : being a regularly enrolled member of an organized group and esp. of the Communist party and not merely a sympathizer with its ideals and programs

card catalog *n* : a catalog (as of books) in which the entries are arranged systematically on cards

cardi- *or* **cardio-** *comb form* [Gk *kardi-*, *kardio-*, fr. *kardia* — more at HEART] : heart : cardiac : cardiac and ⟨*cardio*gram⟩ ⟨*cardio*vascular⟩

-car·dia \'kärd-ē-ə\ *n comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *kardia*] : heart action or location (of a specified type) ⟨dextro*cardia*⟩ ⟨tachy*cardia*⟩

¹car·di·ac \'kärd-ē-ˌak\ *adj* [L *cardiacus*, fr. Gk *kardiakos*, fr. *kardia*] **1** **a** : of, relating to, situated near, or acting on the heart **b** : of or relating to the part of the stomach into which the esophagus opens or to the stomach exclusive of the pyloric end **2** : of or relating to heart disease

²cardiac *n* : a person with heart disease

car·di·al·gia \ˌkärd-ē-'al-j(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *kardialgia*, fr. *kardia* + *-algia*] **1** : HEARTBURN **2** : pain in the heart

car·di·gan \'kärd-i-gən\ *n* [James Thomas Brudenell, 7th Earl of *Cardigan* †1868 E soldier] : a usu. collarless sweater or jacket that opens the full length of the center front

Cardigan *n* [*Cardigan* county, Wales] : a Welsh corgi with rounded ears, slightly bowed forelegs, and long tail — called also *Cardigan Welsh corgi*

¹car·di·nal \'kärd-nəl, -ᵊn-əl\ *adj* [ME, fr. OF, fr. LL *cardinalis*, fr. L, of a hinge, fr. *cardin-*, *cardo* hinge; akin to OE *hratian* to rush, Gk *skairein* to gambol] : of basic importance : MAIN, CHIEF, PRIMARY ⟨the ~ virtue in the Shavian scale . . . is responsibility; every creed he has attacked Shaw has attacked on the grounds of irresponsibility —E. R. Bentley⟩ ***syn*** see ESSENTIAL — **car·di·nal·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

²cardinal *n* **1** : a high ecclesiastical official of the Roman Catholic Church who ranks next below the pope and is appointed by him to assist him as a member of the college of cardinals **2** : CARDINAL NUMBER — usu. used in pl. **3** : a woman's short hooded cloak orig. of scarlet cloth **4** [fr. its color, resembling that of the cardinal's robes] : any of several American finches (genus *Richmondena*) of the southern and middle U.S. of which the male is bright red with a black face and pointed crest — **car·di·nal·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

car·di·nal·ate \-ət, -ˌāt\ *n* : the office, rank, or dignity of a cardinal

cardinal flower *n* : a No. American lobelia (*Lobelia cardinalis*) that bears a spike of brilliant red flowers

car·di·nal·i·ty \ˌkärd-ᵊn-'al-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [²*cardinal* + *-ity*] : the number of elements in a given mathematical set

cardinal number *n* **1** : a number (as 1, 5, 15) that is used in simple counting and that indicates how many elements there are in an assemblage — see NUMBER table **2** : the property that a mathematical set has in common with all sets that can be put in one-to-one correspondence with it

cardinal point *n* : one of the four principal compass points north, south, east, and west

cardinal virtue *n* **1** : one of the four classically defined natural virtues prudence, justice, temperance, or fortitude **2** : a quality designated as a major virtue

car·dio·gram \'kärd-ē-ə-ˌgram\ *n* [ISV] : the curve or tracing made by a cardiograph

car·dio·graph \-ˌgraf\ *n* [ISV] : an instrument that registers graphically movements of the heart — **car·di·og·ra·pher** \ˌkärd-ē-'äg-rə-fər\ *n* — **car·dio·graph·ic** \ˌkärd-ē-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj* — **car·di·og·raphy** \ˌkärd-ē-'äg-rə-fē\ *n*

car·di·oid \'kärd-ē-ˌȯid\ *n* : a heart-shaped curve that is traced by a point on the circumference of a circle rolling completely around an equal fixed circle and has the general equation $\rho = a(1 + \cos\theta)$ in polar coordinates

car·di·ol·o·gy \ˌkärd-ē-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* [ISV] : the study of the heart and its action and diseases — **car·di·o·log·i·cal** \-ē-ə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **car·di·ol·o·gist** \-ē-'äl-ə-jəst\ *n*

car·dio·my·op·a·thy \'kärd-ē-ō-(ˌ)mī-'äp-ə-thē\ *n, pl* **-thies** [*cardi-* + *my-* + *-pathy*] : a typically chronic disorder of heart muscle that may involve hypertrophy and obstructive damage to the heart

car·di·op·a·thy \ˌkärd-ē-'äp-ə-thē\ *n, pl* **-thies** : a disease of the heart

car·dio·pul·mo·nary \'kärd-ē-ō-'půl-mə-ˌner-ē, -'pəl\ *adj* : of or relating to the heart and lungs

car·dio·re·spi·ra·to·ry \'kärd-ē-ō-'res-p(ə-)rə-ˌtōr-ē,-ri-'spī-rə-, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : of or relating to the heart and the respiratory system : CARDIOPULMONARY

car·dio·ton·ic \ˌkärd-ē-ō-'tän-ik\ *adj* : tending to increase the tonus of heart muscle — **cardiotonic** *n*

car·dio·vas·cu·lar \-'vas-kyə-lər\ *adj* [ISV] : of, relating to, or involving the heart and blood vessels

-car·di·um \'kärd-ē-əm\ *n comb form, pl* **car·dia** \-ē-ə\ [NL, fr. Gk *kardia*] : heart ⟨epi*cardium*⟩

car·doon \kär-'dün\ *n* [F *cardon*, fr. LL *cardon-*, *cardo* thistle, fr. *cardus*, fr. L *carduus* thistle, artichoke — more at CHARD] : a large perennial plant (*Cynara cardunculus*) related to the artichoke and cultivated for its edible root and leafstalks

card·play·er \'kärd-ˌplā-ər\ *n* : one that plays cards

card·sharp·er \-ˌshär-pər\ *or* **card·sharp** \-ˌshärp\ *n* : one who habitually cheats at cards

¹care \'ke(ə)r, 'ka(ə)r\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *caru*; akin to OHG *kara* lament, L *garrire* to chatter] **1** : suffering of mind : GRIEF **2** **a** : a disquieted state of blended uncertainty, apprehension, and responsibility **b** : a cause for such anxiety **3** : painstaking or watchful attention **4** : regard coming from desire or esteem **5** : CHARGE, SUPERVISION ⟨under a doctor's ~⟩ **6** : a person or thing that is an object of attention, anxiety, or solicitude ⟨the flower garden was her special ~⟩

syn CARE, CONCERN, SOLICITUDE, ANXIETY, WORRY *shared meaning element* : a troubled or engrossed state of mind or the thing that causes this

²care *vb* **cared; car·ing** *vi* **1** **a** : to feel trouble or anxiety **b** : to feel interest or concern ⟨~ about freedom⟩ **2** : to give care ⟨~ for the sick⟩ **3** **a** : to have a liking, fondness, or taste ⟨don't ~ for her⟩ **b** : to have an inclination ⟨would you ~ for some pie⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to be concerned about or to the extent of **2** : WISH — **car·er** *n*

CARE *abbr* Cooperative for American Relief to Everywhere

¹ca·reen \kə-'rēn\ *n* [MF *carène* keel, fr. OIt *carena*, fr. L *carina* keel, lit., nutshell; akin to Gk *karyon* nut] *archaic* : the act or process of careening : the state of being careened

²careen *vt* **1** **a** : to cause (a boat) to lean over on one side **b** : to clean, caulk, or repair (a boat) in this position **2** : to cause to heel over ~ *vi* **1** **a** : to careen a boat **b** : to undergo this process **2** : to heel over **3** : to sway from side to side : LURCH ⟨a ~*ing* carriage being pulled wildly along a street by a team of runaway horses —J. P. Getty⟩

¹ca·reer \kə-'ri(ə)r\ *n* [MF *carrière*, fr. OProv *carriera* street, fr. ML *carraria* road for vehicles, fr. L *carrus* car] **1** **a** : COURSE, PASSAGE **b** : full speed or exercise of activity ⟨he was now in the full ~ of conquest—T. B. Macaulay⟩ **2** : ENCOUNTER, CHARGE **3** : a field for or pursuit of consecutive progressive achievement esp. in public, professional, or business life ⟨Washington's ~ as a soldier⟩ **4** : a profession for which one trains and which is undertaken as a permanent calling ⟨a ~ diplomat⟩

²career *vi* : to go at top speed esp. in a headlong manner ⟨a car ~*ed* off the road⟩

ca·reer·ism \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : the policy or practice of advancing one's career often at the cost of one's integrity — **ca·reer·ist** \-əst\ *n*

care·free \'ke(ə)r-ˌfrē, 'ka(ə)r-\ *adj* : free from care : IRRESPONSIBLE ⟨is ~ with his money⟩ ⟨a ~ vacation⟩

care·ful \-fəl\ *adj* **care·ful·ler; care·ful·lest** **1** *archaic* **a** : SOLICITOUS, ANXIOUS **b** : filling with care or solicitude **2** : exercising or taking care **3** **a** : marked by attentive concern and solicitude **b** : marked by wary caution or prudence ⟨be very ~ with knives⟩ **c** : marked by painstaking effort to avoid errors or omissions — often used with *of* or an infinitive ⟨~ of money⟩ ⟨~ to adjust the machine⟩ — **care·ful·ly** \-f(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **care·ful·ness** \-fəl-nəs\ *n*

syn CAREFUL, METICULOUS, SCRUPULOUS, PUNCTILIOUS *shared meaning element* : showing close attention to detail (as of behavior or performance) ***ant*** careless

care·less \-ləs\ *adj* **1** **a** : free from care : UNTROUBLED ⟨~ days⟩ **b** : INDIFFERENT, UNCONCERNED ⟨~ of the consequences⟩ **2** : not taking care **3** : not showing or receiving care: **a** : NEGLIGENT, SLOVENLY ⟨writing that is ~ and full of errors⟩ **b** : UNSTUDIED, SPONTANEOUS ⟨~ grace⟩ **c** *obs* : UNVALUED, DISREGARDED — **care·less·ly** *adv* — **care·less·ness** *n*

¹ca·ress \kə-'res\ *n* [F *caresse*, fr. It *carezza*, fr. *caro* dear, fr. L *carus* — more at CHARITY] **1** : an act or expression of kindness or affection : ENDEARMENT **2** **a** : a light stroking, rubbing, or patting **b** : KISS — **ca·res·sive** \-'res-iv\ *adj* — **ca·res·sive·ly** *adv*

²caress *vt* **1** : to treat with tokens of fondness, affection, or kindness : CHERISH **2** **a** : to touch or stroke lightly in a loving or endearing manner **b** : to touch or affect as if with a caress ⟨echoes that ~ the ear⟩ — **ca·ress·er** *n* — **ca·ress·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

syn CARESS, FONDLE, PET, CUDDLE *shared meaning element* : to show affection by touching or handling

car·et \'kar-ət\ *n* [L, there is lacking, fr. *carēre* to lack, be without — more at CASTE] : a wedge-shaped mark made on written or printed matter to indicate the place where something is to be inserted

care·tak·er \'ke(ə)r-ˌtā-kər, 'ka(ə)r-\ *n* **1** : one that takes care of the house or land of an owner who may be absent **2** : one temporarily fulfilling the function of office ⟨a ~ government⟩

care·worn \-ˌwō(ə)rn, -ˌwȯ(ə)rn\ *adj* : showing the effect of grief or anxiety ⟨a ~ face⟩

car·ex \'ka(ə)r-ˌeks\ *n, pl* **car·i·ces** \'kar-ə-ˌsēz\ [NL, genus name, fr. L, sedge] : any of a genus (*Carex* of the family Cyperaceae) of perennial sedges that have seedlike achenes enclosed in a sac in the axil of a bract

car·fare \'kär-ˌfa(ə)r, -ˌfe(ə)r\ *n* : passenger fare (as on a bus)

car·ful \'kär-ˌfůl\ *n* : as much or as many as a car will hold

car·go \'kär-(ˌ)gō\ *n, pl* **cargoes** *or* **cargos** [Sp, load, charge, fr. *cargar* to load, fr. LL *carricare* — more at CHARGE] : the goods or merchandise conveyed in a ship, airplane, or vehicle : FREIGHT

car·hop \'kär-ˌhäp\ *n* [*car* + *-hop* (as in *bellhop*)] : one who serves customers at a drive-in restaurant

Car·ib \'kar-əb\ *n* [NL *Caribes* (pl.), fr. Sp *Caribe*, fr. Arawakan *Carib* — more at CANNIBAL] **1** : a member of an American Indian people of northern So. America and the Lesser Antilles **2** : the language of the Caribs

Ca·ri·ban \'kar-ə-bən, kə-'rē-bən\ *n* **1** : a member of a group of American Indian peoples of northern So. America, the Lesser Antilles, and the Caribbean coast of Honduras, Guatemala, and British Honduras **2** : the language family comprising the languages of the Cariban peoples

Ca·rib·be·an \ˌkar-ə-'bē-ən, kə-'rib-ē-\ *adj* [NL *Caribbaeus*, fr. *Caribes*] : of or relating to the Caribs, the eastern and southern West Indies, or the Caribbean sea

ca·ri·be \kə-'rē-bē\ *n* [AmerSp, fr. Sp, Carib, cannibal] : PIRANHA

car·i·bou \'kar-ə-ˌbü\ *n, pl* **caribou** *or* **caribous** [CanF, of Algonquian origin] : any of several large palmate-antlered deer (genus *Rangifer*) of northern No. America that are related to the reindeer



caribou

¹car·i·ca·ture \'kar-i-kə-ˌchu̇(ə)r, -ˌt(y)u̇(ə)r\ *n* [It *caricatura*, lit., act of loading, fr. *caricare* to load, fr. LL *carricare*] **1** : exaggeration by means of often ludicrous distortion of parts or characteristics **2** : a representation esp. in literature or art that has the qualities of caricature **3** : a distortion so gross as to seem like caricature — **car·i·ca·tur·al** \ˌkar-i-kə-'chu̇r-əl, -'t(y)u̇r-\ *adj* — **car·i·ca·tur·ist** \'kar-i-kə-ˌchu̇r-əst, -ˌt(y)u̇r-\ *n*

syn CARICATURE, BURLESQUE, PARODY, TRAVESTY *shared meaning element* : a comic or grotesque imitation

²caricature *vt* **-tured; -tur·ing** : to make or draw a caricature of : represent in caricature ⟨his face has often been *caricatured* in the newspapers⟩

car·ies \'ka(ə)r-ēz, 'ke(ə)r-\ *n, pl* **caries** [L, decay; akin to Gk *kēr* death] : a progressive destruction of bone or tooth; *esp* : tooth decay

car·il·lon \'kar-ə-ˌlän, -lən\ *n* [F, alter. of OF *quarregnon*, fr. LL *quaternion-, quaternio* set of four — more at QUATERNION] **1 a** : a set of fixed chromatically tuned bells sounded by hammers controlled from a keyboard **b** : an electronic instrument imitating a carillon **2** : a composition for the carillon

car·il·lon·neur \ˌkar-ə-lə-'nər, ˌkar-ē-ə-'nər\ *n* [F, fr. *carillon*] : a carillon player

ca·ri·na \kə-'rī-nə, -'rē-\ *n, pl* **-ri·nas** *or* **-ri·nae** \-'rī-ˌnē, -'rē-ˌnī\ [NL, fr. L, keel — more at CAREEN] : a keel-shaped anatomical part, ridge, or process; *esp* : the part of a papilionaceous flower that encloses the stamens and pistil — **ca·ri·nal** \-'rīn-ᵊl\ *adj*

car·i·nate \'kar-ə-ˌnāt, -nət\ *also* **car·i·nat·ed** \-ˌnāt-əd\ *adj* : shaped like the keel or prow of a ship : KEELED, RIDGED ⟨a ~ sepal⟩

ca·ri·o·ca \ˌkar-ē-'ō-kə\ *n* [Pg, fr. Tupi] **1** *cap* : a native or resident of Rio de Janeiro **2 a** : a variation of the samba **b** : the music for this dance

car·i·ole \'kar-ē-ˌōl\ *n* [F *carriole*, fr. OProv *carriola*, deriv. of L *carrus* car] **1** : a light one-horse carriage **2** : a dog-drawn toboggan

car·i·ous \'kar-ē-əs, 'ker-\ *adj* [L *cariosus*, fr. *caries*] : affected with caries

¹cark \'kärk\ *vb* [ME *carken*, lit., to load, burden, fr. ONF *carquier*, fr. LL *carricare*] *vt* : WORRY ~ *vi* : to be anxious

²cark *n* : TROUBLE, DISTRESS

carl *or* **carle** \'kär(ə)l *n* [ME, fr. OE *-carl*, fr. ON *karl* man, carl; akin to OE *ceorl* churl — more at CHURL] **1** : a man of the common people **2** *chiefly dial* : CHURL, BOOR

car·line *or* **car·lin** \'kärlən\ *n* [ME *kerling*, fr. ON, fr. *karl* man] *chiefly Scot* : WOMAN; *esp* : an old woman

car·ling \'kär-liŋ, -lən\ *n* [F *carlingue*, fr. ONF *calingue*, fr. ON *kerling*, lit., old woman] : a fore-and-aft member supporting a deck of a ship or framing a deck opening

Car·list \'kär-ləst\ *n* [Sp *carlista*, fr. Don *Carlos* claimant to the Spanish throne under the Salic law] : a supporter of Don Carlos or his successors as having rightful title to the Spanish throne — **Carlist** *adj*

car·load \'kär-'lōd, -ˌlōd\ *n* **1** : a load that fills a car **2** : the minimum number of tons required for shipping at carload rates

carload rate *n* : a rate for large shipments lower than that quoted for less-than-carload lots of the same class

Car·lo·vin·gian \ˌkär-lə-'vin-j(ē-)ən\ *adj* [F *carlovingien*, prob. fr. ML *Carlus* Charles + F *-ovingien* (as in *mérovingien* Merovingian)] : CAROLINGIAN

Carm *abbr* Carmarthenshire

car·ma·gnole \'kär-mən-ˌyōl\ *n* [F] **1** : a lively song popular at the time of the first French Revolution **2** : a street dance in a meandering course to the tune of the carmagnole

car·mak·er \'kär-ˌmā-kər\ *n* : an automobile manufacturer

Car·mel·ite \'kär-mə-ˌlīt\ *n* [ME, fr. ML *carmelita*, fr. *Carmel* Mount Carmel, Palestine] : a member of the Roman Catholic mendicant Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel founded in the 12th century — **Carmelite** *adj*

car·mi·na·tive \kär-'min-ət-iv, 'kär-mə-ˌnāt-\ *adj* [F *carminatif*, fr. L *carminatus*, pp. of *carminare* to card, fr. *carmin-, carmen* card, fr. *carrere* to card — more at CHARD] : expelling gas from the alimentary canal so as to relieve colic or griping — **carminative** *n*

car·mine \'kär-mən, -ˌmīn\ *n* [F *carmin*, fr. ML *carminium*, irreg. fr. Ar *qirmiz* kermes + L *minium* — more at MINIUM] **1** : a rich crimson or scarlet lake made from cochineal **2** : a vivid red

Carn *abbr* Caernarvonshire

car·nage \'kär-nij\ *n* [MF, fr. ML *carnaticum* tribute consisting of animals or meat, fr. L *carn-, caro*] **1** : the flesh of slain animals or men **2** : great and bloody slaughter (as in battle) ***syn*** see MASSACRE

car·nal \'kärn-ᵊl\ *adj* [ME, fr. ONF or LL; ONF, fr. LL *carnalis*, fr. L *carn-, caro* flesh; akin to Gk *keirein* to cut — more at SHEAR] **1** : BODILY, CORPOREAL **2 a** : marked by sexuality **b** : relating to or given to crude bodily pleasures and appetites **3 a** : TEMPORAL **b** : WORLDLY — **car·nal·i·ty** \kär-'nal-ət-ē\ *n* — **car·nal·ly** \'kärn-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

syn CARNAL, FLESHLY, SENSUAL, ANIMAL *shared meaning element* : having or showing a physical rather than an intellectual or spiritual orientation or origin ***ant*** spiritual, intellectual

car·nal·lite \'kärn-ᵊl-ˌīt\ *n* [G *carnallit*, fr. Rudolf von *Carnall* †1874 G mining engineer] : a mineral $KMgCl_3.6H_2O$ consisting of hydrous potassium-magnesium chloride important as a source of potassium

car·nas·si·al \kär-'nas-ē-əl\ *adj* [F *carnassier* carnivorous, deriv. of L *carn-, caro*] : of, relating to, or being teeth of a carnivore larger and longer than adjacent teeth and adapted for cutting rather than tearing — **carnassial** *n*

car·na·tion \kär-'nā-shən\ *n* [MF, fr. OIt *carnagione*, fr. *carne* flesh, fr. L *carn-, caro*] **1 a** (1) : the variable color of human flesh (2) : a pale to grayish yellow **b** : a moderate red **2** : any of numerous cultivated usu. double-flowered pinks derived from the common gillyflower

car·nau·ba \kär-'nȯ-bə, -'naù-; ˌkär-nə-'ü-bə\ *n* [Pg] : a fan-leaved palm (*Copernicia cerifera*) of Brazil that has an edible root and yields a useful leaf fiber and carnauba wax

carnauba wax *n* : a hard brittle high-melting wax from the leaves of the carnauba palm used chiefly in polishes

Car·ne·gie unit \ˌkär-nə-gē-, (ˌ)kär-ˌneg-ē-\ *n* [fr. its having been first defined by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching] : the credit given for the successful completion of a year's study of one subject in a secondary school

car·ne·lian \kär-'nēl-yən\ *n* [alter. of *cornelian* fr. ME *corneline*, fr. MF, perh. fr. *cornelle* cornel] : a hard tough chalcedony that has a reddish color and is used in jewelry

car·ni·tine \'kär-nə-ˌtēn\ *n* [ISV, deriv. of L *carn-, caro* meat, flesh] : a white betaine that is an essential vitamin for some insect larvae (as a mealworm) and that occurs in vertebrate muscle

car·ni·val \'kär-nə-vəl\ *n* [It *carnevale*, alter. of earlier *carnelevare*, lit., removal of meat, fr. *carne* flesh (fr. L *carn-, caro*) + *levare* to remove, fr. L, to raise] **1** : a season or festival of merrymaking before Lent **2** : an instance of merrymaking, feasting, or masquerading **3 a** : a traveling enterprise offering amusements **b** : an organized program of entertainment or exhibition : FESTIVAL ⟨a winter ~⟩

car·ni·vore \'kär-nə-ˌvō(ə)r, -ˌvȯ(ə)r\ *n* [deriv. of L *carnivorus*] **1** : a flesh-eating animal; *esp* : any of an order (Carnivora) of flesh-eating mammals **2** : an insectivorous plant

car·niv·o·rous \kär-'niv-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* [L *carnivorus*, fr. *carn-, caro* flesh + *-vorus* -vorous — more at CARNAL] **1** : subsisting or feeding on animal tissues **2** *of a plant* : subsisting on nutrients obtained from the breakdown of animal protoplasm **3** : of or relating to the carnivores — **car·niv·o·rous·ly** *adv* — **car·niv·o·rous·ness** *n*

car·no·tite \'kär-nə-ˌtīt\ *n* [F, fr. M. A. *Carnot* †1920 F inspector general of mines] : a mineral $K_2(UO_2)_2(VO_4)_2.3H_2O$ consisting of a hydrous radioactive vanadate of uranium and potassium that is a source of radium and uranium

car·ny *or* **car·ney** *or* **car·nie** \'kär-nē\ *n, pl* **carnies** *or* **carneys** **1** : CARNIVAL 3a **2** : one who works with a carnival — **carny** *adj*

car·ob \'kar-əb\ *n* [MF *carobe*, fr. ML *carrubium*, fr. Ar *kharrūbah*] **1** : a Mediterranean evergreen leguminous tree (*Ceratonia siliqua*) with racemose red flowers **2** : a carob pod; *also* : its sweet pulp

ca·roche \kə-'rōch, -'rōsh\ *n* [MF *carroche*, fr. OIt *carroccio*, aug. of *carro* car, fr. L *carrus*] : a luxurious or stately horse-drawn carriage

¹car·ol \'kar-əl\ *n* [ME *carole*, fr. OF, modif. of LL *choraula* choral song, fr. L, choral accompanist, fr. Gk *choraulēs*, fr. *choros* chorus + *aulein* to play a reed instrument, fr. *aulos*, a reed instrument — more at ALVEOLUS] **1** : an old round dance with singing **2** : a song of joy or mirth ⟨the ~ of a bird —Lord Byron⟩ **3** : a popular song or ballad of religious joy

²carol *vb* **-oled** *or* **-olled; -ol·ing** *or* **-ol·ling** *vi* **1** : to sing esp. in a joyful manner **2** : to sing carols; *specif* : to go about outdoors in a group singing Christmas carols ~ *vt* **1** : to praise in or as if in song **2** : to sing esp. in a cheerful manner : WARBLE

Car·o·line \'kar-ə-ˌlīn, -lən\ *or* **Car·o·le·an** \ˌkar-ə-'lē-ən\ *adj* [NL *carolinus*, fr. ML *Carolus* Charles] : of or relating to Charles — used esp. with reference to Charles I and Charles II of England

Car·o·lin·gian \ˌkar-ə-'lin-j(ē-)ən\ *adj* [F *carolingien*, fr. ML *karolingi* French people, prob. fr. (assumed) OHG *karling* Frenchman, fr. *Karl* Charles] : of or relating to a Frankish dynasty dating from about A.D. 613 and including among its members the rulers of France from 751 to 987, of Germany from 752 to 911, and of Italy from 774 to 961 — **Carolingian** *n*

¹car·om \'kar-əm\ *n* [by shortening & alter. fr. obs. *carambole*, fr. Sp *carambola*] **1 a** : a shot in billiards in which the cue ball strikes each of two object balls **b** : a shot in pool in which an object ball strikes another ball before falling into a pocket — compare COMBINATION SHOT **2** : a rebounding esp. at an angle

²carom *vi* **1** : to make a carom **2** : to strike and rebound : GLANCE ⟨the car ~*ed* off several trees⟩

car·o·tene \'kar-ə-ˌtēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. LL *carota* carrot] : any of several orange or red crystalline hydrocarbon pigments (as $C_{40}H_{56}$) that occur in the chromoplasts of plants and in the fatty tissues of plant-eating animals and are convertible to vitamin A

ca·rot·enoid *also* **ca·rot·i·noid** \kə-'rät-ᵊn-ˌȯid\ *n* : any of various usu. yellow to red pigments (as carotenes) found widely in plants

and animals and characterized chemically by a long aliphatic polyene chain composed of isoprene units — **carotenoid** *adj*

ca·rot·id \kə-'rät-əd\ *adj* [F or Gk; F *carotide*, fr. Gk *karōtides* carotid arteries, fr. *karoun* to stupefy; akin to Gk *kara* head — more at CEREBRAL] : of, relating to, or being the chief artery or pair of arteries that pass up the neck and supply the head — **carotid** *n*

carotid body *n* : a small body of vascular tissue that adjoins the carotid sinus, functions as a chemoreceptor sensitive to change in the oxygen tension of blood, and mediates reflex changes in respiratory activity

carotid sinus *n* : a small but richly innervated arterial enlargement that is located at the point in the neck where either carotid artery forms its main branches and that functions in the regulation of heart rate and blood pressure

ca·rous·al \kə-'raù-zəl\ *n* : CAROUSE 2

[1]ca·rouse \kə-'raùz\ *n* [MF *carrousse*, fr. *carous*, adv., all out (in *boire carous* to empty the cup), fr. G *garaus*] **1** *archaic* : a large draft of liquor : TOAST **2** : a drunken revel

[2]carouse *vb* **ca·roused; ca·rous·ing** *vi* **1** : to drink liquor deeply or freely **2** : to take part in a carouse ~ *vt, obs* : to drink up : QUAFF — **ca·rous·er** *n*

car·ou·sel \,kar-ə-'sel *also* -'zel; 'kar-ə-,\ *n* [F *carrousel*, fr. It *carosello*] **1** : a tournament or exhibition in which horsemen execute evolutions **2 a** : MERRY-GO-ROUND **b** : a circular conveyer on which objects are placed ⟨the luggage ~ at the airport⟩

[1]carp \'kärp\ *vi* [ME *carpen*, of Scand origin; akin to Icel *karpa* to dispute] : to find fault or complain querulously — **carp·er** *n*

[2]carp *n, pl* **carp** *or* **carps** [ME *carpe*, fr. MF, fr. LL *carpa*, prob. of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *karpfo* carp] **1** : a large variable Old World soft-finned freshwater fish (*Cyprinus carpio*) of sluggish waters often raised for food; *also* : any of various related cyprinid fishes **2** : a fish (as the European sea bream) resembling a carp

carp- *or* **carpo-** *comb form* [F & NL, fr. Gk *karp-*, *karpo-*, fr. *karpos* — more at HARVEST] : fruit ⟨*carp*ology⟩

-carp \,kärp\ *n comb form* [NL *-carpium*, fr. Gk *-karpion*, fr. *karpos*] : part of a fruit ⟨meso*carp*⟩ : fruit ⟨schizo*carp*⟩

[1]car·pal \'kär-pəl\ *adj* [NL *carpalis*, fr. *carpus*] : relating to the carpus

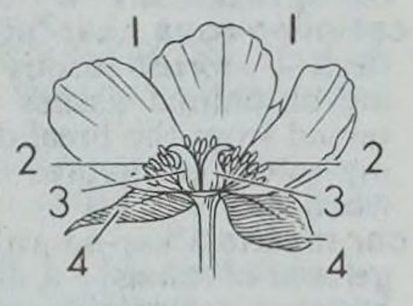
[2]carpal *n* : a carpal element : CARPALE

car·pa·le \kär-'pal-(,)ē, -'pāl-, -'päl-\ *n, pl* **-lia** \-ē-ə\ [NL, neut. of *carpalis*] : a carpal bone

car park *n, chiefly Brit* : an area set apart for the parking of motor vehicles : PARKING LOT

car·pe di·em \,kär-pe-'dē-,em, -'dī-, -əm\ *n* [L, enjoy the day] : the enjoyment of the pleasures of the moment without concern for the future ⟨the *carpe diem* theme in poetry⟩

car·pel \'kär-pəl\ *n* [NL *carpellum*, fr. Gk *karpos* fruit] : one of the structures in a seed plant comprising the innermost whorl of a flower, functioning as megasporophylls, and collectively constituting the gynoecium — **car·pel·lary** \-pə-,ler-ē\ *adj* — **car·pel·late** \-,lāt, -lət\ *adj*



carpels: flower cut away: *1* petals; *2* stamens: *3* carpels: *4* sepals

[1]car·pen·ter \'kär-pən-tər, 'kärp-ᵊm-tər\ *n* [ME, fr. ONF *carpentier*, fr. L *carpentarius* carriage maker, fr. *carpentum* carriage, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *carr* vehicle — more at CAR] : a workman who builds or repairs wooden structures or their structural parts

[2]carpenter *vb* **car·pen·tered; car·pen·ter·ing** \-t(ə-)riŋ\ *vi* : to follow the trade of a carpenter ⟨~*ed* when he was young⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to make by or as if by carpentry **2** : to put together often in a mechanical manner ⟨~*ed* many television scripts⟩

carpenter ant *n* : an ant (esp. genus *Campanotus*) that gnaws galleries in dead or decayed wood

carpenter bee *n* : any of various solitary bees (*Xylocopa* and related genera) that gnaw galleries in sound timber

car·pen·try \-trē\ *n* **1** : the art or trade of a carpenter; *specif* : the art of shaping and assembling structural woodwork **2** : timberwork constructed by a carpenter **3** : the form or manner of putting together the parts (as of a literary or musical composition) : STRUCTURE, ARRANGEMENT

car·pet \'kär-pət\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *carpite*, fr. OIt *carpita*, fr. *carpire* to pluck, modif. of L *carpere* to pluck — more at HARVEST] **1** : a heavy woven or felted fabric used as a floor covering; *also* : a floor covering made of this fabric **2** : a surface resembling or suggesting a carpet — **carpet** *vt* — **on the carpet** : before an authority for censure or reproof

[1]car·pet·bag \-,bag\ *n* : a traveling bag made of carpet and widely used in the U.S. in the 19th century

[2]carpetbag *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of carpetbaggers ⟨a ~ government⟩

car·pet·bag·ger \-,bag-ər\ *n* [fr. their carrying all their belongings in carpetbags] **1** : a Northerner in the South after the American Civil War usu. seeking private gain under the reconstruction governments **2** : a nonresident who meddles in politics — **car·pet·bag·gery** \-,bag-(ə-)rē\ *n*

carpet beetle *n* : a small beetle (*Bothynus gibbosus*) whose larva damages woolen goods; *broadly* : any beetle of similar habits

car·pet·ing \'kär-pət-iŋ\ *n* : material for carpets; *also* : CARPETS

carpet knight *n* [fr. the carpet's having been a symbol of luxury] : a knight devoted to idleness and luxury

car·pet·weed \'kär-pət-,wēd\ *n* : a No. American mat-forming weed (*Mollugo verticillata* of the family Aizoaceae, the carpetweed family)

-car·pic \'kär-pik\ *adj comb form* [prob. fr. NL *-carpicus*, fr. Gk *karpos* fruit] : -CARPOUS ⟨poly*carpic*⟩

carp·ing \'kär-piŋ\ *adj* : marked by or inclined to querulous and often perverse criticism *syn* see CRITICAL *ant* fulsome — **carp·ing·ly** \-piŋ-lē\ *adv*

car·po·go·ni·um \,kär-pə-'gō-nē-əm\ *n, pl* **-nia** \-nē-ə\ [NL] **1** : the flask-shaped egg-bearing portion of the female reproductive branch in some thallophytes **2** : ASCOGONIUM — **car·po·go·ni·al** \-nē-əl\ *adj*

car·pol·o·gy \kär-'päl-ə-jē\ *n* [ISV] : a branch of plant morphology dealing with fruit and seeds

car pool *n* : a joint arrangement by a group of private automobile owners in which each in turn drives his own car and carries the other passengers; *also* : the group entering into such an agreement

car·poph·a·gous \kär-'päf-ə-gəs\ *adj* [Gk *karpophagos*, fr. *karp-* carp- + *-phagos* -phagous] : feeding on fruits

car·po·phore \'kär-pə-,fō(ə)r, -,fȯ(ə)r\ *n* [prob. fr. NL *carpophorum*, fr. *carp-* + *-phorum* -phore] **1** : the stalk of a fungal fruiting body; *also* : the entire fruiting body **2** : a slender prolongation of a floral axis from which the carpels are suspended

car·port \'kär-,pō(ə)rt, -,pȯ(ə)rt\ *n* : an open-sided automobile shelter sometimes formed by extension of a roof from the side of a building

car·po·spore \'kär-pə-,spō(ə)r, -,spȯ(ə)r\ *n* : a diploid spore of a red alga — **car·po·spor·ic** \,kär-pə-'spōr-ik, -'spȯr-\ *adj*

-car·pous \'kär-pəs\ *adj comb form* [NL *-carpus*, fr. Gk *-karpos*, fr. *karpos* fruit — more at HARVEST] : having (such) fruit or (so many) fruits ⟨poly*carpous*⟩ — **-car·py** \,kär-pē\ *n comb form*

car·pus \'kär-pəs\ *n, pl* **car·pi** \-,pī, -(,)pē\ [NL, fr. Gk *karpos* — more at WHARF] **1** : WRIST **2** : the bones of the wrist

car·rack \'kar-ək, -ik\ *n* [ME *carrake*, fr. MF *caraque*, fr. OSp *carraca*, fr. Ar *qarāqīr*, pl. of *qurqūr* merchant ship] : a large galleon

car·ra·geen *also* **car·ra·gheen** \'kar-ə-,gēn\ *n* [*Carragheen*, near Waterford, Ireland] **1** : a dark purple branching cartilaginous seaweed (*Chondrus crispus*) found on the coasts of northern Europe and No. America — called also *Irish moss* **2** : CARRAGEENAN

car·ra·geen·an *or* **car·ra·geen·in** *also* **car·ra·gheen·in** \,kar-ə-'gē-nən\ *n* [*carrageen* + [3]*-an* or *-in*] : a colloid extracted esp. from carrageen and used esp. as a suspending agent (as in foods) and as a clarifying agent (as for beverages) and in controlling crystal growth in frozen confections

car·re·four \,kar-ə-'fu(ə)r\ *n* [MF, fr. LL *quadrifurcum*, neut. of *quadrifurcus* having four forks, fr. L *quadri-* + *furca* fork] **1** : CROSSROADS **2** : SQUARE, PLAZA ⟨the farmers . . . preferred the open ~ for their transactions —Thomas Hardy⟩

car·rel \'kar-əl\ *n* [alter. of ME *carole* round dance, ring — more at CAROL] : a table that is often partitioned or enclosed and is used for individual study esp. in a library

car·riage \'kar-ij\ *n* [ME *cariage*, fr. ONF, fr. *carier* to transport in a vehicle — more at CARRY] **1** : the act of carrying **2 a** *archaic* : DEPORTMENT **b** : manner of bearing the body : POSTURE **3** *archaic* : MANAGEMENT **4** : the price or expense of carrying **5** *obs* : BURDEN, LOAD **6** *obs* : IMPORT, SENSE **7 a** : a wheeled vehicle; *esp* : a horse-drawn vehicle designed for private use and comfort **b** *Brit* : a railway passenger coach **8** : a wheeled support carrying a burden **9** : a movable part of a machine for supporting some other movable object or part ⟨a typewriter ~⟩ **10** *obs* : a hanger for a sword *syn* see BEARING

carriage trade *n* : trade from well-to-do or upper-class people

car·riage·way \'kar-ij-,wā\ *n, Brit* : a road used by vehicular traffic : HIGHWAY; *specif* : LANE 2b

car·rick bend \,kar-ik-\ *n* [prob. fr. obs. E *carrick* carrack, fr. ME *carrake, carryk*] : a knot used to join the ends of two large ropes — see KNOT illustration

car·ri·er \'kar-ē-ər\ *n* **1** : one that carries : BEARER, MESSENGER **2 a** : an individual or organization engaged in transporting passengers or goods for hire **b** : a transportation line carrying mail between post offices **c** : a postal employee who delivers or collects mail **d** : one that delivers newspapers **e** : an entity (as a hole or an electron) capable of carrying an electric charge **3 a** : a container for carrying **b** : a device or machine that carries : CONVEYER **4** : AIRCRAFT CARRIER **5** : a bearer and transmitter of a causative agent of disease; *esp* : one who carries in his system the causative agent of a disease (as typhoid fever) to which he is immune **6 a** : a usu. inactive accessory substance : VEHICLE ⟨a ~ for a drug or an insecticide⟩ **b** : a substance (as a catalyst) by whose agency some element or group is transferred from one compound to another **7** : an electric wave or alternating current whose modulations are used as signals in radio, telephonic, or telegraphic transmission **8** : an organization acting as an insurer

carrier pigeon *n* **1** : a pigeon used to carry messages; *esp* : HOMING PIGEON **2** : any of a breed of large long-bodied show pigeons

car·ri·ole *var of* CARIOLE

car·ri·on \'kar-ē-ən\ *n* [ME *caroine*, fr. AF, fr. (assumed) VL *caronia*, irreg. fr. L *carn-*, *caro* flesh — more at CARNAL] : dead and putrefying flesh; *also* : flesh unfit for food

carrion crow *n* : a common European black crow (*Corvus corone*)

car·ron·ade \,kar-ə-'nād\ *n* [*Carron*, Scotland] : an obsolete short light iron cannon

car·rot \'kar-ət\ *n* [MF *carotte*, fr. LL *carota*, fr. Gk *karōton*] **1** : a biennial herb (*Daucus carota* of the family Umbelliferae, the carrot family) with a usu. orange spindle-shaped edible root; *also* : its root **2** : a promised often illusory reward or advantage

car·roty \-ət-ē\ *adj* **1** : resembling carrots in color **2** : having hair the color of carrots

car·rou·sel *var of* CAROUSEL

[1]car·ry \'kar-ē\ *vb* **car·ried; car·ry·ing** [ME *carien*, fr. ONF *carier* to transport in a vehicle, fr. *car* vehicle, fr. L *carrus* — more at CAR] *vt* **1** : to move while supporting (as a package) : TRANSPORT ⟨her legs refused to ~ her further —Ellen Glasgow⟩ **2** : to convey by direct communication ⟨~ tales about a friend⟩ **3** *chiefly dial* : CONDUCT, ESCORT **4** : to influence by mental or emotional appeal : SWAY **5** : to get possession or control of : CAPTURE ⟨*carried* off the prize⟩ **6** : to transfer from one place to another ⟨~ a number in adding⟩ **7** : to contain and direct the course of ⟨the drain *carries* sewage⟩ **8 a** : to wear or have on one's person **b** : to bear upon or within one ⟨is ~*ing* an unborn child⟩ **9 a** : to have as a mark, attribute, or property ⟨~ a scar⟩ **b** : IMPLY, INVOLVE ⟨the crime *carried* a heavy penalty⟩ **10** : to hold or comport (as one's person) in a specified manner **11** : to sustain the weight or burden of ⟨pillars ~ an arch⟩ **12** : to bear as a crop **13** : to sing

with reasonable correctness of pitch ⟨~ a tune⟩ **14 a** : to keep in stock for sale; *also* : to provide sustenance for ⟨land ~*ing* 10 head of cattle⟩ **b** : to have or maintain on a list or record ⟨~ a person on a payroll⟩ **15** : to maintain and cause to continue through financial support or personal effort ⟨he *carried* the magazine singlehandedly⟩ **16** : to prolong in space, time, or degree ⟨~ a principle too far⟩ **17 a** : to gain victory for; *esp* : to secure the adoption or passage of **b** : to win a majority of votes in (as a legislative body or a state) **18** : PUBLISH ⟨newspapers ~ weather reports⟩ **19 a** : to bear the charges of holding or having (as stocks or merchandise) from one time to another **b** : to keep on one's books as a debtor ⟨a merchant *carries* a customer⟩ **20** : to hold to and follow after (as a scent) **21** : to hoist and maintain (a sail) in use **22** : to cover (a distance) or pass (an object) at a single stroke in golf **23** : to allow (an opponent) to make a good showing by lessening one's opposition ~ *vi* **1** : to act as a bearer **2 a** : to reach or penetrate to a distance ⟨voices ~ well⟩ **b** : to convey itself to a reader or audience **3** : to undergo or admit of carriage in a specified way **4** *of a hunting dog* : to keep and follow the scent **5** : to win adoption ⟨the motion *carried* by a vote of 71-25⟩

syn CARRY, BEAR, CONVEY, TRANSPORT *shared meaning element* : to move something from one place to another

— **carry a torch** *or* **carry the torch** **1** : CRUSADE **2** : to be in love esp. without reciprocation : cherish a longing or devotion ⟨she still *carries a torch* for him even though their engagement is broken⟩ — **carry the ball** : to perform or assume the chief role : bear the major portion of work or responsibility — **carry the day** : WIN, PREVAIL

²carry *n* **1** : carrying power; *esp* : the range of a gun or projectile or of a struck or thrown ball **2 a** : the act or method of carrying ⟨fireman's ~⟩ **b** : PORTAGE **3** : the position assumed by a color-bearer with the flag or guidon held in position for marching **4** : a quantity that is transferred in addition from one number place to the adjacent one of higher place value

car·ry·all \'kar-ē-ˌȯl\ *n* **1** [by folk etymology fr. F *carriole* — more at CARIOLE] **a** : a light covered carriage for four or more persons **b** : a passenger automobile similar to a station wagon but with a higher body often on a truck chassis **2** [¹*carry* + *all*] : a capacious bag or carrying case **3** : a self-loading carrier esp. for hauling earth and crushed rock

carry away *vt* **1** : CARRY OFF **2** : to arouse to a high and often excessive degree of emotion or enthusiasm

carrying capacity *n* : the population (as of deer) that an area will support without undergoing deterioration

carrying charge *n* **1** : expense incident to ownership or use of property **2** : a charge added to the price of merchandise sold on the installment plan

car·ry·ing–on \ˌkar-ē-iŋ-'ȯn, -'än\ *n, pl* **carryings–on** : foolish, excited, or improper behavior; *also* : an instance of such behavior ⟨scandalous *carryings-on*⟩

carry off *vt* **1** : to cause the death of ⟨the plague *carried off* thousands⟩ **2** : to perform easily or successfully ⟨the actress *carried off* her part brilliantly in spite of only a few rehearsals⟩ **3** : to brave out

car·ry·on \'kar-ē-ˌȯn, -ˌän\ *n* : a piece of luggage suitable for being carried aboard an airplane by a passenger

carry on *vt* : CONDUCT, MANAGE ⟨*carried on* the business⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to behave in a foolish, excited, or improper manner ⟨embarrassed by the way he *carries on*⟩ **2** : to continue one's course or activity in spite of hindrance or discouragement

car·ry·out \'kar-ē-ˌau̇t\ *n* : a food product packaged to be carried away from its place of sale rather than consumed on the premises — **carryout** *adj*

carry out \ˌkar-ē-'au̇t\ *vt* **1** : to put into execution ⟨*carry out* a plan⟩ **2** : to bring to a successful issue : COMPLETE, ACCOMPLISH ⟨you will be paid when you have *carried out* the assignment⟩ **3** : to continue to an end or stopping point

car·ry–over \'kar-ē-ˌō-vər\ *n* **1** : the act or process of carrying over **2** : something carried over

carry over \ˌkar-ē-'ō-vər\ *vt* **1 a** : to hold over (as goods) for another season **b** : to transfer (an amount) to the succeeding column, page, or book relating to the same account **2** : to deduct (a loss or an unused credit) for taxable income of a subsequent period ~ *vi* : to persist from one stage or sphere of activity to another

carry through *vt* : to carry out ~ *vi* : PERSIST, SURVIVE ⟨feelings that *carry through* to the present⟩

car·sick \'kär-ˌsik\ *adj* : affected with motion sickness esp. in an automobile — **car sickness** *n*

¹cart \'kärt\ *n* [ME, prob. fr. ON *kartr;* akin to OE *cræt* cart, OE *cradol* cradle] **1** : a heavy usu. horse-drawn 2-wheeled vehicle used for farming or transporting freight **2** : a lightweight 2-wheeled vehicle drawn by a horse, pony, or dog **3** : a small wheeled vehicle

²cart *vt* **1** : to carry or convey in or as if in a cart ⟨buses to ~ the kids to and from school —L. S. Gannett⟩ **2** : to take or drag away without ceremony or by force — usu. used with *off* ⟨they ~*ed* him off to jail⟩ — **cart·er** *n*

cart·age \'kärt-ij\ *n* : the act of or rate charged for carting

carte blanche \'kärt-'blä⁰sh, -'blänch\ *n, pl* **cartes blanches** \'kärt-'blä⁰sh(-əz), -'blänch(-əz)\ [F, lit., blank document] : full discretionary power ⟨was given *carte blanche* to build, landscape, and furnish the house⟩

carte du jour \ˌkärt-də-'zhu̇(ə)r\ *n, pl* **cartes du jour** \ˌkärt(s)-\ [F, lit., card of the day] : MENU

car·tel \kär-'tel\ *n* [MF, letter of defiance, fr. OIt *cartello,* lit., placard, fr. *carta* leaf of paper — more at CARD] **1** : a written agreement between belligerent nations **2** : a combination of independent commercial enterprises designed to limit competition **3** : a combination of political groups for common action

Car·te·sian \kär-'tē-zhən\ *adj* [NL *cartesianus,* fr. *Cartesius* Descartes] : of or relating to René Descartes or his philosophy — **Cartesian** *n* — **Car·te·sian·ism** \-zhə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*

Cartesian coordinate *n* **1** : either of two coordinates that locate a point on a plane and measure its distance from either of two intersecting straight-line axes along a line parallel to the other axis **2** : any of three coordinates that locate a point in space and measure its distance from any of three intersecting coordinate planes measured parallel to that one of three straight-line axes that is the intersection of the other two planes

Cartesian plane *n* : a plane whose points are labeled with Cartesian coordinates

Cartesian product *n* : a set that is constructed from two given sets and comprises all pairs of elements such that one element of the pair is from the first set and the other element is from the second set

Car·thu·sian \kär-'th(y)ü-zhən\ *n* [ML *cartusiensis,* irreg. fr. OF *Chartrouse,* motherhouse of the Carthusian order, near Grenoble, France] : a member of an austere contemplative religious order founded by St. Bruno in 1084 — **Carthusian** *adj*

car·ti·lage \'kärt-ᵊl-ij, 'kärt-lij\ *n* [L *cartilagin-, cartilago;* akin to L *cratis* wickerwork — more at HURDLE] **1** : a translucent elastic tissue that composes most of the skeleton of the embryos and very young of vertebrates and becomes for the most part converted into bone in the higher vertebrates **2** : a part or structure composed of cartilage

car·ti·lag·i·nous \ˌkärt-ᵊl-'aj-ə-nəs\ *adj* : composed of, relating to, or resembling cartilage

cartilaginous fish *n* : any of the fishes (esp. class Chondrichthyes) having the skeleton wholly or largely composed of cartilage; *also* : CYCLOSTOME

cart·load \'kärt-'lōd, -ˌlōd\ *n* **1** : as much as a cart will hold **2** : one third of a cubic yard (as of dirt)

car·to·gram \'kärt-ə-ˌgram\ *n* [F *cartogramme,* fr. *carte* + *-gramme* -gram] : a map showing statistics geographically

car·tog·ra·pher \kär-'täg-rə-fər\ *n* : one that makes maps

car·tog·ra·phy \-fē\ *n* [F *cartographie,* fr. *carte* card, map + *-graphie* -graphy — more at CARD] : the science or art of making maps — **car·to·graph·ic** \ˌkärt-ə-'graf-ik\ *or* **car·to·graph·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj*

car·to·man·cy \'kärt-ə-ˌman(t)-sē\ *n* [F *cartomancie,* fr. *carte* card + *-o-* + *-mancie* -mancy] : fortune-telling by the use of playing cards

¹car·ton \'kärt-ᵊn\ *n* [F, fr. It *cartone* pasteboard] : a cardboard box or container

²carton *vt* : to pack or enclose in a carton ~ *vi* : to shape cartons from cardboard sheets

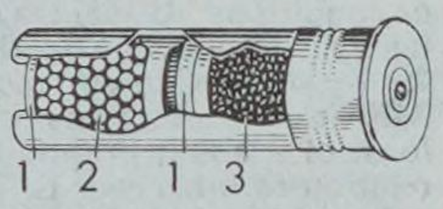
car·toon \kär-'tün\ *n* [It *cartone* pasteboard, cartoon, aug. of *carta* leaf of paper — more at CARD] **1** : a preparatory design, drawing, or painting (as for a fresco) **2 a** : a satirical drawing commenting on public and usu. political matters **b** : COMIC STRIP **3** : ANIMATED CARTOON — **cartoon** *vb* — **car·toon·ist** \-'tü-nəst\ *n*

car·top \'kär-ˌtäp\ *adj* : suitable in size and weight for carrying on top of an automobile ⟨a ~ fishing boat⟩

car·top·per \-ˌtäp-ər\ *n* : a small boat that may be transported on top of a car

car·touche *also* **car·touch** \kär-'tüsh\ *n* [F *cartouche,* fr. It *cartoccio,* fr. *carta*] **1** : a gun cartridge with a paper case **2** : an ornate or ornamental frame **3** : an oval or oblong figure (as on ancient Egyptian monuments) enclosing a sovereign's name

car·tridge \'kär-trij, *dial or archaic* 'ka-trij\ *n* [alter. of earlier *cartage,* modif. of MF *cartouche*] **1 a** : a tube of metal, paper, or both containing a complete charge for a firearm and usu. an initiating device (as a cap) **b** : a case containing an explosive charge for blasting **2** : an often cylindrical container of material for insertion into a larger mechanism or apparatus **3** : a small case in a phonograph pickup containing the needle and the mechanism for translating stylus motion into electrical voltage **4** : a case containing a reel of magnetic tape arranged for insertion into a tape recorder



cartridge for shotgun: *1* wads, *2* shot, *3* powder

cartridge belt *n* **1** : a belt having a series of loops for holding cartridges **2** : a belt worn around the waist and designed for carrying various attachable equipment (as a cartridge case, canteen, or compass)

car·tu·lary \'kär-chə-ˌler-ē\ *n, pl* **-lar·ies** [ML *chartularium,* fr. *chartula* charter — more at CHARTER] : a collection of charters; *esp* : a book containing duplicates of the charters and title deeds of an estate

¹cart·wheel \'kärt-ˌhwēl, -ˌwēl\ *n* **1** : a large coin (as a silver dollar) **2** : a lateral handspring with arms and legs extended

²cartwheel *vi* : to move like a turning wheel; *specif* : to perform cartwheels — **cart·wheel·er** *n*

ca·run·cle \'kar-ˌəŋ-kəl, kə-'rəŋ-\ *n* [obs. F *caruncule,* fr. L *caruncula* little piece of flesh, dim. of *caro* flesh — more at CARNAL] **1** : a naked fleshy outgrowth (as a bird's wattle) **2** : an outgrowth on a seed adjacent to the micropyle — **ca·run·cu·lar** \kə-'rəŋ-kyə-lər\ *adj* — **ca·run·cu·late** \-lət, -ˌlāt\ *or* **ca·run·cu·lat·ed** \-ˌlāt-əd\ *adj*

car·va·crol \'kär-və-ˌkrȯl, -ˌkrōl\ *n* [ISV, fr. NL *carvi* (specific epithet of *Carum carvi* caraway) + L *acr-, acer* sharp — more at CARAWAY, EDGE] : a liquid phenol $C_{10}H_{14}O$ found in essential oils of various mints (as thyme) and used as an antiseptic

carve \'kärv\ *vb* **carved; carv·ing** [ME *kerven,* fr. OE *ceorfan;* akin to MHG *kerben* to notch, Gk *graphein* to scratch, write] *vt* **1** : to cut with care or precision ⟨*carved* fretwork⟩ **2** : to make or get by

or as if by cutting — often used with *out* ⟨~ out a fortune⟩ **3** : to cut into pieces or slices ⟨*carved* the turkey⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to cut up and serve meat **2** : to work as a sculptor or engraver — **carv·er** *n*

car·vel \'kär-vəl, -ˌvel\ *n* [ME *carvile*, fr. MF *caravelle, carvelle*] : CARAVEL

car·vel–built \-ˌbilt\ *adj* [prob. fr. D *karveel-*, fr. *karveel* caravel, fr. MF *carvelle*] : built with the planks meeting flush at the seams ⟨a ~ boat⟩

carv·en \'kär-vən\ *adj* : wrought or ornamented by carving : CARVED

carv·ing \'kär-viŋ\ *n* **1** : the act or art of one who carves **2** : a carved object, design, or figure

car wash *n* : an area or structure equipped with facilities for washing automobiles

cary- *or* **caryo-** — see KARY-

cary·at·id \ˌkar-ē-'at-əd\ *n, pl* **-ids** *or* **-i·des** \-ə-ˌdēz\ [L *caryatides*, pl., fr. Gk *karyatides* priestesses of Artemis at Caryae, caryatids, fr. *Karyai* Caryae in Laconia] : a draped female figure supporting an entablature

cary·op·sis \ˌkar-ē-'äp-səs\ *n, pl* **-op·ses** \-ˌsēz\ *or* **-si·des** \-sə-ˌdēz\ [NL] : a small one-seeded dry indehiscent fruit (as of Indian corn or wheat) in which the fruit and seed fuse in a single grain

CAS *abbr* certificate of advanced study

ca·sa \'käs-ə\ *n* [Sp & It, fr. L, cabin] *Southwest* : DWELLING

ca·sa·ba \kə-'säb-ə\ *n* [*Kasaba* (now Turgutlu), Turkey] : any of several winter melons with yellow rind and sweet flesh

Ca·sa·no·va \ˌkaz-ə-'nō-və, ˌkas-\ *n* [Giacomo Girolamo *Casanova*] : LOVER; *esp* : a man who is a promiscuous and unscrupulous lover

Cas·bah \'kaz-ˌbä, 'käz-\ *n* [F, fr. Ar dial. *qaṣbah*] **1** : a No. African castle or fortress **2** : the native section of a No. African city

cas·ca·bel \'kas-kə-ˌbel\ *n* [Sp, lit., small bell like a sleigh bell] **1** : a projection behind the breech of a muzzle-loading cannon **2** : a small hollow perforated spherical bell enclosing a loose pellet

¹cas·cade \(')kas-'kād\ *n* [F, fr. It *cascata*, fr. *cascare* to fall, fr. (assumed) VL *casicare*, fr. L *casus* pp. of *cadere* to fall] **1** : a steep usu. small fall of water; *esp* : one of a series **2 a** : something arranged in a series or in a succession of stages so that each stage derives from or acts upon the product of the preceding **b** : a fall of material (as lace) that hangs in a zigzag line **3** : something falling or rushing forth in quantity ⟨a ~ of sound⟩ ⟨a ~ of roses and daisies⟩

²cascade *vb* **cas·cad·ed; cas·cad·ing** *vi* : to fall or pour in or as if in a cascade ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to fall like a cascade **2** : to connect in a cascade arrangement

cas·cara \ka-'skar-ə\ *n* [Sp *cáscara* bark, fr. *cascar* to crack, break, fr. (assumed) VL *quassicare* to shake, break, fr. L *quassare* — more at QUASH] **1** : CASCARA BUCKTHORN **2** : CASCARA SAGRADA

cascara buckthorn *n* : a buckthorn (*Rhamnus purshiana*) of the Pacific coast of the U.S. yielding cascara sagrada

cascara sa·gra·da \-sə-'gräd-ə\ *n* [AmerSp *cáscara sagrada*, lit., sacred bark] : the dried bark of cascara buckthorn used as a mild laxative

cas·ca·ril·la \ˌkas-kə-'ril-ə, -'rē-(y)ə\ *n* [Sp, dim. of *cáscara*] : the aromatic bark of a West Indian shrub (*Croton eluteria*) of the spurge family used for making incense and as a tonic; *also* : this shrub

¹case \'kās\ *n* [ME *cas*, fr. OF, fr. L *casus* fall, chance, fr. *casus*, pp. of *cadere* to fall — more at CHANCE] **1 a** : a set of circumstances or conditions **b** (1) : a situation requiring investigation or action (as by the police) (2) : the object of investigation or consideration **2** : CONDITION; *specif* : condition of body or mind **3** [ME *cas*, fr. MF, fr. L *casus*, trans. of Gk *ptōsis*, lit., fall] **a** : an inflectional form of a noun, pronoun, or adjective indicating its grammatical relation to other words **b** : such a relation whether indicated by inflection or not **4** : what actually exists or happens : FACT **5 a** : a suit or action in law or equity **b** (1) : the evidence supporting a conclusion or judgment (2) : ARGUMENT; *esp* : a convincing argument **6 a** : an instance of disease or injury; *also* : PATIENT **b** : an instance that directs attention to a situation or exhibits it in action : EXAMPLE **c** : a peculiar person : CHARACTER ***syn*** see INSTANCE — **in any case** : without regard to or in spite of other considerations : whatever else is done or is the case ⟨war is inevitable *in any case*⟩ ⟨*in any case* the seminar agreed that teachers of literature had to be concerned with . . . values —H. J. Muller⟩ — **in case** **1** : IF **2** : as a precaution **3** : as a precaution against the event that — **in case of** : in the event of ⟨*in case of* trouble, yell⟩

²case *n* [ME *cas*, fr. ONF *casse*, fr. L *capsa* chest, case, fr. *capere* to take — more at HEAVE] **1 a** : a box or receptacle for holding something **b** : a box together with its contents **c** : SET; *specif* : PAIR **2** : an outer covering or housing **3** : a shallow divided tray for holding printing type **4** : the frame of a door or window : CASING

³case *vt* **cased; cas·ing** **1** : to enclose in or cover with a case : ENCASE **2** : to line (as a well) with supporting material (as metal pipe) **3** : to inspect or study esp. with intent to rob

ca·se·ate \'kā-sē-ˌāt\ *vi* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *caseus* cheese — more at CHEESE] : to undergo caseation

ca·se·ation \ˌkā-sē-'ā-shən\ *n* : necrosis with conversion of damaged tissue into a soft cheesy substance

case·bear·er \'kās-ˌbar-ər, -ˌber-\ *n* : an insect larva that forms a protective case (as of silk)

case·book \-ˌbu̇k\ *n* **1** : a book containing records of illustrative cases that is used for reference and instruction (as in law or medicine) **2** : a compilation of primary and secondary documents relating to a central topic together with scholarly comment, exercises, and study aids that is designed to serve as a source book for short papers (as in a course in composition) or as a point of departure for a research paper

cased glass \'kāst-\ *n* : glass consisting of two or more fused layers of different colors often decorated by cutting so that the inner layers show through — called also *case glass*

case goods *n pl* **1** : furniture (as bureaus or bookcases) that provides interior storage space; *also* : dining-room and bedroom furniture sold as sets **2** : products (as liquor or canned milk) often sold by the case

case hard·en \'kās-ˌhärd-ᵊn\ *vt* **1** : to harden (a ferrous alloy) so that the surface layer is harder than the interior **2** : to make callous — **case–hard·ened** *adj*

case history *n* : a record of history, environment, and relevant details (as of individual behavior or condition) esp. for use in analysis or illustration

ca·sein \kā-'sēn, 'kā-sē-ən\ *n* [prob. fr. F *caséine*, fr. L *caseus*] : a phosphoprotein of milk: as **a** : one that is precipitated from milk by heating with an acid or by the action of lactic acid in souring and is used in making paints and adhesives **b** : one that is produced when milk is curdled by rennet, is the chief constituent of cheese, and is used in making plastics

case knife *n* **1** : SHEATH KNIFE **2** : a table knife

case law *n* : law established by judicial decision in cases

case load *n* : the number of cases handled in a particular period (as by a court or clinic)

case·mate \'kā-ˌsmāt\ *n* [MF, fr. OIt *casamatta*] : a fortified position or chamber or an armored enclosure on a warship from which guns are fired through embrasures

case·ment \'kā-smənt\ *n* [ME, hollow molding, prob. fr. ONF *encassement* frame, fr. *encasser* to enchase, frame, fr. *en-* + *casse*] : a window sash that opens on hinges at the side; *also* : a window with such a sash

ca·se·ous \'kā-sē-əs\ *adj* [L *caseus* cheese] : marked by caseation; *also* : CHEESY

ca·sern *or* **ca·serne** \kə-'zərn\ *n* [F *caserne*] : a military barracks in a garrison town

case shot *n* : an artillery projectile consisting of a number of balls or metal fragments enclosed in a case

case study *n* **1** : an intensive analysis of an individual unit (as a person or community) stressing developmental factors in relation to environment **2** : CASE HISTORY

case system *n* : a system of teaching law in which instruction is chiefly on the basis of leading or selected cases as primary authorities instead of from textbooks

case·work \'kā-ˌswərk\ *n* : social work involving direct consideration of the problems, needs, and adjustments of the individual case (as a person or family) — **case·work·er** \-ˌswər-kər\ *n*

¹cash \'kash\ *n* [MF or OIt; MF *casse* money box, fr. OIt *cassa*, fr. L *capsa* chest — more at CASE] **1** : ready money **2** : money or its equivalent paid promptly after purchasing — **cash·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

²cash *vt* **1** : to pay or obtain cash for ⟨~ a check⟩ **2** : to lead and win a bridge trick with (a card that is the highest remaining card of its suit) — **cash·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj*

³cash *n, pl* **cash** [Pg *caixa* fr. Tamil *kācu*, a small copper coin, fr. Skt *karsa*, a weight of gold or silver; akin to OPer *karsha-*, a weight] **1** : any of various coins of small value in China and southern India; *esp* : a Chinese coin usu. of copper alloy that has a square hole in the center **2** : a unit of value equivalent to one cash

¹cash–and–car·ry \ˌkash-ən-'kar-ē\ *adj* : sold or provided for cash and usu. without delivery service

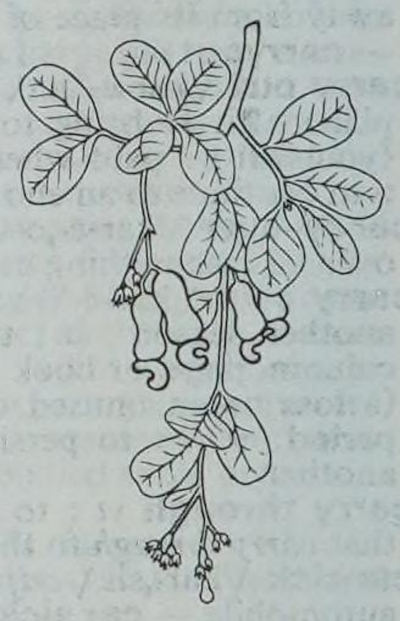
²cash–and–carry *n* : the policy of selling on a cash-and-carry basis

cash·book \'kash-ˌbu̇k\ *n* : a book in which record is kept of all cash receipts and disbursements

cash crop *n* : a readily salable crop (as cotton or tobacco) produced or gathered primarily for market

cash discount *n* : a discount granted in consideration of immediate payment or payment within a prescribed time

ca·shew \'kash-(ˌ)ü, kə-'shü\ *n* [Pg *acajú, cajú*, fr. Tupi *acajú*] : a tropical American tree (*Anacardium occidentale*) of the sumac family grown for its edible kidney-shaped nut and receptacle and the gum it yields; *also* : its nut



cashew

cash flow *n* : a measure of corporate worth that consists of net income after taxes plus certain noncash charges against income (as allowances for depreciation and depletion) and that is usu. figured in dollars per share of common stock outstanding

¹ca·shier \ka-'shi(ə)r, kə-\ *vt* [D *casseren*, fr. MF *casser* to discharge, annul — more at QUASH] **1** : to dismiss from service; *esp* : to dismiss dishonorably **2** : REJECT, DISCARD

²cash·ier \ka-'shi(ə)r\ *n* [D or MF; D *kassier*, fr. MF *cassier*, fr. *casse* money box] : one that has charge of money: as **a** : a high officer in a bank or trust company responsible for moneys received and expended **b** : one who collects and records payments

cashier's check *n* : a check drawn by a bank on its own funds and signed by the cashier

cash in *vt* : to convert into cash ⟨*cashed in* all his bonds⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to retire from a gambling game **b** : to settle accounts and withdraw from an involvement (as a business deal) **2** : to obtain financial profit or advantage ⟨fly-by-night promoters trying to *cash in* — Tom McSloy⟩ — often used with *on* ⟨the chance of *cashing in* on a best-seller⟩

cash·mere \'kazh-ˌmi(ə)r, 'kash-\ *n* [*Cashmere* (Kashmir)] **1** : fine wool from the undercoat of the Kashmir goat; *also* : a yarn of this wool **2** : a soft twilled fabric made orig. from cashmere

cash register *n* : a business machine that usu. has a money drawer, indicates the amount of each sale, and records the amount of money received and often automatically makes change

cas·ing \'kā-siŋ\ *n* **1** : something that encases : material for encasing: as **a** : an enclosing frame esp. around a door or window opening **b** : a metal pipe used to case a well **c** : TIRE 2b **d** : a membranous case for processed meat **2** : a space formed between

two parallel lines of stitching through at least two layers of cloth into which something (as a rod or string) may be inserted

ca·si·no \kə-'sē-(,)nō\ *n, pl* **-nos** [It, fr. *casa* house, fr. L, cabin] **1** : a building or room used for social amusements; *specif* : one used for gambling **2** : SUMMERHOUSE **3** *also* **cas·si·no** : a card game in which each player wins cards by matching or combining cards in his hand with those exposed on the table

cask \'kask\ *n* [MF *casque* helmet, fr. Sp *casco* potsherd, skull, helmet, fr. *cascar* to break — more at CASCARA] **1** : a barrel-shaped vessel of staves, headings, and hoops usu. for liquids **2** : a cask and its contents; *also* : the quantity contained in a cask — **casky** \'kas-kē\ *adj*

cas·ket \'kas-kət\ *n* [ME, modif. of MF *cassette*] **1** : a small chest or box (as for jewels) **2** : a usu. fancy coffin — **casket** *vt*

casque \'kask\ *n* [MF — more at CASK] **1** : a piece of armor for the head : HELMET **2** : an anatomic structure suggestive of a helmet

cas·sa·ba *var of* CASABA

Cas·san·dra \kə-'san-drə\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kassandra*] **1** : a daughter of Priam endowed with the gift of prophecy but fated never to be believed **2** : one that predicts misfortune or disaster

cas·sa·va \kə-'säv-ə\ *n* [Sp *cazabe* cassava bread, fr. Taino *caçábi*] : any of several plants (genus *Manihot*) of the spurge family grown in the tropics for their fleshy edible rootstocks which yield a nutritious starch; *also* : the rootstock

cas·se·role \'kas-ə-,rōl *also* 'kaz-\ *n* [F, saucepan, fr. MF, irreg. fr. *casse* ladle, dripping pan, deriv. of Gk *kyathos* ladle] **1** : a deep round usu. porcelain dish with a handle used for heating substances in the laboratory **2** : a dish in which food may be baked and served **3** : the food cooked and served in a casserole ⟨a tuna ~⟩

cas·sette *or* **ca·sette** \kə-'set, ka-\ *n* [F, fr. MF, dim. of ONF *casse* case] **1** : CASKET 1 **2** : a lighttight magazine for holding film or plates for use in a camera **3** : a small plastic cartridge containing magnetic tape with the tape on one reel passing to the other

cas·sia \'kash-ə\ *n* [ME, fr. OE, fr. L, fr. Gk *kassia*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *qĕṣī'āh* cassia] **1** : a coarse cinnamon bark (as from *Cinnamomum cassia*) **2** : any of a genus (*Cassia*) of leguminous herbs, shrubs, and trees of warm regions

cas·si·mere \'kaz-ə-,mi(ə)r, 'kas-\ *n* [obs. *Cassimere* (Kashmir)] : CASHMERE

Cas·si·o·pe·ia \,kas-ē-ə-'pē-(y)ə\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kassiopeia*] **1** : the wife of the Ethiopian King Cepheus who became mother of Andromeda by him and was later changed into a constellation **2** [L (gen. *Cassiopeiae*), fr. Gk *Kassiopeia*] : a northern constellation between Andromeda and Cepheus

Cassiopeia's Chair *n* : a group of stars in the constellation Cassiopeia resembling a chair

cas·sit·er·ite \kə-'sit-ə-,rīt\ *n* [F *cassitérite*, fr. Gk *kassiteros* tin] : a brown or black mineral that consists of tin dioxide SnO_2 and is the chief source of metallic tin

cas·sock \'kas-ək\ *n* [MF *casaque*, fr. Per *kazhāghand* padded jacket, fr. *kazh* raw silk + *āghand* stuffed] : an ankle-length garment with close-fitting sleeves worn esp. in Roman Catholic and Anglican churches by the clergy and by laymen assisting in services

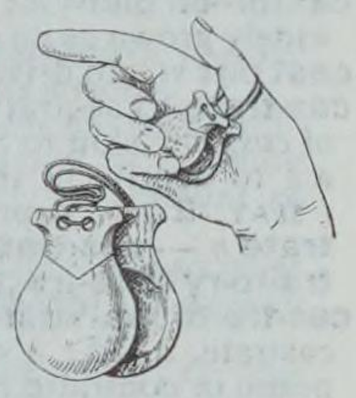
cas·so·wary \'kas-ə-,wer-ē\ *n, pl* **-war·ies** [Malay *kĕsuari*] : any of several large ratite birds (genus *Casuarius*) esp. of New Guinea and Australia closely related to the emu

[1]cast \'kast\ *vb* **cast; cast·ing** [ME *casten*, fr. ON *kasta;* akin to ON *kös* heap and perh. to L *gerere* to carry, wage] *vt* **1 a** : to cause to move by throwing ⟨~ a fishing lure⟩ **b** : DIRECT ⟨~ a glance⟩ **c** (1) : to put forth ⟨the fire ~*s* a warm glow⟩ (2) : to place as if by throwing ⟨~ doubt on their reliability⟩ **d** : to deposit (a ballot) formally **e** (1) : to throw off or away ⟨the horse ~ a shoe⟩ (2) : to get rid of : DISCARD ⟨~ off all restraint⟩ (3) : SHED, MOLT (4) : to bring forth; *esp* : to give birth to prematurely **f** : to throw to the ground esp. in wrestling **g** : to build by throwing up earth **2 a** (1) : to perform arithmetical operations on : ADD (2) : to calculate by means of astrology **b** *archaic* : DECIDE, INTEND **3 a** : to dispose or arrange into parts or into a suitable form or order **b** (1) : to assign the parts of (a dramatic production) to actors (2) : to assign (an actor) to a role or part **4 a** : to give a shape to (a substance) by pouring in liquid or plastic form into a mold and letting harden without pressure ⟨~ steel⟩ **b** : to form by this process ⟨~ machine parts⟩ **5** : TURN ⟨~ the scale slightly⟩ **6** : to make (a knot or stitch) by looping or catching up **7** : TWIST, WARP ⟨a beam ~ by age⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to throw something; *specif* : to throw out a lure with a fishing rod **2** *dial Brit* : VOMIT **3** *dial Eng* : to bear fruit : YIELD **4 a** : to perform addition **b** *obs* : ESTIMATE, CONJECTURE **5** : WARP **6** : to range over land in search of a trail — used of hunting dogs or trackers **7 a** : VEER **b** : to wear ship **8** : to take form in a mold ***syn*** see THROW, DISCARD — **cast lots** : to draw lots to determine a matter by chance

[2]cast *n* **1 a** : an act of casting **b** : something that happens as a result of chance **c** : a throw of dice **d** : a throw of a line (as a fishing line) or net **2 a** : the form in which a thing is constructed **b** : the set of actors in a play or narrative **c** : the arrangement of draperies in a painting **3** : the distance to which a thing can be thrown; *specif* : the distance a bow can shoot **4 a** : a turning of the eye in a particular direction; *also* : EXPRESSION ⟨this freakish, elfish ~ came into the child's eye —Nathaniel Hawthorne⟩ **b** : a slight strabismus **5** : something that is thrown or the quantity thrown: as **a** : the number of hawks released by a falconer at one time **b** *Brit* : the leader of a fishing line **c** : the quantity of metal cast at a single operation **6 a** : something that is formed by casting in a mold or form: as (1) : a reproduction (as of a statue) in metal or plaster : CASTING (2) : a fossil reproduction of the details of a natural object by mineral infiltration **b** : an impression taken from an object with a liquid or plastic substance : MOLD **c** : a rigid dressing of gauze impregnated with plaster of paris for immobilizing a diseased or broken part **7** : FORECAST, CONJECTURE **8 a** : an overspread of a color or modification of the appearance of a substance by a trace of some added hue : SHADE ⟨gray with a greenish ~⟩ **b** : TINGE, SUGGESTION **9 a** : a ride on one's way in a vehicle : LIFT **b** *Scot* : HELP, ASSISTANCE **10 a** : SHAPE, APPEARANCE ⟨the delicate ~ of her features⟩ **b** : characteristic quality ⟨modern science . . . was in conflict with the humanist ~ of mind —T. F. O'Dea⟩ **11** : something that is shed, ejected, or thrown out or off: as **a** : the excrement of an earthworm **b** : a mass of plastic matter formed in cavities of diseased organs and discharged from the body **c** : the skin of an insect **12** : the ranging in search of a trail by a dog, hunting pack, or tracker

cast about *vt* : to lay plans concerning : CONTRIVE ⟨*cast about* how he was to go⟩ ~ *vi* : to look around : SEEK ⟨he *casts about* uncertainly for a place to sit⟩

cas·ta·net \,kas-tə-'net\ *n* [Sp *castañeta*, fr. *castaña* chestnut, fr. L *castanea* — more at CHESTNUT] : a rhythm instrument used esp. by dancers that consists of two small shells of ivory, hard wood, or plastic fastened to the thumb and clicked together by the other fingers — usu. used in pl.



castanets

cast·away \'kas-tə-,wā\ *adj* **1** : thrown away : REJECTED **2 a** : cast adrift or ashore as a survivor of a shipwreck **b** : thrown out or left without friends or resources — **castaway** *n*

caste \'kast\ *n* [Pg *casta*, lit., race, lineage, fr. fem. of *casto* pure, chaste, fr. L *castus;* akin to L *carēre* to be without, Gk *keazein* to split, Skt *śasati* he cuts to pieces] **1** : one of the hereditary social classes in Hinduism that restrict the occupation of their members and their association with the members of other castes **2 a** : a division of society based on differences of wealth, inherited rank or privilege, profession, or occupation **b** : the position conferred by caste standing : PRESTIGE **3** : a system of rigid social stratification characterized by hereditary status, endogamy, and social barriers sanctioned by custom, law, or religion **4** : a specialized form (as the soldier or worker of an ant) of a polymorphic social insect that carries out a particular function in the colony — **caste·ism** \'kas-,tiz-əm\ *n*

cas·tel·lan \'kas-tə-lən\ *n* [ME *castelleyn*, fr. ONF *castelain*, fr. L *castellanus* occupant of a castle, fr. *castellanus* of a castle, fr. *castellum* castle] : a governor or warden of a castle or fort

cas·tel·lat·ed \'kas-tə-,lāt-əd\ *adj* [ML *castellatus*, pp. of *castellare* to fortify, fr. L *castellum*] **1** : having battlements like a castle **2** : having or supporting a castle

cast·er \'kas-tər\ *n* **1** : one that casts; *esp* : a machine that casts type **2** *or* **cas·tor** \-tər\ **a** : a usu. silver table vessel with a perforated top for sprinkling a seasoning (as sugar or spice) **b** : a usu. revolving metal stand bearing condiment containers (as cruets, mustard pot, and often shakers) for table use : a cruet stand **3** *or* **castor** : a wheel or set of wheels mounted in a swivel frame and used for supporting furniture, trucks, and portable machines

cas·ti·gate \'kas-tə-,gāt\ *vt* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** [L *castigatus*, pp. of *castigare* — more at CHASTEN] : to subject to severe punishment, reproof, or criticism ***syn*** see PUNISH — **cas·ti·ga·tion** \,kas-tə-'gā-shən\ *n* — **cas·ti·ga·tor** \'kas-tə-,gāt-ər\ *n*

cas·tile soap \(,)kas-,tēl-\ *n, often cap C* [*Castile*, region of Spain] : a fine hard bland soap made from olive oil and sodium hydroxide; *also* : any of various similar soaps

Cas·til·ian \ka-'stil-yən\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Castile; *broadly* : SPANIARD **2 a** : the dialect of Castile **b** : the official and literary language of Spain based on this dialect — **Castilian** *adj*

cast·ing *n* **1** : the act of one that casts: as **a** : the throwing of a fishing line by means of a rod and reel **b** : the assignment of parts and duties to actors or performers **2** : something cast in a mold **3** : something that is cast out or off

casting director *n* : one who supervises the casting of dramatic productions (as films and plays)

casting vote *n* : a deciding vote cast by a presiding officer to break a tie

cast–iron *adj* **1** : made of cast iron **2** : resembling cast iron: as **a** : capable of withstanding great strain ⟨a ~ stomach⟩ **b** : not admitting change, adaptation, or exception : RIGID ⟨a man of ~ will⟩

cast iron *n* : a commercial alloy of iron, carbon, and silicon that is cast in a mold and is hard, brittle, nonmalleable, and incapable of being hammer-welded but more easily fusible than steel

[1]cas·tle \'kas-əl\ *n* [ME *castel*, fr. OE, fr. ONF, fr. L *castellum* fortress, castle, dim. of *castrum* fortified place; akin to L *castrare* to castrate] **1 a** : a large fortified building or set of buildings **b** : a massive or imposing house **2** : a retreat safe against intrusion or invasion **3** : [3]ROOK

[2]castle *vb* **cas·tled; cas·tling** \'kas-(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* **1** : to establish in a castle **2** : to move (the chess king) in castling ~ *vi* : to move a chess king two squares toward a rook and in the same move the rook to the square next past the king

cas·tled \'kas-əld\ *adj* : CASTELLATED

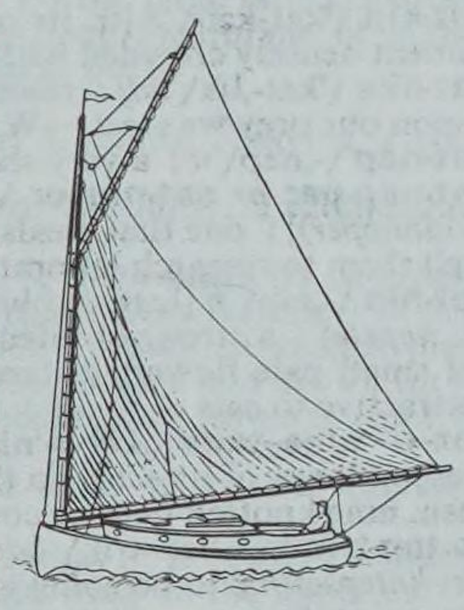
castle in the air : an impracticable project : DAYDREAM — called also *castle in Spain*

cast–off \'kas-,tȯf\ *adj* : thrown away or aside — **cast·off** *n*

cast off \(')kas-'tȯf\ *vt* **1** : LOOSE ⟨*cast off* a hunting dog⟩ **2** : UNFASTEN ⟨*cast off* a boat⟩ **3** : to remove (a stitch) from a knitting needle in such a way as to prevent unraveling ~ *vi* **1** : to unfasten or untie a boat or a line **2** : to turn one's partner in a square dance and pass around the outside of the set and back **3** : to finish a knitted fabric by casting off all stitches

cast on *vt* : to place (stitches) on a knitting needle for beginning or enlarging knitted work
cas·tor \'kas-tər\ *n* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk *kastōr*, fr. *Kastōr* Castor] **1** : BEAVER 1a **2** : a bitter strong-smelling creamy orange-brown substance consisting of the dried perineal glands of the beaver and their secretion used esp. by perfumers **3** : a beaver hat
Cas·tor \'kas-tər\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kastōr*] **1** : one of the Dioscuri **2** : the more northern of the two bright stars in Gemini
castor bean *n* : the very poisonous seed of the castor-oil plant; *also* : CASTOR-OIL PLANT
castor oil *n* [prob. fr. its former use as a substitute for castor in medicine] : a pale viscous fatty oil from castor beans used esp. as a cathartic or lubricant
castor–oil plant *n* : a tropical Old World herb (*Ricinus communis*) widely grown as an ornamental or for its oil-rich castor beans
cast out *vt* : to drive out : EXPEL
cas·trate \'kas-ˌtrāt\ *vt* **cas·trat·ed; cas·trat·ing** [L *castratus*, pp. of *castrare;* akin to Skt *śasati* he cuts to pieces — more at CASTE] **1 a** : to deprive of the testes : GELD **b** : to deprive of the ovaries : SPAY **2** : to deprive of vitality or effect : EMASCULATE — **cas·trate** *n* — **cas·trat·er** *n* — **cas·tra·tion** \ka-'strā-shən\ *n* — **cas·tra·to·ry** \'kas-trə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*
cas·tra·to \ka-'strät-(ˌ)ō, kə-\ *n, pl* **-ti** \-ē\ [It, fr. pp. of *castrare* to castrate, fr. L] : a singer castrated in boyhood to preserve the soprano or contralto range of his voice
Cas·tro·ism \'kas-(ˌ)trō-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : the political, economic, and social principles and policies of Fidel Castro — **Cas·tro·ite** \-ˌīt\ *n*
¹ca·su·al \'kazh-(ə-)wəl, 'kazh-əl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF & LL; MF *casuel*, fr. LL *casualis*, fr. L *casus* fall, chance — more at CASE] **1** : subject to, resulting from, or occurring by chance **2 a** : occurring without regularity : OCCASIONAL **b** : employed for irregular periods **3 a** : feeling or showing little concern : NONCHALANT **b** (1) : INFORMAL, NATURAL (2) : designed for informal use ***syn*** **1** see ACCIDENTAL **2** see RANDOM ***ant*** deliberate — **ca·su·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv* — **ca·su·al·ness** *n*
²casual *n* **1** : a casual or migratory worker **2** : an officer or enlisted man awaiting assignment or transportation to his unit
ca·su·al·ty \'kazh-əl-tē, 'kazh-(ə-)wəl-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : serious or fatal accident : DISASTER **2 a** : a military person lost through death, wounds, injury, sickness, internment, or capture or through being missing in action **b** : a person or thing injured, lost, or destroyed ⟨the ex-senator was a ~ of the last election⟩
casual water *n* : a temporary accumulation of water not forming a regular hazard of a golf course
ca·su·a·ri·na \ˌkazh-ə-(wə-)'rē-nə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Malay (*pohon*) *kĕsuari*, lit., cassowary tree; fr. the resemblance of its twigs to cassowary feathers] : any of a genus (*Casuarina* of the family Casuarinaceae) of dicotyledonous chiefly Australian trees which have whorls of scalelike leaves and jointed stems resembling horsetails and some of which yield a heavy hard wood
ca·su·ist \'kazh-(ə-)wəst\ *n* [prob. fr. Sp *casuista*, fr. L *casus* fall, chance — more at CASE] : one skilled in or given to casuistry — **ca·su·is·tic** \ˌkazh-ə-'wis-tik\ *or* **ca·su·is·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj*
ca·su·ist·ry \'kazh-(ə-)wə-strē\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1** : a method or doctrine dealing with cases of conscience and the resolution of questions of right or wrong in conduct **2** : false application of principles esp. with regard to morals or law ⟨no ~ will convince us that this serious loss is really a victory⟩
ca·sus bel·li \ˌkäs-əs-'bel-ˌē, ˌkā-səs-'bel-ˌī\ *n, pl* **ca·sus belli** \ˌkäs-ˌüs-, ˌkā-ˌsüs-\ [NL, occasion of war] : an event or action that justifies or allegedly justifies war or conflict
¹cat \'kat\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *catt;* akin to OHG *kazza* cat; both fr. a prehistoric NGmc-WGmc word prob. borrowed fr. LL *cattus, catta* cat] **1 a** : a carnivorous mammal (*Felis catus*) long domesticated and kept by man as a pet or for catching rats and mice **b** : any of a family (Felidae) including the domestic cat, lion, tiger, leopard, jaguar, cougar, wildcat, lynx, and cheetah **c** : the fur or pelt of the domestic cat **2** : a malicious woman **3** : a strong tackle used to hoist an anchor to the cathead of a ship **4 a** : CATBOAT **b** : CATAMARAN **5** : CAT-O'-NINE-TAILS **6** : CATFISH **7** *slang* **a** : a player or devotee of hot jazz **b** : GUY **8** : a burglar who is esp. adept at entering and leaving the place he burglarizes without attracting notice
²cat *vb* **cat·ted; cat·ting** *vt* : to bring (an anchor) up to the cathead ~ *vi* : to search for a sexual mate — often used with *around;* often considered vulgar
³cat *abbr* **1** catalog **2** catalyst
Cat \'kat\ *trademark* — used for a Caterpillar tractor
CAT *abbr* **1** clear-air turbulence **2** college ability test
cata- *or* **cat-** *or* **cath-** *prefix* [Gk *kata-, kat-, kath-*, fr. *kata* down, in accordance with, by; akin to L *com-* with — more at CO-] : down ⟨*cata*clinal⟩
cat·a·bol·ic \ˌkat-ə-'bäl-ik\ *adj* : of or relating to catabolism — **cat·a·bol·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ca·tab·o·lism \kə-'tab-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* [Gk *katabolē* throwing down, fr. *kataballein* to throw down, fr. *kata-* + *ballein* to throw — more at DEVIL] : destructive metabolism involving the release of energy and resulting in the breakdown of complex materials within the organism
ca·tab·o·lite \-ˌlīt\ *n* : a substance (as nectar or a waste product) produced in catabolism
ca·tab·o·lize \-ˌlīz\ *vb* **-lized; -liz·ing** *vt* : to subject to catabolism ~ *vi* : to undergo catabolism
cat·a·chre·sis \ˌkat-ə-'krē-səs\ *n, pl* **-chre·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [L, fr. Gk *katachrēsis* misuse, fr. *katachrēsthai* to use up, misuse, fr. *kata-* + *chrēsthai* to use] **1** : use of the wrong word for the context **2** : use of a forced and esp. paradoxical figure of speech (as *blind mouths*) — **cat·a·chres·tic** \-'kres-tik\ *or* **cat·a·chres·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* — **cat·a·chres·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cat·a·clysm \'kat-ə-ˌkliz-əm\ *n* [F *cataclysme*, fr. L *cataclysmos*, fr. Gk *kataklysmos*, fr. *kataklyzein* to inundate, fr. *kata-* + *klyzein* to wash — more at CLYSTER] **1** : FLOOD, DELUGE **2** : a violent geologic change of the earth's surface **3** : a momentous and violent event marked by overwhelming upheaval and demolition ***syn*** see DISASTER — **cat·a·clys·mal** \ˌkat-ə-'kliz-məl\ *or* **cat·a·clys·mic** \-mik\ *adj*
cat·a·comb \'kat-ə-ˌkōm\ *n* [MF *catacombe*, prob. fr. OIt *catacomba*, fr. LL *catacumbae*, pl.] **1** : a subterranean cemetery of galleries with recesses for tombs — usu. used in pl. **2** : something resembling a catacomb: as **a** : an underground passageway or group of passageways ⟨the ~*s* of the Old Senate Office Building⟩ **b** : a complex set of interrelated things ⟨the endless ~*s* of formal education —Kingman Brewster, Jr.⟩ — **cat·a·comb·ic** \ˌkat-ə-'kō-mik\ *adj*
ca·tad·ro·mous \kə-'tad-rə-məs\ *adj* [prob. fr. NL *catadromus*, fr. *cata-* + *-dromus* -dromous] : living in fresh water and going to the sea to spawn ⟨~ eels⟩
cat·a·falque \'kat-ə-ˌfalk, -ˌfȯ(l)k\ *n* [It *catafalco*, fr. (assumed) VL *catafalicum* scaffold, fr. *cata-* + L *fala* siege tower] **1** : an ornamental structure sometimes used in funerals for the lying in state of the body **2** : a pall-covered coffin-shaped structure used at requiem masses celebrated after burial
Cat·a·lan \'kat-ᵊl-ən, -ˌan\ *n* [Sp *Catalán*] **1** : a native or inhabitant of Catalonia **2** : the Romance language of Catalonia, Valencia, Andorra, and the Balearic islands — **Catalan** *adj*
cat·a·lase \'kat-ᵊl-ˌās, -ˌāz\ *n* [*catalysis*] : a red crystalline enzyme that consists of a protein complex with hematin groups and catalyzes the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen — **cat·a·lat·ic** \ˌkat-ᵊl-'at-ik\ *adj*
cat·a·lec·tic \ˌkat-ᵊl-'ek-tik\ *adj* [LL *catalecticus*, fr. Gk *katalēktikos*, fr. *katalēgein* to leave off, fr. *kata-* + *lēgein* to stop — more at SLACK] : lacking a syllable at the end or ending in an imperfect foot — **catalectic** *n*
cat·a·lep·sy \'kat-ᵊl-ˌep-sē\ *n, pl* **-sies** [ME *catalempsi*, fr. ML *catalepsia*, fr. LL *catalepsis* fr. Gk *katalēpsis*, lit., act of seizing, fr. *katalambanein* to seize, fr. *kata-* + *lambanein* to take — more at LATCH] : a condition of suspended animation and loss of voluntary motion in which the limbs remain in whatever position they are placed — **cat·a·lep·tic** \ˌkat-ᵊl-'ep-tik\ *adj or n* — **cat·a·lep·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cat·a·lex·is \ˌkat-ᵊl-'ek-səs\ *n, pl* **-lex·es** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *katalēxis* close, cadence, fr. *katalēgein*] : omission or incompleteness usu. in the last foot of a line in metrical verse
¹cat·a·log *or* **cat·a·logue** \'kat-ᵊl-ˌȯg, -ˌäg\ *n* [ME *cateloge*, fr. MF *catalogue*, fr. LL *catalogus*, fr. Gk *katalogos*, fr. *katalegein* to list, enumerate, fr. *kata-* + *legein* to gather, speak — more at LEGEND] **1** : LIST, REGISTER **2 a** : a complete enumeration of items arranged systematically with descriptive details **b** : a pamphlet or book that contains such a list **c** : material in such a list
²catalog *or* **catalogue** *vb* **-loged** *or* **-logued; -log·ing** *or* **-logu·ing** *vt* **1** : to make a catalog of **2** : to enter in a catalog; *esp* : to classify (books or information) descriptively ~ *vi* **1** : to make or work on a catalog **2** : to become listed in a catalog at a specified price ⟨this stamp ~*s* at two dollars⟩ — **cat·a·log·er** *or* **cat·a·logu·er** *n*
cat·a·logue rai·son·né \-ˌrāz-ᵊn-'ā\ *n, pl* **cat·a·logues rai·son·nés** \-ˌȯg(z)-ˌrāz-ᵊn-'ā\ [F, lit., reasoned catalog] : a systematic annotated catalog; *esp* : a critical bibliography
ca·tal·pa \kə-'tal-pə, -'tȯl-\ *n* [Creek *kutuhlpa*, lit., head with wings] : any of a small genus (*Catalpa*) of American and Asiatic trees of the trumpet-creeper family with cordate leaves and pale showy flowers in terminal racemes
ca·tal·y·sis \kə-'tal-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-y·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [Gk *katalysis* dissolution, fr. *katalyein* to dissolve, fr. *kata-* cata- + *lyein* to dissolve, release — more at LOSE] **1** : a modification and esp. increase in the rate of a chemical reaction induced by material unchanged chemically at the end of the reaction **2** : an action or reaction between two or more persons or forces precipitated by a separate agent and esp. by one that is essentially unaltered by the reaction ⟨a representative list of questions . . . valuable for the ~ of class discussions —B. S. Meyer & D. B. Anderson⟩
cat·a·lyst \'kat-ᵊl-əst\ *n* **1** : an agent that induces catalysis ⟨he was rumored to be the ~ in a native uprising —H. W. Wind⟩ ⟨the housing program is intended to become the ~ of the new French economy —Edmond Taylor⟩ **2** : a substance (as an enzyme) that initiates a chemical reaction and enables it to proceed under milder conditions (as at a lower temperature) than otherwise possible
cat·a·lyt·ic \ˌkat-ᵊl-'it-ik\ *adj* : causing, involving, or relating to catalysis ⟨a ~ reaction⟩ ⟨a ~ personality⟩ — **cat·a·lyt·i·cal·ly** \-'it-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
catalytic cracker *n* : the unit in a petroleum refinery in which cracking is carried out in the presence of a catalyst
cat·a·lyze \'kat-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vt* **-lyzed; -lyz·ing** **1** : to bring about the catalysis of (a chemical reaction) **2** : to bring about : INSPIRE **3** : to alter significantly by catalysis ⟨innovations in basic chemical theory that have *catalyzed* the field and its technology —*Newsweek*⟩ — **cat·a·lyz·er** *n*
cat·a·ma·ran \ˌkat-ə-mə-'ran, 'kat-ə-mə-ˌran\ *n* [Tamil *kaṭṭumaram*, fr. *kaṭṭu* to tie + *maram* tree] **1** : a raft consisting of logs or pieces of wood lashed together and propelled by paddles or sails **2** : a boat with twin hulls or planing surfaces side by side
cata·me·nia \ˌkat-ə-'mē-nē-ə\ *n pl* [NL, fr. Gk *katamēnia*, fr. neut. pl. of *katamēnios* monthly, fr. *kata* by + *mēn* month — more at CATA-, MOON] : MENSES — **cata·me·ni·al** \-nē-əl\ *adj*
cat·a·mite \'kat-ə-ˌmīt\ *n* [L *catamitus*, fr. *Catamitus* Ganymede, fr. Etruscan *Catmite*, fr. Gk *Ganymēdēs*] : a boy kept by a pederast
cat·a·mount \'kat-ə-ˌmau̇nt\ *n* [short for *cat-a-mountain*] : any of various wild cats: as **a** : COUGAR **b** : LYNX
cat–a–moun·tain \ˌkat-ə-'mau̇nt-ᵊn\ *n* [ME *cat of the mountaine*] : any of various wild cats: as **a** : the European wildcat **b** : LEOPARD
cat–and–mouse \ˌkat-ᵊn-'mau̇s\ *adj* : consisting of constant torment, continuous pursuit, near captures, repeated escapes, or watchful waiting for the best opportunity to attack ⟨the ~ technique of handling an opponent⟩
cat and mouse *n* : behavior like that of a cat with a mouse; *esp* : the act of toying with something before tormenting or destroying it

cat·a·pho·re·sis \ˌkat-ə-fə-'rē-səs\ *n, pl* **-re·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL] : ELECTROPHORESIS — **cat·a·pho·ret·ic** \-'ret-ik\ *adj* — **cat·a·pho·ret·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cat·a·pla·sia \ˌkat-ə-'plā-zh(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL] : reversion of cells or tissues to a more embryonic condition — **cat·a·plas·tic** \-'plas-tik\ *adj*
cat·a·plasm \'kat-ə-ˌplaz-əm\ *n* [MF *cataplasme*, fr. L *cataplasma*, fr. Gk *kataplasma*, fr. *kataplassein* to plaster over — more at PLASTER] : POULTICE
cat·a·plexy \'kat-ə-ˌplek-sē\ *n, pl* **-plex·ies** \-sēz\ [G *kataplexie*, fr. Gk *kataplēxis*, fr. *kataplēssein* to strike down, terrify, fr. *kata-* + *plēssein* to strike — more at PLAINT] : sudden loss of muscle power following a strong emotional stimulus
¹cat·a·pult \'kat-ə-ˌpəlt, -ˌpůlt\ *n* [MF or L; MF *catapulte*, fr. L *catapulta*, fr. Gk *katapaltēs*, fr. *kata-* + *pallein* to hurl — more at POLEMIC] **1** : an ancient military device for hurling missiles **2** : a device for launching an airplane at flying speed (as from an aircraft carrier)
²catapult *vt* : to throw or launch by or as if by a catapult ~ *vi* : to become catapulted
cat·a·ract \'kat-ə-ˌrakt\ *n* [L *cataracta* waterfall, portcullis, fr. Gk *kataraktēs*, fr. *katarassein* to dash down, fr. *kata-* cata- + *arassein* to strike, dash] **1** [MF or ML; MF *cataracte*, fr. ML *cataracta*, fr. L, portcullis] : a clouding of the lens of the eye or of its capsule obstructing the passage of light **2 a** *obs* : WATERSPOUT **b** : WATERFALL; *esp* : a large one over a precipice **c** : steep rapids in a river **d** : DOWNPOUR, FLOOD — **cat·a·rac·tal** \ˌkat-ə-'rak-tᵊl\ *adj*
ca·tarrh \kə-'tär\ *n* [MF or LL; MF *catarrhe*, fr. LL *catarrhus*, fr. Gk *katarrhous*, fr. *katarrhein* to flow down, fr. *kata-* + *rhein* to flow — more at STREAM] : inflammation of a mucous membrane; *esp* : one chronically affecting the human nose and air passages — **ca·tarrh·al** \-əl\ *adj* — **ca·tarrh·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*
ca·tas·ta·sis \kə-'tas-tə-səs\ *n, pl* **-ta·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [Gk *katastasis* settlement, fr. *kathistanai* to set in order, fr. *kata-* + *histanai* to cause to stand — more at STAND] **1** : the complication immediately preceding the climax of a play **2** : the climax of a play
ca·tas·tro·phe \kə-'tas-trə-(ˌ)fē\ *n* [Gk *katastrophē*, fr. *katastrephein* to overturn, fr. *kata-* + *strephein* to turn — more at STROPHE] **1** : the final event of the dramatic action esp. of a tragedy **2** : a momentous tragic event ranging from extreme misfortune to utter overthrow or ruin **3** : a violent and sudden change in a feature of the earth **4** : utter failure : FIASCO ***syn*** see DISASTER — **cat·a·stroph·ic** \ˌkat-ə-'sträf-ik\ *adj* — **cat·a·stroph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cata·to·nia \ˌkat-ə-'tō-nē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. G *katatonie*, fr. *kata-* cata- + NL *tonus*] **1** : CATALEPSY **2** : a disorder marked by catalepsy — **cata·ton·ic** \-'tän-ik\ *adj or n*
Ca·taw·ba \kə-'tȯ-bə\ *n* **1** *pl* **Catawba** *or* **Catawbas** : a member of an Amerindian people of No. Carolina and So. Carolina **2** : the language of the Catawba people **3** : a dry white wine produced from a native American grape; *also* : a sweet fortified wine made from this grape
cat·bird \'kat-ˌbərd\ *n* : an American songbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) dark gray in color with black cap and reddish coverts under the tail
catbird seat *n* : a position of great prominence or advantage
cat·boat \'kat-ˌbōt\ *n* : a sailboat having a cat rig and usu. a centerboard and being of light draft and broad beam



catboat

cat·bri·er \-ˌbrī(-ə)r\ *n* : any of several prickly climbers (genus *Smilax*) of the lily family
cat·call \-ˌkȯl\ *n* : a loud or raucous cry made to express disapproval (as at a sports event) — **catcall** *vb*
¹catch \'kach, 'kech\ *vb* **caught** \'kȯt\; **catch·ing** [ME *cacchen*, fr. ONF *cachier* to hunt, fr. (assumed) VL *captiare*, alter. of L *captare* to chase, fr. *captus*, pp. of *capere* to take — more at HEAVE] *vt* **1 a** : to capture or seize esp. after pursuit **b** : to take or entangle in or as if in a snare **c** : DECEIVE **d** : to discover unexpectedly : FIND ⟨*caught* in the act⟩ **e** : to check suddenly or momentarily **f** : to become suddenly aware of **2 a** : to take hold of : SEIZE **b** : to affect suddenly **c** : SNATCH, INTERCEPT **d** : to avail oneself of : TAKE **e** : to obtain through effort : GET **f** : to get entangled ⟨~ a sleeve on a nail⟩ **3** : to become affected by: as **a** : CONTRACT ⟨~ a cold⟩ **b** : to respond sympathetically to the point of being imbued with ⟨~ the spirit of an occasion⟩ **c** : to be struck by **4 a** : to seize and hold firmly **b** : FASTEN **5** : to take or get usu. momentarily or quickly ⟨~ a glimpse of a friend⟩ **6 a** : OVERTAKE **b** : to get aboard in time ⟨~ the bus⟩ **7** : ATTRACT, ARREST **8** : to make contact with **9** : to grasp by the senses or the mind : APPREHEND ~ *vi* **1** : to grasp hastily or try to grasp **2** : to become caught **3** *of a crop* : to come up and become established **4** : to play the position of catcher on a baseball team — **catchable** \'kach-ə-bəl, 'kech-\ *adj*
syn **1** CATCH, TRAP, SNARE, ENTRAP, ENSNARE, BAG *shared meaning element* : to get into one's possession or under one's control by or as if by taking or seizing ***ant*** miss
2 see INCUR
— **catch fire** **1** : to become ignited **2** : to become fired with enthusiasm ⟨the poet *caught fire* from the philosopher's talk⟩ **3** : to increase greatly in scope, interest, or effectiveness ⟨this stock has not *caught fire* — yet —*Forbes*⟩ — **catch it** : to incur blame, reprimand, or punishment — **catch one's breath** : to rest long enough to restore normal breathing
²catch *n* **1** : something caught; *esp* : the total quantity caught at one time ⟨a large ~ of fish⟩ **2 a** : the act, action, or fact of catching **b** : a game in which a ball is thrown and caught **3** : something that checks or holds immovable ⟨the safety ~ of her pin broke⟩ **4** : one worth catching esp. as a spouse **5** : a round for three or more unaccompanied voices written out as one continuous melody with each succeeding singer taking up a part in turn **6** : FRAGMENT, SNATCH **7** : a concealed difficulty ⟨there must be a ~ to it somewhere⟩ **8** : the germination of a field crop to such an extent that replanting is unnecessary
catch·all \'kach-ˌȯl, 'kech-\ *n* : something to hold various odds and ends
catch–as–catch–can \ˌkach-əz-ˌkach-'kan, ˌkech-əz-ˌkech-\ *adj* : using any available means or method : UNPLANNED ⟨a ~ existence begging and running errands —*Time*⟩
catch·er \'kach-ər, 'kech-\ *n* : one that catches; *specif* : a baseball player stationed behind home plate
catch·fly \-ˌflī\ *n* : any of various plants (as of the genera *Lychnis* and *Silene*) with viscid stems to which small insects adhere
catch·ing *adj* **1** : INFECTIOUS, CONTAGIOUS **2** : CATCHY, ALLURING
catch·ment \'kach-mənt, 'kech-\ *n* **1** : the action of catching water **2** : something that catches water; *also* : the amount of water caught
catch on *vi* **1** : UNDERSTAND, LEARN ⟨the police *caught on* to what he was doing⟩ **2** : to become popular ⟨this movement has already *caught on* in other states — Bernard Smith⟩
catch out *vt* : to detect in error or wrongdoing : ENTRAP ⟨the Court . . . is now *caught out* by history — Ed Yoder⟩
catch·pen·ny \'kach-ˌpen-ē, 'kech-\ *adj* : designed esp. to appeal to the ignorant or unwary through sensationalism or cheapness ⟨a ~ newspaper with many lurid photographs⟩
catch·pole *or* **catch·poll** \-ˌpōl\ *n* [ME *cacchepol*, fr. OE *cæcepol*, fr. (assumed) ONF *cachepol*, lit., chicken chaser, fr. ONF *cachier* + *pol* chicken, fr. L *pullus* — more at CATCH, PULLET] : a sheriff's deputy; *esp* : one who makes arrests for debt
catch·up \'kech-əp, 'kach-; 'kat-səp\ *var of* CATSUP
catch up *vt* **1 a** : to pick up often abruptly ⟨the thief *caught* the purse *up* and ran⟩ **b** : ENSNARE, ENTANGLE ⟨education has been *caught up* in a stultifying mythology, largely of its own devising — N. M. Pusey⟩ **c** : ENTHRALL ⟨the . . . public was *caught up* in the car's magic — D. A. Jedlicka⟩ **2** : to provide with the latest information ⟨*catch* me *up* on the news⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to travel fast enough to overtake an advance party ⟨*catch up* with the group ahead⟩ **2** : to bring about arrest for illicit activities ⟨the police *caught up* with the thieves⟩ **3 a** : to bring something to completion ⟨*catch up* on the bookkeeping⟩ **b** : to acquire belated information ⟨*catch up* on the news⟩
catch·word \'kach-ˌwərd, 'kech-\ *n* **1 a** : a word under the righthand side of the last line on a book page that repeats the first word on the following page **b** : GUIDE WORD **2** : a word or expression repeated until it becomes representative of a party, school, or point of view
catchy \-ē\ *adj* **catch·i·er; -est** **1** : tending to catch the interest or attention ⟨a ~ title⟩ **2** : TRICKY ⟨a ~ question⟩ **3** : FITFUL, IRREGULAR ⟨~ breathing⟩
cat distemper *n* : PANLEUCOPENIA
cate \'kāt\ *n* [ME, article of purchased food, short for *acate*, fr. ONF *acat* purchase, fr. *acater* to buy, fr. (assumed) VL *accaptare*, fr. L *acceptare* to accept] *archaic* : a dainty or choice food
cat·e·che·sis \ˌkat-ə-'kē-səs\ *n, pl* **-che·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [LL, fr. Gk *katēchēsis*, fr. *katēchein* to teach] : oral instruction of catechumens — **cat·e·chet·i·cal** \-'ket-i-kəl\ *adj*
cat·e·chin \'kat-ə-ˌkin\ *n* [ISV *catechu* + *-in*] : a crystalline compound $C_{15}H_{14}O_6$ that is related chemically to the flavones, is found in catechu, and is used in dyeing and tanning
cat·e·chism \'kat-ə-ˌkiz-əm\ *n* **1** : oral instruction **2** : a manual for catechizing; *specif* : a summary of religious doctrine often in the form of questions and answers **3** : a set of formal questions put as a test — **cat·e·chis·mal** \ˌkat-ə-'kiz-məl\ *adj* — **cat·e·chistic** \-'kis-tik\ *adj*
cat·e·chist \'kat-ə-ˌkist, 'kat-i-kəst\ *n* : one that catechizes: as **a** : a teacher of catechumens **b** : a native in a missionary district who does Christian teaching — **cat·e·chis·tic** \ˌkat-ə-'kis-tik\ *adj*
cat·e·chize \'kat-ə-ˌkīz\ *vt* **-chized; -chiz·ing** [LL *catechizare*, fr. Gk *katēchein* to teach, lit., to din into, fr. *kata-* cata- + *ēchein* to resound, fr. *ēchē* sound — more at ECHO] **1** : to instruct systematically esp. by questions, answers, and explanations and corrections; *specif* : to give religious instruction in such a manner **2** : to question systematically or searchingly — **cat·e·chi·za·tion** \ˌkat-i-kə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **cat·e·chiz·er** \'kat-ə-ˌkī-zər\ *n*
cat·e·chol \'kat-ə-ˌkȯl, -ˌkōl\ *n* **1** : CATECHIN **2** : PYROCATECHOL
cat·e·chol·amine \ˌkat-ə-'kō-lə-ˌmēn, -'kȯ-\ *n* : any of various amines (as epinephrine, norepinephrine, and dopamine) that function as hormones or neurotransmitters or both and are related to pyrocatechol
cat·e·chu \'kat-ə-ˌchü, -ˌshü\ *n* [prob. fr. Malay *kachu*, of Dravidian origin; akin to Tamil & Kannada *kācu* catechu] : any of several dry, earthy, or resinous astringent substances obtained from tropical Asiatic plants: as **a** : an extract of the heartwood of an East Indian acacia (*Acacia catechu*) **b** : GAMBIER
cat·e·chu·men \ˌkat-ə-'kyü-mən\ *n* [ME *cathecumyn*, fr. MF *cathecumine*, fr. LL *catechumenus*, fr. Gk *katēchoumenos*, pres. pass. part. of *katēchein* to teach] **1** : a convert to Christianity receiving training in doctrine and discipline before baptism **2** : one receiving instruction in the basic doctrines of Christianity before admission to communicant membership in a church
cat·e·gor·i·cal \ˌkat-ə-'gȯr-i-kəl, -'gär-\ *also* **cat·e·gor·ic** \-ik\ *adj* [LL *categoricus*, fr. Gk *katēgorikos*, fr. *katēgoria* affirmation, cate-

gory] **1** : ABSOLUTE, UNQUALIFIED ⟨a ~ denial⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or constituting a category — **cat·e·gor·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

categorical imperative *n* : a moral obligation or command that is unconditionally and universally binding

cat·e·go·rize \'kat-i-gə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-rized; -riz·ing** : to put into a category : CLASSIFY — **cat·e·go·ri·za·tion** \ˌkat-i-gə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n*

cat·e·go·ry \'kat-ə-ˌgōr-ē, -ˌgȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ries** [LL *categoria*, fr. Gk *katēgoria* predication, category, fr. *katēgorein* to accuse, affirm, predicate, fr. *kata-* + *agora* public assembly — more at GREGARIOUS] **1 a** : a general class to which a logical predicate or that which it predicates belongs **b** : one of the underlying forms to which any object of experience must conform **c** : one of the fundamental or ultimate classes of entities or of language **2** : a division within a system of classification

ca·te·na \kə-'tē-nə\ *n, pl* **-nae** \-(ˌ)nē\ *or* **-nas** [ML, fr. L, chain — more at CHAIN] : a connected series of related things

cat·e·nary \'kat-ə-ˌner-ē, *esp Brit* kə-'tē-nə-rē\ *n, pl* **-nar·ies** [NL *catenaria*, fr. L, fem. of *catenarius* of a chain, fr. *catena*] **1** : the curve assumed by a perfectly flexible inextensible cord of uniform density and cross section hanging freely from two fixed points **2** : something in the form of a catenary — **catenary** *adj*

cat·e·nate \'kat-ə-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [L *catenatus*, pp. of *catenare*, fr. *catena*] : to connect in a series : LINK — **cat·e·na·tion** \ˌkat-ə-'nā-shən\ *n*

ca·ten·u·late \kə-'ten-yə-lət\ *adj* [ISV, fr. LL *catenula*, dim. of L *catena*] : shaped like a chain ⟨~ colonies of bacteria⟩

ca·ter \'kāt-ər\ *vb* [obs. *cater* (buyer of provisions), fr. ME *catour*, short for *acatour*, fr. AF, fr. ONF *acater* to buy — more at CATE] *vi* **1** : to provide a supply of food **2** : to supply what is required or desired ⟨~*ed* to her whims all day long⟩ ~ *vt* : to provide food and service for ⟨~*ed* the banquet⟩ — **ca·ter·er** \-ər-ər\ *n* — **ca·ter·ess** \'kāt-ə-rəs\ *n*

cat·er·an \'kat-ə-rən\ *n* [ME *ketharan*, prob. fr. ScGael *ceathairneach* freebooter, robber] : a former military irregular or brigand of the Scottish Highlands

cat·er·cor·ner \ˌkat-ē-'kȯ(r)-nər, ˌkat-ə-, ˌkit-ē-\ *or* **cat·er–cor·nered** \-nərd\ *adv or adj* [obs. *cater* (four-spot) + E *corner*] : in a diagonal or oblique position : on a diagonal or oblique line ⟨the house stood ~ across the square⟩

ca·ter–cous·in \'kāt-ər-ˌkəz-ᵊn\ *n* [perh. fr. obs. *cater* (buyer of provisions)] : an intimate friend

cat·er·pil·lar \'kat-ə(r)-ˌpil-ər\ *n, often attrib* [ME *catyrpel*, fr. ONF *catepelose*, lit., hairy cat] : the elongated wormlike larva of a butterfly or moth; *also* : any of various similar larvae

Caterpillar *trademark* — used for a tractor made for use on rough or soft ground and moved on two endless metal belts

cat·er·waul \'kat-ər-ˌwȯl\ *vi* [ME *caterwawen*] **1** : to make a harsh cry **2** : to quarrel noisily — **caterwaul** *n*

cat·fac·ing \'kat-ˌfā-siŋ\ *n* : a disfigurement or malformation of fruit suggesting a cat's face in appearance

cat·fish \-ˌfish\ *n* : any of numerous usu. stout-bodied large-headed fishes (order Ostariophysi) with long tactile barbels

cat·gut \-ˌgət\ *n* : a tough cord made usu. from sheep intestines

cath *abbr* **1** cathedral **2** cathode

cath- — see CATA-

Cath·ar \'kath-ˌär\ *n, pl* **Cath·a·ri** \'kath-ə-ˌrī, -ˌrē\ *or* **Cathars** [LL *cathari* (pl.), fr. LGk *katharoi*, fr. Gk, pl. of *katharos*, adj.] : a member of one of various ascetic and dualistic Christian sects flourishing in the later Middle Ages teaching that matter is evil, and professing faith in an angelic Christ who did not really undergo human birth or death — **Cath·a·rism** \'kath-ə-ˌriz-əm\ *n* — **Cath·a·rist** \-rəst\ *or* **Cath·a·ris·tic** \ˌkath-ə-'ris-tik\ *adj*

ca·thar·sis \kə-'thär-səs\ *n, pl* **ca·thar·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *katharsis*, fr. *kathairein* to cleanse, purge, fr. *katharos* pure] **1** : PURGATION **2 a** : purification or purgation of the emotions (as pity and fear) primarily through art **b** : a purification or purgation that brings about spiritual renewal or release from tension **3** : elimination of a complex by bringing it to consciousness and affording it expression

[1]ca·thar·tic \kə-'thärt-ik\ *adj* [LL or Gk; LL *catharticus*, fr. Gk *kathartikos*, fr. *kathairein*] : of, relating to, or producing catharsis

[2]cathartic *n* : a cathartic medicine : PURGATIVE

cat·head \'kat-ˌhed\ *n* : a projecting piece of timber or iron near the bow of a ship to which the anchor is hoisted and secured

ca·thect \kə-'thekt, ka-\ *vt* [back-formation fr. *cathectic*] : to invest with mental or emotional energy

ca·thec·tic \kə-'thek-tik, ka-\ *adj* [NL *cathexis*] : of, relating to, or invested with mental or emotional energy

ca·the·dra \kə-'thē-drə\ *n* [L, chair — more at CHAIR] : a bishop's official throne

[1]ca·the·dral \kə-'thē-drəl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or containing a cathedra **2** : emanating from a chair of authority **3** : suggestive of a cathedral

[2]cathedral *n* **1** : a church that is the official seat of a diocesan bishop **2** : something that resembles or suggests a cathedral ⟨higher education has been . . . the secular ~ of our time — David Riesman⟩

ca·thep·sin \kə-'thep-sən\ *n* [Gk *kathepsein* to digest (fr. *kata-* cata- + *hepsein* to boil) + E *-in*] : any of several intracellular proteinases of animal tissue that aid in autolysis in certain diseased conditions and after death

cath·er·ine wheel \ˌkath-(ə-)rən-\ *n, often cap C* [St. *Catherine* of Alexandria †*ab*307 Christian martyr] **1** : a wheel with spikes projecting from the rim **2** : PINWHEEL 2 **3** : CARTWHEEL 2

cath·e·ter \'kath-ət-ər, 'kath-tər\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *kathetēr*, fr. *kathienai* to send down, fr. *kata-* cata- + *hienai* to send — more at JET] : a tubular medical device for insertion into canals, vessels, passageways, or body cavities usu. to permit injection or withdrawal of fluids or to keep a passage open

cath·e·ter·ize \'kath-ət-ə-ˌrīz, 'kath-tə-\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to introduce a catheter into — **cath·e·ter·iza·tion** \ˌkath-ət-ə-rə-'zā-shən, ˌkath-tə-rə-\ *n*

ca·thex·is \kə-'thek-səs, ka-\ *n, pl* **ca·thex·es** \-ˌsēz\ [NL (intended as trans. of G *besetzung*), fr. Gk *kathexis* holding, fr. *katechein* to hold fast, occupy, fr. *kata-* + *echein* to have, hold — more at SCHEME] : investment of mental or emotional energy in a person, object, or idea

cath·ode \'kath-ˌōd\ *n* [Gk *kathodos* way down, fr. *kata-* + *hodos* way — more at CEDE] **1** : the negative terminal of an electrolytic cell — compare ANODE **2** : the positive terminal of a primary cell or of a storage battery that is delivering current **3** : the electron-emitting electrode of an electron tube — **ca·thod·ic** \ka-'thäd-ik\ *adj* — **ca·thod·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

cathode ray *n* **1** : one of the high-speed electrons projected in a stream from the heated cathode of a vacuum tube under the propulsion of a strong electric field **2** : a stream of cathode-ray electrons

cathode–ray tube *n* : a vacuum tube in which cathode rays usu. in the form of a slender beam are projected on a fluorescent screen and produce a luminous spot

cath·o·lic \'kath-(ə-)lik\ *adj* [MF & LL; MF *catholique*, fr. LL *catholicus*, fr. Gk *katholikos* universal, general, fr. *katholou* in general, fr. *kata* by + *holos* whole — more at CATA-, SAFE] **1** : COMPREHENSIVE, UNIVERSAL; *esp* : broad in sympathies, tastes, or interests **2** *cap* **a** : of, relating to, or forming the church universal **b** : of, relating to, or forming the ancient undivided Christian church or a church claiming historical continuity from it; *specif* : Roman Catholic — **ca·thol·i·cal·ly** \kə-'thäl-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **ca·thol·i·cize** \kə-'thäl-ə-ˌsīz\ *vb*

Cath·o·lic \'kath-(ə-)lik\ *n* **1** : a person who belongs to the universal Christian church **2** : a member of a Catholic church; *specif* : ROMAN CATHOLIC

Catholic Apostolic *adj* : of or relating to a Christian sect founded in 19th century England in anticipation of Christ's second coming

ca·thol·i·cate \kə-'thäl-ə-ˌkāt, -'thäl-i-kət\ *n* : the jurisdiction of a catholicos

Catholic Epistles *n pl* : the five New Testament letters including James, I and II Peter, I John, and Jude addressed to the early Christian churches at large

Ca·thol·i·cism \kə-'thäl-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n* **1** : the faith, practice, or system of Catholic Christianity **2** : ROMAN CATHOLICISM

cath·o·lic·i·ty \ˌkath-ə-'lis-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** *cap* : the character of being in conformity with a Catholic church **2 a** : liberality of sentiments or views ⟨~ of viewpoint — W. V. O'Connor⟩ **b** : UNIVERSALITY **c** : comprehensive range ⟨the ~ of subjects represented by the press's trade list — *Current Biog.*⟩

ca·thol·i·con \kə-'thäl-ə-ˌkän\ *n* [F or ML; F, fr. ML, fr. Gk *katholikon*, neut. of *katholikos*] : CURE-ALL, PANACEA

ca·thol·i·cos \kə-'thäl-i-kəs\ *n, pl* **ca·thol·i·cos·es** \-kə-səz\ *or* **ca·thol·i·coi** \-'thäl-ə-ˌkȯi\ *often cap* [LGk *katholikos*, fr. Gk, general] : a primate of certain Eastern churches and esp. of the Armenian or of the Nestorian church

cat·house \'kat-ˌhaůs\ *n* : a house of prostitution

cat·ion \'kat-ˌī-ən\ *n* [Gk *kation*, neut. of *katiōn*, prp. of *katienai* to go down, fr. *kata-* cata- + *ienai* to go — more at ISSUE] : the ion in an electrolyzed solution that migrates to the cathode; *broadly* : a positively charged ion

cat·ion·ic \ˌkat-(ˌ)ī-'än-ik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to cations **2** : characterized by an active and esp. surface-active cation ⟨a ~ dye⟩ — **cat·ion·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

cat·kin \'kat-kən\ *n* [fr. its resemblance to a cat's tail] : a usu. long ament densely crowded with bracts — **cat·kin·ate** \-kə-ˌnāt\ *adj*

cat·like \'kat-ˌlīk\ *adj* : resembling a cat : STEALTHY ⟨with ~ tread, upon our prey we steal —W. S. Gilbert⟩

cat·nap \-ˌnap\ *n* : a very short light nap — **catnap** *vi*

cat·nap·per *or* **cat·nap·er** \'kat-ˌnap-ər\ *n* [[1]*cat* + *-napper* (as in *kidnapper*)] : one that steals cats; *esp* : one that does so in order to sell them to research laboratories

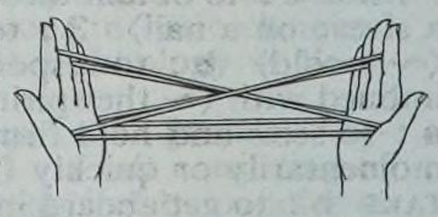
cat·nip \-ˌnip\ *n* [[1]*cat* + obs. *nep* (catnip), fr. ME, fr. OE *nepte*, fr. L *nepeta*] : a strong-scented mint (*Nepeta cataria*) that has whorls of small pale flowers in terminal spikes and contains a substance attractive to cats

cat–o'–nine–tails \ˌkat-ə-'nīn-ˌtālz\ *n, pl* **cat–o'–nine–tails** [fr. the resemblance of its scars to the scratches of a cat] : a whip made of usu. nine knotted lines or cords fastened to a handle

ca·top·tric \kə-'täp-trik\ *adj* [Gk *katoptrikos*, fr. *katoptron* mirror, fr. *katopsesthai* to be going to observe, fr. *kata-* cata- + *opsesthai* to be going to see — more at OPTIC] : of or relating to a mirror or reflected light; *also* : produced by reflection — **ca·top·tri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

cat rig *n* : a rig consisting of a single mast far forward carrying a single large sail extended by a boom — **cat–rigged** \'kat-'rigd\ *adj*

cat's cradle *n* **1** : a game in which a string looped in a pattern like a cradle on the fingers of one person's hands is transferred to the hands of another so as to form a different figure **2** : INTRICACY ⟨the socioreligious *cat's cradle* of small Greek communities — *Times Lit. Supp.*⟩



cat's cradle 1, first figure

cat's–eye \'kat-ˌsī\ *n, pl* **cat's–eyes** **1** : any of various gems (as a chrysoberyl or a chalcedony) exhibiting opalescent reflections from within **2** : a marble with eyelike concentric circles

cat's–foot \'kats-ˌfůt\ *n, pl* **cat's–feet** \-ˌfēt\ **1** : GROUND IVY **2** : any of several wooly composite plants (genus *Antennaria*, esp. *A. neodioica*) with small whitish discoid flower heads

cat's–paw \'kat-ˌspȯ\ *n, pl* **cat's–paws** **1** : a light air that ruffles the surface of the water in irregular patches during a calm **2** [fr. the fable of the monkey that used a cat's paw to draw chestnuts from the fire] : one used by another as a tool : DUPE **3** : a hitch in the bight of a rope so made as to form two eyes into which a tackle may be hooked — see KNOT illustration

cat·sup \'kech-əp, 'kach-; 'kat-səp\ *n* [Malay *kĕchap* spiced fish sauce] : a seasoned tomato puree

cat·tail \'kat-ˌtāl\ *n* : any of a genus (*Typha* of the family Typhaceae, the cattail family) of tall reedy marsh plants with brown

furry fruiting spikes; *esp* : a plant (*Typha latifolia*) with long flat leaves used for making mats and chair seats

cat·ta·lo \'kat-ᵊl-ˌō\ *n, pl* **-loes** *or* **-los** [blend of *cattle* and *buffalo*] : a hybrid between the American buffalo and domestic cattle that is hardier than the latter

cat·tle \'kat-ᵊl\ *n pl* [ME, *catel*, fr. ONF, personal property, fr. ML *capitale*, fr. L, neut. of *capitalis* of the head — more at CAPITAL] **1** : domesticated quadrupeds held as property or raised for use; *specif* : bovine animals kept on a farm or ranch **2** : human beings esp. en masse

cattle grub *n* : any of several heel flies esp. in the larval stage; *esp* : COMMON CATTLE GRUB

cat·tle·man \-mən, -ˌman\ *n* : a man who tends or raises cattle

cattle tick *n* : a tick (*Boophilus annulatus*) that infests cattle in the southern U.S. and tropical America and transmits the causative agent of Texas fever

cat·tleya \'kat-lē-ə; kat-'lā-ə, -'lē-\ *n* [NL, fr. Wm. *Cattley* †1832 E patron of botany] : any of a genus (*Cattleya*) of tropical American epiphytic orchids with showy hooded flowers

¹cat·ty \'kat-ē\ *n, pl* **catties** [Malay *kati*] : any of various units of weight of China and southeast Asia varying around $1\frac{1}{3}$ pounds; *also* : a standard Chinese unit equal to 1.1023 pounds

²catty *adj* **cat·ti·er; -est** **1 a** : resembling a cat: as (1) : STEALTHY (2) : AGILE **b** : slyly spiteful : MALICIOUS **2** : of or relating to a cat — **cat·ti·ly** \'kat-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **cat·ti·ness** \'kat-ē-nəs\ *n*

cat·ty–cor·ner *or* **cat·ty–cor·nered** *var of* CATERCORNER

CATV *abbr* community antenna television

cat·walk \'kat-ˌwȯk\ *n* : a narrow walkway (as along a bridge)

Cau·ca·sian \kȯ-'kā-zhən, -'kazh-ən\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the Caucasus or its inhabitants **2 a** : of or relating to the white race of mankind as classified according to physical features **b** : of or relating to the white race as defined by law specif. as composed of persons of European, No. African, or southwest Asian ancestry — **Caucasian** *n* — **Cau·ca·soid** \'kȯ-kə-ˌsȯid\ *adj or n*

¹cau·cus \'kȯ-kəs\ *n* [prob. of Algonquian origin] : a closed meeting of a group of persons belonging to the same political party or faction usu. to select candidates or to decide on policy

²caucus *vi* : to hold or meet in a caucus

cau·dad \'kȯ-ˌdad\ *adv* [L *cauda*] : toward the tail or posterior end

cau·dal \'kȯd-ᵊl\ *adj* [NL *caudalis*, fr. L *cauda* tail — more at COWARD] **1** : of, relating to, or being a tail **2** : situated in or directed toward the hind part of the body — **cau·dal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

cau·date \'kȯ-ˌdāt\ *also* **cau·dat·ed** \-ˌdāt-əd\ *adj* : having a tail or a taillike appendage : TAILED — **cau·da·tion** \kȯ-'dā-shən\ *n*

cau·dex \'kȯ-ˌdeks\ *n, pl* **cau·di·ces** \'kȯd-ə-ˌsēz\ *or* **cau·dex·es** [L, tree trunk or stem — more at CODE] **1** : the stem of a palm or tree fern **2** : the woody base of a perennial plant

cau·di·llo \kaù-'thē-(ˌ)(y)ō, -'thēl-(ˌ)yō\ *n, pl* **-llos** [Sp. fr. LL *capitellum* small head — more at CADET] : a Spanish or Latin-American military dictator

cau·dle \'kȯd-ᵊl\ *n* [ME *caudel*, fr. ONF, fr. *caut* warm, fr. L *calidus* — more at CALDRON] : a drink (as for invalids) usu. of warm ale or wine mixed with bread or gruel, eggs, sugar, and spices

¹caught \'kȯt\ *past of* CATCH

²caught *adj* : PREGNANT — often used in the phrase *get caught*

caul \'kȯl\ *n* [ME *calle*, fr. MF *cale*] **1** : the large fatty omentum covering the intestines **2** : the inner fetal membrane of higher vertebrates esp. when covering the head at birth

cauldron *var of* CALDRON

cau·les·cent \kȯ-'les-ᵊnt\ *adj* [ISV, fr. L *caulis*] : having a stem evident above ground

cau·li·cle \'kȯ-li-kəl\ *n* [L *cauliculus*, dim. of *caulis*] : a rudimentary stem (as of an embryo or seedling)

cau·li·flow·er \'kȯ-li-ˌflaù(-ə)r, 'käl-i-\ *n, often attrib* [It *cavolfiore*, fr. *cavolo* cabbage (fr. LL *caulus*, fr. L *caulis* stem, cabbage) + *fiore* flower, fr. L *flor-*, *flos* — more at HOLE, BLOW] : a garden plant (*Brassica oleracea botrytis*) related to the cabbage and grown for its compact edible head of usu. white undeveloped flowers; *also* : its flower cluster

cauliflower ear *n* : an ear deformed from injury and excessive growth of reparative tissue

cau·line \'kȯ-ˌlīn\ *adj* [prob. fr. NL *caulinus*, fr. L *caulis*] : of, relating to, or growing on a stem; *specif* : growing on the upper part of a stem

¹caulk \'kȯk\ *vt* [ME *caulken*, fr. ONF *cauquer* to trample, fr. L *calcare*, fr. *calc-*, *calx* heel — more at CALK] **1** : to stop up and make watertight the seams of (as a boat) by filling with a waterproofing compound or material **2** : to stop up and make tight against leakage (as the seams of a boat, the cracks in a window frame, or the joints of a pipe) — **caulk·er** *n*

²caulk *var of* CALK

caus *abbr* causative

caus·al \'kȯ-zəl\ *adj* **1** : expressing or indicating cause : CAUSATIVE ⟨a ~ clause introduced by *since* or *because*⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or constituting a cause ⟨the ~ agent of a disease⟩ **3** : involving causation or a cause ⟨the relationship . . . was not one of ~ antecedence so much as one of analogous growth — H. O. Taylor⟩ **4** : arising from a cause ⟨a ~ development⟩ — **caus·al·ly** \-zə-lē\ *adv*

cau·sal·i·ty \kȯ-'zal-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : a causal quality or agency **2** : the relation between a cause and its effect or between regularly correlated events or phenomena

cau·sa·tion \kȯ-'zā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the act or process of causing **b** : the act or agency by which an effect is produced **2** : CAUSALITY

caus·ative \'kȯ-zət-iv\ *adj* **1** : effective or operating as a cause or agent **2** : expressing causation — **causative** *n* — **caus·ative·ly** *adv*

¹cause \'kȯz\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *causa*] **1 a** : something that brings about an effect or a result **b** : a person or thing that is the occasion of an action or state; *esp* : an agent that brings something about **c** : a reason for an action or condition : MOTIVE **2 a** : a ground of legal action **b** : CASE **3** : a matter or question to be decided **4** : a principle or movement militantly defended or supported — **cause·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

syn CAUSE, DETERMINANT, ANTECEDENT, REASON, OCCASION *shared meaning element* : something that precedes and usually induces an effect or result. CAUSE applies to anything (as an event, circumstance, or condition) that brings about or helps bring about an effect ⟨water and soil pollution are the root *causes* of mortality in the tropics — V. G. Heiser⟩ DETERMINANT applies to a cause that fixes the nature of what results ⟨the quality of education provided is a *determinant* of the quality of the child's later life⟩ ANTECEDENT stresses the fact of priority and usually suggests some degree of responsibility for what follows ⟨the *antecedents* and consequences of the war⟩ REASON applies to a traceable or explainable cause of a known effect ⟨trying to figure out the *reason* for her failure⟩ OCCASION applies to a precipitating cause and especially to a time or situation at which underlying causes become effective; thus, the *cause* of a war may be a longtime deep-rooted antipathy between peoples, its *occasion* some trivial incident

²cause *vt* **caused; caus·ing** **1** : to serve as a cause or occasion of **2** : to effect by command, authority, or force — **caus·er** *n*

'cause \(')kȯz, (')kəz\ *conj* : BECAUSE

cause cé·lè·bre \ˌkōz-sā-'lebrᵊ, ˌkȯz-\ *n, pl* **causes cé·lè·bres** *same*\ [F, lit., celebrated case] **1** : a legal case that excites widespread interest **2** : a notorious incident or episode

cau·se·rie \ˌkōz-(ə-)'rē\ *n* [F, fr. *causer* to chat, fr. L *causari* to plead, discuss, fr. *causa*] **1** : an informal conversation : CHAT **2** : a short informal composition

cause·way \'kȯz-ˌwā\ *n* [ME *cauciwey*, fr. *cauci* causey + *wey* way] **1** : a raised way across wet ground or water **2** : HIGHWAY; *esp* : one of ancient Roman construction in Britain — **causeway** *vt*

cau·sey \'kȯ-zē\ *n, pl* **causeys** [ME *cauci*, fr. ONF *caucie*, fr. ML *calciata* paved highway, fr. fem. of *calciatus* paved with limestone, fr. L *calc-*, *calx* limestone — more at CHALK] **1** : CAUSEWAY 1 **2** *obs* : CAUSEWAY 2

caus·tic \'kȯ-stik\ *adj* [L *causticus*, fr. Gk *kaustikos*, fr. *kaiein* to burn; akin to Lith *kulė* smut of plants] **1** : capable of destroying or eating away by chemical action : CORROSIVE **2** : INCISIVE, BITING ⟨~ wit⟩ **3** : relating to or being the envelope of rays emanating from a point and reflected or refracted by a curved surface — **caustic** *n* — **caus·ti·cal·ly** \-sti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **caus·tic·i·ty** \kȯ-'stis-ət-ē\ *n*

caustic lime *n* : ¹LIME 2a

caustic potash *n* : POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE

caustic soda *n* : SODIUM HYDROXIDE

cau·ter·i·za·tion \ˌkȯt-ə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n* : the act or effect of cauterizing

cau·ter·ize \'kȯt-ə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to sear with a cautery or caustic

cau·tery \'kȯt-ə-rē\ *n, pl* **-ter·ies** [L *cauterium*, fr. Gk *kautērion* branding iron, fr. *kaiein*] **1** : CAUTERIZATION **2** : a hot iron, caustic, or other agent used to burn, sear, or destroy tissue

¹cau·tion \'kȯ-shən\ *n* [L *caution-*, *cautio* precaution, fr. *cautus*, pp. of *cavēre* to be on one's guard — more at HEAR] **1** : WARNING, ADMONISHMENT **2** : PRECAUTION **3** : prudent forethought to minimize risk **4** : one that arouses astonishment or commands attention ⟨some shoes you see . . . these days are a ~ — *Esquire*⟩ — **cau·tion·ary** \-shə-ˌner-ē\ *adj*

²caution *vt* **cau·tioned; cau·tion·ing** \'kȯ-sh(ə-)niŋ\ : to advise caution to ***syn*** see WARN

cau·tious \'kȯ-shəs\ *adj* : marked by or given to caution — **cautious·ly** *adv* — **cau·tious·ness** *n*

syn CAUTIOUS, CIRCUMSPECT, WARY, CHARY *shared meaning element* : prudently watchful and discreet in the face of danger or risk ***ant*** adventurous, temerarious

cav *abbr* **1** cavalry **2** cavity

cav·al·cade \ˌkav-əl-'kād, 'kav-əl-ˌ\ *n* [MF, ride on horseback, fr. OIt *cavalcata*, fr. *cavalcare* to go on horseback, fr. LL *caballicare*, fr. L *caballus* horse; akin to Gk dial. *kaballeion* horse-drawn vehicle] **1 a** : a procession of riders or carriages **b** : a procession of vehicles or ships **2** : a dramatic sequence or procession : SERIES

¹cav·a·lier \ˌkav-ə-'li(ə)r\ *n* [MF, fr. OIt *cavaliere*, fr. OProv *cavalier*, fr. LL *caballarius* horseman, fr. L *caballus*] **1** : a gentleman trained in arms and horsemanship **2** : a mounted soldier : KNIGHT **3** *cap* : an adherent of Charles I of England **4** : GALLANT

²cavalier *adj* **1** : DEBONAIR **2** : given to offhand dismissal of important matters : DISDAINFUL **3 a** *cap* : of or relating to the party of Charles I of England in his struggles with the Puritans and Parliament **b** : ARISTOCRATIC **c** *cap* : of or relating to the English Cavalier poets of the mid-17th century — **ca·va·lier·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* — **cav·a·lier·ly** *adv*

ca·val·la \kə-'val-ə\ *n, pl* **-la** *or* **-las** [Sp *caballa*, a fish, fr. LL, mare, fem. of L *caballus*] **1** : CERO **2** *also* **ca·val·ly** \-'val-ē\ : any of various carangid fishes (esp. genus *Caranx*)

cav·al·ry \'kav-əl-rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [It *cavalleria* cavalry, chivalry, fr. *cavaliere*] **1** : HORSEMEN ⟨a thousand ~ in flight⟩ **2** : an army component mounted on horseback or moving in motor vehicles and assigned to combat missions that require great mobility

cav·al·ry·man \-rē-mən, -ˌman\ *n* : a cavalry soldier

cav·a·ti·na \ˌkav-ə-'tē-nə, ˌkäv-\ *n* [It, fr. *cavata* production of sound from an instrument, fr. *cavare* to dig out, fr. L, to make hollow, fr. *cavus*] **1** : an operatic solo simpler and briefer than an aria **2** : a sustained melody

¹cave \'kāv\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *cava*, fr. *cavus* hollow; akin to ON *hūnn* cub, Gk *kyein* to be pregnant, *koilos* hollow, Skt *śvayati* he swells] **1** : a natural underground chamber open to the surface **2**

[short for *cave of Adullam;* fr. the story in I Sam 22:1, 2 of David's being joined by malcontents in the cave of that name] *Brit* : a secession or a group of seceders from a political party

²cave *vt* **caved; cav·ing** : to form a cave in or under : HOLLOW, UNDERMINE — **cav·er** *n*

³cave \'kāv\ *vb* **caved; cav·ing** [prob. alter. of calve] *vi* **1** : to fall in or down esp. from being undermined **2** : to cease to resist : SUBMIT — usu. used with *in* ~ *vt* : to cause to fall or collapse — usu. used with *in*

ca·ve·at \'kav-ē-ˌät, -ˌat; 'käv-ē-ˌät\ *n* [L, let him beware, fr. *cavēre* — more at HEAR] **1 a** : a warning enjoining one from certain acts or practices **b** : an explanation to prevent misinterpretation **2** : a legal warning to a judicial officer to suspend a proceeding until the opposition has a hearing

caveat emp·tor \-'em(p)-tər, -ˌtȯ(ə)r\ *n* [NL, let the buyer beware] : a principle in commerce: without a warranty the buyer takes the risk of quality upon himself

cave dweller *n* **1** : one (as a prehistoric man) that dwells in a cave **2** : one that lives in a city apartment building

cave–in \'kā-ˌvin\ *n* **1** : the action of caving in **2** : a place where earth has caved in

cave·man \'kāv-ˌman\ *n* **1** : a cave dweller esp. of the Stone Age **2** : one who acts in a rough primitive manner esp. toward women

¹cav·ern \'kav-ərn\ *n* [ME *caverne,* fr. MF, fr. L *caverna,* fr. *cavus*] : an underground chamber often of large or indefinite extent : CAVE

²cavern *vt* **1** : to place in or as if in a cavern **2** : to form a cavern of : HOLLOW — used with *out*

cav·er·nic·o·lous \ˌkav-ər-'nik-ə-ləs\ *adj* : inhabiting caves ⟨a ~ fauna⟩

cav·ern·ous \'kav-ər-nəs\ *adj* **1** : having caverns or cavities **2** : constituting or suggesting a cavern **3** *of animal tissue* : composed largely of vascular sinuses and capable of dilating with blood to bring about the erection of a body part — **cav·ern·ous·ly** *adv*

ca·vet·to \kə-'vet-(ˌ)ō, kä-\ *n, pl* **-ti** \-ē\ [It, fr. *cavo* hollow, fr. L *cavus*] : a concave molding having a curve that roughly approximates a quarter circle — see MOLDING illustration

cav·i·ar *or* **cav·i·are** \'kav-ē-ˌär *also* 'käv-\ *n* [earlier *cavery, caviarie,* fr. obs. It *caviari,* pl. of *caviaro,* fr. Turk *havyar*] **1** : processed salted roe of large fish (as sturgeon) prepared as an appetizer **2** : something considered too delicate or lofty for mass appreciation ⟨the play, I remember, pleased not the million; 'twas ~ to the general — Shak.⟩

cav·il \'kav-əl\ *vb* **-iled** *or* **-illed; -il·ing** *or* **-il·ling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [L *cavillari* to jest, cavil, fr. *cavilla* raillery] *vi* : to raise trivial and frivolous objection ~ *vt* : to raise trivial objections to — **cavil** *n* — **cav·il·er** *or* **cav·il·ler** \-(ə-)lər\ *n*

cav·i·tary \'kav-ə-ˌter-ē\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characterized by bodily cavitation ⟨~ tuberculosis⟩

cav·i·tate \'kav-ə-ˌtāt\ *vb* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** *vi* : to form cavities or bubbles ~ *vt* : to cavitate in

cav·i·ta·tion \ˌkav-ə-'tā-shən\ *n* [*cavity* + *-ation*] : the process of cavitating: as **a** : the formation of partial vacuums in a liquid by a swiftly moving solid body (as a propeller) or by high-frequency sound waves; *also* : the pitting and wearing away of solid surfaces (as of metal or concrete) as a result of the collapse of these vacuums in surrounding liquid **b** : the formation of cavities in an organ or tissue esp. in disease

cav·i·ty \'kav-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [MF *cavité,* fr. LL *cavitas,* fr. L *cavus* hollow] : an unfilled space within a mass; *esp* : a hollowed out space

ca·vort \kə-'vȯ(ə)rt\ *vi* [perh. alter. of *curvet*] **1** : PRANCE **2** : to engage in extravagant behavior

CAVU *abbr* ceiling and visibility unlimited

ca·vy \'kā-vē\ *n, pl* **cavies** [NL *Cavia,* genus name, fr. obs. Pg *çavía* (now *savía*), fr. Tupi *sawiya* rat] **1** : any of several short-tailed roughhaired So. American rodents (family Caviidae); *esp* : GUINEA PIG **2** : any of several rodents related to the cavies

caw \'kȯ\ *vi* [imit.] : to utter the harsh raucous natural call of the crow or a similar cry — **caw** *n*

cay \'kē, 'kā\ *n* [Sp *cayo* — more at KEY] : a low island or reef of sand or coral

cay·enne pepper \(ˌ)kī-ˌen-, (ˌ)kā-\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. earlier *cayan,* modif. of Tupi *kyinha*] **1** : a pungent condiment consisting of the ground dried fruits or seeds of hot peppers **2** : HOT PEPPER 2; *esp* : a cultivated pepper with very long twisted pungent red fruits **3** : the fruit of a cayenne pepper

cay·man *var of* CAIMAN

Ca·yu·ga \kā-'(y)ü-gə, ki-, kī-; 'kyü-\ *n, pl* **Cayuga** *or* **Cayugas** **1 a** : an Amerindian people of New York **b** : a member of this people **2** : the language of the Cayuga people

Cay·use \'kī-ˌ(y)üs, kī-'\ *n, pl* **Cayuse** *or* **Cayuses** **1** : a member of an Amerindian people of Oregon and Washington **2** *pl cayuses, not cap, West* : a native range horse

¹Cb *abbr* cumulonimbus

²Cb *symbol* columbium

CB *abbr* **1** citizens band **2** confined to barracks

C battery *n* : a battery used to maintain the potential of a grid-controlled electron tube at a desired value constant except for signals superposed upon it

CBC *abbr* Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

CBD *abbr* cash before delivery

CBI *abbr* **1** computer-based instruction **2** Cumulative Book Index

CBS *abbr* Columbia Broadcasting System

CBW *abbr* chemical and biological warfare

cc *abbr* cubic centimeter

Cc *abbr* cirrocumulus

CC *abbr* **1** carbon copy **2** chief clerk **3** common carrier

CCAT *abbr* Cooperative College Ability Test

CCC *abbr* **1** Civilian Conservation Corps **2** Commodity Credit Corporation

CCCO *abbr* Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors

CCD *abbr* Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

CCF *abbr* **1** Chinese communist forces **2** Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (of Canada)

cckw *abbr* counterclockwise

C clef *n* : a movable clef indicating middle C by its placement on one of the lines of the staff



two forms of C clef

CCTV *abbr* closed-circuit television

ccw *abbr* counterclockwise

cd *abbr* **1** candle **2** cord

Cd *symbol* cadmium

CD *abbr* **1** carried down **2** certificate of deposit **3** civil defense **4** [F *corps diplomatique*] diplomatic corps **5** current density

CDD *abbr* certificate of disability for discharge

CDR *abbr* commander

CDT *abbr* central daylight time

Ce *symbol* cerium

CE *abbr* **1** chemical engineer **2** civil engineer **3** (International Society of) Christian Endeavor

CEA *abbr* **1** College English Association **2** Council of Economic Advisors

¹cease \'sēs\ *vb* **ceased; ceas·ing** [ME *cesen,* fr. OF *cesser,* fr. L *cessare* to delay, fr. *cessus,* pp. of *cedere*] *vt* : to bring to an end : TERMINATE ⟨the dying man soon *ceased* to breathe⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to come to an end ⟨when will this quarreling ~?⟩ **b** : to bring an activity or action to an end : DISCONTINUE ⟨cried for hours without *ceasing*⟩ **2** *obs* : to die out : become extinct ***syn*** see STOP

²cease *n* : CESSATION — usu. used with *without*

cease and desist order *n* : an order from an administrative agency to refrain from a method of competition or a labor practice found by the agency to be unfair

cease–fire \'sēs-'fī(ə)r\ *n* **1** : a military order to cease firing **2** : a suspension of active hostilities

cease·less \'sē-sləs\ *adj* : continuing without cease : CONSTANT — **cease·less·ly** *adv* — **cease·less·ness** *n*

ce·cro·pia moth \si-ˌkrō-pē-ə-\ *n* [NL *cecropia,* fr. L, fem. of *Cecropius* Athenian, fr. Gk *Kekropios,* fr. *Kekrops* Cecrops, legendary king of Athens] : a large silkworm moth (*Samia cecropia*) of the eastern U.S.

ce·cum \'sē-kəm\ *n, pl* **ce·ca** \-kə\ [NL, fr. L *intestinum caecum,* lit., blind intestine] : a cavity open at one end (as the blind end of a duct); *esp* : the blind pouch in which the large intestine begins and into which the ileum opens from one side — **ce·cal** \-kəl\ *adj* — **ce·cal·ly** \-kə-lē\ *adv*

CED *abbr* Committee for Economic Development

ce·dar \'sēd-ər\ *n* [ME *cedre,* fr. OF, fr. L *cedrus,* fr. Gk *kedros;* akin to Lith *kadagys* juniper] **1 a** : any of a genus (*Cedrus*) of usu. tall coniferous trees (as the cedar of Lebanon or the deodar) of the pine family noted for their fragrant durable wood **b** : any of numerous coniferous trees (as of the genera *Juniperus, Chamaecyparis,* or *Thuja*) that resemble the true cedars esp. in the fragrance and durability of their wood **2** : the wood of a cedar

ce·darn \'sēd-ərn\ *adj, archaic* : made or suggestive of cedar

cedar of Leb·a·non \-'leb(-ə)-nən\ : a long-lived evergreen tree (*Cedrus libani*) with short fascicled leaves and erect cones that is native to Asia Minor

cedar waxwing *n* : a long-crested brown waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) of temperate No. America with a yellow band on the tip of the tail — called also *cedarbird*

ce·dar·wood \'sēd-ər-ˌwůd\ *n* : the wood of a cedar that is esp. repellent to insects

cede \'sēd\ *vt* **ced·ed; ced·ing** [F or L; F *céder,* fr. L *cedere* to go, withdraw, yield; prob. akin to L *cis* on this side and to Gk *hodos* road, way, L *sedēre* to sit — more at HE, SIT] **1** : to yield or grant typically by treaty **2** : ASSIGN, TRANSFER — **ced·er** *n*

ce·di \'sād-ē\ *n* [Akan *sedie* cowry] — see MONEY table

ce·dil·la \si-'dil-ə\ *n* [Sp, the obs. letter ç (actually a medieval form of the letter *z*), cedilla, fr. dim. of *ceda, zeda* the letter *z,* fr. LL *zeta* — more at ZED] : the diacritical mark ¸ placed under a letter (as ç in French) to indicate an alteration or modification of its usual phonetic value (as in the French word *façade*)

cee \'sē\ *n* : the letter *c*

CEEB *abbr* College Entrance Examination Board

cei·ba \'sā-bə\ *n* [Sp] **1** : a massive tropical tree (*Ceiba pentandra*) of the silk-cotton family with large pods filled with seeds invested with a silky floss that yields the fiber kapok **2** : KAPOK

ceil \'sē(ə)l\ *vt* [ME *celen,* prob. fr. (assumed) MF *celer,* fr. L *caelare* to carve, fr. *caelum* chisel, fr. *caedere* to cut — more at CONCISE] **1** : to furnish (as a wooden ship) with a lining **2** : to furnish with a ceiling

ceil·ing \'sē-liŋ\ *n* **1 a** : the overhead inside lining of a room **b** : material used to ceil a wall or roof of a room **2** : something thought of as an overhanging shelter or a lofty canopy ⟨a ~ of stars⟩ **3 a** : the height above the ground from which prominent objects on the ground can be seen and identified **b** : the height above the ground of the base of the lowest layer of clouds when over half of the sky is obscured **4 a** : ABSOLUTE CEILING **b** : SERVICE CEILING **5** : an upper usu. prescribed limit ⟨a ~ on prices, rents, and wages⟩ — **ceil·inged** \-liŋd\ *adj*

ceil·om·e·ter \sē-'läm-ət-ər\ *n* [*ceil*ing + *-o-* + *-meter*] : a photoelectric instrument for determining by triangulation the height of the cloud ceiling above the earth

cein·ture \saⁿ(n)-'t(y)ůr, 'san-chər\ *n* [F, fr. L *cinctura* — more at CINCTURE] : a belt or sash for the waist

cel·an·dine \'sel-ən-ˌdīn, -ˌdēn\ *n* [ME *celidoine,* fr. MF, fr. L *chelidonia,* fr. fem. of *chelidonius* of the swallow, fr. Gk *chelidonios,* fr. *chelidon-, chelidōn* swallow] **1** : a yellow-flowered biennial herb (*Chelidonium majus*) of the poppy family **2** : a European perennial herb (*Ranunculus ficaria*) of the buttercup family that has been introduced locally into the U.S. — called also *lesser celandine*

-cele \ˌsēl\ *n comb form* [MF, fr. L, fr. Gk *kēlē;* akin to OE *hēala* hernia, OSlav *kyla*] : tumor : hernia ⟨varico*cele*⟩

cel·e·brant \'sel-ə-brənt\ *n* : one who celebrates; *specif* : the priest officiating at the Eucharist

cel·e·brate \'sel-ə-ˌbrāt\ *vb* **-brat·ed; -brat·ing** [L *celebratus*, pp. of *celebrare* to frequent, celebrate, fr. *celebr-*, *celeber* much frequented, famous; akin to L *celer*] *vt* **1** : to perform (a sacrament or solemn ceremony) publicly and with appropriate rites ⟨~ the mass⟩ **2 a** : to honor (as a holy day or feast day) by solemn ceremonies or by refraining from ordinary business **b** : to demonstrate satisfaction in (as an anniversary) by festivities or other deviation from routine **3** : to hold up or play up for public acclaim : EXTOL ⟨his poetry ~s the glory of nature⟩ ⟨~ life⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to observe a holiday, perform a religious ceremony, or take part in a festival **2** : to observe a notable occasion with festivities ***syn*** see KEEP — **cel·e·bra·tion** \ˌsel-ə-'brā-shən\ *n* — **cel·e·bra·tor** \'sel-ə-ˌbrāt-ər\ *n* — **cel·e·bra·to·ry** \-brə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

cel·e·brat·ed *adj* : widely known and often referred to ***syn*** see FAMOUS ***ant*** obscure — **cel·e·brat·ed·ness** *n*

ce·leb·ri·ty \sə-'leb-rət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the state of being celebrated **2** : a celebrated person

ce·le·ri·ac \sə-'ler-ē-ˌak, -'lir-\ *n* [irreg. fr. *celery*] : a celery grown for its thickened edible root

ce·ler·i·ty \sə-'ler-ət-ē\ *n* [ME *celerite*, fr. MF *célérité*, fr. L *celeritat-*, *celeritas*, fr. *celer* swift — more at HOLD] : rapidity of motion or action
syn CELERITY, ALACRITY, LEGERITY *shared meaning element* : quickness in movement or action ***ant*** leisureliness

cel·ery \'sel-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** [prob. fr. It dial. *seleri*, pl. of *selero*, modif. of LL *selinon*, fr. Gk] : a European herb (*Apium graveolens*) of the carrot family; *specif* : one of a cultivated variety (*A. graveolens dulce*) with leafstalks eaten raw or cooked

ce·les·ta \sə-'les-tə\ *n* [F *célesta*, alter. of *céleste*, lit., heavenly, fr. L *caelestis*] : a keyboard instrument with hammers that strike steel plates producing a tone similar to that of a glockenspiel

[1]ce·les·tial \sə-'les(h)-chəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *caelestis* celestial, fr. *caelum* sky; akin to Skt *citra* bright] **1** : of, relating to, or suggesting heaven or divinity **2** : of or relating to the sky or visible heavens ⟨the sun, moon, and stars are ~ bodies⟩ **3 a** : ETHEREAL, OTHERWORLDLY **b** : OLYMPIAN, SUPREME **4** [*Celestial* Empire, old name for China] *cap* : of or relating to China or the Chinese — **ce·les·tial·ly** \-chə-lē\ *adv*

[2]celestial *n* **1** : a heavenly or mythical being **2** *cap* : CHINESE 1a

celestial equator *n* : the great circle on the celestial sphere midway between the celestial poles

celestial globe *n* : a globe depicting the celestial bodies

celestial hierarchy *n* : a traditional hierarchy of angels ranked from lowest to highest into the following nine orders: angels, archangels, principalities, powers, virtues, dominions, thrones, cherubim, and seraphim

celestial marriage *n* : a special order of Mormon marriage solemnized in a Mormon temple and held to be binding for a future life as well as the present one

celestial navigation *n* : navigation by observation of the positions of celestial bodies

celestial pole *n* : one of the two points on the celestial sphere around which the diurnal rotation of the stars appears to take place

celestial sphere *n* : an imaginary sphere of infinite radius against which the celestial bodies appear to be projected and of which the apparent dome of the visible sky forms half

ce·les·tite \'sel-ə-ˌstīt, sə-'les-ˌtīt\ *n* [G *zölestin*, fr. L *caelestis*] : a usu. white mineral $SrSO_4$ consisting of the sulfate of strontium

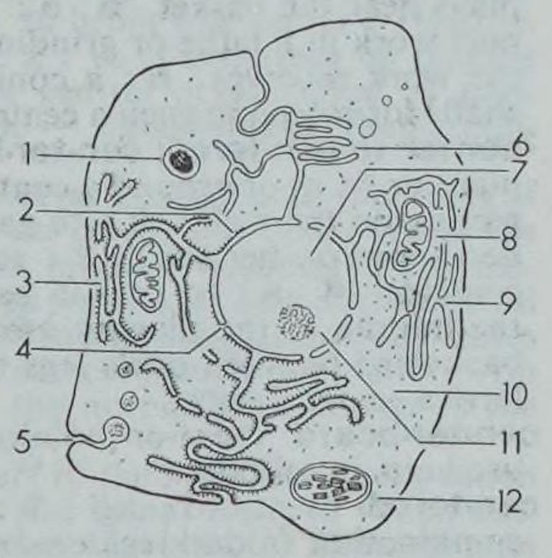
ce·li·ac \'sē-lē-ˌak\ *adj* [L *coeliacus*, fr. Gk *koiliakos*, fr. *koilia* cavity, fr. *koilos* hollow — more at CAVE] : of or relating to the abdominal cavity

celiac disease *n* : a chronic nutritional disturbance in young children characterized by defective digestion and utilization of fats and by abdominal distention, diarrhea, and fatty stools

cel·i·ba·cy \'sel-ə-bə-sē\ *n* **1** : the state of not being married **2 a** : abstention from sexual intercourse **b** : abstention by vow from marriage

cel·i·bate \'sel-ə-bət\ *n* [L *caelibatus*, fr. *caelib-*, *caelebs* unmarried; akin to Skt *kevala* alone and to OE *libban* to live] : one who lives in celibacy — **celibate** *adj*

cell \'sel\ *n* [ME, fr. OE, religious house and OF *celle* hermit's cell, fr. L *cella* small room; akin to L *celare* to conceal — more at HELL] **1** : a small religious house dependent on a monastery or convent **2 a** : a one-room dwelling occupied by a solitary person (as a hermit) **b** : a single room (as in a convent or prison) usu. for one person **3** : a small compartment (as in a honeycomb), receptacle (as the calyculus of a polyp), cavity (as in a plant ovary), or bounded space (as in an insect wing) **4** : a small usu. microscopic mass of protoplasm bounded externally by a semipermeable membrane, usu. including one or more nuclei and various nonliving products, capable alone or interacting with other cells of performing all the fundamental functions of life, and forming the least structural unit of living matter capable of functioning independently **5 a** (1) : a receptacle (as a cup or jar) containing electrodes and an electrolyte either for generating electricity by chemical action or for use in electrolysis (2) : FUEL CELL **b** : a single unit in a device for converting radiant energy into electrical energy or for varying the intensity of an electrical current in accordance with radiation **6** : a set of points in one-to-one correspondence with a set in a euclidean space of any number of dimensions **7** : the basic and usu. smallest unit of an organization or movement; *esp* : the primary unit of a Communist organization **8** : a portion of the atmosphere that behaves as a unit **9** : a basic subdivision of a computer memory that is addressable and can hold one unit of a computer's basic operating data unit (as a word)



a schematic cell 4: *1* lysosome, *2* nuclear membrane, *3* endoplasmic reticulum with associated ribosomes, *4* nuclear pore, *5* intrusion of cell membrane, *6* Golgi apparatus, *7* nucleus, *8* mitochondrion, *9* endoplasmic reticulum, *10* cytoplasm and ribosomes, *11* nucleolus, *12* chloroplast

cel·lar \'sel-ər\ *n* [ME *celer*, fr. AF, fr. L *cellarium* storeroom, fr. *cella*] **1 a** : BASEMENT **b** : the lowest rank; *esp* : the lowest place in the standings (as of an athletic league) **2** : a stock of wines

cel·lar·age \'sel-ə-rij\ *n* **1** : cellar space esp. for storage **2** : charge for storage in a cellar

cel·lar·er \'sel-ər-ər\ *n* [ME *celerer*, fr. OF, fr. LL *cellariarius*, fr. L *cellarium*] : an official (as in a monastery) in charge of provisions

cel·lar·ette *or* **cel·lar·et** \ˌsel-ə-'ret\ *n* : a case or sideboard for holding bottles of wine or liquor

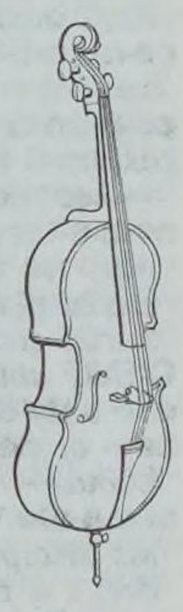
cell body *n* : the nucleus-containing central part of a neuron exclusive of its axons and dendrites

cell division *n* : the process by which cells multiply involving both nuclear and cytoplasmic division — compare MEIOSIS, MITOSIS

-celled \'seld\ *adj comb form* : having (such or so many) cells ⟨single-*celled* organisms⟩

cell membrane *n* **1** : PLASMA MEMBRANE **2** : a cell wall

cel·lo \'chel-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **cellos** [short for *violoncello*] : the bass member of the violin family tuned an octave below the viola — **cel·list** \'chel-əst\ *n*


cello

cel·lo·bi·ose \ˌsel-ə-'bī-ˌōs, -ˌōz\ *n* [ISV *cell*ulose + *-o-* + *biose* (disaccharide), fr. [1]*bi-* + *-ose*] : a faintly sweet disaccharide $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$ obtained by partial hydrolysis of cellulose

cel·loi·din \se-'lȯid-ᵊn\ *n* [*cell*ulose + *-oid* + *-in*] : a purified pyroxylin used chiefly in microscopy

cel·lo·phane \'sel-ə-ˌfān\ *n* [F, fr. *cellulose* + *-phane* (as in *diaphane* diaphanous, fr. ML *diaphanus*)] : regenerated cellulose in thin transparent sheets used esp. for packaging

cell plate *n* : a disk formed in the phragmoplast of a dividing plant cell that eventually forms the middle lamella of the wall between the daughter cells

cell sap *n* **1** : the liquid contents of a plant cell vacuole **2** : HYALOPLASM

cell theory *n* : a theory in biology that includes one or both of the statements that the cell is the fundamental structural and functional unit of living matter and that the organism is composed of autonomous cells with its properties being the sum of those of its cells

cel·lu·lar \'sel-yə-lər\ *adj* [NL *cellularis*, fr. *cellula* living cell, fr. L, dim. of *cella* small room] **1** : of, relating to, or consisting of cells **2** : containing cavities : having a porous texture ⟨~ rocks⟩ — **cel·lu·lar·i·ty** \ˌsel-yə-'lar-ət-ē\ *n* — **cel·lu·lar·ly** \'sel-yə-lər-lē\ *adv*

cel·lu·lase \'sel-yə-ˌlās, -ˌlāz\ *n* [ISV *cellu*lose + *-ase*] : an enzyme that hydrolyzes cellulose

cel·lule \'sel-(ˌ)yü(ə)l\ *n* [L *cellula*] : a small cell

cel·lu·li·tis \ˌsel-yə-'līt-əs\ *n* [NL, fr. *cellula*] : diffuse and esp. subcutaneous inflammation of connective tissue

cel·lu·loid \'sel-(y)ə-ˌlȯid\ *n* [fr. *Celluloid*, a trademark] **1** : a tough flammable thermoplastic composed essentially of cellulose nitrate and camphor **2** : a motion-picture film ⟨a work . . . now making its third appearance on ~ — John McCarten⟩ — **celluloid** *adj*

cel·lu·lo·lyt·ic \ˌsel-yə-lō-'lit-ik\ *adj* [*cellu*lose + *-o-* + *-lytic*] : hydrolyzing or having the capacity to hydrolyze cellulose ⟨~ bacteria⟩ ⟨~ activity⟩

cel·lu·lose \'sel-yə-ˌlōs, -ˌlōz\ *n* [F, fr. *cellule* living cell, fr. NL *cellula*] : a polysaccharide $(C_6H_{10}O_5)_x$ of glucose units that constitutes the chief part of the cell walls of plants, occurs naturally in such fibrous products as cotton and kapok, and is the raw material of many manufactured goods (as paper, rayon, and cellophane)

cellulose acetate *n* : any of several compounds insoluble in water that are formed esp. by the action of acetic acid, anhydride of acetic acid, and sulfuric acid on cellulose and are used for making textile fibers, packaging sheets, photographic films, and varnishes

cellulose nitrate *n* : any of several esters of nitric acid formed by the action of nitric acid on cellulose (as paper, linen, or cotton) and used for making explosives, plastics, rayon, and varnishes

[1]cel·lu·los·ic \ˌsel-yə-'lō-sik, -zik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or made from cellulose ⟨~ fibers⟩

[2]cellulosic *n* : a substance made from cellulose or a derivative of cellulose

cell wall *n* : the firm nonliving and usu. chiefly cellulose wall that encloses and supports most plant cells

Cel·sius \'sel-sē-əs, -shəs\ *adj* [Anders *Celsius*] : CENTIGRADE ⟨10° ~⟩

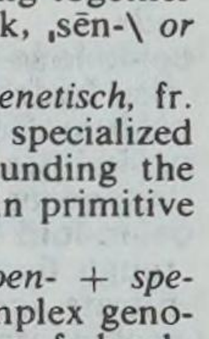
celt \'selt\ *n* [LL *celtis* chisel] : a prehistoric stone or metal implement shaped like a chisel or ax head

Celt \'selt, 'kelt\ *n* [F *Celte*, sing. of *Celtes*, fr. L *Celtae*] **1** : a member of a division of the early Indo-European peoples distributed from the British Isles and Spain to Asia Minor **2** : a modern Gael, Highland Scot, Irishman, Welshman, Cornishman, or Breton

[1]Celt·ic \'sel-tik, 'kel-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of the Celts or their languages

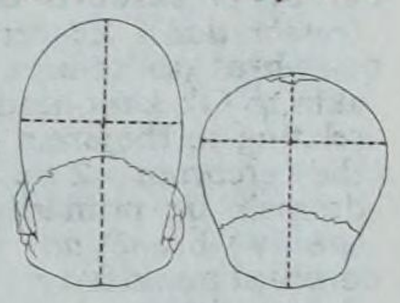
[2]Celtic *n* : a group of Indo-European languages usu. subdivided into Brythonic and Goidelic and confined to Brittany, Wales, western Ireland, and the Scottish Highlands — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table

Celtic cross *n* : a cross having essentially the form of a Latin cross with a ring about the intersection of the crossbar and upright shaft — see CROSS illustration
Celt·i·cist \'sel-tə-səst, 'kel-\ *n* : a specialist in Celtic languages or cultures
cem *abbr* cement
cem·ba·lo \'chem-bə-ˌlō\ *n, pl* **-ba·li** \-(ˌ)lē\ *or* **-ba·los** [It] : HARPSICHORD
¹ce·ment \si-'ment\ *n* [ME *sement*, fr. OF *ciment*, fr. L *caementum* stone chips used in making mortar, fr. *caedere* to cut — more at CONCISE] **1** : a powder of alumina, silica, lime, iron oxide, and magnesia burned together in a kiln and finely pulverized and used as an ingredient of mortar and concrete **2** : a binding element or agency: as **a** : a substance to make objects adhere to each other **b** : something serving to unite firmly ⟨justice is the ~ that holds a political community together —R. M. Hutchins⟩ **3** : CEMENTUM **4** : a plastic composition usu. made of zinc, copper, or silica for filling dental cavities **5** : the fine-grained groundmass or glass of a porphyry
²cement *vt* **1** : to unite or make firm by or as if by cement **2** : to overlay with concrete ~ *vi* : to become cemented — **ce·ment·er** *n*
ce·men·ta·tion \ˌsē-ˌmen-'tā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of cementing : the state of being cemented **2** : a process of surrounding a solid with a powder and heating the whole so that the solid is changed by chemical combination with the powder
ce·ment·ite \si-'ment-ˌīt\ *n* [¹*cement*] : a hard brittle iron carbide Fe_3C in steel, cast iron, and iron-carbon alloys
ce·men·ti·tious \ˌsē-ˌmen-'tish-əs\ *adj* : having the properties of cement
ce·men·tum \si-'ment-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. L *caementum*] : a specialized external bony layer of the part of a tooth normally within the gum — see TOOTH illustration
cem·e·tery \'sem-ə-ˌter-ē\ *n, pl* **-ter·ies** [ME *cimitery*, fr. MF *cimitere*, fr. LL *coemeterium*, fr. Gk *koimētērion* sleeping chamber, burial place, fr. *koiman* to put to sleep; akin to L *cunae* cradle] : a burial ground
CEMF *abbr* counter electromotive force
cen *abbr* central
cen- *or* **ceno-** *or* **caen-** *or* **caeno-** *comb form* [Gk *kain-, kaino-*, fr. *kainos* — more at RECENT] : new : recent ⟨*Cenozoic*⟩
cen·a·cle \'sen-i-kəl\ *n* [LL *cenaculum*, the room where Christ and his disciples had the Last Supper, fr. L, dining room, fr. *cena* dinner] : a retreat house; *esp* : one for Roman Catholic women directed by nuns of the Society of Our Lady of the Cenacle
-cene \ˌsēn\ *adj comb form* [Gk *kainos*] : recent — in names of geologic periods ⟨*Eocene*⟩
cen·o·bite \'sen-ə-ˌbīt, *esp Brit* 'sēn-\ *n* [LL *coenobita*, fr. *coenobium* monastery, fr. LGk *koinobion*, deriv. of Gk *koin-* coen- + *bios* life — more at QUICK] : a member of a religious group living together in a monastic community — **cen·o·bit·ic** \ˌsen-ə-'bit-ik, ˌsēn-\ *or* **cen·o·bit·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj*
ce·no·ge·net·ic \ˌsē-nə-jə-'net-ik, ˌsen-ə-\ *adj* [G *zänogenetisch*, fr. *zän-* cen- + *genetisch* genetic] : relating to or being a specialized adaptive character (as the amnion or chorion surrounding the embryo of higher vertebrates) that is not represented in primitive ancestral forms — **ce·no·ge·net·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ce·no·spe·cies \'sē-nə-ˌspē-(ˌ)shēz, 'sen-ə-, -(ˌ)sēz\ *n* [*coen-* + *species*] **1** : the sum of the possible expressions of a complex genotype **2** : a group of biological units capable by reason of closely related genotypes of essentially free gene interchange
ceno·taph \'sen-ə-ˌtaf\ *n* [F *cénotaphe*, fr. L *cenotaphium*, fr. Gk *kenotaphion*, fr. *kenos* empty + *taphos* tomb; akin to Arm *sin* empty — more at EPITAPH] : a tomb or a monument erected in honor of a person or group of persons whose remains are elsewhere
ce·no·te \si-'nōt-ē\ *n* [Sp, fr. Maya *tzonot*] : a deep sinkhole in limestone with a pool at the bottom that is found esp. in Yucatán
Ce·no·zo·ic \ˌsē-nə-'zō-ik, ˌsen-ə-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being an era of geological history that extends from the beginning of the Tertiary period to the present time and is marked by a rapid evolution of mammals and birds and of grasses, shrubs, and higher flowering plants and by little change in the invertebrates; *also* : relating to the system of rocks formed in this era — see GEOLOGIC TIME table — **Cenozoic** *n*
cense \'sen(t)s\ *vt* **censed; cens·ing** [ME *censen*, prob. short for *encensen* to incense, fr. MF *encenser*, fr. LL *incensare*, fr. *incensum* incense] : to perfume esp. with a censer
cen·ser \'sen(t)-sər\ *n* : a vessel for burning incense; *esp* : a covered incense burner swung on chains in a religious ritual


censer

¹cen·sor \'sen(t)-sər\ *n* [L, fr. *censēre* to assess, tax; akin to Skt *śaṁsati* he recites] **1** : one of two magistrates of early Rome acting as census takers, assessors, and inspectors of morals and conduct **2** : one who supervises conduct and morals: as **a** : an official who examines publications or films for objectionable matter **b** : an official (as in time of war) who reads communications (as letters) and deletes material considered harmful to the interests of his organization **3** : a hypothetical psychic agency that represses unacceptable notions before they reach consciousness — **cen·so·ri·al** \sen-'sōr-ē-əl, -'sȯr-\ *adj*
²censor *vt* **cen·sored; cen·sor·ing** \'sen(t)s-(ə-)riŋ\ : to subject to censorship
cen·so·ri·ous \sen-'sōr-ē-əs, -'sȯr-\ *adj* [L *censorius* of a censor, fr. *censor*] : marked by or given to censure ***syn*** see CRITICAL ***ant*** eulogistic — **cen·so·ri·ous·ly** *adv* — **cen·so·ri·ous·ness** *n*
cen·sor·ship \'sen(t)-sər-ˌship\ *n* **1 a** : the institution, system, or practice of censoring **b** : the actions or practices of censors; *esp* : censorial control exercised repressively **2** : the office, power, or term of a Roman censor **3** : exclusion from consciousness by the psychic censor
cen·sur·able \'sench-(ə-)rə-bəl\ *adj* : deserving or open to censure
¹cen·sure \'sen-chər\ *n* [L *censura*, fr. *censēre*] **1** : a judgment involving condemnation **2** *archaic* : OPINION, JUDGMENT **3** : the act of blaming or condemning sternly **4** : an official reprimand
²censure *vt* **cen·sured; cen·sur·ing** \'sench-(ə-)riŋ\ **1** *obs* : ESTIMATE, JUDGE **2** : to find fault with and criticize as blameworthy ***syn*** see CRITICIZE — **cen·sur·er** \'sen-chər-ər\ *n*
cen·sus \'sen(t)-səs\ *n* [L, fr. *censēre*] **1** : a count of the population and a property evaluation in early Rome **2** : a usu. complete enumeration of a population; *specif* : a periodic governmental enumeration of population **3** : COUNT, TALLY — **census** *vt*
¹cent \'sent\ *n* [MF, hundred, fr. L *centum* — more at HUNDRED] **1** : a monetary unit equal to $^1/_{100}$ of a basic unit of value — see *dollar, gulden, leone, piaster, rand, rupee, shilling* at MONEY table **2** : a coin, token, or note representing one cent
²cent *abbr* **1** centigrade **2** central **3** centum **4** century
cen·tal \'sent-ᵊl\ *n* [L *centum* + E *-al* (as in *quintal*)] *chiefly Brit* : a short hundredweight
cent·are \'sen-ˌta(ə)r, -ˌte(ə)r, -ˌtär\ *or* **cen·ti·are** \'sent-ē-ˌa(ə)r, 'sänt-, -ˌe(ə)r, -ˌär\ *n* [F *centiare*, fr. *centi-* hundred + *are*] — see METRIC SYSTEM table
cen·taur \'sen-ˌtȯ(ə)r\ *n* [ME, fr. L *Centaurus*, fr. Gk *Kentauros*] : one of a race fabled to be half man and half horse and to live in the mountains of Thessaly
cen·tau·rea \sen-'tȯr-ē-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. ML] : any of a large genus (*Centaurea*) of composite herbs (as knapweed) including several cultivated for their showy heads of tubular florets
Cen·tau·rus \-'tȯr-əs\ *n* [L (gen. *Centauri*)] : a southern constellation between the Southern Cross and Hydra
cen·tau·ry \'sen-ˌtȯr-ē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [ME *centaure*, fr. MF *centaurée*, fr. ML *centaurea*, fr. L *centaureum*, fr. Gk *kentaureion*, fr. *Kentauros*] **1** : any of a genus (*Centaurium*) of low herbs of the gentian family; *esp* : an Old World herb (*C. umbellatum*) formerly used as a tonic **2** : an American plant (*Sabatia angularis*) closely related to centaury
¹cen·ta·vo \sen-'täv-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-vos** [Sp, lit., hundredth, fr. L *centum* hundred] — see *colon, cordoba, lempira, peso, quetzal, sol, sucre* at MONEY table
²cen·ta·vo \-'täv-(ˌ)ü, -(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-vos** [Pg, fr. Sp] — see *cruzeiro, escudo* at MONEY table
cen·te·nar·i·an \ˌsent-ᵊn-'er-ē-ən\ *n* : one that is 100 years old or older — **centenarian** *adj*
cen·te·na·ry \sen-'ten-ə-rē, 'sent-ᵊn-ˌer-ē, *esp Brit* sen-'tē-nə-rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [LL *centenarium*, fr. L *centenarius* of a hundred, fr. *centeni* one hundred each, fr. *centum* hundred — more at HUNDRED] : CENTENNIAL — **centenary** *adj*
cen·ten·ni·al \sen-'ten-ē-əl\ *n* [L *centum* + E *-ennial* (as in *biennial*)] : a 100th anniversary or its celebration — **centennial** *adj* — **cen·ten·ni·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*
¹cen·ter \'sent-ər\ *n* [ME *centre*, fr. MF, fr. L *centrum*, fr. Gk *kentron* sharp point, center of a circle, fr. *kentein* to prick; akin to OHG *hantag* pointed, Latvian *sīts* hunting spear] **1 a** : the point around which a circle or sphere is described; *broadly* : a point that is related to a geometrical figure in such a way that for any point on the figure there is another point on the figure such that a straight line joining the two points is bisected by the original point — called also *center of symmetry* **b** : the center of the circle inscribed in a regular polygon **2 a** : a point, area, person, or thing that is most important or pivotal in relation to an indicated activity, interest, or condition ⟨a railroad ~⟩ ⟨the ~ of the controversy⟩ **b** : a source from which something originates ⟨a propaganda ~⟩ **c** : a group of nerve cells having a common function ⟨respiratory ~⟩ **d** : a region of concentrated population ⟨an urban ~⟩ **3 a** : the middle part (as of the forehead or a stage) **b** *often cap* (1) : a grouping of political figures holding moderate views esp. between those of conservatives and liberals (2) : the views of such politicians (3) : the adherents of such views **4** : a player occupying a middle position on a team: as **a** : the football player in the middle of a line who passes the ball between his legs to a back to start a down **b** : the usu. tallest player on a basketball team who usu. plays near the basket **5 a** : one of two tapered rods which support work in a lathe or grinding machine and about or with which the work revolves **b** : a conical recess in the end of work (as a shaft) for receiving such a center
²center *vb* **cen·tered; cen·ter·ing** \'sent-ə-riŋ, 'sen-triŋ\ *vt* **1** : to place or fix at or around a center or central area or position ⟨~ the picture on the wall⟩ **2** : to gather to a center : CONCENTRATE ⟨~*s* her hopes on her son⟩ **3** : to adjust (as lenses) so that the axes coincide **4 a** : to pass (a ball or puck) from either side toward the middle of the playing area **b** : to hand or pass (a football) backward between one's legs to a back to start a down ~ *vi* : to have a center : FOCUS
cen·ter·board \'sent-ər-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a retractable keel used esp. in sailboats
cen·tered \'sent-ərd\ *adj* **1** : having a center — often used in combination ⟨a dark-*centered* coneflower⟩ **2** : having a center of curvature — often used in combination ⟨a 3-*centered* arch⟩
center field *n* **1** : the part of the baseball outfield between right and left field **2** : the position of the player for defending center field — **center fielder** *n*
cen·ter·line \ˌsent-ər-'līn\ *n* : a real or imaginary line that is equidistant from the surface or sides of something (as a machine part or a roadway)
center of curvature : the center of the osculating circle at a given point of a curve
center of gravity **1** : CENTER OF MASS **2** : the point at which the entire weight of a body may be considered as concentrated so that if supported at this point the body would remain in equilibrium in any position **3** : CENTER 2a
center of mass : the point in a body or system of bodies at which the whole mass may be considered as concentrated
cen·ter·piece \'sent-ər-ˌpēs\ *n* : an object occupying a central position; *specif* : an adornment in the center of a table

center punch *n* : a hand punch consisting of a short steel bar with a hardened conical point at one end used for marking the centers of holes to be drilled
cen·tes·i·mal \sen-'tes-ə-məl\ *adj* [L *centesimus* hundredth, fr. *centum*] : marked by or relating to division into hundredths
¹cen·tes·i·mo \chen -'tez-ə-ˌmō\ *n, pl* **-mi** \-(ˌ)mē\ [It] — see *lira* at MONEY table
²cen·tes·i·mo \sen-'tes-ə-ˌmō\ *n, pl* **-mos** [Sp *céntimo*] — see *balboa, escudo, peso* at MONEY table
centi- *comb form* [F&L; F, hundredth, fr. L, hundred, fr. *centum* — more at HUNDRED] **1** : hundred ⟨*centi*pede⟩ **2** : hundredth part ⟨*centi*second⟩
cen·ti·grade \'sent-ə-ˌgrād, 'sänt-\ *adj* [F, fr. L *centi-* hundred + F *grade*] relating to, conforming to, or having a thermometric scale on which the interval between the freezing point and the boiling point of water is divided into 100 degrees with 0° representing the freezing point and 100° the boiling point ⟨10° ~⟩ — abbr. *C*
cen·ti·gram \-ˌgram\ *n* — see METRIC SYSTEM table
cen·ti·li·ter \'sent-i-ˌlēt-ər, 'sänt-\ *n* — see METRIC SYSTEM table
cen·til·lion \sen-'til-yən\ *n, often attrib* [L *centum* + E *-illion* (as in *million*)] — see NUMBER table
cen·time \'sän-ˌtēm, 'sen-\ *n* [F, fr. *cent* hundred, fr. L *centum*] — see *dinar, franc, gourde* at MONEY table
cen·ti·me·ter \'sent-ə-ˌmēt-ər, 'sänt-\ *n* — see METRIC SYSTEM table
centimeter–gram–second *adj* : of, relating to, or being a system of units based on the centimeter as the unit of length, the gram as the unit of mass, and the mean solar second as the unit of time — abbr. *cgs*
cen·ti·mo \'sent-ə-ˌmō\ *n, pl* **-mos** [Sp *céntimo*] — see *bolivar, colon, guarani, peseta* at MONEY table
cen·ti·pede \'sent-ə-ˌpēd\ *n* [L *centipeda*, fr. *centi-* + *ped-, pes* foot — more at FOOT] : any of a class (Chilopoda) of long flattened many-segmented predaceous arthropods with each segment bearing one pair of legs of which the foremost pair is modified into poison fangs
cent·ner \'sent-nər\ *n* [prob. fr. LG] : a unit of weight used in Germany and Scandinavia usu. equal to 110.23 pounds; *also* : a unit used in the U.S.S.R. equal to 220.46 pounds
cen·to \'sen-(ˌ)tō\ *n, pl* **cen·to·nes** \sen-'tō-(ˌ)nēz\ [LL, fr. L, patchwork garment; akin to OHG *hadara* rag, Skt *kanthā* patched garment] : a literary work made up of parts from other works
CENTO *abbr* Central Treaty Organization
centr- *or* **centri-** *or* **centro-** *comb form* [Gk *kentr-, kentro-*, fr. *kentron* center — more at CENTER] : center ⟨*centri*fugal⟩ ⟨*centro*id⟩
¹cen·tral \'sen-trəl\ *adj* [L *centralis*, fr. *centrum* center — more at CENTER] **1** : containing or constituting a center **2** : of cardinal importance : ESSENTIAL, PRINCIPAL ⟨the ~ character of the novel⟩ **3 a** : situated at, in, or near the center ⟨the plains of ~ North America⟩ **b** : easily accessible from outlying districts ⟨a ~ location for the new theater⟩ **4 a** : centrally placed and superseding separate scattered units ⟨~ heating⟩ **b** : controlling or directing local or branch activities ⟨decided by the ~ committee⟩ **5** : holding to a middle between extremes : MODERATE **6** : of, relating to, or comprising the brain and spinal cord; *also* : originating within the central nervous system ⟨~ deafness⟩ — **cen·tral·ly** \-trə-lē\ *adv*
²central *n* **1** : a telephone exchange or operator **2** : a central office or bureau usu. controlling others ⟨weather ~⟩
central angle *n* : an angle formed by two radii of a circle
central city *n* : a city that constitutes the densely populated center of a metropolitan area and is characterized by a concentration of cultural and commercial facilities serving the area and by a population disproportionately high in disadvantaged persons
cen·tral·ism \'sen-trə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* : the concentration of power and control in the central authority of an organization (as a political or educational system) — compare FEDERALISM — **cen·tral·ist** \-ləst\ *n or adj* — **cen·tral·is·tic** \ˌsen-trə-'lis-tik\ *adj*
cen·tral·i·ty \sen-'tral-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being central **2** : central situation **3** : tendency to remain in or at the center
cen·tral·ize \'sen-trə-ˌlīz\ *vb* **-ized; -iz·ing** *vi* : to form a center : cluster around a center ~ *vt* **1** : to bring to a center : CONSOLIDATE ⟨~ all the data in one file⟩ **2** : to concentrate by placing power and authority in a center or central organization — **cen·tral·iza·tion** \ˌsen-trə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **cen·tral·iz·er** \'sen-trə-ˌlī-zər\ *n*
central limit theorem n : any of several fundamental theorems of probability and statistics that state the conditions under which the distribution of a sum of independent random variables is approximated by the normal distribution; *esp* : a special case of the central limit theorem which is much applied in sampling and which states that the distribution of a mean of a sample from a population with finite variance is approximated by the normal distribution as the number in the sample becomes large
central nervous system *n* : the part of the nervous system which in vertebrates consists of the brain and spinal cord, to which sensory impulses are transmitted and from which motor impulses pass out, and which supervises and coordinates the activity of the entire nervous system
central processing unit *n* : PROCESSOR 2a(2)
central tendency *n* : clustering of the values of a statistical distribution that is usu. measured by the arithmetic mean, mode, or median
central time *n, often cap C* : the time of the 6th time zone west of Greenwich that includes the central U.S. — see TIME ZONE illustration
cen·tre *chiefly Brit var of* CENTER
cen·tric \'sen-trik\ *adj* [Gk *kentrikos* of the center, fr. *kentron*] **1** : located in or at a center : CENTRAL ⟨a ~ point⟩ **2** : concentrated about or directed to a center ⟨a ~ activity⟩ **3** : of or relating to a nerve center **4** : of, relating to, or having a centromere **5** : of, relating to, or resembling an order (Centrales) of diatoms having the surface markings centrally arranged — **cen·tri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **cen·tric·i·ty** \sen-'tris-ət-ē\ *n*
-cen·tric \'sen-trik\ *adj comb form* [ML *-centricus*, fr. L *centrum* center] : having (such) a center or (such or so many) centers ⟨poly*centric*⟩ : having (something specified) as its center ⟨helio*centric*⟩
¹cen·trif·u·gal \sen-'trif-yə-gəl, -'trif-i-gəl\ *adj* [NL *centrifugus*, fr. *centr-* + L *fugere* to flee — more at FUGITIVE] **1** : proceeding or acting in a direction away from a center or axis **2** : using or acting by centrifugal force ⟨a ~ pump⟩ **3** : EFFERENT **4** : tending away from centralization : SEPARATIST ⟨~ tendencies in modern society⟩ — **cen·trif·u·gal·ly** \-gə-lē\ *adv*
²centrifugal *n* : a centrifugal machine or a drum in such a machine
centrifugal force *n* **1** : the force that tends to impel a thing or parts of a thing outward from a center of rotation **2** : the force that an object moving along a circular path exerts on the body constraining the object and that acts outwardly away from the center of rotation ⟨a stone whirled about on the end of a string exerts *centrifugal force* on the string⟩
cen·trif·u·ga·tion \ˌsen-trə-fyü-'gā-shən\ *n* : the process of centrifuging
¹cen·tri·fuge \'sen-trə-ˌfyüj\ *n* [F, fr. *centrifuge* centrifugal, fr. NL *centrifugus*] : a machine using centrifugal force for separating substances of different densities, for removing moisture, or for simulating gravitational effects
²centrifuge *vt* **-fuged; -fug·ing** : to subject to centrifugal action esp. in a centrifuge
cen·tri·ole \'sen-trē-ˌōl\ *n* [G *zentriol*, fr. *zentrum* center] : one of a pair of cellular organelles that are adjacent to the nucleus, function in the formation of the mitotic apparatus, and consist of a cylinder with nine microtubules arranged peripherally in a circle
cen·trip·e·tal \sen-'trip-ət-ᵊl\ *adj* [NL *centripetus*, fr. *centr-* + L *petere* to go to, seek — more at FEATHER] **1** : proceeding or acting in a direction toward a center or axis **2** : AFFERENT **3** : tending toward centralization : UNIFYING ⟨~ tendencies in Western society⟩ — **cen·trip·e·tal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*
centripetal force *n* : the force that is necessary to keep an object moving in a circular path and that is directed inward toward the center of rotation ⟨a string on the end of which a stone is whirled about exerts *centripetal force* on the stone⟩
cen·trist \'sen-trəst\ *n* **1** *often cap* : a member of a center party **2** : one who holds moderate views — **cen·trism** \-ˌtriz-əm\ *n*
cen·troid \'sen-ˌtrȯid\ *n* : CENTER OF MASS — **cen·troi·dal** \sen-'trȯid-ᵊl\ *adj*
cen·tro·mere \'sen-trə-ˌmi(ə)r\ *n* [ISV] : the point on a chromosome by which it appears to attach to the spindle in mitosis — **cen·tro·mer·ic** \ˌsen-trə-'mi(ə)r-ik, -'mer-\ *adj*
cen·tro·some \'sen-trə-ˌsōm\ *n* [G *zentrosom*, fr. *zentr-* centr- + *-som* -some] **1** : the centriole-containing region of clear cytoplasm adjacent to the cell nucleus **2** : CENTRIOLE — **cen·tro·so·mic** \ˌsen-trə-'sō-mik\ *adj*
cen·tro·sphere \'sen-trə-ˌsfi(ə)r\ *n* [ISV] **1** : the differentiated layer of cytoplasm surrounding the centriole within the centrosome **2** : the central part of the earth composed of very dense material
cen·trum \'sen-trəm\ *n, pl* **centrums** *or* **cen·tra** \-trə\ [L — more at CENTER] **1** : CENTER **2** : the body of a vertebra — see VERTEBRA illustration
cen·tum \'kent-əm, 'ken-ˌtům\ *adj* [L, hundred; fr. the fact that its initial sound (a velar stop) is the representative of an IE palatal stop — more at HUNDRED] : of, relating to, or constituting an Indo-European language group characterized by the retention of the Proto-Indo-European stops *k, g,* and *gh* in certain environments — compare SATEM
cen·tu·ri·on \sen-'t(y)ůr-ē-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *centurion-, centurio*, fr. *centuria*] : an officer commanding a Roman century
cen·tu·ry \'sench-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [L *centuria*, irreg. fr. *centum* hundred] **1** : a subdivision of the Roman legion **2** : a group, sequence, or series of 100 like things **3** : a period of 100 years esp. of the Christian era or of the preceding period of human history **4** : a race over a hundred units (as yards or miles)
century plant *n* : a Mexican agave (*Agave americana*) maturing and flowering only once in many years and then dying
ceorl \'chā-ˌȯr(ə)l\ *n* [OE — more at CHURL] : a freeman of the lowest rank in Anglo-Saxon England
cephal- *or* **cephalo-** *comb form* [L, fr. Gk *kephal-, kephalo-*, fr. *kephalē*,] : head ⟨*cephal*ad⟩ ⟨*Cephalo*poda⟩
ceph·a·lad \'sef-ə-ˌlad\ *adv* : toward the head or anterior end of the body
ce·phal·ic \sə-'fal-ik\ *adj* [MF *céphalique*, fr. L *cephalicus*, fr. Gk *kephalikos*, fr. *kephalē* head; akin to OHG *gebal* skull, ON *gafl* gable, Toch A *śpāl-* head] **1** : of or relating to the head **2** : directed toward or situated on or in or near the head — **ce·phal·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cephalic index *n* : the ratio multiplied by 100 of the maximum breadth of the head to its maximum length



cephalic index: dotted lines in the brachycephalic (right) and dolichocephalic (left) skulls above indicate measurements taken

ceph·a·lin \'kef-ə-lən, 'sef-\ *n* [ISV] : any of various acidic phosphatides of living tissues (as of the brain) with marked thromboplastic activity
ceph·a·li·za·tion \ˌsef-ə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n* : an evolutionary tendency to specialization of the body with concentration of sensory and neural organs in an anterior head
ceph·a·lom·e·try \ˌsef-ə-'läm-ə-trē\ *n* [ISV] : the science of measuring the head — **ceph·a·lo·met·ric** \-lō-'me-trik\ *adj*

ceph·a·lo·pod \'sef-ə-lə-ˌpäd\ *n* [deriv. of *cephal-* + Gk *pod-*, *pous* foot — more at FOOT] : any of a class (Cephalopoda) of mollusks including the squids, cuttlefishes, and octopuses that have a tubular siphon under the head, a group of muscular arms around the front of the head which are usu. furnished with suckers, highly developed eyes, and usu. a bag of inky fluid which can be ejected for defense or concealment — **cephalopod** *adj* — **ceph·a·lop·o·dan** \ˌsef-ə-'läp-əd-ən\ *adj or n*

ceph·a·lor·i·dine \ˌsef-ə-'lȯr-ə-ˌdēn, -'lär-\ *n* [prob. fr. *cephalosporin* + *-idine*] : a broad-spectrum antibiotic $C_{19}H_{17}N_3O_4S_2$ derived from cephalosporin and used esp. in the treatment of gonorrhea

ceph·a·lo·spo·rin \ˌsef-ə-lə-'spōr-ən, -'spȯr-\ *n* [*Cephalosporium*, genus of fungi + *-in*] : any of several antibiotics produced by an imperfect fungus (genus *Cephalosporium*)

ceph·a·lo·tho·rax \ˌsef-ə-lə-'thō(ə)r-ˌaks, -ˌthȯ(ə)r-\ *n* [ISV] : the united head and thorax of an arachnid or higher crustacean

Ce·phe·id \'sē-fē-əd, 'sef-ē-\ *n* : one of a class of pulsating stars whose intrinsic light variations are very regular

Ce·pheus \'sē-ˌfyüs; 'sē-fē-əs, 'sef-ē-\ *n* [L (gen. *Cephei*), fr. Gk *Kēpheus*] : a constellation between Cygnus and the north pole

CER *abbr* conditioned emotional response

ce·ra·ceous \sə-'rā-shəs\ *adj* [L *cera* wax — more at CERUMEN] : resembling wax

ce·ra·mal \sə-'ram-əl, 'ser-ə-ˌmal\ *n* [*ceramic* + *alloy*] : CERMET

[1]ce·ram·ic \sə-'ram-ik, *esp Brit* kə-\ *adj* [Gk *keramikos*, fr. *keramos* potter's clay, pottery] : of or relating to the manufacture of any product (as earthenware, porcelain, brick, glass, vitreous enamels) made essentially from a nonmetallic mineral by firing at high temperatures; *also* : of or relating to such a product

[2]ceramic *n* **1** *pl but sing in constr* : the art or process of making ceramic articles **2** : a product of ceramic manufacture

ce·ra·mist \sə-'ram-əst, 'ser-ə-məst\ *or* **ce·ram·i·cist** \sə-'ram-ə-səst\ *n* : one who engages in ceramics

ce·ras·tes \sə-'ras-(ˌ)tēz\ *n* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk *kerastēs*, lit., horned, fr. *keras*] : a venomous viper (*Cerastes cornutus*) of the Near East having a horny process over each eye — called also *horned viper*

cerat- *or* **cerato-** *or* **kerat-** *or* **kerato-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *kerat-*, *kerato-*, fr. *keras* horn — more at HORN] **1** : horn : horny ⟨*cerato*dus⟩ ⟨*kerat*in⟩ **2** *usu kerat- or kerato-* : cornea ⟨*kerat*itis⟩

ce·rate \'si(ə)r-ˌāt\ *n* [L *ceratum* wax salve, fr. *cera* wax — more at CERUMEN] : an unctuous preparation for external use consisting of wax or resin or spermaceti mixed with oil, lard, and medicinal ingredients

ce·rat·odus \sə-'rat-əd-əs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. *cerat-* + Gk *odous* tooth — more at TOOTH] : any of various recent or fossil dipnoan fishes (as of the genus *Ceratodus*); *esp* : BARRAMUNDA a

Cer·ber·us \'sər-b(ə-)rəs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kerberos*] : a 3-headed dog that in Greek myth guards the entrance to Hades — **Cer·ber·e·an** \ˌsər-bə-'rē-ən\ *adj*

-cer·cal \'sər-kəl\ *adj comb form* [F *-cerque*, fr. Gk *kerkos* tail] : -tailed ⟨homo*cercal*⟩

cer·car·ia \(ˌ)sər-'kar-ē-ə, -'ker-\ *n, pl* **-i·ae** \-ē-ˌē\ [NL, fr. Gk *kerkos* tail] : a usu. tadpole-shaped larval trematode worm produced in a molluscan host by a redia — **cer·car·i·al** \-ē-əl\ *adj*

cer·cis \'sər-səs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *kerkis* Judas tree] : any of a small genus (*Cercis*) of leguminous shrubs or low trees (as a red bud)

cer·cus \'sər-kəs\ *n, pl* **cer·ci** \'sər-ˌsī, -ˌkī\ [NL, fr. Gk *kerkos* tail] : either of a pair of simple or segmented appendages at the posterior end of various arthropods

[1]cere \'si(ə)r\ *vt* **cered; cer·ing** [ME *ceren* to wax, fr. MF *cirer*, fr. L *cerare*, fr. *cera*] : to wrap in or as if in a cerecloth

[2]cere *n* [ME *sere*, fr. MF *cere*, fr. ML *cera*, fr. L, wax] : a usu. waxy protuberance or tumid area at the base of the bill of a bird

[1]ce·re·al \'sir-ē-əl\ *adj* [F or L; F *céréale*, fr. L *cerealis* of Ceres, of grain, fr. *Ceres*] : relating to grain or to the plants that produce it; *also* : made of grain

[2]cereal *n* **1** : a plant (as a grass) yielding farinaceous grain suitable for food; *also* : its grain **2** : a prepared foodstuff of grain

cereal leaf beetle *n* : a small reddish brown black-headed Old World chrysomelid beetle (*Oulema melanopa*) that feeds on cereal grasses and is a serious threat to U.S. grain crops

cer·e·bel·lum \ˌser-ə-'bel-əm\ *n, pl* **-bellums** *or* **-bel·la** \-'bel-ə\ [ML, fr. L, dim. of *cerebrum*] : a large dorsally projecting part of the brain concerned esp. with the coordination of muscles and the maintenance of bodily equilibrium, situated anterior to and above the medulla which it partly overlaps, and formed in man of two lateral lobes and a median lobe — see BRAIN illustration — **cer·e·bel·lar** \-'bel-ər\ *adj*

cerebr- *or* **cerebro-** *comb form* [*cerebrum*] **1** : brain : cerebrum ⟨*cerebr*ation⟩ **2** : cerebral and ⟨*cerebro*spinal⟩

ce·re·bral \sə-'rē-brəl, 'ser-ə-\ *adj* [F *cérébral*, fr. L *cerebrum* brain; akin to Gk *kara* head, *keras* horn — more at HORN] **1 a** : of or relating to the brain or the intellect **b** : of, relating to, or being the cerebrum **2 a** : appealing to intellectual appreciation ⟨~ drama⟩ **b** : primarily intellectual in nature ⟨a ~ society⟩ — **ce·re·bral·ly** \-brə-lē\ *adv*

cerebral accident *n* : a sudden damaging occurrence (as of hemorrhage) within the cerebrum — compare APOPLEXY

cerebral cortex *n* : the surface layer of gray matter of the cerebral hemisphere that functions chiefly in coordination of higher nervous activity

cerebral hemisphere *n* : either of the two hollow convoluted lateral halves of the cerebrum — see BRAIN illustration

cerebral palsy *n* : a disability resulting from damage to the brain before or during birth and outwardly manifested by muscular incoordination and speech disturbances — **cerebral palsied** *adj*

cer·e·brate \'ser-ə-ˌbrāt\ *vi* **-brat·ed; -brat·ing** [back-formation fr. *cerebration*, fr. *cerebrum*] : to use the mind : THINK — **cer·e·bration** \ˌser-ə-'brā-shən\ *n*

cer·e·bro·side \'ser-ə-brə-ˌsīd, sə-'rē-\ *n* [*cerebrose* (galactose)] : any of various lipids found esp. in nerve tissue

ce·re·bro·spi·nal \sə-ˌrē-brō-'spīn-ᵊl, ˌser-ə-brō-\ *adj* : of or relating to the brain and spinal cord or to these together with the cranial and spinal nerves that innervate voluntary muscles

cerebrospinal fluid *n* : a liquid that is comparable to serum and is secreted from the blood into the lateral ventricles of the brain

cerebrospinal meningitis *n* : inflammation of the meninges of both brain and spinal cord; *specif* : an infectious epidemic and often fatal meningitis caused by the meningococcus

ce·re·bro·vas·cu·lar \sə-ˌrē-brō-'vas-kyə-lər, ˌser-ə-brō-\ *adj* : of or involving the cerebrum and the blood vessels supplying it ⟨~ disease⟩

ce·re·brum \sə-'rē-brəm, 'ser-ə-brəm\ *n, pl* **-brums** *or* **-bra** \-brə\ [L] **1** : BRAIN 1a **2** : an enlarged anterior or upper part of the brain: **a** : the forebrain and midbrain with their derivatives **b** : FOREBRAIN 2a **c** : the expanded anterior portion of the brain that in higher mammals overlies the rest of the brain, consists of cerebral hemispheres and connecting structures, and is considered to be the seat of conscious mental processes : TELENCEPHALON

cere·cloth \'si(ə)r-ˌklȯth\ *n* [alter. of earlier *cered cloth* (waxed cloth)] : cloth treated with melted wax or gummy matter and formerly used esp. for wrapping a dead body

cere·ment \'ser-ə-mənt, 'si(ə)r-mənt\ *n* : a shroud for the dead; *esp* : CERECLOTH — usu. used in pl.

[1]cer·e·mo·ni·al \ˌser-ə-'mō-nē-əl\ *adj* : marked by, involved in, or belonging to ceremony : stressing careful attention to form and detail — **cer·e·mo·ni·al·ism** \-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* — **cer·e·mo·ni·al·ist** \-ə-ləst\ *n* — **cer·e·mo·ni·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*

syn CEREMONIAL, CEREMONIOUS, FORMAL, CONVENTIONAL *shared meaning element* : marked by attention to or adhering strictly to prescribed forms, procedures, and details. CEREMONIAL and CEREMONIOUS both imply strict attention to what is prescribed (as by custom, code, or ritual) but CEREMONIAL more often applies to things that are or are pertinent to ceremonies ⟨read the service in a nasal *ceremonial* drawl⟩ and CEREMONIOUS to persons addicted to ceremony or to acts attended by ceremony ⟨an ever precise, utterly proper, and extremely *ceremonious* old gentleman⟩ FORMAL applies equally to things prescribed by and persons obedient to custom and often conveys a notion of stiff, restrained, or old-fashioned behavior ⟨paying *formal* attention to his hostess⟩ ⟨the committee made a *formal* report to the president⟩ CONVENTIONAL implies accord with general custom and usage and may suggest lack of originality or independence ⟨a *conventional* courtesy⟩ ⟨they are not moral; they are only *conventional*—G. B. Shaw⟩

[2]ceremonial *n* : a ceremonial act, action, or system

cer·e·mo·ni·ous \ˌser-ə-'mō-nē-əs\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or constituting a ceremony **2** : devoted to forms and ceremony : PUNCTILIOUS **3** : according to formal usage or prescribed procedures **4** : marked by ceremony ***syn*** see CEREMONIAL ***ant*** unceremonious, informal — **cer·e·mo·ni·ous·ly** *adv* — **cer·e·mo·ni·ous·ness** *n*

cer·e·mo·ny \'ser-ə-ˌmō-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [ME *ceremonie*, fr. MF *cérémonie*, fr. L *caerimonia*] **1** : a formal act or series of acts prescribed by ritual, protocol, or convention ⟨the marriage ~⟩ **2 a** : a conventional act of politeness or etiquette ⟨the ~ of introduction⟩ **b** : an action performed only formally with no deep significance **c** : a routine action performed with elaborate pomp **3 a** : prescribed procedures : USAGES ⟨the ~ attending an inauguration⟩ **b** : observance of an established code of civility or politeness ⟨the door opened without ~ and the man strode in⟩

Ce·ren·kov radiation \chər-'(y)eŋ-kəf-\ *n* [P. A. *Cherenkov b*1904 Russ physicist] : light produced by charged particles (as electrons) traversing a transparent medium at a speed greater than that of light in the same medium

Ce·res \'si(ə)r-(ˌ)ēz\ *n* [L] **1** : the Roman goddess of agriculture — compare DEMETER **2** : the largest asteroid and the one first discovered

ce·re·us \'sir-ē-əs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, wax candle, fr. *cera* wax — more at CERUMEN] : any of various cacti (as of the genus *Cereus*) of the western U.S. and tropical America

ce·ric \'si(ə)r-ik, 'ser-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing cerium esp. with a valence of four

ce·rise \sə-'rēs, -'rēz\ *n* [F, lit., cherry, fr. LL *ceresia* — more at CHERRY] : a moderate red

ce·ri·um \'sir-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. *Ceres*] : a malleable ductile metallic element that is the most abundant of the rare-earth group — see ELEMENT table

cerium metal *n* : any of a group of related rare-earth metals comprising cerium, lanthanum, praseodymium, neodymium, promethium, samarium, and sometimes europium

cer·met \'sər-ˌmet\ *n* [*ceramic* + *metal*] : a strong alloy of a heat-resistant compound (as titanium carbide) and a metal (as nickel) used esp. for turbine blades — called also *ceramal*

cer·nu·ous \'sər-nyə-wəs\ *adj* [L *cernuus* with the face turned earthward; akin to L *cerebrum*] : PENDULOUS, NODDING ⟨a ~ flower⟩

cero \'se(ə)r-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **cero** *or* **ceros** [modif. of Sp *sierra* saw, cero] : either of two large food and sport fishes (*Scomberomorus cavalla* and *S. regalis*) of the warmer parts of the western Atlantic ocean

ce·ro·tic acid \sə-ˌrōt-ik-, -ˌrät-\ *n* [L *cerotum*, a pomade, fr. Gk *kērōton*, fr. *kēros* wax — more at CERUMEN] : a solid fatty acid $C_{26}H_{52}O_2$ occurring in waxes (as beeswax) and some fats

ce·rous \'sir-əs\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing cerium esp. with a valence of three

cert *abbr* certificate; certification; certified; certify

[1]cer·tain \'sərt-ᵊn\ *adj* [ME, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *certanus*, fr. L *certus*, fr. pp. of *cernere* to sift, discern, decide; akin to Gk *krinein* to separate, decide, judge, *keirein* to cut — more at SHEAR] **1 a** : FIXED, SETTLED ⟨guaranteed a ~ percentage of the profit⟩ **b** : proved to be true **2** : of a specific but unspecified character, quantity, or degree : PARTICULAR ⟨the house has a ~ charm⟩ ⟨everyone has a ~ amount of success⟩ **3 a** : DEPENDABLE, RELIABLE ⟨a ~ remedy for the disease⟩ **b** : INDISPUTABLE ⟨it is ~ that we exist⟩ **4 a** : INEVITABLE ⟨the ~ advance of age and decay⟩ **b** : incapable of failing : DESTINED — used with a following infinitive ⟨she is ~ to do well⟩ **5** : assured in mind or action ***syn*** see SURE

ant uncertain — **cer·tain·ly** *adv* — **for certain** : as a certainty : ASSUREDLY

²certain *pron, pl in constr* : certain ones

cer·tain·ty \'sərt-ᵊn-tē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : something that is certain **2** : the quality or state of being certain esp. on the basis of objective evidence

syn CERTAINTY, CERTITUDE, ASSURANCE, CONVICTION *shared meaning element* : a state of being free from doubt ***ant*** uncertainty

cer·tes \'sərt-ēz, 'sərts\ *adv* [ME, fr. OF, fr. *cert* certain, fr. L *certus*] *archaic* : in truth : CERTAINLY

¹cer·tif·i·cate \(ˌ)sər-'tif-i-kət\ *n* [ME *certificat*, fr. MF, fr. ML *certificatum*, fr. LL, neut. of *certificatus*, pp. of *certificare* to certify] **1** : a document containing a certified statement esp. as to the truth of something; *specif* : a document certifying that one has fulfilled the requirements of and may practice in a field **2** : something serving the same end as a certificate **3** : a document evidencing ownership or debt ⟨a ~ of deposit⟩

²cer·tif·i·cate \-'tif-ə-ˌkāt\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** : to testify to or authorize by a certificate — **cer·tif·i·ca·to·ry** \-'tif-i-kə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

cer·ti·fi·ca·tion \ˌsərt-ə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of certifying : the state of being certified **2** : a certified statement

certified check *n* : a check certified to be good by the bank on which it is drawn

certified mail *n* : first class mail for which proof of delivery is secured but no indemnity value is claimed

certified milk *n* : milk produced in dairies that operate under the rules and regulations of an authorized medical milk commission

certified public accountant *n* : an accountant who has met the requirements of a state law and has been granted a state certificate

cer·ti·fy \'sərt-ə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** [ME *certifien*, fr. MF *certifier*, fr. LL *certificare*, fr. L *certus* certain — more at CERTAIN] **1** : to attest authoritatively: as **a** : CONFIRM **b** : to present in formal communication **c** : to attest as being true or as represented or as meeting a standard **d** : to attest officially to the insanity of **2** : to inform with certainty : ASSURE **3** : to guarantee (a personal check) as to signature and amount by so indicating on the face **4** : CERTIFICATE, LICENSE ***syn*** see APPROVE — **cer·ti·fi·able** \-ˌfī-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **cer·ti·fi·ably** \-blē\ *adv* — **cer·ti·fi·er** \-ˌfī(-ə)r\ *n*

cer·tio·ra·ri \ˌsər-sh(ē-)ə-'ra(ə)r-ē, -'rär-ē\ *n* [ME, fr. L, to be informed; fr. the use of the word in the writ] : a writ of a superior court to call up the records of an inferior court or a body acting in a quasi-judicial capacity

cer·ti·tude \'sərt-ə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *certitudo*, fr. L *certus*] **1** : the state of being or feeling certain **2** : unfailingness of act or event ***syn*** see CERTAINTY ***ant*** doubt

ce·ru·le·an \sə-'rü-lē-ən\ *adj* [L *caeruleus* dark blue] : resembling the blue of the sky

ce·ru·lo·plas·min \sə-ˌrü-lō-'plaz-mən\ *n* [ISV *cerulo* (fr. L *caeruleus* dark blue) + *plasma* + *-in*] : a plasma oxidase active in copper storage and transport

ce·ru·men \sə-'rü-mən\ *n* [NL, irreg. fr. L *cera* wax, prob. fr. Gk *kēros;* akin to Lith *korys* honeycomb] : the yellow waxy secretion from the glands of the external ear — called also *earwax* — **ce·ru·mi·nous** \-mə-nəs\ *adj*

ce·ruse \sə-'rüs, 'si(ə)r-ˌüs\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *céruse*, fr. L *cerussa*] **1** : white lead as a pigment **2** : a cosmetic containing white lead

ce·rus·site \sə-'rəs-ˌīt\ *n* [G *zerussit*, fr. L *cerussa*] : a mineral $PbCO_3$ consisting of lead carbonate occurring in colorless transparent crystals and also massive

cer·ve·lat \'sər-və-ˌlat, -ˌlä\ *n* [obs. F (now *cervelas*)] : smoked sausage made of varying proportions of pork and beef

cervic- *or* **cervici-** *or* **cervico-** *comb form* [L *cervic-, cervex* neck] : neck : cervix of an organ ⟨*cervicitis*⟩ : cervical and ⟨*cervicothoracic*⟩

cer·vi·cal \'sər-vi-kəl\ *adj* : of or relating to a neck or cervix

cer·vi·ci·tis \ˌsər-və-'sīt-əs\ *n* : inflammation of the uterine cervix

cer·vine \'sər-ˌvīn\ *adj* [L *cervinus* of a deer, fr. *cervus* stag, deer — more at HART] : of, relating to, or resembling deer

cer·vix \'sər-viks\ *n, pl* **cer·vi·ces** \'sər-və-ˌsēz, (ˌ)sər-'vī-(ˌ)sēz\ *or* **cer·vix·es** [L *cervic-, cervix*] **1** : NECK; *esp* : the back part of the neck **2** : a constricted portion of an organ or part; *esp* : the narrow outer end of the uterus

ce·sar·e·an *also* **ce·sar·i·an** \si-'zar-ē-ən, -'zer-\ *n* [fr. the belief that Julius Caesar was born this way] : surgical incision of the walls of the abdomen and uterus for delivery of offspring — **cesarean** *also* **cesarian** *adj*

ce·si·um \'sē-zē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. L *caesius* bluish gray] : a silver-white soft ductile element of the alkali metal group that is the most electropositive element known and that is used esp. in photoelectric cells — see ELEMENT table

¹cess \'ses\ *n* [ME *cessen* to tax, short for *assessen* — more at ASSESS] : LEVY, TAX

²cess *n* [prob. short for *success*] *chiefly Irish* : LUCK — usu. used in the phrase *bad cess to you*

ces·sa·tion \se-'sā-shən\ *n* [ME *cessacioun*, fr. MF *cessation*, fr. L *cessation-, cessatio* delay, idleness, fr. *cessatus*, pp. of *cessare* to delay, be idle — more at CEASE] : a temporary or final ceasing (as of action) : STOP

ces·sion \'sesh-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *cession-, cessio*, fr. *cessus*, pp. of *cedere* to withdraw — more at CEDE] : a yielding to another : CONCESSION

cess·pit \'ses-ˌpit\ *n* [*cesspool* + *pit*] : a pit for the disposal of refuse (as sewage)

cess·pool \-ˌpül\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. ME *suspiral* vent, cesspool, fr. MF *souspirail* ventilator, fr. *soupirer* to sigh, fr. L *suspirare*, lit., to draw a long breath — more at SUSPIRE] : an underground catch basin for liquid waste (as household sewage)

ces·ta \'ses-tə\ *n* [Sp, lit., basket, fr. L *cista* box, basket] : a narrow curved wicker basket used to catch and propel the ball in jai alai

ces·tode \'ses-ˌtōd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *kestos* girdle] : any of a subclass (Cestoda) of internally parasitic flatworms comprising the tapeworms — **cestode** *adj*

¹ces·tus \'ses-təs\ *n, pl* **ces·ti** \-ˌtī\ [L, girdle, belt, fr. Gk *kestos*, fr. *kestos* stitched; akin to Gk *kentron* sharp point — more at CENTER] : a woman's belt; *esp* : a symbolic one worn by a bride

²cestus *n* [L *caestus*, fr. *caedere* to strike — more at CONCISE] : a hand covering of leather bands often loaded with lead or iron and used by boxers in ancient Rome

ce·su·ra *var of* CAESURA

ce·ta·cean \si-'tā-shən\ *n* [deriv. of L *cetus* whale, fr. Gk *kētos*] : any of an order (Cetacea) of aquatic mostly marine mammals including the whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related forms with large head, fishlike nearly hairless body, and paddle-shaped forelimbs — **cetacean** *adj* — **ce·ta·ceous** \-shəs\ *adj*

ce·tane \'sē-ˌtān\ *n* [fr. *cetyl* (the radical $C_{16}H_{33}$)] : a colorless oily hydrocarbon $C_{16}H_{34}$ found in petroleum

cetane number *n* : a measure of the ignition value of a diesel fuel that represents the percentage by volume of cetane in a mixture of liquid methylnaphthalene that gives the same ignition lag as the oil being tested — called also *cetane rating* — compare OCTANE NUMBER

ce·te·ris pa·ri·bus \ˌkāt-ə-rə-'spar-ə-bəs\ *adv* [NL, other things being equal] : if all other relevant things, factors, or elements remain unaltered

Ce·tus \'sēt-əs\ *n* [L (gen. *Ceti*), lit., whale] : an equatorial constellation south of Pisces and Aries

cetyl alcohol \'sēt-ᵊl-\ *n* [ISV *cet-* (fr. L *cetus* whale) + *-yl*; fr. its occurrence in spermaceti] : a waxy crystalline alcohol $C_{16}H_{34}O$ found in the form of its ester in spermaceti and used in pharmaceutical and cosmetic preparations and in making detergents

ce·vi·tam·ic acid \ˌsē-(ˌ)vī-ˌtam-ik-\ *n* [*cee* + *vitamin*] : VITAMIN C

cf *abbr* **1** calf **2** [L *confer*, imper. of *conferre* to compare — more at CONFER] compare

Cf *symbol* californium

CF *abbr* **1** carried forward **2** centrifugal force **3** cost and freight **4** cystic fibrosis

CFI *abbr* **1** chief flying instructor **2** cost, freight, and insurance

CFM *abbr* cubic feet per minute

CFS *abbr* cubic feet per second

cg *or* **cgm** *abbr* centigram

CG *abbr* **1** center of gravity **2** coast guard **3** commanding general

cgs *abbr* centimeter-gram-second

CGT *abbr* [F *Confédération Générale du Travail*] General Confederation of Labor

ch *abbr* **1** chain **2** champion **3** chaplain **4** chapter **5** chief **6** child; children **7** church

CH *abbr* **1** clearinghouse **2** courthouse **3** customhouse

Cha·blis \'shab-(ˌ)lē; sha-'blē, shä-\ *n, pl* **Cha·blis** \-(ˌ)lēz, -'blēz\ [F, fr. *Chablis*, France] : a dry white Burgundy table wine

cha–cha \'chä-(ˌ)chä\ *n* [AmerSp *cha-cha-cha*] : a fast rhythmic ballroom dance of Latin-American origin with a basic pattern of three steps and a shuffle

chac·ma \'chak-mə\ *n* [Hottentot] : a large dusky southern African baboon (*Papio comatus*)

cha·conne \shä-'kȯn, sha-, -'kän, -'kən\ *n* [F&Sp; F *chaconne*, fr. Sp *chacona*] **1** : an old Spanish dance tune resembling the passacaglia **2** : a musical composition in moderate ³/₄ time with stress on the second beat and typically consisting of variations on a repeated succession of chords

chad \'chad\ *n* [perh. fr. Sc, gravel] : small pieces of paper or cardboard produced in punching paper tape or data cards; *also* : a piece of chad — **chad·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

Chad \'chad\ *n* : a branch of the Afro-Asiatic language family comprising numerous languages of northern Nigeria and Cameroons

chae·ta \'kēt-ə\ *n, pl* **chae·tae** \'kē-ˌtē\ [NL, fr. Gk *chaitē* long flowing hair] : BRISTLE, SETA — **chae·tal** \kēt-ᵊl\ *adj*

chae·to·gnath \'kēt-ˌäg-ˌnath, -ə(g)-\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *chaitē* + *gnathos* jaw — more at GNATH-] : any of a class or phylum (Chaetognatha) of small free-swimming marine worms with movable curved chaetae on either side of the mouth — **chaetognath** *adj* — **chae·tog·na·than** \kē-'täg-nə-thən\ *adj or n*

¹chafe \'chāf\ *vb* **chafed; chaf·ing** [ME *chaufen* to warm, fr. MF *chaufer*, fr. (assumed) VL *calfare*, alter. of L *calefacere*, fr. *calēre* to be warm + *facere* to make — more at LEE, DO] *vt* **1** : IRRITATE, VEX **2** : to warm by rubbing esp. with the hands **3 a** : to rub so as to wear away : ABRADE ⟨the boat *chafed* her sides against the dock⟩ **b** : to make sore by or as if by rubbing ~ *vi* **1** : to feel irritation or discontent : FRET ⟨~*s* at his restrictive desk job⟩ **2** : to rub and thereby cause wear or irritation

²chafe *n* **1** : a state of vexation : RAGE **2** : injury or wear caused by friction; *also* : FRICTION, RUBBING

cha·fer \'chā-fər\ *n* [ME *cheaffer*, fr. OE *ceafor;* akin to OE *ceafl* jowl — more at JOWL] : any of various large beetles (esp. family Scarabaeidae)

¹chaff \'chaf\ *n* [ME *chaf*, fr. OE *ceaf;* akin to OHG *cheva* husk] **1** : the seed coverings and other debris separated from the seed in threshing grain **2** : something comparatively worthless **3** : the scales borne on the receptacle among the florets in the heads of many composite plants **4** : material (as strips of foil or clusters of fine wires) ejected into the air for reflecting radar waves (as for confusing an enemy's radar detection or for tracking a descending spacecraft) — **chaffy** \-ē\ *adj*

²chaff *n* [prob. fr. *¹chaff*] : light jesting talk : BANTER

³chaff *vt* : to tease good-naturedly ~ *vi* : JEST, BANTER

¹chaf·fer \'chaf-ər\ *n* [ME *chaffare*, fr. *chep* trade + *fare* journey — more at CHEAP, FARE] *archaic* : a haggling about price

²chaffer *vb* **chaf·fered; chaf·fer·ing** \'chaf-(ə-)riŋ\ *vi* **1** : HAGGLE **2** *Brit* : to exchange small talk : CHATTER ~ *vt* **1** : EXCHANGE, BARTER **2** : to bargain for — **chaf·fer·er** \-ər-ər\ *n*

chaf·finch \'chaf-(,)inch\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *ceaffinc*, fr. *ceaf* + *finc* finch] : a European finch (*Fringilla coelebs*) of which the male has a reddish breast plumage and a cheerful song

chaf·ing dish \'chā-fiŋ-\ *n* [ME *chafing*, prp. of *chaufen*, *chafen* to warm] : a utensil for cooking or keeping food warm esp. at the table

Cha·gas' disease \'shäg-əs-(əz-)\ *n* [Carlos *Chagas* †1934 Braz. physician] : a tropical American trypanosomiasis marked by prolonged high fever, edema, and enlargement of spleen, liver, and lymph nodes and caused by a flagellate (*Trypanosoma cruzi*)

¹cha·grin \shə-'grin\ *n* [F, fr. *chagrin* sad] : disquietude or distress of mind caused by humiliation, disappointment, or failure

²chagrin *vt* **cha·grined** \-'grind\; **cha·grin·ing** \-'grin-iŋ\ : to vex acutely by disappointing or humiliating

Chai·ma \'chī-mə\ *n* **1** : a member of a Cariban people of the coast of Venezuela **2** : the language of the Chaima people

¹chain \'chān\ *n, often attrib* [ME *cheyne*, fr. OF *chaeine*, fr. L *catena;* akin to L *cassis* net] **1 a** : a series of usu. metal links or rings connected to or fitted into one another and used for various purposes (as support, restraint, transmission of mechanical power, or measurement) **b** : a series of links used or worn as an ornament or insignia **c** (1) : a measuring instrument of 100 links used in surveying (2) : a unit of length equal to 66 feet **2** : something that confines, restrains or secures **3 a** : a series of things linked, connected, or associated together ⟨a ~ of events⟩ **b** : a number of atoms or chemical groups united like links in a chain

²chain *vt* **1** : to fasten, bind, or connect with or as if with a chain; *also* : FETTER **2** : to obstruct or protect by a chain

chaî·né \shā-'nā\ *n* [F, fr. pp. of *chaîner* to chain] : a series of short regular usu. fast turns by which a ballet dancer moves across the stage

chain gang *n* : a gang of convicts chained together esp. as an outside working party

chain letter *n* **1** : a social letter sent to a series of persons in succession and often added to by each **2** : a letter sent to several persons with a request that each send copies of the letter to an equal number of persons

chain mail *n* : flexible armor of interlinked metal rings

chain of command : a series of executive positions in order of authority ⟨a military *chain of command*⟩

chain·omat·ic \,chā-nə-'mat-ik\ *adj* [fr. *Chainomatic*, a trademark] *of a balance or scale* : having suspended from the beam an adjustable fine chain whose length is measured to determine minute weights

chain pickerel *n* [fr. the markings resembling chains on the sides] : a large greenish black pickerel (*Esox niger*) with dark markings along the sides that is common in quiet waters of eastern No. America

chain printer *n* : a line printer in which the printing element is a continuous chain

chain–reacting pile *n* : REACTOR 3b

chain reaction *n* **1** : a series of events so related to each other that each one initiates the next **2** : a self-sustaining chemical or nuclear reaction yielding energy or products that cause further reactions of the same kind — **chain–re·act** \,chān-rē-'akt\ *vt*

chain rule *n* : a mathematical rule concerning the differentiation of a function of a function (as $f[u(x)]$) by which under suitable conditions of continuity and differentiability one function is differentiated with respect to the second considered as an independent variable and then the second function is differentiated with respect to the independent variable ⟨if $v = u^2$ and $u = 3x^2 + 2$ the derivative of v by the *chain rule* is $2u(6x)$ or $12x(3x^2 + 2)$⟩

chain saw *n* : a portable power saw that has teeth linked together to form an endless chain

chain–smoke \'chān-'smōk\ *vi* : to smoke esp. cigarettes continually often by lighting each from the previous one ~ *vt* : to smoke (as cigarettes) almost without interruption

chain stitch *n* **1** : an ornamental stitch like the links of a chain **2** : a machine stitch forming a chain on the underside of the work

chain store *n* : one of numerous usu. retail stores having the same ownership and selling the same lines of goods

¹chair \'che(ə)r, 'cha(ə)r\ *n* [ME *chaiere*, fr. OF, fr. L *cathedra*, fr. Gk *kathedra*, fr. *kata-* cata- + *hedra* seat — more at SIT] **1 a** : a seat typically having four legs and a back for one person **b** : ELECTRIC CHAIR **2 a** : an official seat or a seat of authority, state, or dignity **b** : an office or position of authority or dignity ⟨holds a university ~⟩ **c** : CHAIRMAN 1 **3** : a sedan chair **4** : a position of employment usu. of one occupying a chair or desk; *specif* : the position of a player in an orchestra or band **5** : any of various devices that hold up or support

²chair *vt* **1** : to install in office **2** *chiefly Brit* : to carry shoulder-high in acclaim ⟨the time you won your town the race we ~*ed* you through the market place —A. E. Housman⟩ **3** : to preside as chairman of

chair car *n* **1** : a railroad car having pairs of chairs with individually adjustable backs on each side of the aisle **2** : PARLOR CAR

chair lift *n* : a motor-driven conveyor consisting of a series of seats suspended from an overhead moving cable and used for transporting skiers or sightseers up or down a long slope or mountainside

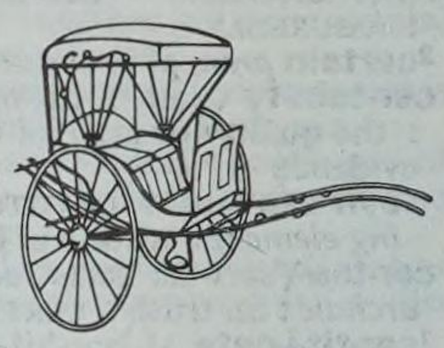
¹chair·man \'che(ə)r-mən, 'cha(ə)r-\ *n* **1 a** : the presiding officer of a meeting or an organization or committee **b** : the administrative officer of a department of instruction (as in a college) **2** : a carrier of a sedan chair — **chair·man·ship** \-,ship\ *n*

²chairman *vt* **-maned** *or* **-manned; -man·ing** *or* **-man·ning** : CHAIR 3

chair·per·son \-,pərs-ᵊn\ *n* : CHAIRMAN 1

chair·wom·an \-,wům-ən\ *n* : a female chairman

chaise \'shāz\ *n* [F, chair, chaise, alter. of OF *chaiere*] **1 a** : a 2-wheeled carriage for one or two persons with a calash top and the body hung on leather straps and usu. drawn by one horse **b** : a similar 4-wheeled pleasure carriage **c** : POST CHAISE **2** : a light carriage or pleasure cart **3** : CHAISE LONGUE



chaise 1a

chaise longue \'shāz-'lȯŋ\ *n, pl* **chaise longues** *also* **chaises longues** \'shāz-'lȯŋ(z)\ [F *chaise longue*, lit., long chair] : a long reclining chair

chaise lounge \'shāz-'laůnj, 'chās-\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. F *chaise longue*] : CHAISE LONGUE

Chait \'chīt\ *n* [Hindi *Cait*, fr. Skt *Caitra*] : a month of the Hindu year — see MONTH table

cha·la·za \kə-'lā-zə, -'laz-ə\ *n, pl* **-zae** \-,zē\ *or* **-zas** [NL, fr. Gk, hailstone; akin to Per *zhāla* hail] **1** : either of a pair of spiral bands in the white of a bird's egg that extend from the yolk and attach to opposite ends of the lining membrane — see EGG illustration **2** : the point at the base of a plant ovule where the seed stalk is attached — **cha·la·zal** \-'lā-zəl, -'laz-əl\ *adj*

Chal·ce·do·ni·an \,kal-sə-'dō-nē-ən\ *adj* : of or relating to Chalcedon or the ecumenical council held there in A.D. 451 declaring Monophysitism heretical — **Chalcedonian** *n*

chal·ced·o·ny \kal-'sed-ᵊn-ē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [ME *calcedonie*, a precious stone, fr. LL *chalcedonius*, fr. Gk *Chalkēdōn* Chalcedon] : a translucent quartz that is commonly pale blue or gray with nearly waxlike luster — **chal·ce·don·ic** \,kal-sə-'dän-ik\ *adj*

chal·cid \'kal-səd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *chalkos* copper] : any of a large superfamily (Chalcidoidea) of mostly minute hymenopterous insects parasitic in the larval state on the larvae or pupae of other insects — **chalcid** *adj*

chal·co·gen \'kal-kə-jən\ *n* [prob. fr. G *chalkogen*, fr. *chalk-* bronze, ore (fr. Gk *chalkos* bronze) + *-gen*; fr. the occurrence of oxygen and sulfur in many ores] : any of the elements oxygen, sulfur, selenium, and tellurium

chal·co·gen·ide \-jə-,nīd\ *n* : a binary compound of a chalcogen with a more electropositive element or radical

chal·co·py·rite \,kal-kə-'pī-,rīt\ *n* [NL *chalcopyrites*, fr. Gk *chalkos* + L *pyrites*] : a yellow mineral $CuFeS_2$ consisting of copper-iron sulfide and constituting an important ore of copper

Chal·da·ic \kal-'dā-ik\ *adj or n* : CHALDEAN

Chal·de·an \kal-'dē-ən\ *n* [L *Chaldaeus* Chaldean, astrologer, fr. Gk *Chaldaios*, fr. *Chaldaia* Chaldea, region of ancient Babylonia] **1 a** : a member of an ancient Semitic people that became dominant in Babylonia **b** : the Semitic language of the Chaldeans **2** : a person versed in the occult arts — **Chaldean** *adj*

Chal·dee \'kal-,dē\ *n* [ME *Caldey*, prob. fr. MF *chaldée*, fr. L *Chaldaeus*] **1** : the Aramaic vernacular that was the original language of some parts of the Bible **2** : CHALDEAN 1a

chal·dron \'chȯl-drən\ *n* [MF *chauderon*, fr. *chaudere* pot, fr. LL *caldaria* — more at CALDRON] : any of various old units of measure varying from 32 to 72 imperial bushels

cha·let \sha-'lā, 'shal-(,)ā\ *n* [F] **1** : a remote herdsman's hut in the Alps **2 a** : a Swiss dwelling with unconcealed structural members and a wide overhang at the front and sides **b** : a cottage or house in chalet style



chalet 2a

chal·ice \'chal-əs\ *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *calic-*, *calix;* akin to Gk *kalyx* calyx] **1** : a drinking cup : GOBLET; *esp* : the eucharistic cup **2** : the cup-shaped interior of a flower

¹chalk \'chȯk\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *cealc;* akin to OHG & MLG *kalk* lime; all fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. L *calc-*, *calx* lime, fr. Gk *chalix* pebble; akin to Gk *skallein* to hoe — more at SHELL] **1 a** : a soft white, gray, or buff limestone composed chiefly of the shells of foraminifers **b** : chalk or a chalky material esp. when used in the form of a crayon **2 a** : a mark made with chalk **b** *Brit* : a point scored in a game — **chalky** \'chȯ-kē\ *adj*

²chalk *vt* **1** : to rub or mark with chalk **2** : to write or draw with chalk **3 a** : to delineate roughly : SKETCH ⟨~ out a plan of attack⟩ **b** : to set down or add up with or as if with chalk : TOT — usu. used with *up* ⟨~ up the casualties on the bulletin board⟩ ~ *vi* : to become chalky

chalk·board \'chȯk-,bō(ə)rd, -,bȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : BLACKBOARD

chalk up *vt* **1** : ASCRIBE, CREDIT **2** : ATTAIN, ACHIEVE ⟨*chalk up* a record score for the season⟩

¹chal·lenge \'chal-ənj\ *vb* **chal·lenged; chal·leng·ing** [ME *chalengen* to accuse, fr. OF *chalengier*, fr. L *calumniari* to accuse falsely, fr. *calumnia* calumny] *vt* **1** : to demand as of right : REQUIRE ⟨an event that ~s explanation⟩ **2** : to order to halt and prove identity ⟨the sentry *challenged* the stranger at the gates⟩ **3** : to dispute esp. as being unjust, invalid, or outmoded : IMPUGN ⟨uncovered new data that ~s old assumptions⟩ **4** : to question formally the legality or legal qualifications of **5 a** : to defy boldly : DARE **b** : to call out to duel or combat **c** : to invite into competition **6** : STIMULATE, EXCITE ⟨math ~s him but English bores him⟩ **7** : to administer an immunologic challenge to (an organism) ~ *vi* **1** : to make or present a challenge **2** : to take legal exception — **chal·leng·er** *n*

²challenge *n* **1 a** : a calling to account or into question : PROTEST **b** : an exception taken to a juror before he is sworn **c** : a sentry's command to halt and prove identity **d** : a questioning of the right or validity of a vote or voter **2 a** : a summons that is often threatening, provocative, stimulating, or inciting; *specif* : a summons to a duel to answer an affront **b** : an invitation to compete in a sport **3** : a test of immunity by exposure to virulent infective material after specific immunization

chal·leng·ing \-ən-jiŋ\ *adj* **1** : arousing competitive interest, thought, or action ⟨the curriculum should have ~ intellectual content⟩ **2** : invitingly provocative : FASCINATING ⟨a ~ personality⟩ — **chal·leng·ing·ly** \-jiŋ-lē\ *adv*

chal·lis \'shal-ē\ *n, pl* **chal·lises** \-ēz\ [prob. fr. the name *Challis*] : a lightweight soft clothing fabric made of cotton, wool, or synthetic yarns
cha·lone \'kā-ˌlōn, 'kal-ˌōn\ *n* [Gk *chalōn*, prp. of *chalan* to slacken] : an internal secretion that depresses activity — compare HORMONE
[1]cha·ly·be·ate \kə-'lib-ē-ət, -'lē-bē-\ *adj* [prob. fr. NL *chalybeatus*, irreg. fr. L *chalybs* steel, fr. Gk *chalyb-*, *chalyps*, fr. *Chalybes*, ancient people in Asia Minor] : impregnated with salts of iron; *also* : having a taste due to iron ⟨~ springs⟩
[2]chalybeate *n* : a chalybeate liquid or medicine
cham \'kam\ *var of* KHAN
cham·ae·phyte \'kam-i-ˌfīt\ *n* [Gk *chamai* on the ground + E *-phyte* — more at HUMBLE] : a perennial plant that bears its overwintering buds just above the surface of the soil
[1]cham·ber \'chām-bər\ *n* [ME *chambre*, fr. OF, fr. LL *camera*, fr. L, arched roof, fr. Gk *kamara* vault; akin to L *camur* curved] **1** : ROOM; *esp* : BEDROOM **2** : a natural or artificial enclosed space or cavity **3 a** : a hall for the meetings of a deliberative, legislative, or judicial body ⟨the senate ~⟩ **b** : a room where a judge transacts business — usu. used in pl. **c** : the reception room of a person of rank or authority **4 a** : a legislative or judicial body; *esp* : either of the houses of a bicameral legislature **b** : a voluntary board or council **5 a** : the part of the bore of a gun that holds the charge **b** : a compartment in the cartridge cylinder of a revolver
[2]chamber *vt* **cham·bered; cham·ber·ing** \-b(ə-)riŋ\ **1** : to place in or as if in a chamber : HOUSE **2** : to serve as a chamber for; *esp* : to accommodate in the chamber of a firearm
[3]chamber *adj* : being, relating to, or performing chamber music
cham·bered \'chām-bərd\ *adj* : having a chamber ⟨the ~ nautilus⟩
[1]chamberer *n, obs* : CHAMBERMAID
[2]cham·ber·er \'chām-bər-ər\ *n* [ME, chamberlain, fr. MF *chamberier*, fr. LL *camerarius*, fr. *camera*] *archaic* : GALLANT, LOVER
cham·ber·lain \'chām-bər-lən\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *chamberlayn*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *chamarling* chamberlain, fr. *chamara* chamber, fr. LL *camera*] **1** : an attendant on a sovereign or lord in his bedchamber **2 a** : a chief officer in the household of a king or nobleman **b** : TREASURER **3** : an often honorary papal attendant; *specif* : a priest having a rank of honor below domestic prelate
cham·ber·maid \-ˌmād\ *n* : a maid who makes beds and does general cleaning of bedrooms (as in a hotel)
chamber music *n* : music and esp. instrumental ensemble music intended for performance in a private room or small auditorium and usu. having one performer for each part
chamber of commerce : an association of businessmen to promote commercial and industrial interests in the community
chamber of horrors : a hall in which objects of macabre interest (as instruments of torture) are exhibited; *also* : a collection of such exhibits
chamber orchestra *n* : a small orchestra usu. with one player for each instrumental part
chamber pot *n* : a bedroom vessel for urine and feces
cham·bray \'sham-ˌbrā, -brē\ *n* [irreg. fr. *Cambrai*, France] : a lightweight clothing fabric with colored warp and white filling yarns
cha·me·leon \kə-'mēl-yən\ *n* [ME *camelion*, fr. MF, fr. L *chamaeleon*, fr. Gk *chamaileōn*, fr. *chamai* on the ground + *leōn* lion — more at HUMBLE] **1** : any of a group (Rhiptoglossa) of Old World lizards with granular skin, prehensile tail, independently movable eyeballs, and unusual ability to change the color of the skin **2** : a fickle or changeable person or thing **3** : any of various American lizards (as of the genus *Anolis*) capable of changing their color; *esp* : AMERICAN CHAMELEON — **cha·me·le·on·ic** \-ˌmē-lē-'än-ik\ *adj*
[1]cham·fer \'cham(p)-fər, 'cham-pər\ *n* [MF *chanfreint*, fr. pp. of *chanfraindre* to bevel, fr. *chant* edge (fr. L *canthus* iron tire) + *fraindre* to break, fr. L *frangere* — more at CANT, BREAK] : a beveled edge
[2]chamfer *vt* **cham·fered; cham·fer·ing** \-f(ə-)riŋ, -p(ə-)riŋ\ **1** : to cut a furrow in (as a column) : GROOVE **2** : to make a chamfer on : BEVEL
cham·fron \'sham-frən, 'cham-\ *n* [ME *shamfron*, fr. MF *chanfrein*] : the headpiece of a horse's bard
cham·ois \'sham-ē, *in sense 1 also* sham-'wä\ *n, pl* **cham·ois** *also* **cham·oix** *in sense 1* 'sham-ē(z) *or* sham-'wä(z), *in sense 2* 'sham-ēz \ [MF, fr. LL *camox*] **1** : a small goatlike antelope (*Rupicapra rupicapra*) of Europe and the Caucasus **2** *also* **cham·my** *or* **sham·my** \'sham-ē\ : a soft pliant leather prepared from the skin of the chamois or from sheepskin



chamois 1

cham·o·mile \'kam-ə-ˌmīl, -ˌmēl\ *n* [ME *camemille*, fr. ML *camomilla*, modif. of L *chamaemelon*, fr. Gk *chamaimēlon*, fr. *chamai* + *mēlon* apple] : any of a genus (*Anthemis*, esp. the common European *A. nobilis*) of composite herbs with strong-scented foliage and flower heads that contain a bitter medicinal principle; *also* : a similar plant of a related genus (*Matricaria*)
[1]champ \'champ, 'chämp, 'chȯmp\ *vb* [perh. imit.] *vt* **1** : CHOMP **2** : MASH, TRAMPLE ~ *vi* **1** : to make biting or gnashing movements **2** : to show impatience of delay or restraint — usu. used in the phrase *champing at the bit* ⟨the children were ~*ing* at the bit to get on board⟩
[2]champ \'champ\ *n* : CHAMPION
cham·pac *or* **cham·pak** \'cham-ˌpak, 'chəm-(ˌ)pək\ *n* [Hindi & Skt; Hindi *campak*, fr. Skt *campaka*] : an East Indian tree (*Michelia champaca*) of the magnolia family with yellow flowers
cham·pagne \sham-'pān\ *n* [F, fr. *Champagne*, France] **1** : a white sparkling wine made in the old province of Champagne, France; *also* : a similar wine made elsewhere **2** : a pale orange yellow to light grayish yellowish brown
cham·paign \sham-'pān\ *n* [ME *champaine*, fr. MF *champagne*, fr. LL *campania* — more at CAMPAIGN] **1** : an expanse of level open country : PLAIN **2** *archaic* : BATTLEFIELD — **champaign** *adj*
cham·per·ty \'cham-pərt-ē\ *n* [ME *champartie*, fr. MF *champart* field rent, fr. *champ* field (fr. L *campus*) + *part* portion — more at CAMP, PART] : a proceeding by which a person not a party in a suit bargains to aid in or carry on its prosecution or defense in consideration of a share of the matter in suit — **cham·per·tous** \-pərt-əs\ *adj*
cham·pi·gnon \sham-'pin-yən, cham-\ *n* [MF, fr. *champagne*] : an edible fungus; *esp* : the common meadow mushroom (*Agaricus campestris*)
[1]cham·pi·on \'cham-pē-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. ML *campion-*, *campio*, of WGmc origin] **1** : WARRIOR, FIGHTER **2** : a militant advocate or defender ⟨an outspoken ~ of civil rights⟩ **3** : one that does battle for another's rights or honor ⟨God will raise me up a ~ —Sir Walter Scott⟩ **4** : a winner of first prize or first place in competition; *also* : one who shows marked superiority ⟨a ~ at telling stories⟩
[2]champion *vt* **1** *archaic* : CHALLENGE, DEFY **2** : to protect or fight for as a champion **3** : to act as militant supporter of : UPHOLD ⟨always ~*s* the cause of the underdog⟩ ***syn*** see SUPPORT
cham·pi·on·ship \-ˌship\ *n* **1** : designation as champion **2** : the act of championing : DEFENSE ⟨his ~ of freedom of speech⟩ **3** : a contest held to determine a champion
champ·le·vé \ˌshäⁿl-ə-'vā\ *adj* [F] : of, relating to, or being a style of enamel decoration in which the enamel is applied and fired in cells depressed (as by incising) into a metal background — compare CLOISONNÉ — **champlevé** *n*
chan *abbr* channel
[1]chance \'chan(t)s\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *cadentia* fall, fr. L *cadent-*, *cadens*, prp. of *cadere* to fall; akin to Skt *śad* to fall] **1 a** : something that happens unpredictably without discernible human intention or observable cause **b** : the assumed impersonal purposeless determiner of unaccountable happenings : LUCK **c** : the fortuitous or incalculable element in existence : CONTINGENCY **2** : a situation favoring some purpose : OPPORTUNITY ⟨the weekend gives him a ~ to relax⟩ **3** : a fielding opportunity in baseball **4 a** : the possibility of an indicated or a favorable outcome in an uncertain situation; *also* : the degree of likelihood of such an outcome ⟨we have almost no ~ of winning⟩ **b** *pl* : the more likely indications ⟨~*s* are he's already heard the news⟩ **5 a** : RISK ⟨took a ~ and guessed at the answer⟩ **b** : a ticket in a raffle — **chance** *adj* — **by chance** : in the haphazard course of events ⟨they met *by chance* but parted by design⟩
[2]chance *vb* **chanced; chanc·ing** *vi* **1 a** : to take place or come about by chance : HAPPEN **b** : to be found by chance **c** : to have the good or bad luck **2** : to come or light by chance ~ *vt* **1** : to leave the outcome of to chance **2** : to accept the hazard of : RISK ***syn*** see HAPPEN
chance·ful \'chan(t)s-fəl\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : CASUAL **2** : EVENTFUL
chan·cel \'chan(t)-səl\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. LL *cancellus* lattice, fr. L *cancelli*; fr. the latticework enclosing it] : the part of a church containing the altar and seats for the clergy and choir
chan·cel·lery *or* **chan·cel·lory** \'chan(t)-s(ə-)lə-rē, -səl-rē\ *n, pl* **-ler·ies** *or* **-lor·ies** **1 a** : the position, court, or department of a chancellor **b** : the building or room where a chancellor has his office **2** : the office of secretary of the court of a person high in authority **3** : the office or staff of an embassy or consulate
chan·cel·lor \'chan(t)-s(ə-)lər\ *n* [ME *chanceler*, fr. OF *chancelier*, fr. LL *cancellarius* doorkeeper, secretary, fr. *cancellus*] **1 a** : the secretary of a nobleman, prince, or king **b** : the lord chancellor of Great Britain **c** *Brit* : the chief secretary of an embassy **d** : a Roman Catholic priest heading the office in which diocesan business is transacted and recorded **2 a** : the titular head of a British university **b** (1) : a university president (2) : the chief executive officer in some state systems of higher education **3 a** : a lay legal officer or adviser of an Anglican diocese **b** : a judge in a court of chancery or equity in various states of the U.S. **4** : the chief minister of state in some European countries — **chan·cel·lor·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
chancellor of the exchequer *often cap C&E* : a member of the British cabinet in charge of the public income and expenditure
chance–med·ley \'chan(t)-'smed-lē\ *n* [AF *chance medlée* mingled chance] **1** : accidental homicide not entirely without fault of the killer but without evil intent **2** : haphazard action : CONFUSION
chance music *n* : music in which the elements of chance are introduced by the composer (as by selecting tempo, pitch, or dynamics by the throw of dice) or by the performer (as by choosing what parts to perform and the manner and order in which they are performed)
chan·cery \'chan(t)s-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-cer·ies** [ME *chancerie*, alter. of *chancellerie* chancellery, fr. OF, fr. *chancelier*] **1 a** *cap* : a high court of equity in England and Wales with common-law functions and jurisdiction over causes in equity **b** : a court of equity in the American judicial system **c** : the principles and practice of judicial equity **2** : a record office for public archives or those of ecclesiastical, legal, or diplomatic proceedings **3 a** : a chancellor's court or office or the building in which he has his office **b** : the office in which the business of a Roman Catholic diocese is transacted and recorded **c** : the office of an embassy : CHANCELLERY 3 — **in chancery** **1** : in litigation in a court of chancery; *also* : under the superintendence of the lord chancellor ⟨a ward *in chancery*⟩ **2** : in a hopeless predicament

chan·cre \'shaŋ-kər\ *n* [F, fr. L *cancer*] : a primary sore or ulcer at the site of entry of a pathogen (as in tularemia); *esp* : the initial lesion of syphilis — **chan·crous** \-k(ə-)rəs\ *adj*
chan·croid \'shaŋ-ˌkrȯid\ *n* : a venereal disease caused by a hemophilic bacterium (*Hemophilus ducreyi*) and characterized by chancres that differ from those of syphilis in lacking firm indurated margins — called also *soft chancre* — **chan·croi·dal** \shaŋ-'krȯid-ᵊl\ *adj*
chancy \'chan(t)-sē\ *adj* **chanc·i·er; -est** **1** *Scot* : bringing good luck : AUSPICIOUS **2** : uncertain in outcome or prospect : RISKY **3** : occurring by chance : HAPHAZARD — **chanc·i·ness** *n*
chan·de·lier \ˌshan-də-'li(ə)r\ *n* [F. lit., candlestick, modif. of L *candelabrum*] : a branched often ornate lighting fixture suspended from a ceiling


chandelier

chan·delle \shan-'del, shäⁿ-\ *n* [F, lit., candle] : an abrupt climbing turn of an airplane in which the momentum of the plane is used to attain a higher rate of climb — **chandelle** *vi*
chan·dler \'chan-(d)lər\ *n* [ME *chandeler*, fr. MF *chandelier*, fr. OF, fr. *chandelle* candle, fr. L *candela*] **1** : a maker or seller of tallow or wax candles and usu. soap **2** : a retail dealer in provisions and supplies or equipment of a specified kind ⟨a yacht ~⟩
chan·dlery \-(d)lə-rē\ *n, pl* **-dler·ies** **1** : a place where candles are kept **2** : the business of a chandler **3** : the commodities sold by a chandler
¹change \'chānj\ *vb* **changed; chang·ing** [ME *changen*, fr. OF *changier*, fr. L *cambiare* to exchange, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *camm* crooked; akin to Gk *skambos* crooked] *vt* **1 a** : to make different in some particular ⟨never bothered to ~ his will⟩ **b** : to make radically different : TRANSFORM ⟨can't ~ human nature⟩ **c** : to give a different position, course, or direction to **d** : REVERSE ⟨~ one's vote⟩ **2 a** : to replace with another ⟨let's ~ the subject⟩ **b** : to make a shift from one to another : SWITCH ⟨always ~*s* sides in an argument⟩ **c** : to exchange for an equivalent sum or comparable item **d** : to undergo a loss or modification of ⟨foliage *changing* color⟩ **e** : to put fresh clothes or covering on ⟨~ a bed⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to become different ⟨her mood ~*s* every hour⟩ ⟨prices ~ overnight⟩ **2** *of the moon* : to pass from one phase to another **3** : to shift one's means of conveyance : TRANSFER ⟨on the bus trip to New York he *changed* twice⟩ **4** *of the voice* : to shift to lower register : BREAK **5** : to undergo transformation, transition, or substitution ⟨winter *changed* to spring⟩ **6** : to put on different clothes **7** : to engage in giving something and receiving something in return : EXCHANGE ⟨I need a sharper knife, so I'll ~ with you⟩
syn CHANGE, ALTER, VARY, MODIFY *shared meaning element* : to make or become different
— **change hands** : to pass from the possession of one person to that of another ⟨money *changes hands* many times⟩ — **change one's mind** : to reverse one's intention or opinion ⟨was going to drive but then *changed his mind* and took the bus⟩
²change *n* **1** : the act, process, or result of changing: as **a** : ALTERATION ⟨there was little ~ in her daily routine⟩ **b** : TRANSFORMATION ⟨has undergone a great ~ since he was married⟩ **c** : SUBSTITUTION ⟨went to the country for a ~ of air⟩ **d** : the passage of the moon from one monthly revolution to another; *also* : the passage of the moon from one phase to another **2** : a fresh set of clothes **3** *Brit* : EXCHANGE 5a **4 a** : money in small denominations received in exchange for an equivalent sum in larger denominations **b** : money returned when a payment exceeds the amount due **c** : coins of low denominations ⟨a pocketful of ~⟩ **5** : an order in which a set of bells is struck in change ringing
syn CHANGE, MUTATION, PERMUTATION, VICISSITUDE *shared meaning element* : altered state
change·able \'chān-jə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of change: as **a** : able or apt to vary ⟨~ weather ⟩ **b** : subject to change : ALTERABLE ⟨a clause in the contract ~ at will⟩ **c** : FICKLE **d** : IRIDESCENT — **change·abil·i·ty** \ˌchān-jə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **change·able·ness** \'chān-jə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **change·ably** \-blē\ *adv*
change·ful \'chānj-fəl\ *adj* : notably variable : UNCERTAIN — **change·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **change·ful·ness** *n*
change·less \'chānj-ləs\ *adj* : marked by the absence of change : CONSTANT — **change·less·ly** *adv* — **change·less·ness** *n*
change·ling \'chānj-liŋ\ *n* **1** *archaic* : TURNCOAT **2** : a child secretly exchanged for another in infancy **3** *archaic* : IMBECILE — **changeling** *adj*
change off *vi* **1** : to alternate with another at doing an act **2** : to alternate between two different acts or instruments or between an action and a rest period
change of heart : a full reversal in position or attitude
change of life : ²CLIMACTERIC 2
change of pace **1** : an interruption of continuity by a sudden shift (as for relief from monotony) to a different activity **2** : CHANGE-UP
change·over \'chān-ˌjō-vər\ *n* : conversion to a different function or use of a different method
chang·er \'chān-jər\ *n* **1** : one that changes **2** *obs* : MONEY CHANGER
change ringing *n* : the art or practice of ringing a set of tuned bells (as in the bell tower of a church) in continually varying order
change–up \'chān-ˌjəp\ *n* : a slow pitch in baseball thrown for deception with the same motion as a fastball
¹chan·nel \'chan-ᵊl\ *n* [ME *chanel*, fr. OF, fr. L *canalis* channel — more at CANAL] **1 a** : the bed where a natural stream of water runs **b** : the deeper part of a river, harbor, or strait **c** : a strait or narrow sea between two close land masses **d** (1) : a means of communication or expression ⟨the ~*s* between government and industry should be kept open⟩ (2) : a path along which data passes or along which data may be stored serially (as in a computer) **e** *pl* : a fixed or official course of communication ⟨went through established military ~*s* with his grievances⟩ **f** : a way, course, or direction of thought or action ⟨new ~*s* of exploration⟩ **g** : a band of frequencies of sufficient width for a single radio or television communication **2** : a usu. tubular enclosed passage : CONDUIT **3** : a long gutter, groove, or furrow **4** : a metal bar of flattened U-shaped section
²channel *vt* **-neled** *or* **-nelled; -nel·ing** *or* **-nel·ling** **1 a** : to form, cut, or wear a channel in **b** : to make a groove in ⟨~ a chair leg⟩ **2** : to convey into or through a channel ⟨~ his energy into constructive activities⟩
³channel *n* [alter. of *chainwale*, fr. *chain* + *wale*] : one of the flat ledges of heavy plank or metal bolted edgewise to the outside of a ship to increase the spread of the shrouds
channel bass *n* : a large coppery drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) with a black spot at the base of the tail that is an important game and food fish of the Atlantic coast of No. and So. America — called also *redfish*
chan·nel·ize \'chan-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : CHANNEL — **chan·nel·iza·tion** \ˌchan-ᵊl-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*
chan·son \shäⁿ-sōⁿ\ *n, pl* **chan·sons** \-sōⁿ(z)\ [F, fr. L *cantion-*, *cantio*, fr. *cantus*, pp.] : SONG; *specif* : a music-hall or cabaret song
chan·son de geste \-sōⁿ-də-zhest\ *n, pl* **chansons de geste** *same*\ [F, lit., song of heroic deeds] : any of several Old French epic poems of the 11th to the 13th centuries
chan·son·nier \ˌshäⁿ-sō-'nyā\ *n* [F, fr. *chanson*] : a writer or singer of chansons; *esp* : a cabaret singer
¹chant \'chant\ *vb* [ME *chaunten*, fr. MF *chanter*, fr. L *cantare*, fr. *cantus*, pp. of *canere*; akin to OE *hana* rooster, Gk *kanachē* ringing sound] *vi* **1** : to make melodic sounds with the voice; *esp* : to sing a chant **2** : to recite in a monotonous repetitive tone ~ *vt* **1** : to utter as in chanting **2** : to celebrate or praise in song or chant
²chant *n* **1** : SONG **2 a** : a repetitive liturgical melody in which as many syllables are assigned to each tone as required **b** : a rhythmic monotonous utterance or song ⟨the ~ of an auctioneer⟩ **c** : a composition for chanting
chant·er \'chant-ər\ *n* **1** : one that chants: **a** : CHORISTER **b** : CANTOR **2** : the chief singer in a chantry **3** : the reed pipe of a bagpipe with finger holes on which the melody is played — **chantress** \'chan-trəs\ *n*
chan·te·relle \ˌshant-ə-'rel, ˌshänt-\ *n* [F] : an edible mushroom (*Cantharellus cibarius*) of rich yellow color and pleasant aroma
chan·teuse \shäⁿ-'tə(r)z, shan-'tüz\ *n, pl* **chan·teuses** \-'tə(r)z(-əz), -'tüz(-əz)\ [F, fem. of *chanteur* singer, fr. *chanter*] : a female concert or nightclub singer
chan·tey *or* **chan·ty** \'shant-ē, 'chant-\ *n, pl* **chanteys** *or* **chanties** [modif. of F *chanter*] : a song sung by sailors in rhythm with their work
chan·ti·cleer \ˌchant-ə-'kli(ə)r, ˌshant-\ *n* [ME *Chantecleer*, rooster in verse narratives, fr. OF *Chantecler*, rooster in the *Roman de Renart*] : ¹COCK 1
Chan·til·ly lace \shan-ˌtil-ē-\ *n* [trans. of F *dentelle de Chantilly*, fr. *Chantilly*, France] : a delicate silk, linen, or synthetic lace having a six-sided mesh ground and a floral or scrolled design — called also *Chantilly*
chan·try \'chan-trē\ *n, pl* **chantries** [ME *chanterie*, fr. MF, singing, fr. *chanter*] **1** : an endowment for the chanting of masses commonly for the founder **2** : a chapel endowed by a chantry
Cha·nu·kah \'k̲än-ə-kə, 'hän-\ *var of* HANUKKAH
cha·os \'kā-ˌäs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk — more at GUM] **1** *obs* : CHASM, ABYSS **2 a** *often cap* : a state of things in which chance is supreme; *esp* : the confused unorganized state of primordial matter before the creation of distinct forms — compare COSMOS **b** : a state of utter confusion ⟨the citywide blackout caused ~⟩ **c** : a confused mass or heterogeneous agglomeration ⟨a ~ of television antennas⟩ — **cha·ot·ic** \kā-'ät-ik\ *adj* — **cha·ot·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
¹chap \'chap\ *n* [short for *chapman*] **1** : FELLOW **2** *South & Midland* : BABY, CHILD
²chap *vb* **chapped; chap·ping** [ME *chappen*; akin to MD *cappen* to cut down] *vt* : to cause to open in slits or cracks ⟨*chapped* lips⟩ ~ *vi* : to open in slits or chinks : CRACK ⟨the hands and lips often ~ in winter⟩
³chap *n* : a crack in or a sore roughening of the skin caused by exposure to wind or cold
⁴chap \'chäp, 'chap\ *n* [²*chap*] **1 a** : the fleshy covering of a jaw; *also* : JAW — usu. used in pl. ⟨the wolf's ~*s* were smeared with blood⟩ **2** : the forepart of the face — usu. used in pl.
⁵chap *abbr* chapter
chap·a·ra·jos *or* **chap·a·re·jos** \ˌshap-ə-'rā-(ˌ)ōs, -əs\ *n pl* [MexSp *chaparreras*] : CHAPS
chap·ar·ral \ˌshap-ə-'ral, -'rel\ *n* [Sp. fr. *chaparro* dwarf evergreen oak, fr. Basque *txapar*] **1** : a thicket of dwarf evergreen oaks; *broadly* : a dense impenetrable thicket of shrubs or dwarf trees **2** : an ecological community occurring widely in southern California and comprised of shrubby plants esp. adapted to dry summers and moist winters
chaparral bird *n* : ROADRUNNER — called also *chaparral cock*
chaparral pea *n* **1** : a thorny California leguminous shrub (*Pickeringia montana*) forming dense thickets
chap·book \'chap-ˌbu̇k\ *n* [*chap*man + *book*] : a small book containing ballads, tales, or tracts
chape \'chāp, 'chap\ *n* [ME, scabbard, fr. MF, cape, fr. LL *cappa*] : the metal mounting or trimming of a scabbard or sheath
cha·peau \sha-'pō, shə-\ *n, pl* **cha·peaus** \-'pōz\ *or* **cha·peaux** \-'pō(z)\ [MF, fr. OF *chapel* — more at CHAPLET] : HAT
cha·pel \'chap-əl\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *chapele*, fr. ML *cappella*, fr. dim. of LL *cappa* cloak; fr. the cloak of St. Martin of Tours preserved as a sacred relic in a chapel built for that purpose] **1** : a subordinate or private place of worship: as **a** : a place of worship serving a residence or institution **b** : a small house of worship usu. related to a main church **c** : a room or recess in a church for meditation and prayer or small religious services **2** : a choir of singers belonging to a chapel (as of a prince) **3** : a chapel service or assembly at a school or college **4** : an association of the employees in a printing office **5** : a place of worship used by a Christian group

other than an established church ⟨a nonconformist ~⟩ **6 a** : FUNERAL HOME **b** : a room for funeral services in a funeral home
chapel of ease : a chapel or dependent church built to accommodate an expanding parish
[1]chap·er·on *or* **chap·er·one** \'shap-ə-ˌrōn\ *n* [F *chaperon*, lit., hood, fr. MF, head covering, fr. *chape*] **1** : a person (as a matron) who for propriety accompanies one or more young unmarried women in public or in mixed company **2** : an older person who accompanies young people at a social gathering to ensure proper behavior; *broadly* : one delegated to ensure proper behavior
[2]chaperon *or* **chaperone** *vb* **-oned; -on·ing** *vt* **1** : ESCORT **2** : to act as chaperon to or for ~ *vi* : to act as a chaperon — **chap·er·on·age** \-ˌrō-nij\ *n*
chap·fall·en \'chap-ˌfȯ-lən, 'chäp-\ *adj* **1** : having the lower jaw hanging loosely **2** : cast down in spirit : DEPRESSED
chap·i·ter \'chap-ət-ər\ *n* [ME *chapitre*, fr. MF, alter. of OF *chapitle*, fr. L *capitulum*, lit., little head] : the capital of a column
chap·lain \'chap-lən\ *n* [ME *chapelain*, fr. OF, fr. ML *cappellanus*, fr. *cappella*] **1** : a clergyman in charge of a chapel **2** : a clergyman officially attached to a branch of the military, to an institution, or to a family or court **3** : a person chosen to conduct religious exercises (as at a meeting of a club or society) **4** : a clergyman appointed to assist a bishop (as at a liturgical function) — **chap·lain·cy** \-sē\ *n* — **chap·lain·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
chap·let \'chap-lət\ *n* [ME *chapelet*, fr. MF, fr. OF, dim. of *chapel* hat, garland, fr. ML *cappellus* head covering, fr. LL *cappa*] **1** : a wreath to be worn on the head **2 a** : a string of beads **b** : a part of a rosary comprising five decades **3** : a small molding carved with small decorative forms — **chap·let·ed** \-lət-əd\ *adj*
Chap·lin·esque \ˌchap-lə-'nesk\ *adj* : resembling or suggesting the largely pantomime comedy of the motion-picture comedian Charles Chaplin
chap·man \'chap-mən\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *cēapman*, fr. *cēap* trade + *man*] **1** *archaic* : MERCHANT, TRADER **2** *Brit* : an itinerant dealer : PEDDLER
chaps \'shaps\ *n pl* [modif. of MexSp *chaparreras*] : leather leggings joined together by a belt or lacing, often having flared outer flaps, and worn over the trousers esp. by western ranch hands
chap·ter \'chap-tər\ *n* [ME *chapitre* division of a book, meeting of canons, fr. OF, fr. LL *capitulum* division of a book & ML, meeting place of canons, fr. L, dim. of *capit-, caput* head — more at HEAD] **1 a** : a main division of a book **b** : something resembling a chapter in being a significant specified unit ⟨with his death a ~ was closed in the history of the industry⟩ **2 a** : a regular meeting of the canons of a cathedral or collegiate church or of the members of a religious house **b** : the body of canons of a cathedral or collegiate church **3** : a local branch of a society or fraternity
chapter house *n* **1** : the building or rooms where a chapter meets **2** : the residence of a local chapter of a fraternity or sorority
[1]char \'chär\ *n, pl* **char** *or* **chars** [origin unknown] : any of a genus (*Salvelinus*) of small-scaled trouts
[2]char *vb* **charred; char·ring** [back-formation fr. *charcoal*] *vt* **1** : to convert to charcoal or carbon usu. by heat : BURN **2** : to burn slightly or partly : SCORCH ⟨the fire *charred* the beams⟩ ~ *vi* : to become charred : BURN
[3]char *n* : a charred substance : CHARCOAL; specif : a combustible residue remaining after the destructive distillation of coal
[4]char *vi* **charred; char·ring** [back-formation fr. *charwoman*] : to work as a cleaning woman
[5]char *n* [short for *charwoman*] *Brit* : CHARWOMAN
char·a·banc \'shar-ə-baŋ\ *n* [F *char à bancs*, lit., wagon with benches] *Brit* : a sightseeing motor coach
char·a·cin \'kar-ə-sən\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *charak-, charax* pointed stake, a fish] : any of a family (Characidae) of usu. small brightly colored tropical fishes — **characin** *adj*
[1]char·ac·ter \'kar-ik-tər\ *n* [ME *caracter*, fr. MF *caractère*, fr. L *character* mark, distinctive quality, fr. Gk *charaktēr, fr. charassein* to scratch, engrave; akin to Lith *žerti* to scratch] **1 a** : a conventionalized graphic device placed on an object as an indication of ownership, origin, or relationship **b** : a graphic symbol (as a hieroglyph or alphabet letter) used in writing or printing **c** : a magical or astrological emblem **d** : ALPHABET **e** (1) : WRITING, PRINTING (2) : style of writing or printing (3) : CIPHER **f** : a symbol (as a letter or number) that represents information; *also* : a representation of such a character that may be accepted by a computer **2 a** : one of the attributes or features that make up and distinguish the individual **b** (1) : a feature used to separate distinguishable things into categories; *also* : a group or kind so separated ⟨people of this ~⟩ ⟨advertising of a very primitive ~⟩ (2) : the detectable expression of the action of a gene or group of genes (3) : the aggregate of distinctive qualities characteristic of a breed, strain, or type ⟨a wine of great ~⟩ **c** : the complex of mental and ethical traits marking and often individualizing a person, group, or nation ⟨assess a person's ~ by studying his handwriting⟩ **d** : main or essential nature esp. as strongly marked and serving to distinguish ⟨excess sewage gradually changed the ~ of the lake⟩ **3** : POSITION, CAPACITY ⟨his ~ as a town official⟩ **4** : a short literary sketch of the qualities of a social type **5** : REFERENCE 4b **6 a** : a person marked by notable or conspicuous traits : PERSONAGE ⟨a notorious campus ~⟩ **b** : one of the persons of a drama or novel **c** : the personality or part which an actor recreates **d** : characterization esp. in drama or fiction **e** : PERSON, INDIVIDUAL ⟨some ~ just stole her purse⟩ **7** : REPUTATION **8** : moral excellence and firmness ⟨a man of sound ~⟩ ***syn*** see DISPOSITION, TYPE — **character·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **in character** : in accord with a person's usual qualities or traits — **out of character** : not in accord with a person's usual qualities or traits
[2]character *vt* **1** *archaic* : ENGRAVE, INSCRIBE **2 a** *archaic* : REPRESENT, PORTRAY **b** : CHARACTERIZE
[3]character *adj* **1** : capable of portraying an unusual or eccentric personality often markedly different (as in age) from the player ⟨a ~ actor⟩ **2** : requiring the qualities of a character actor ⟨a ~ role⟩
character assassination *n* : the slandering of a person (as a public figure) with the intention of destroying public confidence in him
char·ac·ter·ful \'kar-ik-tər-fəl\ *adj* **1** : markedly expressive of character ⟨a ~ face⟩ **2** : marked by character ⟨a ~ decision⟩
[1]char·ac·ter·is·tic \ˌkar-ik-tə-'ris-tik\ *adj* : serving to reveal and distinguish the individual character — **char·ac·ter·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
syn CHARACTERISTIC, INDIVIDUAL, PECULIAR, DISTINCTIVE *shared meaning element* : revealing a special quality or identity
[2]characteristic *n* **1** : a distinguishing trait, quality, or property **2** : the integral part of a common logarithm **3** : the smallest positive integer *n* which for an operation in a ring or field yields 0 when any element is used *n* times with the operation
characteristic equation *n* : an equation in which the characteristic polynomial of a matrix is set equal to 0
characteristic polynomial *n* : the determinant of a square matrix in which an arbitrary variable (as *x*) is subtracted from each of the elements along the principal diagonal
characteristic root *n* : a scalar such that for a linear transformation of a vector space there is some nonzero vector that when multiplied by the scalar is equal to the vector obtained by letting the transformation operate on the vector; *esp* : a root of the characteristic equation of a matrix — called also *characteristic value, eigenvalue*
characteristic vector *n* : a nonzero vector that is mapped by a linear transformation of a vector space onto a vector that is the product of a scalar multiplied by the original vector — called also *eigenvector*
char·ac·ter·iza·tion \ˌkar-ik-t(ə-)rə-'zā-shən\ *n* : the act of characterizing; *esp* : the artistic representation (as in fiction or drama) of human character or motives
char·ac·ter·ize \'kar-ik-tə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to describe the character or quality of : DELINEATE ⟨*characterized* him as soft-spoken yet ambitious⟩ **2** : to be a characteristic of : DISTINGUISH ⟨a cool light fragrance ~*s* the cologne⟩
char·ac·ter·olog·i·cal \ˌkar-ik-t(ə-)rə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* [*characterology* (study of character)] : of, relating to, or based on character or the study of character including its development and its differences in different individuals — **char·ac·ter·olog·i·cal·ly** \-'läj-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
character sketch *n* : a sketch dealing with a character usu. of marked individuality
character witness *n* : one that gives evidence concerning the reputation, conduct, and moral nature of a party to a legal action
char·ac·tery \'kar-ik-t(ə-)rē, kə-'rak-\ *n, pl* **-ter·ies** : a system of written letters or symbols used in the expression of thought
cha·rade \shə-'rād\ *n* [F] **1** : a word represented in riddling verse or by picture, tableau, or dramatic action **2** *pl* : a game in which each syllable of a word or phrase is acted out by some of the persons playing the game while the others try to guess the word or phrase **3** : an almost transparent pretense
cha·ras \'chär-əs\ *n* [Hindi *caras*] : HASHISH
char·coal \'chär-ˌkōl\ *n* [ME *charcole*] **1** : a dark or black porous carbon prepared from vegetable or animal substances (as from wood by charring in a kiln from which air is excluded) **2 a** : a piece or pencil of fine charcoal used in drawing **b** : a charcoal drawing
chard \'chärd\ *n* [F *carde*, fr. OProv *cardo* edible cardoon, fr. L *carduus* thistle, artichoke; akin to MLG *harst* rake, L *carrere* to card] : a beet (*Beta vulgaris cicla*) whose large leaves and succulent stalks are often cooked as a vegetable — called also *Swiss chard*
chare \'cha(ə)r, 'che(ə)r\ *or* **char** \'chär\ *n* [ME *char* turn, piece of work, fr. OE *cierr;* akin to OE *cierran* to turn] : CHORE ⟨the peasant who does the humblest ~*s* — Thomas De Quincey⟩
[1]charge \'chärj\ *vb* **charged; charg·ing** [ME *chargen*, fr. OF *chargier*, fr. LL *carricare*, fr. L *carrus* wheeled vehicle — more at CAR] *vt* **1 a** *archaic* : to lay or put a load on or in : LOAD **b** (1) : to place a charge (as of powder) in (2) : to load or fill to capacity **c** (1) : to restore the active materials in (a storage battery) by the passage of a direct current through in the opposite direction to that of discharge (2) : to give an electric charge to **d** (1) : to assume as a heraldic bearing (2) : to place a heraldic bearing on **e** : to fill or furnish fully ⟨a mind *charged* with fancies⟩ ⟨the music is *charged* with excitement⟩ **2 a** : to impose a task or responsibility on ⟨~ him with the job of finding a new meeting place⟩ **b** : to command, instruct, or exhort with right or authority ⟨I ~ you not to accept the gift⟩ **c** : to give a charge to (a jury) — used of a judge **3 a** : BLAME ⟨~*s* him as the instigator⟩ **b** : to make an assertion against esp. by ascribing guilt for an offense : ACCUSE ⟨~*s* him with armed robbery⟩ ⟨~*s* them with hypocrisy⟩ **c** : to place the guilt or blame for ⟨~ her failure to negligence⟩ **d** : to assert as an accusation ⟨~*s* that he distorted the data⟩ **4 a** : to bring (a weapon) into position for attack : LEVEL ⟨~ a lance⟩ **b** : to rush against or bear down upon : ATTACK; *also* : to rush into (an opponent) usu. illegally in various games or sports **5 a** (1) : to impose a pecuniary burden on ⟨~ his estate with debts incurred⟩ (2) : to impose or record as pecuniary obligation ⟨~ debts to an estate⟩ **b** (1) : to fix or ask as fee or payment ⟨~*s* $10 for an office visit⟩ (2) : to ask payment of (a person) ⟨~ a client for expenses⟩ **c** : to record (an item) as an expense, debt, obligation, or liability ⟨~ a purchase to a customer⟩ ⟨~ a library book to a borrower⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to rush forward in or as if in assault : ATTACK; *also* : to charge an opponent in sports **2** : to ask or set a price **3** : to charge an item to an account ⟨~ now, pay later⟩ ***syn*** see COMMAND

²charge *n* **1 a** *obs* : a material load or weight **b** : a figure borne on a heraldic field **2 a** : the quantity that an apparatus is intended to receive and fitted to hold **b** : a store or accumulation of impelling force ⟨the deeply emotional ~ of the drama⟩ **c** : a definite quantity of electricity; *esp* : an excess or deficiency of electrons in a body **d** : THRILL, KICK ⟨got a ~ out of the game⟩ **3 a** : OBLIGATION, REQUIREMENT **b** : MANAGEMENT, SUPERVISION ⟨has ~ of the home office⟩ **c** : the ecclesiastical jurisdiction (as a parish) committed to a clergyman **d** : a person or thing committed to the care of another **4 a** : INSTRUCTION, COMMAND **b** : instruction in points of law given by a court to a jury **5 a** : EXPENSE, COST ⟨gave the banquet at his own ~⟩ **b** : the price demanded for something ⟨no admission ~⟩ **c** : a debit to an account ⟨the purchase was a ~⟩ **d** : the record of a loan (as of a book from a library) **6 a** : ACCUSATION, INDICTMENT ⟨a ~ of assault with intent to kill⟩ **b** : a statement of complaint or hostile criticism ⟨denied the ~*s* of nepotism that were leveled against him⟩ **7** : a violent rush forward (as to attack) — **in charge** : having control or custody of something ⟨he is *in charge* of the training program⟩

charge·able \'chär-jə-bəl\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : financially burdensome : EXPENSIVE **2 a** : liable to be accused or held responsible **b** : suitable to be charged to a particular account **c** : qualified to be made a charge on the county or parish — **charge·able·ness** *n*

charge account *n* : a customer's account with a creditor (as a merchant) to which the purchase of goods is charged

charge–a–plate \'chär-jə-ˌplāt\ *or* **charge plate** *n* [fr. *Charga-plate*, a trademark] : an embossed address plate used by a customer when buying on credit

charged \'chärjd\ *adj* **1** : possessing strong emotion or vigorous purpose ⟨attacked the author in an emotionally ~ review⟩ **2** : capable of arousing strong emotion ⟨a highly ~ political theme⟩

char·gé d'af·faires \(ˌ)shär-ˌzhād-ə-ˈfa(ə)r, -ˈfe(ə)r\ *n, pl* **chargés d'affaires** \-ˌzhād-ə-, -ˌzhāz-də-\ [F, lit., one charged with affairs] **1** : a subordinate diplomat who substitutes for an ambassador or minister in his absence **2** : a diplomat inferior in rank to an ambassador or minister and accredited by one government to the foreign minister of another

charge of quarters : an enlisted man designated to handle administrative matters in his unit esp. after duty hours

¹char·ger \'chär-jər\ *n* [ME *chargeour;* akin to ME *chargen* to charge] *archaic* : a large flat platter for carrying meat

²charg·er *n* **1** : one that charges: as **a** : an appliance for holding or inserting a charge of powder or shot in a gun **b** : a cartridge clip **2** : a horse for battle or parade

char·i·ness \'char-ē-nəs, 'cher-\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of being chary : CAUTION **2** : carefully preserved state : INTEGRITY

¹char·i·ot \'char-ē-ət\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *char* wheeled vehicle, fr. L *carrus*] **1** : a light 4-wheeled pleasure or state carriage **2** : a 2-wheeled horse-drawn battle car of ancient times used also in processions and races



chariot 2

²chariot *vt* : to carry in or as if in a chariot ~ *vi* : to drive or ride in or as if in a chariot

char·i·o·teer \ˌchar-ē-ə-ˈti(ə)r\ *n* **1** : one who drives a chariot **2** *cap* : the constellation Auriga

cha·ris·ma \kə-ˈriz-mə\ *also* **char·ism** \ˈka(ə)r-ˌiz-əm\ *n, pl* **cha·ris·ma·ta** \kə-ˈriz-mət-ə\ *also* **charisms** [Gk *charisma* favor, gift, fr. *charizesthai* to favor, fr. *charis* grace; akin to Gk *chairein* to rejoice — more at YEARN] **1** : an extraordinary power (as of healing) given a Christian by the Holy Spirit for the good of the church **2 a** : a personal magic of leadership arousing special popular loyalty or enthusiasm for a public figure (as a political leader or military commander) **b** : a special magnetic charm or appeal ⟨the ~ of a popular actor⟩ — **char·is·mat·ic** \ˌkar-əz-ˈmat-ik\ *adj*

char·i·ta·ble \'char-ət-ə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : full of love for and goodwill toward others : BENEVOLENT **2 a** : liberal in benefactions to the poor : GENEROUS **b** : of or relating to charity ⟨~ institutions⟩ **3** : merciful or kind in judging others : LENIENT — **char·i·ta·ble·ness** *n* — **char·i·ta·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

char·i·ty \'char-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *charite*, fr. OF *charité*, fr. LL *caritat-, caritas* Christian love, fr. L, dearness, fr. *carus* dear; akin to Skt *kāma* love] **1** : benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity **2 a** : kindly liberality and helpfulness esp. toward the needy or suffering; *also* : aid given to those in need **b** : an institution engaged in relief of the poor **c** : public provision for the relief of the needy **3 a** : a gift for public benevolent purposes **b** : an institution (as a hospital) founded by such a gift **4** : lenient judgment of others ***syn*** see MERCY ***ant*** malice, ill will

cha·ri·va·ri \ˌshiv-ə-ˈrē, ˈshiv-ə-ˌ\ *n* [F, fr. LL *caribaria* headache, fr. Gk *karēbaria*, fr. *kara, karē* head + *barys* heavy — more at CEREBRAL, GRIEVE] : SHIVAREE

char·ka *or* **char·kha** \ˈchər-kə, ˈchär-\ *n* [Hindi *carkha*] : a domestic spinning wheel used in India chiefly for spinning cotton

char·la·tan \ˈshär-lə-tən, -lət-ᵊn\ *n* [It *ciarlatano*, alter. of *cerretano*, lit., inhabitant of Cerreto, fr. *Cerreto*, village in Italy] **1** : QUACK 1 ⟨~*s* killing their patients with empirical procedures⟩ **2** : one making usu. noisy or showy pretenses to knowledge or ability : FRAUD, FAKER — **char·la·tan·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* — **char·la·tan·ry** \-rē\ *n*

Charles's Wain \ˌchärl-zəz-ˈwān, ˈchärlz-ˈwān\ *n* [*Charlemagne*] : the Big Dipper

Charles·ton \ˈchärl-stən\ *n* [*Charleston*, S. C.] : a lively ballroom dance in which the knees are twisted in and out and the heels are swung sharply outward on each step

char·ley horse \ˈchär-lē-ˌhȯrs\ *n* [fr. *Charley*, nickname for *Charles*] : a muscular strain or bruise esp. of the quadriceps that is characterized by pain and stiffness

Char·lie \ˈchär-lē\ [fr. the name *Charlie*] — a communications code word for the letter *c*

char·lock \ˈchär-ˌläk, -lək\ *n* [ME *cherlok*, fr. OE *cerlic*] : a wild mustard (*Brassica kaber*) that is often troublesome in grainfields

char·lotte \ˈshär-lət\ *n* [F] : a dessert consisting of a filling (as of fruit, whipped cream, or custard) placed over cake, ladyfingers, or strips of bread

char·lotte russe \ˌshär-lət-ˈrüs\ *n* [F, lit., Russian charlotte] : a charlotte made with sponge cake or ladyfingers and a whipped-cream or custard-gelatin filling

¹charm \ˈchärm\ *n* [ME *charme*, fr. OF, fr. L *carmen* song, fr. *canere* to sing — more at CHANT] **1 a** : the chanting or reciting of a magic spell : INCANTATION **b** : an act or expression believed to have magic power **2** : something worn about the person to ward off evil or ensure good fortune : AMULET **3 a** : a trait that fascinates, allures, or delights **b** : a physical grace or attraction — used in pl. **c** : compelling attractiveness ⟨the island possessed great ~⟩ **4** : a small ornament worn on a bracelet or chain ***syn*** see FETISH — **charm·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

²charm *vt* **1 a** : to affect by or as if by magic : COMPEL **b** : to please, soothe, or delight by compelling attraction ⟨~*s* women with his suave manner⟩ **2** : to endow with supernatural powers by means of charms; *also* : to protect by spells, charms, or supernatural influences **3** : to control (an animal) typically by charms (as the playing of music) ⟨~ a snake⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to practice magic and enchantment **2** : to have the effect of a charm : FASCINATE ***syn*** see ATTRACT ***ant*** disgust

charm·er \ˈchär-mər\ *n* **1** : ENCHANTER, MAGICIAN **2** : one that pleases or fascinates; *esp* : an attractive woman

charm·ing \ˈchär-miŋ\ *adj* : extremely pleasing or delightful : ENTRANCING — **charm·ing·ly** \-miŋ-lē\ *adv*

charm school *n* : a school or course of instruction in which social graces are taught

char·nel \ˈchärn-ᵊl\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. ML *carnale*, fr. LL, neut. of *carnalis* of the flesh — more at CARNAL] : a building or chamber in which bodies or bones are deposited — called also *charnel house* — **charnel** *adj*

Cha·ro·lais \ˌshar-ə-ˈlā\ *n* [*Charolais*, district in eastern France] : any of a French breed of large white cattle used primarily for beef and crossbreeding

Char·on \ˈkar-ən, ˈker-\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Charōn*] : a son of Erebus who in Greek myth ferries the souls of the dead over the Styx

char·poy \ˈchär-ˌpȯi\ *n, pl* **charpoys** [Hindi *cārpāī*] : a bed consisting of a frame strung with tapes or light rope that is used esp. in India

char·qui \ˈchär-kē, ˈshär-\ *n* [Sp, fr. Quechua *ch'arki* dried meat] : jerked beef

charr \ˈchär\ *var of* CHAR

¹chart \ˈchärt\ *n* [MF *charte*, fr. L *charta* piece of papyrus, document — more at CARD] **1** : MAP: as **a** : an outline map exhibiting something (as climatic or magnetic variations) in its geographical aspects **b** : a map for the use of navigators **2 a** : a sheet giving information in tabular form **b** : GRAPH **c** : DIAGRAM **d** : a sheet of paper ruled and graduated for use in a recording instrument

²chart *vt* **1** : to make a map or chart of **2** : to lay out a plan for

char·ta·ceous \kär-ˈtā-shəs\ *adj* : resembling or made of paper ⟨a ~ plant part⟩

¹char·ter \ˈchärt-ər\ *n* [ME *chartre*, fr. OF, fr. ML *chartula*, fr. L, dim. of *charta*] **1** : a written instrument or contract (as a deed) executed in due form **2 a** : a grant or guarantee of rights, franchises, or privileges from the sovereign power of a state or country **b** : an instrument in writing creating and defining the franchises of a city, educational institution, or corporation **c** : CONSTITUTION **3** : an instrument in writing from the authorities of a society creating a lodge or branch **4** : a special privilege, immunity, or exemption **5** : a mercantile lease of a ship or some principal part of it

²charter *vt* **1 a** : to establish, enable, or convey by charter **b** *Brit* : CERTIFY ⟨a ~*ed* mechanical engineer⟩ **2** : to hire, rent, or lease for usu. exclusive and temporary use ⟨~*ed* a boat for deep-sea fishing⟩ ***syn*** see HIRE — **char·ter·er** \-ər-ər\ *n*

³charter *adj* : of, relating to, or being a travel arrangement in which transportation (as a bus or plane) is hired by and for one specific group of people ⟨a ~ flight⟩

chartered accountant *n, Brit* : a member of a chartered institute of accountants

charter member *n* : an original member of a society or corporation — **charter membership** *n*

Char·tism \ˈchärt-ˌiz-əm\ *n* [ML *charta* charter, fr. L, document] : the principles and practices of a body of 19th century English political reformers advocating better social and industrial conditions for the working classes — **Char·tist** \ˈchärt-əst\ *n*

chart·ist \ˈchärt-əst\ *n* **1** : CARTOGRAPHER **2** : an analyst of market action whose predictions of market courses are based on study of graphic presentations of past market performance

char·treuse \shär-ˈtrüz, -ˈtrüs\ *n* [*Chartreuse*] : a variable color averaging a brilliant yellow green

Chartreuse *trademark* —used for a usu. green or yellow liqueur

char·tu·lary \ˈkär-chə-ˌler-ē\ *n, pl* **-lar·ies** [ML *chartularium*] : CARTULARY

char·wom·an \ˈchär-ˌwům-ən\ *n* [*chare* + *woman*] **1** *Brit* : a woman hired to char **2** : a cleaning woman esp. in a large building

chary \ˈcha(ə)r-ē, ˈche(ə)r-\ *adj* **chari·er; -est** [ME, sorrowful, dear, fr. OE *cearig* sorrowful, fr. *caru* sorrow — more at CARE] **1** *archaic* : DEAR, TREASURED **2** : discreetly cautious: as **a** : hesitant and vigilant about dangers and risks **b** : slow to grant, accept, or expend ⟨a man very ~ of compliments⟩ ***syn*** see CAUTIOUS — **cha·ri·ly** \ˈchar-ə-lē, ˈcher-\ *adv*

Cha·ryb·dis \kə-ˈrib-dəs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk] : a daughter of Poseidon and Gaea thrown into the sea off Sicily by Zeus where by swallowing and spewing water she created a whirlpool — compare SCYLLA

¹chase \ˈchās\ *vb* **chased; chas·ing** [ME *chasen*, fr. MF *chasser*, fr. (assumed) VL *captiare* — more at CATCH] *vt* **1 a** : to follow rapidly : PURSUE **b** : HUNT **c** : to follow regularly or persistently with the intention of attracting or alluring ⟨he's too old to be *chasing* women⟩ **2** *obs* : HARASS **3** : to seek out — often used with

down ⟨detectives *chasing* down clues⟩ **4** : to cause to depart or flee : DRIVE ⟨~ the dog out of the pantry⟩ **5** : to cause the removal of (a baseball pitcher) by a batting rally ~ *vi* **1** : to chase an animal, person, or thing ⟨~ after material possessions⟩ **2** : RUSH, HASTEN ⟨*chased* all over town looking for a place to stay⟩ ***syn*** see FOLLOW

²chase *n* **1 a** : the act of chasing : PURSUIT **b** : the hunting of wild animals — used with *the* **c** : an earnest or frenzied seeking after something desired **2** : something pursued : QUARRY **3 a** : a franchise to hunt within certain limits of land **b** : a tract of unenclosed land used as a game preserve **4** : a sequence (as in a movie) in which the characters pursue one another

³chase *vt* **chased; chas·ing** [ME *chassen*, modif. of MF *enchasser* to set] **1 a** : to ornament (metal) by indenting with a hammer and tools without a cutting edge **b** : to make by such indentation **c** : to set with gems **2 a** : GROOVE, INDENT **b** : to cut (a thread) with a chaser

⁴chase *n* [F *chas* eye of a needle, fr. LL *capsus* enclosed space, fr. L, pen, alter. of *capsa* box — more at CASE] **1** : GROOVE, FURROW **2** : the bore of a cannon **3 a** : TRENCH **b** : a channel (as in a wall) for something to lie in or pass through

⁵chase *n* [prob. fr. F *châsse* frame, fr. L *capsa*] : a rectangular steel or iron frame into which letterpress matter is locked for printing or plating — compare FORM

¹chas·er \'chā-sər\ *n* **1** : one that chases **2** : a mild drink (as beer) taken after hard liquor

²chaser *n* : a skilled worker who produces ornamental chasing

³chaser *n* : a tool for cutting screw threads

Cha·sid \'has-əd, 'käs-\ *n, pl* **Cha·si·dim** \'has-əd-əm, kä-'sēd-\ *var of* HASID

chasm \'kaz-əm\ *n* [L *chasma*, fr. Gk; akin to L *hiare* to yawn — more at YAWN] **1** : a deep cleft in the earth : GORGE **2** : a marked division, separation, or difference ⟨a political ~ between the two countries⟩

¹chas·sé \sha-'sā\ *vi* **chas·séd; chas·sé·ing** [F, n., fr. pp. of *chasser* to chase] **1** : to make a chassé **2** : SASHAY

²chassé *n* : a sliding dance step resembling the galop

chasse·pot \'shas-(ə-),pō\ *n* [F, fr. Antoine A. *Chassepot* †1905 F inventor] : a bolt-action rifle firing a paper cartridge

chas·seur \sha-'sər\ *n* [F, fr. MF *chasser*] **1** : HUNTER, HUNTSMAN **2** : one of a body of light cavalry or infantry trained for rapid maneuvering **3** : a liveried attendant : FOOTMAN

chas·sis \'shas-ē, 'chas-ē *also* 'chas-əs\ *n, pl* **chas·sis** \-ēz\ [F *châssis*, fr. (assumed) VL *capsicum*, fr. L *capsa* box — more at CASE] **1** : the frame upon which is mounted the body (as of an automobile or airplane), the working parts (as of a radio), the recoiling parts (of a cannon), or the roof, walls, floors, and facing (as of a building) **2** : the frame and working parts as opposed to the body (as of an automobile) or cabinet (as of a radio or television set)

chaste \'chāst\ *adj* **chast·er; chast·est** [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *castus* pure — more at CASTE] **1** : innocent of unlawful sexual intercourse **2** : CELIBATE **3** : pure in thought and act : MODEST **4** : severely simple in design or execution : AUSTERE ⟨the ~ hospital corridor⟩ ⟨~ poetry⟩ — **chaste·ly** *adv* — **chaste·ness** \'chās(t)-nəs\ *n*

syn CHASTE, PURE, MODEST, DECENT *shared meaning element* : free from all taint of what is lewd or salacious ***ant*** lewd, wanton, immoral

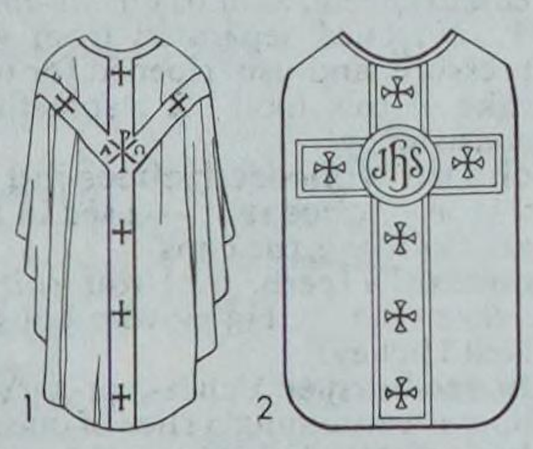
chas·ten \'chās-ᵊn\ *vt* **chas·tened; chas·ten·ing** \'chās-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ [alter. of obs. E *chaste* to chasten, fr. ME *chasten*, fr. OF *chastier*, fr. L *castigare*, fr. *castus* + *-igare* (fr. *agere* to drive) — more at ACT] **1** : to correct by punishment or suffering : DISCIPLINE; *also* : PURIFY **2** : to prune (as a work or style of art) of excess, pretense, or falsity : REFINE ***syn*** see PUNISH ***ant*** pamper, mollycoddle — **chas·ten·er** \'chās-nər, -ᵊn-ər\ *n*

chas·tise \(')chas-'tīz\ *vt* **chas·tised; chas·tis·ing** [ME *chastisen*, alter. of *chasten*] **1** : to inflict punishment on (as by whipping) **2** : to censure severely : CASTIGATE **3** *archaic* : CHASTEN 2 ***syn*** see PUNISH — **chas·tise·ment** \(')chas-'tīz-mənt *also* 'chas-təz-\ *n* — **chas·tis·er** \(')chas-'tī-zər\ *n*

chas·ti·ty \'chas-tət-ē\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of being chaste: as **a** : abstention from unlawful sexual intercourse **b** : abstention from all sexual intercourse **c** : purity in conduct and intention **d** : restraint and simplicity in design or expression **2** : personal integrity

chastity belt *n* : a belt device (as of medieval times) designed to prevent sexual intercourse on the part of the woman wearing it

cha·su·ble \'chaz(h)-ə-bəl, 'chas-ə-\ *n* [F, fr. LL *casubla* hooded garment] : a sleeveless outer vestment worn by the officiating priest at mass



chasubles: *1* Gothic *2* fiddleback

¹chat \'chat\ *vb* **chat·ted; chat·ting** [ME *chatten*, short for *chatteren*] *vi* **1** : CHATTER, PRATTLE **2** : to talk in an informal or familiar manner ~ *vt, Brit* : to talk to; *esp* : to talk lightly or glibly with — often used with *up*

²chat *n* **1** : idle small talk : CHATTER **2** : light familiar talk; *esp* : CONVERSATION **3** [imit.] : any of several songbirds (as of the genera *Saxicola* or *Icteria*)

châ·teau \sha-'tō\ *n, pl* **châ·teaus** \-'tōz\ *or* **châ·teaux** \-'tō(z)\ [F, fr. L *castellum* castle] **1** : a feudal castle or fortress in France **2** : a large country house : MANSION **3** : a French vineyard estate

cha·teau·bri·and \(,)sha-,tō-brē-'äⁿ\ *n, often cap* [François René de *Chateaubriand*] : a large tenderloin steak usu. grilled or broiled and served with a sauce (as béarnaise)

chat·e·lain \'shat-ᵊl-,ān\ *n* [MF *châtelain*, fr. L *castellanus* occupant of a castle] : CASTELLAN

chat·e·laine \'shat-ᵊl-,ān\ *n* [F *châtelaine*, fem. of *châtelain*] **1 a** : the wife of a castellan **b** : the mistress of a château **2** : a clasp or hook for a watch, purse, or bunch of keys

cha·toy·ance \shə-'tȯi-ən(t)s\ *n* : CHATOYANCY

cha·toy·an·cy \-ən-sē\ *n* : the quality or state of being chatoyant

¹cha·toy·ant \shə-'tȯi-ənt\ *adj* [F, fr. prp. of *chatoyer* to shine like a cat's eyes] : having a changeable luster or color with an undulating narrow band of white light ⟨a ~ gem⟩

²chatoyant *n* : a chatoyant gem

chat·tel \'chat-ᵊl\ *n* [ME *chatel* property, fr. OF, fr. ML *capitale* — more at CATTLE] **1** : an item of tangible movable or immovable property except real estate, freehold, and the things which are parcel of it : a piece of personal property **2** : SLAVE, BONDSMAN

¹chat·ter \'chat-ər\ *vb* [ME *chatteren*, of imit. origin] *vi* **1** : to utter rapidly succeeding sounds suggestive of language but inarticulate and indistinct ⟨squirrels ~*ed* angrily⟩ ⟨a ~*ing* stream⟩ **2** : to talk idly, incessantly, or fast : JABBER **3 a** : to click repeatedly or uncontrollably ⟨teeth ~*ing* with cold⟩ ⟨machine guns ~*ing*⟩ **b** *of a tool* : to vibrate rapidly in cutting **c** : to operate with an irregularity that causes rapid intermittent noise or vibration ⟨~*ing* brakes⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to utter rapidly, idly, or indistinctly **2** : to cut unevenly with a chattering tool

²chatter *n* **1** : the action or sound of chattering **2** : idle talk : PRATTLE

chat·ter·box \'chat-ər-,bäks\ *n* : one who engages in much idle talk

chat·ter·er \'chat-ər-ər\ *n* **1** : one that chatters **2** : any of various passerine birds (as a waxwing)

chatter mark *n* **1** : a fine undulation formed on the surface of work by a chattering tool **2** : one of a series of short curved cracks on a glaciated rock surface transverse to the glacial striae

chat·ty \'chat-ē\ *adj* **chat·ti·er; -est** **1** : fond of chatting : TALKATIVE ⟨a ~ neighbor⟩ **2** : having the style and manner of light familiar conversation ⟨a ~ letter⟩ — **chat·ti·ly** \'chat-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **chat·ti·ness** \'chat-ē-nəs\ *n*

¹chauf·feur \'shō-fər, shō-'\ *n* [F, lit., stoker, fr. *chauffer* to heat, fr. MF *chaufer* — more at CHAFE] **1** : a person employed to drive a motor vehicle **2** : one that transports others by operating a motor vehicle

²chauffeur *vb* **chauf·feured; chauf·feur·ing** \'shō-f(ə-)riŋ, shō-'fər-iŋ\ *vi* : to do the work of a chauffeur ~ *vt* **1** : to transport in the manner of a chauffeur ⟨~*s* the children to school⟩ **2** : to operate (as an automobile) as chauffeur

chaul·moo·gra \chȯl-'mü-grə\ *n* [Beng *cāulmugrā*] : any of several East Indian trees (family Flacourtiaceae) that yield an acrid oil used in treating leprosy and skin diseases

chaunt \'chȯnt, 'chänt\, **chaunter** *var of* CHANT, CHANTER

chaus·sure \shō-sūr\ *n, pl* **chaussures** *same*\ [ME *chaucer*, fr. MF *chaussure*] **1** : FOOTGEAR **2** *pl* : SHOES

chau·tau·qua \shə-'tȯ-kwə\ *n* [*Chautauqua* lake] : an institution of the late 19th and early 20th centuries providing popular education combined with entertainment in the form of lectures, concerts, and plays often presented outdoors or in a tent

chau·vin·ism \'shō-və-,niz-əm\ *n* [F *chauvinisme*, fr. Nicolas *Chauvin fl* 1815 F soldier of excessive patriotism and devotion to Napoleon] **1** : excessive or blind patriotism — compare JINGOISM **2** : undue partiality or attachment to a group or place to which one belongs or has belonged ⟨male ~⟩ — **chau·vin·ist** \-və-nəst\ *n* — **chau·vin·is·tic** \,shō-və-'nis-tik\ *adj* — **chau·vin·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

¹chaw \'chȯ\ *vb* [by alter.] *vt, dial* : to grind (as tobacco) with the teeth ~ *vi, dial* : CHEW

²chaw *n, dial* : a chew esp. of tobacco

¹cheap \'chēp\ *n* [ME *chep*, fr. OE *cēap* trade; akin to OHG *kouf* trade; both fr. a prehistoric Gmc stem borrowed fr. L *caupo* tradesman] *obs* : BARGAIN — **on the cheap** : at minimum expense : CHEAPLY ⟨schools that are run *on the cheap*⟩

²cheap *adj* **1 a** : purchasable below the going price or the real value **b** : charging a low price **c** : depreciated in value (as by currency inflation) ⟨~ dollars⟩ **2** : gained with little effort ⟨a ~ victory⟩ **3 a** : of inferior quality or worth : TAWDRY, SLEAZY **b** : contemptible because of lack of any fine, lofty, or redeeming qualities **c** : STINGY **4 a** : yielding small satisfaction **b** : paying or able to pay less than going prices **5** *of money* : obtainable at a low rate of interest **6** *Brit* : specially reduced in price ***syn*** see CONTEMPTIBLE ***ant*** noble — **cheap** *adv* — **cheap·ish** \'chē-pish\ *adj* — **cheap·ish·ly** *adv* — **cheap·ly** \'chēp-lē\ *adv* — **cheap·ness** *n*

cheap·en \'chē-pən\ *vb* **cheap·ened; cheap·en·ing** \'chēp-(ə-)niŋ\ *vt* **1** [obs. E *cheap* (to price, bid for)] *archaic* **a** : to ask the price of **b** : to bid or bargain for **2 a** : to make cheap in price or value **b** : to lower in general esteem **c** : to make tawdry, vulgar, or inferior ~ *vi* : to become cheap

cheap·ie \'chē-pē\ *n* : one that is cheap ⟨$8 and $15 tires — the ~*s* — *Nat'l Observer*⟩ — **cheapie** *adj*

¹cheap–jack \'chēp-,jak\ *n* [*cheap* + the name *Jack*] **1** : a haggling huckster **2** : a dealer in cheap merchandise

²cheap–jack *adj* **1** : being inferior, cheap, or worthless ⟨~ movie companies⟩ **2** : unscrupulously opportunistic ⟨~ speculators⟩

cheap·skate \-,skāt\ *n* : a miserly or stingy person; *esp* : one who tries to avoid his share of costs or expenses

¹cheat \'chēt\ *n* [earlier *cheat* forfeited property, fr. ME *chet* escheat, short for *eschete* — more at ESCHEAT] **1** : the act or an instance of fraudulently deceiving : DECEPTION, FRAUD **2** : one that cheats : PRETENDER, DECEIVER **3** : any of several grasses; *esp* : the common chess (*Bromus secalinus*) **4** : the obtaining of property from another by an intentional active distortion of the truth

²cheat *vt* **1** : to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud **2** : to influence or lead by deceit, trick, or artifice **3** : to defeat the purpose or blunt the effects of ⟨~ winter of its dreariness — Washington Irving⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to practice fraud or trickery **b** : to violate rules dishonestly (as at cards or on an examination) **2** : to be sexually unfaithful — often used with *on* — **cheat·er** *n*
syn CHEAT, COZEN, DEFRAUD, SWINDLE, OVERREACH *shared meaning element*: to get something by dishonest or deceitful means

¹check \'chek\ *n* [ME *chek*, fr. OF *eschec*, fr. Ar *shāh*, fr. Per, lit., king; akin to Gk *ktasthai* to acquire] **1** : exposure of a chess king to an attack from which he must be protected or moved to safety **2 a** : a sudden stoppage of a forward course or progress : ARREST **b** : a checking of an opposing player (as in ice hockey) **3** : a sudden pause or break in a progression **4** *archaic* : REPRIMAND, REBUKE **5** : one that arrests, limits, or restrains : RESTRAINT ⟨against all ~*s*, rebukes, and manners, I must advance — Shak.⟩ **6 a** : a standard for testing and evaluation : CRITERION **b** : EXAMINATION **c** : INSPECTION, INVESTIGATION ⟨a loyalty ~ on government employees⟩ **d** : the act of testing or verifying; *also* : the sample or unit used for testing or verifying **7** : a written order directing a bank to pay money as instructed : DRAFT **8 a** : a ticket or token showing ownership or identity or indicating payment made ⟨a baggage ~⟩ **b** : a counter in various games **c** : a slip indicating the amount due : BILL **9** [ME *chek*, short for *cheker* checker] **a** : a pattern in squares that resembles a checkerboard **b** : a fabric woven or printed with such a design **10** : a mark typically ✓ placed beside an item to show it has been noted, examined, or verified **11** : CRACK, BREAK **12** : a rabbet-shaped cutting : RABBET — **check·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **in check** : under restraint or control ⟨held the enemy *in check*⟩

²check *vt* **1** : to put (a chess king) in check **2** *chiefly dial* : REBUKE, REPRIMAND **3 a** : to slow or bring to a stop : BRAKE ⟨hastily ~*ed* the impulse⟩ **b** : to block the progress of (as a hockey player) **4 a** : to restrain or diminish the action or force of : CONTROL **b** : to slack or ease off and then belay again (as a rope) **5 a** : to compare with a source, original, or authority : VERIFY **b** : to inspect for satisfactory condition, accuracy, safety, or performance — usu. used with *out* **c** : to mark with a check as examined, verified, or satisfactory — often used with *off* ⟨~*ed* off each item⟩ **6 a** : to consign for shipment as a service to the holder of a passenger ticket ⟨~*ed* his bags before boarding⟩ **b** : to ship or accept for shipment under such a consignment **7** : to mark into squares : CHECKER **8** : to leave or accept for safekeeping in a checkroom **9** : to make checks or chinks in : cause to crack ⟨the sun ~*s* timber⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** *of a dog* : to stop in a chase esp. when scent is lost **b** : to halt through caution, uncertainty, or fear : STOP **2 a** : to investigate conditions ⟨~*ed* on the passengers' safety⟩ **b** : to correspond point for point : TALLY ⟨the description ~*s* with the photograph⟩ — often used with *out* ⟨his story ~*ed* out⟩ **3** : to draw a check on a bank **4** : to waive the right to initiate the betting in a round of poker **5** : CRACK, SPLIT ***syn*** see RESTRAIN ***ant*** accelerate (*as speed*), advance (*as a plan*), release (*as feelings*) — **check·able** \'chek-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **check into** **1** : to check in at ⟨*check into* a hotel⟩ **2** : INVESTIGATE ⟨*check into* a rumor⟩ — **check up on** : INVESTIGATE

check·book \'chek-ˌbůk\ *n* : a book containing blank checks to be drawn on a bank

¹check·er \'chek-ər\ *n* [ME *cheker*, fr. OF *eschequier*, fr. *esche*] **1** *archaic* : CHESSBOARD **2** : a square or spot resembling the markings of a checkerboard **3** [back-formation fr. *checkers*] : a man in checkers

²checker *vt* **check·ered; check·er·ing** \'chek-(ə-)riŋ\ **1 a** : to variegate with different colors or shades **b** : to vary with contrasting elements or situations ⟨had a ~*ed* career as a racer⟩ **2** : to mark into squares

³checker *n* : one that checks; *esp* : an employee who checks out purchases in a self-service store (as a supermarket)

check·er·ber·ry \'chek-ə(r)-ˌber-ē\ *n* [*checker* (wild service tree) + *berry*] **1** : any of several reddish berries; *esp*: the spicy red berry-like fruit of an American wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) **2** : a plant producing checkerberries

check·er·bloom \-ər-ˌblüm\ *n* [prob. fr. ¹*checker* + *bloom*] : a purple-flowered mallow (*Sidalcea malvaeflora*) of the western U.S.

check·er·board \-ə(r)-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* **1** : a board used in various games (as checkers) with usu. 64 squares in 2 alternating colors **2** : something that has a pattern or arrangement like a checkerboard

check·ers \'chek-ərz\ *n pl but sing in constr* : a checkerboard game for 2 players each with 12 men

check in *vi* **1** : to register at a hotel **2** : to report one's presence or arrival by supplying requisite information ⟨*check in* at a convention⟩ ~ *vt* : to satisfy all requirements in returning ⟨*check in* the equipment after using⟩

checking account *n* : a bank account against which the depositor can draw checks

check·list \'chek-ˌlist\ *n* : INVENTORY, CATALOG: *esp* : a complete list

check mark *n* : CHECK 10 — **check·mark** *vt*

¹check·mate \'chek-ˌmāt\ *vt* [ME *chekmaten*, fr. *chekmate*, interj. used to announce checkmate, fr. MF *eschec mat*, fr. Ar *shāh māt*, fr. Per, lit., the king is left unable to escape] **1** : to arrest, thwart, or counter completely **2** : to check (a chess opponent's king) so that escape is impossible

²checkmate *n* **1 a** : the act of checkmating **b** : the situation of a checkmated king **2** : a complete check

check·off \'chek-ˌȯf\ *n* **1** : the deduction of union dues from a worker's paycheck by the employer **2** : AUTOMATIC 2

check off \-'ȯf\ *vt* **1** : to eliminate from further consideration ⟨robbery was *checked off* as a motive⟩ **2** : to deduct (union dues) from a worker's paycheck ~ *vi* : to change a play at the line of scrimmage in football by calling an automatic

check·out \'chek-ˌaůt\ *n* **1** : the action or an instance of checking out **2** : the time at which a lodger must vacate his room (as in a hotel) or be charged for retaining it **3** : a counter at which checking out is done **4 a** : the action of examining and testing something for performance, suitability, or readiness **b** : the action of familiarizing oneself with the operation of a mechanical thing (as an airplane)

check out \-'aůt\ *vi* : to vacate and pay for one's lodging (as at a hotel) ~ *vt* **1** : to satisfy all requirements in taking away ⟨*checked out* a library book⟩ **2 a** : to itemize and reckon up the total cost of and receive payment for (outgoing merchandise) esp. in a self-service store **b** : to have the cost totaled and pay for (purchases) at a checkout counter

check over *vt* : EXAMINE, INVESTIGATE

check·point \'chek-ˌpȯint\ *n* : a point at which a check is performed ⟨vehicles were inspected at various ~*s*⟩

check·rein \-ˌrān\ *n* **1** : a short rein looped over a hook on the saddle of a harness to prevent a horse from lowering his head **2** : a branch rein connecting the driving rein of one horse of a span or pair with the bit of the other

check·room \-ˌrüm, -ˌrům\ *n* : a room at which baggage, parcels, or clothing is checked

check·row \-ˌrō\ *vt* : to plant (as corn) at the points of intersection of right-angled rows to permit two-way cultivation

check·up \-ˌəp\ *n* : EXAMINATION: *esp* : a general physical examination

ched·dar \'ched-ər\ *n, often cap* [*Cheddar*, England] : a hard cheese of smooth texture and a flavor ranging from mild to sharp depending on the length of cure

che·der \'kād-ər, 'ked-\ *var of* HEDER

chee·cha·ko \chi-'chäk-(ˌ)ō, -'chȯk-\ *n, pl* **-kos** [Chinook Jargon *chee chahco*, fr. Chinook *t'shi* new + Nootka *chako* to come] *chiefly Northwest* : TENDERFOOT 1

¹cheek \'chēk\ *n* [ME *cheke*, fr. OE *cēace*; akin to MLG *kāke* jawbone] **1** : the fleshy side of the face below the eye and above and to the side of the mouth; *broadly*: the lateral aspect of the head **2** : something suggestive of the human cheek in position or form; *esp* : one of two laterally paired parts **3** : insolent boldness and flaunted self-assurance **4** : BUTTOCK 1 ***syn*** see TEMERITY ***ant*** diffidence — **cheek·ful** \-ˌfůl\ *n* — **cheek by jowl** : in close proximity

²cheek *vt* : to speak rudely or impudently to

cheek·bone \'chēk-'bōn, -ˌbōn\ *n* : the prominence below the eye that is formed by the zygomatic bone; *also*: ZYGOMATIC BONE

-cheeked \'chēkt\ *adj comb form* : having cheeks of a specified nature ⟨rosy-*cheeked*⟩

cheeky \'chē-kē\ *adj* **cheek·i·er; -est** **1** : having or showing cheek : IMPUDENT **2** : having well-developed cheeks — used esp. of a bulldog — **cheek·i·ly** \-kə-lē\ *adv* — **cheek·i·ness** \-kē-nəs\ *n*

cheep \'chēp\ *vi* [imit.] **1** : to utter faint shrill sounds : PEEP **2** : to utter a single word or sound — **cheep** *n*

¹cheer \'chi(ə)r\ *n* [ME *chere* face, cheer, fr. OF, face] **1 a** *obs* : FACE **b** *archaic* : facial expression **2** : state of mind or heart : SPIRIT ⟨be of good ~ — Mt 9:2(AV)⟩ **3** : lightness of mind and feeling : ANIMATION, GAIETY **4** : hospitable entertainment : WELCOME **5** : food and drink for a feast : FARE **6** : something that gladdens ⟨words of ~⟩ **7** : a shout of applause or encouragement

²cheer *vt* **1 a** : to instill with hope or courage : COMFORT — usu. used with *up* **b** : to make glad or happy — usu. used with *up* **2** : to urge on or encourage esp. by shouts ⟨*cheered* the team on⟩ **3** : to applaud with shouts ~ *vi* **1** *obs*: to be mentally or emotionally disposed **2** : to grow or be cheerful : REJOICE — usu. used with *up* **3** : to utter a shout of applause or triumph — **cheer·er** *n*

cheer·ful \'chir-fəl\ *adj* **1 a** : full of good spirits : MERRY **b** : UNGRUDGING ⟨~ obedience⟩ **2** : conducive to cheer : likely to dispel gloom or worry ⟨sunny ~ room⟩ ***syn*** see GLAD ***ant*** glum, gloomy — **cheer·ful·ly** \-f(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **cheer·ful·ness** \-fəl-nəs\ *n*

cheer·io \ˌchi(ə)r-ē-'ō\ *interj* [*cheery* + *-o*] *chiefly Brit* — usu. used as a farewell and sometimes as a greeting or toast

cheer·lead·er \'chi(ə)r-ˌlēd-ər\ *n* : one that calls for and directs organized cheering (as at a football game) — **cheer·lead** \-ˌlēd\ *vt*

cheer·less \'chi(ə)r-ləs\ *adj* : lacking qualities that cheer : BLEAK, JOYLESS ⟨a ~ room⟩ — **cheer·less·ly** *adv* — **cheer·less·ness** *n*

cheers \'chi(ə)rz\ *interj* — used as a toast

cheery \'chi(ə)r-ē\ *adj* **cheer·i·er; -est** **1** : marked by cheerfulness or good spirits **2** : causing or suggesting cheerfulness — **cheer·i·ly** \'chir-ə-lē\ *adv* — **cheer·i·ness** \'chir-ē-nəs\ *n*

¹cheese \'chēz\ *n, often attrib* [ME *chese*, fr. OE *cēse*; akin to OHG *kāsi* cheese; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. L *caseus* cheese; akin to OE *hwatherian* to foam, Skt *kvathati* he boils] **1 a** : curd separated from whey, consolidated by molding or pressure, and usu. ripened for use as food **b** : an often cylindrical cake of this food **2** : something resembling cheese in shape or consistency

²cheese *vt* **cheesed; chees·ing** [origin unknown] : to put an end to : STOP — **cheese it** — used in the imperative as a warning of danger ⟨*cheese it*, the cops⟩

³cheese *n* [perh. fr. Urdu *chīz* thing] *slang* : someone important : BOSS ⟨the . . . big ~ who bought the program for his network — Neil Hickey⟩

cheese·burg·er \'chēz-ˌbər-gər\ *n* [*cheese* + ham*burger*] : a hamburger containing a slice of cheese

cheese·cake \-ˌkāk\ *n* **1** : a cake made by baking a mixture of cream cheese or cottage cheese, eggs, and sugar or a filling of similar texture in a pastry shell or a mold lined with sweet crumbs **2** : a photographic display of shapely and scantily clothed female figures — compare BEEFCAKE

cheese·cloth \-ˌklȯth\ *n* [fr. its use in cheesemaking] : a very lightweight unsized cotton gauze

cheese·mak·er \-ˌmā-kər\ *n* : one that makes cheese — **cheese·mak·ing** \-kiŋ\ *n*

cheese·par·ing \-ˌpa(ə)r-iŋ, -ˌpe(ə)r-\ *n* **1** : something worthless or insignificant **2** : miserly or petty economizing : STINGINESS — **cheeseparing** *adj*

cheesy \'chē-zē\ *adj* **chees·i·er; -est** **1** **a** : resembling or suggesting cheese esp. in consistency or odor **b** : containing cheese **2** *slang* : SHABBY, CHEAP — **chees·i·ness** *n*

chee·tah \'chēt-ə\ *n* [Hindi *cītā*, fr. Skt *citrakāya* tiger, fr. *citra* bright + *kāya* body] : a long-legged spotted swift-moving African and formerly Asiatic cat (*Acinonyx jubatus*) about the size of a small leopard that has blunt nonretractile claws and is often trained to run down game

chef \'shef\ *n* [F, short for *chef de cuisine* head of the kitchen] **1** : a skilled male cook who manages a kitchen **2** : COOK — **chef·dom** \-dəm\ *n*

chef d'oeu·vre \shā-dœvr², (')shā-'də(r)v\ *n, pl* **chefs d'oeuvre** \-dœvr², -'də(r)v(z)\ [F *chef-d'oeuvre*, lit., leading work] : a masterpiece esp. in art or literature

che·la \'kē-lə\ *n, pl* **che·lae** \-(,)lē\ [NL, fr. Gk *chēlē* claw] : a pincerlike organ or claw borne by a limb of a crustacean or arachnid

¹che·late \'kē-,lāt\ *adj* **1** : resembling or having chelae **2** [Gk *chēlē* claw, hoof] : of, relating to, or having a ring structure that usu. contains a metal ion held by coordination bonds — **chelate** *n*

²chelate *vb* **che·lat·ed; che·lat·ing** *vt* : to combine with (a metal) so as to form a chelate ring ~ *vi* : to react so as to form a chelate ring — **che·lat·able** \-,lāt-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **che·la·tion** \kē-'lā-shən\ *n* — **che·la·tor** \-,lāt-ər\ *n*

che·lic·era \ki-'lis-ə-rə\ *n, pl* **-er·ae** \-,rē\ [NL, fr. F *chélicère*, fr. Gk *chēlē* + *keras* horn — more at HORN] : one of the anterior pair of appendages of an arachnid often specialized as fangs — **che·lic·er·al** \-ə-rəl\ *adj*

Chel·le·an *or* **Chel·li·an** \'shel-ē-ən\ *adj* [F *chelléen*, fr. *Chelles*, France] : ABBEVILLIAN

che·lo·ni·an \ki-'lō-nē-ən\ *adj* [Gk *chelōnē* tortoise] : of, relating to, or being a tortoise or turtle — **chelonian** *n*

chem *abbr* chemical; chemist; chemistry

chem- *or* **chemo-** *also* **chemi-** *comb form* [NL, fr. LGk *chēmeia* alchemy — more at ALCHEMY] **1** chemical : chemistry ⟨*chemo*smosis⟩ ⟨*chemo*taxis⟩ **2** : chemically ⟨*chemi*sorb⟩

Chem·a·ku·an \,chem-ə-'kü-ən\ *n* : a language stock of the Mosan phylum in the state of Washington

chem·ic \'kem-ik\ *adj* [NL *chimicus* alchemist, fr. ML *alchimicus*, fr. *alchymia* alchemy] **1** *archaic* : ALCHEMIC **2** : CHEMICAL

¹chem·i·cal \'kem-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, used in, or produced by chemistry **2** **a** : acting or operated or produced by chemicals **b** : detectable by chemical means — **chem·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

²chemical *n* : a substance (as an element or chemical compound) obtained by a chemical process or used for producing a chemical effect

chemical engineering *n* : engineering dealing with the industrial application of chemistry

chemical warfare *n* : tactical warfare using incendiary mixtures, smokes, or irritant, burning, poisonous, or asphyxiating gases

che·mi·lu·mi·nes·cence \,kem-i-,lü-mə-'nes-ᵊn(t)s, ,kē-mi-\ *n* [ISV] : luminescence due to chemical reaction usu. at low temperatures; *esp* : BIOLUMINESCENCE — **che·mi·lu·mi·nes·cent** \-'nes-ᵊnt\ *adj*

che·min de fer \shə-,man-də-'fe(ə)r\ *n, pl* **che·mins de fer** \-,man-də-\ [F, lit., railroad] : a card game in which two hands are dealt, any number of players may bet against the dealer, and the winning hand is the one that comes closer to but does not exceed a count of nine on two or three cards

che·mise \shə-'mēz\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, shirt, fr. LL *camisia*] **1** : a woman's one-piece undergarment **2** : a loose straight-hanging dress

chem·i·sette \,shem-i-'zet\ *n* [F, dim. of *chemise*] : a woman's garment; *esp* : one (as of lace) to fill the open front of a dress

che·mism \'kem-,iz-əm, 'kē-,miz-\ *n* **1** : chemical activity or affinity **2** : operation in obedience to chemical laws

che·mi·sorb \'kem-i-,sȯ(ə)rb, 'kēmi-, -,zȯ(ə)rb\ *or* **che·mo·sorb** \'kē-mə-, 'kem-ə-\ *vt* [*chem-* + *-sorb* (as in *adsorb*)] : to take up and hold usu. irreversibly by chemical forces — **che·mi·sorp·tion** \,kem-i-'sȯrp-shən, ,kē-mi-, -'zȯrp-\ *n*

chem·ist \'kem-əst\ *n* [NL *chimista*, short for ML *alchimista*] **1** **a** *obs* : ALCHEMIST **b** : one trained in chemistry **2** *Brit* : PHARMACIST

chem·is·try \'kem-ə-strē\ *n, pl* **-tries** **1** : a science that deals with the composition, structure, and properties of substances and of the transformations that they undergo **2** **a** : the composition and chemical properties of a substance ⟨the ~ of iron⟩ **b** : chemical processes and phenomena (as of an organism) ⟨blood ~⟩

che·mo·au·to·tro·phic \,kē-mō-,ȯt-ə-'trō-fik *also* ,kem-ō-\ *adj* : being autotrophic and oxidizing some inorganic compound as a source of energy — **chemo·au·to·tro·phi·cal·ly** \-fi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **chemo·au·tot·ro·phy** \-ȯ-'tä-trə-fē\ *n*

che·mo·pro·phy·lax·is \-,prō-fə-'lak-səs *also* -,präf-ə-\ *n* : the prevention of infectious disease by the use of chemical agents — **che·mo·pro·phy·lac·tic** \-'lak-tik\ *adj*

che·mo·re·cep·tion \-ri-'sep-shən\ *n* [ISV] : the physiological reception of chemical stimuli — **che·mo·re·cep·tive** \-'sep-tiv\ *adj* — **che·mo·re·cep·tiv·i·ty** \-,rē-,sep-'tiv-ət-ē, -ri-\ *n*

che·mo·re·cep·tor \-ri-'sep-tər\ *n* [ISV] : a sense organ (as a taste bud) responding to chemical stimuli

che·mo·sphere \'kē-mə-,sfi(ə)r, 'kem-ə-\ *n* : a stratum of the upper atmosphere in which photochemical reactions are prevalent and which begins about 20 miles above the earth's surface

che·mo·ster·il·ant \,kē-mō-'ster-ə-lənt *also* ,kem-ō-\ *n* [*chemosterilize* + *-ant*] : a substance that produces irreversible sterility (as of an insect) without marked alteration of mating habits or life expectancy

che·mo·sur·gery \-'sərj-(ə-)rē\ *n* : removal by chemical means of diseased or unwanted tissue — **che·mo·sur·gi·cal** \-'sər-ji-kəl\ *adj*

che·mo·syn·the·sis \-'sin(t)-thə-səs\ *n* [ISV] : synthesis of organic compounds (as in living cells) by energy derived from chemical reactions — **che·mo·syn·thet·ic** \-sin-'thet-ik\ *adj*

che·mo·tac·tic \-'tak-tik\ *adj* : involving or exhibiting chemotaxis — **che·mo·tac·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

che·mo·tax·is \-'tak-səs\ *n* [NL] : orientation or movement of an organism in relation to chemical agents

che·mo·tax·on·o·my \-(,)tak-'sän-ə-mē\ *n* : the classification of plants and animals based on similarities and differences in biochemical composition — **che·mo·tax·o·nom·ic** \-,tak-sə-'näm-ik\ *adj* — **che·mo·tax·o·nom·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **che·mo·tax·on·o·mist** \-(,)tak-'sän-ə-məst\ *n*

che·mo·ther·a·peu·tic \-,ther-ə-'pyüt-ik\ *or* **che·mo·ther·a·peu·ti·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* : of or relating to chemotherapy — **chemotherapeutic** *n* — **che·mo·ther·a·peu·ti·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

che·mo·ther·a·py \-'ther-ə-pē\ *n* [ISV] : the use of chemical agents in the treatment or control of disease

che·mot·ro·pism \ki-'mä-trə-,piz-əm, ke-\ *n* [ISV] : orientation of cells or organisms in relation to chemical stimuli

chem·ur·gy \'kem-(,)ər-jē, kə-'mər-\ *n* : a branch of applied chemistry that deals with industrial utilization of organic raw materials esp. from farm products — **chem·ur·gic** \kə-'mər-jik, ke-\ *adj* — **chem·ur·gi·cal·ly** \-ji-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

che·nille \shə-'nē(ə)l\ *n* [F, lit., caterpillar, fr. L *canicula*, dim. of *canis* dog; fr. its hairy appearance — more at HOUND] **1** : a wool, cotton, silk, or rayon yarn with protruding pile; *also* : a pile-face fabric with a filling of this yarn **2** : an imitation of chenille yarn or fabric

che·no·pod \'kē-nə-,päd, 'ken-ə-\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *chēn* goose + *podion*, dim. of *pod-*, *pous* foot — more at FOOT] : a plant of the goosefoot family

cheong·sam \'chȯŋ-,säm\ *n* [Chin (Cant) *ch'eūng shaam*, lit., long gown] : a dress with a slit skirt and a mandarin collar worn esp. by oriental women

cheque \'chek\ *chiefly Brit var of* ¹CHECK 7

che·quer \'chek-ər\ *chiefly Brit var of* CHECKER

cher·i·moya \,cher-ə-'mȯi-(y)ə, ,chir-\ *n* [Sp *chirimoya*] : a small widely cultivated tropical American tree (*Annona cherimola*) of the custard-apple family with a round, oblong, or heart-shaped fruit that has a pitted rind

cher·ish \'cher-ish\ *vt* [ME *cherisshen*, fr. MF *cheriss-*, stem of *cherir* to cherish, fr. OF, fr. *chier* dear, fr. L *carus* — more at CHARITY] **1** **a** : to hold dear : feel or show affection for **b** : to keep or cultivate with care and affection : NURTURE **2** : to entertain or harbor in the mind deeply and resolutely ⟨still ~*es* that memory⟩ ***syn*** see APPRECIATE ***ant*** neglect — **cher·ish·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **cher·ish·er** *n*

cher·no·zem \,cher-nə-'zhȯm, -'zem\ *n* [Russ, lit., black earth] : a dark-colored zonal soil with a deep rich humus horizon found in temperate to cool climates of rather low humidity — **cher·no·zem·ic** \-'zhȯm-ik, -'zem-\ *adj*

Cher·o·kee \'cher-ə-(,)kē\ *n, pl* **Cherokee** *or* **Cherokees** [prob. fr. Creek *tciloki* people of a different speech] **1** : a member of an Amerindian people orig. of Tennessee and No. Carolina **2** : the language of the Cherokee people

Cherokee rose *n* : a Chinese climbing rose (*Rosa laevigata*) with a fragrant white blossom

che·root \shə-'rüt, chə-\ *n* [Tamil *curuṭṭu*, lit., roll] : a cigar cut square at both ends

cher·ry \'cher-ē\ *n, pl* **cherries** [ME *chery*, fr. ONF *cherise* (taken as a plural), fr. LL *ceresia*, fr. L *cerasus* cherry tree, fr. Gk *kerasos* — more at CORNEL] **1** **a** : any of numerous trees and shrubs (genus *Prunus*) of the rose family that bear pale yellow to deep red or blackish smooth-skinned drupes enclosing a smooth seed and that belong to any of several varieties including some cultivated for their fruits or ornamental flowers **b** : the fruit of a cherry **c** : the wood of a cherry **2** : a variable color averaging a moderate red **3** **a** : HYMEN **b** : VIRGINITY — **cher·ry·like** \-ē-,līk\ *adj*

cherry bomb *n* : a powerful globular red firecracker

cherry picker *n* : a traveling crane equipped for holding a passenger at the end of the boom

cherry plum *n* : an Asiatic plum (*Prunus cerasifera*) used extensively in Europe as a stock on which to bud domestic varieties

cher·ry·stone \'cher-ē-,stōn\ *n* : a small quahog

cher·so·nese \'kər-sə-,nēz, -,nēs\ *n* [L *chersonesus*, fr. Gk *chersonēsos*, fr. *chersos* dry land + *nēsos* island] : PENINSULA

chert \'chərt, 'chat\ *n* [origin unknown] : a rock resembling flint and consisting essentially of cryptocrystalline quartz or fibrous chalcedony — **cherty** \-ē\ *adj*

cher·ub \'cher-əb\ *n*, [L, fr. Gk *cheroub*, fr. Heb *kĕrūbh*] **1** *pl* **cher·u·bim** \'cher-(y)ə-,bim, 'ker-\ **a** : a biblical attendant of God or of a holy place often represented as a being with large wings, a human head, and an animal body **1** *pl* : an order of angels — see CELESTIAL HIERARCHY **2** *pl* **cherubs** **a** : a beautiful usu. winged child in painting and sculpture **b** : an innocent-looking usu. chubby and rosy person — **che·ru·bic** \chə-'rü-bik\ *adj* — **che·ru·bi·cal·ly** \-bi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **cher·ub·like** \'cher-əb-,līk\ *adj*

cher·vil \'chər-vəl\ *n* [ME *cherville*, fr. OE *cerfille*; akin to OHG *kervila*] : an aromatic herb (*Anthriscus cerefolium*) of the carrot family with divided leaves that are often used in soups and salads; *also* : any of several related plants

Ches *abbr* Cheshire

Ches·a·peake Bay retriever \,ches-(ə-),pēk-,bā-\ *n* : a large powerful sporting dog developed in Maryland by crossing Newfoundlands with native retrievers

Chesh·ire cat \,chesh-ər-\ *n* [*Cheshire*, England] : a cat with a broad grin in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Cheshire cheese *n* : a cheese similar to cheddar made chiefly in Cheshire, England

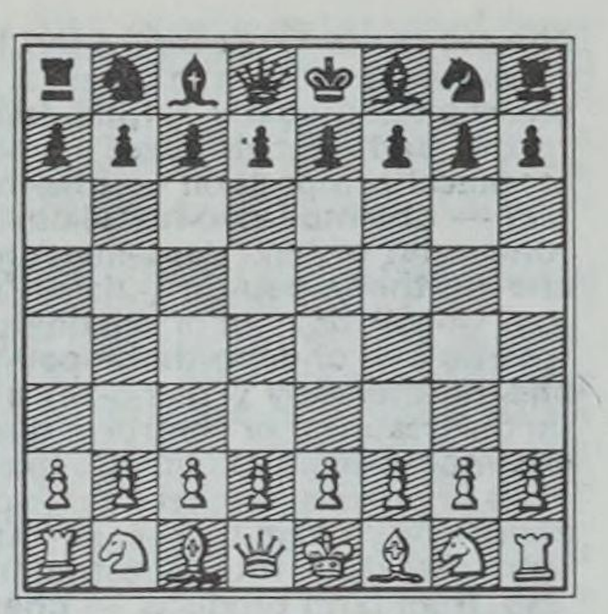
¹chess \'ches\ *n* [ME *ches*, fr. OF *esches*, acc. pl. of *eschec* check at chess — more at CHECK] : a game for two players each of whom

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ə abut ᵊ kitten ər further a back ā bake ä cot, cart
aù out ch chin e less ē easy g gift i trip ī life
j joke ŋ sing ō flow ȯ flaw ȯi coin th thin th this
ü loot u̇ foot y yet yü few yu̇ furious zh vision

moves his 16 pieces according to fixed rules across a checkerboard and tries to checkmate his opponent's king — **chessboard** \-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* — **chess·man** \-ˌman, -mən\ *n*

²chess *n* [origin unknown] : a weedy annual bromegrass (*Bromus secalinus*) widely distributed as a weed esp. in grain; *broadly* : any of several weedy bromegrasses



chessboard with men arranged as at beginning of game

chest \'chest\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *cest;* akin to OHG & ON *kista* chest] **1 a** : a container for storage or shipping; *esp* : a box with a lid used esp. for the safekeeping of belongings **b** : a cupboard used esp. for the storing of medicines or first-aid supplies **2** : the place where money of a public institution is kept : TREASURY; *also* : the fund so kept **3** : the part of the body enclosed by the ribs and breastbone — **chest·ful** \-ˌfu̇l\ *n*

-chest·ed \'ches-təd\ *adj comb form* : having (such) a chest ⟨flat-*chested*⟩ ⟨deep-*chested*⟩

ches·ter·field \'ches-tər-ˌfēld\ *n* [fr. a 19th cent. Earl of *Chesterfield*] **1** : a single-breasted or double-breasted semifitted overcoat with velvet collar **2** : a davenport usu. with upright armrests

Ches·ter White \ˌches-tər-\ *n* [*Chester* County, Pa.] : any of a breed of large white swine

¹chest·nut \'ches-(ˌ)nət\ *n* [ME *chasteine, chesten* chestnut tree, fr. MF *chastaigne,* fr. L *castanea,* fr. Gk *kastanea*] **1 a** : a tree or shrub (genus *Castanea*) of the beech family **b** : the edible nut of a chestnut **c** : the wood of a chestnut **2** : a grayish to reddish brown **3** : HORSE CHESTNUT **4** : a chestnut-colored animal; *specif* : a horse having a body color of any shade of pure or reddish brown with mane, tail, and points of the same or a lighter shade — compare ²BAY 1, ¹SORREL 1a **5** : a callosity on the inner side of the leg of the horse **6 a** : an old joke or story **b** : something (as a musical piece) repeated to the point of staleness

²chestnut *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or resembling a chestnut **2** : of the color chestnut

chestnut blight *n* : a destructive fungous disease of the American chestnut marked by cankers of bark and cambium

chest of drawers : a piece of furniture designed to contain a set of drawers (as for holding clothing)

chesty *adj* **chest·i·er; -est** **1** : marked by a large or well-developed chest **2** : proudly or arrogantly self-assertive

che·val–de–frise \shə-ˌval-də-'frēz\ *n, pl* **che·vaux–de–frise** \shə-ˌvōd-ə-\ [F, lit., horse from Friesland] **1** : a defense consisting of a timber or an iron barrel covered with projecting spikes and often strung with barbed wire **2** : a protecting line (as of spikes) on top of a wall — usu. used in pl.

che·val glass \shə-'val-\ *n* [F *cheval* horse, support] : a full-length mirror in a frame by which it may be tilted

che·va·lier \ˌshev-ə-'li(ə)r, *esp for 1b & 2 also* shə-'val-ˌyā\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. LL *caballarius* horseman] **1 a** : CAVALIER 2 **b** : a member of any of various orders of knighthood or of merit (as the Legion of Honor) **2 a** : a member of the lowest rank of French nobility **b** : a cadet of the French nobility **3** : a chivalrous man

che·ve·lure \shəv-lu̇ər\ *n* [F, fr. L *capillatura,* fr. *capillatus* having hair, fr. *capillus* hair] : a head of hair

chev·i·ot \'shev-ē-ət, *esp Brit* 'chev-\ *n, often cap* **1** : any of a breed of hardy hornless medium-wooled meat-type sheep that are a source of quality mutton and have their origin in the Cheviot hills **2 a** : a fabric of cheviot wool **b** : a heavy rough napped plain or twill fabric of coarse wool or worsted **c** : a sturdy soft-finished plain or twill cotton shirting

chev·ron \'shev-rən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, rafter, chevron, fr. (assumed) VL *caprion-, caprio* rafter; akin to L *caper* goat] : a figure, pattern, or object having the shape of a V or an inverted V: as **a** *or* **chev·er·on** \-(ə-)rən\ : a heraldic charge consisting of two diagonal stripes meeting at an angle usu. with the point up **b** : a sleeve badge that usu. consists of one or more chevron-shaped stripes often with arcs or distinctive emblems and that indicates the wearer's rank and service (as in the armed forces) — **chev·roned** \'shev-rənd\ *adj*



chevrons b: *1* marine staff sergeant, *2* air force staff sergeant, *3* army staff sergeant

chev·ro·tain \'shev-rə-ˌtān\ *n* [F, dim. of *chevrot* kid, fawn, fr. MF, dim. of *chèvre* goat, fr. L *capra* she-goat, fem. of *capr-, caper* he-goat] : any of several very small hornless ruminants (family Tragulidae) of tropical Asia and West Africa

¹chew \'chü\ *vb* [ME *chewen,* fr. OE *cēowan;* akin to OHG *kiuwan* to chew, OSlav *žĭvati*] *vt* : to crush, grind, or gnaw (as food) with or as if with the teeth : MASTICATE ~ *vi* : to chew something; *specif* : to chew tobacco — **chew·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **chew·er** *n* — **chewy** \'chü-ē\ *adj* — **chew the rag** *or* **chew the fat** *slang* : to make friendly familiar conversation : CHAT

²chew *n* **1** : the act of chewing **2** : something for chewing ⟨a ~ of tobacco⟩

chewing gum *n* : a sweetened and flavored insoluble plastic material (as a preparation of chicle) used for chewing

che·wink \chi-'wiŋk\ *n* [imit.] : TOWHEE 1

chew out *vt* : to bawl out : REPRIMAND

chew over *vt* : to meditate on : think about reflectively

Chey·enne \shī-'an, -'en\ *n, pl* **Cheyenne** *or* **Cheyennes** [CanF, F, fr. Dakota *Shaiyena,* fr. *shaia* to speak unintelligibly] **1** : a member of an Amerindian people of the western plains of the U.S. **2** : the Algonquian language of the Cheyenne people

chg *abbr* **1** change **2** charge

chi \'kī\ *n* [Gk *chei*] : the 22d letter of the Greek alphabet — see ALPHABET table

Chi·an·ti \kē-'änt-ē, -'ant-\ *n* [It, fr. the *Chianti* mt. area, Italy] : a still dry usu. red table wine

Chi·an turpentine \'kī-ən-\ *n* [*Chios,* Greece] : TURPENTINE 1a

chiao \'tyau̇\ *n, pl* **chiao** [Chin (Pek) *chiao³*] — see *yuan* at MONEY table

chiar·oscu·rist \kē-ˌär-ə-'sk(y)u̇r-əst, kē-ˌar-\ *n* : an artist in chiaroscuro

chiar·oscu·ro \-'sk(y)u̇(ə)r-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-ros** [It, fr. *chiaro* clear, light + *oscuro* obscure, dark] **1** : pictorial representation in terms of light and shade without regard to color **2** : the arrangement or treatment of light and dark parts in a pictorial work of art **3** : a 16th century woodcut technique involving the use of several blocks to print different tones of the same color; *also* : a print made by this technique

chi·asm \'kī-ˌaz-əm\ *n* [NL *chiasma*] : CHIASMA 1

chi·as·ma \kī-'az-mə\ *n, pl* **-ma·ta** \-mət-ə\ [NL, X-shaped configuration, fr. Gk, crosspiece, fr. *chiazein* to mark with a chi, fr. *chi* (x)] **1** : an anatomical intersection or decussation — compare OPTIC CHIASMA **2** : a cross-shaped configuration of paired chromatids visible in the diplotene of meiotic prophase and considered the cytological equivalent of genetic crossing-over — **chi·as·mat·ic** \ˌkī-əz-'mat-ik\ *adj*

chi·as·mus \kī-'az-məs\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *chiasmos,* fr. *chiazein* to mark with a chi] : an inverted relationship between the syntactic elements of parallel phrases (as in Goldsmith's *to stop too fearful, and too faint to go*)

chiaus \'chau̇s(h)\ *n* [Turk *çavuş,* fr. *çav* voice, news] : a Turkish messenger or sergeant

Chib·cha \'chib-(ˌ)chä\ *n, pl* **Chibcha** *or* **Chibchas** [Sp, of Amer-Ind origin] **1** : a member of an Amerindian people of central Colombia **2** : the extinct language of the Chibcha people

Chib·chan \-chən\ *adj* : of, relating to, or constituting a language stock of Colombia and Central America

chi·bouk *or* **chi·bouque** \chə-'bük, shə-\ *n* [F *chibouque,* fr. Turk *çubuk*] : a long-stemmed Turkish tobacco pipe with a clay bowl

¹chic \'shēk\ *n* [F] : smart elegance and sophistication esp. of dress or manner : STYLE ⟨wears her clothes with superb ~⟩

²chic *adj* **1** : cleverly stylish : SMART ⟨the woman who is ~ adapts fashion to her own personality —Elizabeth L. Post⟩ **2** : currently fashionable : MODISH ⟨a ~ restaurant⟩ — **chic·ly** *adv* — **chic·ness** *n*

chi·ca·lo·te \ˌchik-ə-'lōt-ē\ *n* [Sp, fr. Nahuatl *chicalotl*] : a white-flowered prickly poppy (*Argemone platyceras*) of Mexico and the southwestern U.S.

Chi·ca·na \chi-'kän-ə, shi-\ *n* [*Chicano* + *-a* (fr. Sp, fem. ending)] : a female Chicano — **Chicana** *adj*

¹chi·cane \shik-'ān, chik-\ *vb* **chi·caned; chi·can·ing** [F *chicaner,* fr. MF, to quibble, prevent justice] *vi* : to use chicanery ⟨a wretch he had taught to lie and ~ —George Meredith⟩ ~ *vt* : TRICK, CHEAT

²chicane *n* **1** : CHICANERY **2 a** : an obstacle on a racecourse **b** : a series of tight turns in opposite directions in an otherwise straight stretch of a road-racing course **3** : the absence of trumps in a hand of cards

chi·ca·nery \-'ān-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ner·ies** **1** : deception by artful subterfuge or sophistry : TRICKERY **2** : a piece of sharp practice (as at law) : TRICK

Chi·ca·no \chi-'kän-(ˌ)ō, shi-\ *n, pl* **-nos** [modif. of Sp *mejicano* Mexican] : an American of Mexican descent — **Chicano** *adj*

chi·chi \'shē-(ˌ)shē, 'chē-(ˌ)chē\ *adj* [F] **1** : elaborately ornamented : SHOWY, FRILLY ⟨a ~ dress⟩ **2** : ARTY, PRECIOUS ⟨~ poetry⟩ **3** : CHIC, FASHIONABLE ⟨a ~ nightclub⟩

²chichi *n* **1** : frilly or elaborate ornamentation **2** : AFFECTATION, PRECIOSITY **3** : CHIC

chick \'chik\ *n* **1 a** : CHICKEN; *esp* : one newly hatched **b** : the young of any bird **2** : CHILD **3** : a young woman

chick·a·dee \'chik-ə-(ˌ)dē\ *n* [imit.] : any of several crestless American titmice (genus *Penthestes* or *Parus*) usu. with the crown of the head sharply demarked and darker than the body

chick·a·ree \'chik-ə-ˌrē\ *n* [imit.] : an American red squirrel (*Sciurus hudsonicus*); *also* : a related squirrel

Chick·a·saw \'chik-ə-ˌsȯ\ *n, pl* **Chickasaw** *or* **Chickasaws** **1** : a member of an Amerindian people of Mississippi and Alabama **2** : a dialect of Choctaw spoken by the Chickasaw

¹chick·en \'chik-ən\ *n* [ME *chiken,* fr. OE *cicen* young chicken; akin to OE *cocc* cock] **1 a** : the common domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) esp. when young; *also* : its flesh used as food **b** : any of various birds or their young **2** : a young woman **3 a** : COWARD **b** : any of various contests in which the participants risk personal safety in order to see which one will give up first **4** *slang* : the petty details of duty or discipline

²chicken *adj* **1** *slang* : SCARED **2** *slang* : afraid to do something : insistent on petty esp. military discipline

³chicken *vi* **chick·ened; chick·en·ing** \'chik-(ə-)niŋ\ : to lose one's nerve — usu. used with *out* ⟨seemed to exhibit courage, manliness, and conviction when others ~*ed* out —J. R. Seeley⟩

chicken colonel *n* [fr. the eagle serving as his insignia] *slang* : COLONEL 1a

chicken feed *n, slang* : a paltry sum (as in profits or wages)

chicken hawk *n* : a hawk that preys or is believed to prey on chickens

chick·en·heart·ed \ˌchik-ən-'härt-əd\ *adj* : TIMID, COWARDLY

chick·en–liv·ered \-'liv-ərd\ *adj* : FAINTHEARTED, COWARDLY

chicken pox *n* : an acute contagious virus disease esp. of children that is marked by low-grade fever and formation of vesicles

chicken snake *n* : RAT SNAKE

chicken wire *n* [fr. its use for making enclosures for chickens] : a light galvanized wire netting of hexagonal mesh

chick–pea \'chik-ˌpē\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. ME *chiche,* fr. MF, fr. L *cicer*] : an Asiatic leguminous herb (*Cicer arietinum*) cultivated for its short pods with one or two seeds; *also* : its seed

chick·weed \'chik-ˌwēd\ *n* : any of various low-growing small-leaved weedy plants of the pink family (esp. genera *Arenaria, Cerastium,* and *Stellaria*) several of which are relished by birds or used as potherbs
chi·cle \'chik-əl, -lē\ *n* [Sp, fr. Nahautl *chictli*] : a gum from the latex of the sapodilla used as the chief ingredient of chewing gum
chi·co \'chē-(ˌ)kō, 'chik-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **chicos** [modif. of Sp *chicalote*] : a common greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) of the western U.S.
chic·o·ry \'chik-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [ME *cicoree,* fr. MF *cichorée, chicorée,* fr. L *cichoreum,* fr. Gk *kichoreia*] **1** : a thick-rooted usu. blue-flowered European perennial composite herb (*Cichorium intybus*) widely grown for its roots and as a salad plant **2** : the dried ground roasted root of chicory used to flavor or adulterate coffee
chide \'chīd\ *vb* **chid** \'chid\ *or* **chid·ed** \'chīd-əd\; **chid** *or* **chid·den** \'chid-ᵊn\ *or* **chided; chid·ing** \'chīd-iŋ\ [ME *chiden,* fr. OE *cīdan* to quarrel, chide, fr. *cīd* strife] *vi* : to speak out in angry or displeased rebuke ~ *vt* : to voice disapproval to : reproach in a usu. mild and constructive manner : SCOLD ***syn*** see REPROVE
¹chief \'chēf\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, head, chief, fr. L *caput* head — more at HEAD] **1** : the upper part of a heraldic field **2** : the head of a body of persons or an organization : LEADER ⟨~ of police⟩ **3** : the principal or most valuable part — **chief·dom** \ -dəm\ *n* — **chief·ship** \-ˌship\ *n* — **in chief** : in the chief position or place — often used in titles ⟨commander *in chief*⟩
²chief *adj* **1** : accorded highest rank or office ⟨~ librarian⟩ **2** : of greatest importance, significance, or influence ⟨the ~ reasons⟩
³chief *adv, archaic* : CHIEFLY
chief executive *n* : a principal executive officer: as **a** : the president of a republic **b** : the governor of a state
chief justice *n* : the presiding or principal judge of a court of justice
¹chief·ly \'chē-flē\ *adv* **1** : most importantly : PRINCIPALLY, ESPECIALLY **2** : for the most part : MOSTLY, MAINLY
²chiefly *adj* : of or relating to a chief ⟨~ duties⟩
chief master sergeant *n* : a noncommissioned officer in the air force ranking above a senior master sergeant
chief master sergeant of the air force : the ranking noncommissioned officer in the air force serving as adviser to the chief of staff
chief of naval operations : the commanding officer of the navy and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
chief of staff **1** : the ranking officer of a staff in the armed forces serving as principal adviser to a commander **2** : the commanding officer of the army or air force and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
chief of state : the formal head of a national state as distinguished from the head of the government
chief petty officer *n* : an enlisted man in the navy or coast guard ranking above a petty officer first class and below a senior chief petty officer
chief·tain \'chēf-tən\ *n* [ME *chieftaine,* fr. MF *chevetain,* fr. LL *capitaneus* chief — more at CAPTAIN] : a chief esp. of a band, tribe, or clan — **chief·tain·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
chief·tain·cy \-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the rank, dignity, office, or rule of a chieftain **2** : a region or a people ruled by a chief : CHIEFDOM
chief warrant officer *n* : a warrant officer of senior rank in the armed forces; *also* : a commissioned officer in the navy or coast guard ranking below an ensign
chiel \'chē(ə)l\ *or* **chield** \'chē(ə)ld\ *n* [ME (Sc) *cheld,* alter. of ME *child* child] *chiefly Scot* : FELLOW, LAD
chiff·chaff \'chif-ˌchaf\ *n* [imit.] : a small grayish European warbler (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
¹chif·fon \shif-'än, 'shif-ˌ\ *n* [F, lit., rag, fr. *chiffe* old rag, alter. of MF *chipe,* fr. ME *chip* chip] **1** : an ornamental addition (as a knot of ribbons) to a woman's dress **2** : a sheer fabric esp. of silk
²chiffon *adj* **1** : resembling chiffon in sheerness or softness **2** : having a light delicate texture achieved usu. by adding whipped egg whites or whipped gelatin ⟨lemon ~ pie⟩
chif·fo·nier \ˌshif-ə-'ni(ə)r\ *n* [F *chiffonnier,* fr. *chiffon*] : a high narrow chest of drawers
chif·fo·robe \'shif-ə-ˌrōb\ *n* [*chiffon*ier + wardrobe] : a combination of wardrobe and chest of drawers


chiffonier

chig·ger \'chig-ər, 'jig-\ *n* **1** : CHIGOE 1 **2** [of African origin; akin to Wolof *jiga* insect] : a 6-legged mite larva (family Trombiculidae) that sucks the blood of vertebrates and causes intense irritation
chi·gnon \'shēn-ˌyän\ *n* [F, fr. MF *chaignon* chain, collar, nape] : a knot of hair that is worn at the back of the head and esp. at the nape of the neck
chi·goe \'chig-(ˌ)ō, 'chē-(ˌ)gō\ *n* [of Cariban origin; akin to Galibi *chico* chigoe] **1** : a tropical flea (*Tunga penetrans*) of which the fertile female causes great discomfort by burrowing under the skin— called also *chigger* **2** : CHIGGER 2
Chi·hua·hua \chə-'wä-(ˌ)wä, shə-, -wə\ *n* [MexSp, fr. *Chihuahua,* Mexico] : a very small round-headed large-eared short-coated dog believed to antedate Aztec civilization
chil·blain \'chil-ˌblān\ *n* [³*chill*] : an inflammatory swelling or sore caused by exposure (as of the feet or hands) to cold
child \'chī(ə)ld\ *n, pl* **chil·dren** \'chil-drən, -dərn\ *often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *cild;* akin to Goth *kilthei* womb, Skt *jaṭhara* belly] **1 a** : an unborn or recently born person **b** *dial* : a female infant **2 a** : a young person esp. between infancy and youth **b** : a childlike or childish person **c** : a person not yet of age **3** *usu* **childe** \'chī(ə)ld\ *archaic* : a youth of noble birth **4 a** : a son or daughter of human parents **b** : DESCENDANT **5** : one strongly influenced by another or by a place or state of affairs **6** : PRODUCT, RESULT ⟨barbed wire . . . is truly a ~ of the plains — W. P. Webb⟩ — **child·less** \'chī(ə)l-(d)ləs\ *adj* — **child·less·ness** *n* — **with child** : PREGNANT
child·bear·ing \'chīl(d)-ˌbar-iŋ, -ˌber-\ *n* : the act of bringing forth children : PARTURITION — **childbearing** *adj*
child·bed \-ˌbed\ *n* : the condition of a woman in childbirth
childbed fever *n* : PUERPERAL FEVER
childbirth \'chīl(d)-ˌbərth\ *n* : PARTURITION
child·hood \'chīld-ˌhůd\ *n* **1** : the state or period of being a child **2** : the early period in the development of something ⟨in the ~ of our culture —Michael Novak⟩
child·ish \'chīl-dish\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or befitting a child or childhood ⟨a clear ~ voice⟩ ⟨calling back ~ memories⟩ **2 a** : marked by or suggestive of immaturity and lack of poise ⟨a ~ spiteful remark⟩ **b** : lacking complexity : SIMPLE ⟨it's a ~ device, but it works⟩ **c** : deteriorated with age esp. in mind : SENILE ⟨the old man was becoming ~⟩ — **child·ish·ly** *adv* — **child·ish·ness** *n*
syn CHILDISH, CHILDLIKE *shared meaning element* : having qualities natural or suitable to a child. CHILDISH tends to suggest unpleasing qualities (as fretful impatience or undeveloped taste and mentality) that are appropriate to children but deplorable in adults ⟨a *childish* determination to excel⟩ CHILDLIKE usu. suggests such attractive and admirable qualities of childhood as innocence, straightforwardness, or trust ⟨had a *childlike* faith⟩
child·like \'chī(ə)l-ˌ(d)līk\ *adj* : of, relating to, or resembling a child or childhood; *esp* : marked by innocence, trust, and ingenuousness ***syn*** see CHILDISH — **child·like·ness** *n*
child·ly \'chī(ə)l-(d)lē\ *adj* : CHILDLIKE
child's play *n* **1** : an extremely simple task or act **2** : something that is insignificant ⟨his injury was *child's play* compared with the damage he inflicted⟩
Chile–bells \'chil-ē-ˌbelz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : COPIHUE
Chile saltpeter \'chil-ē-\ *n* [*Chile,* So. America] : sodium nitrate esp. occurring naturally (as in caliche) — called also *Chile niter*
chili *or* **chile** *or* **chil·li** \'chil-ē\ *n, pl* **chil·ies** *or* **chil·es** *or* **chil·lies** [Sp *chile,* fr. Nahuatl *chilli*] **1 a** : HOT PEPPER **b** *usu chilli, chiefly Brit* : a pepper whether hot or sweet **2 a** : a thick sauce of meat and chilies **b** : CHILI CON CARNE
chil·i·ad \'kil-ē-ˌad, -əd\ *n* [LL *chiliad-, chilias,* fr. Gk, fr. *chilioi* thousand — more at MILE] **1** : a group of 1000 **2** : a period of 1000 years : MILLENNIUM
chil·i·asm \'kil-ē-ˌaz-əm\ *n* [NL *chiliasmus,* fr. LL *chiliastes* one that believes in chiliasm, fr. *chilias*] : MILLENARIANISM — **chil·i·ast** \-ē-ˌast, -ē-əst\ *n* — **chil·i·as·tic** \ˌkil-ē-'as-tik\ *adj*
chili con car·ne \ˌchil-ē-ˌkän-'kär-nē, -kən-\ *n* [Sp *chile con carne* chili with meat] : a spiced stew of ground beef and minced chilies or chili powder usu. with beans
chili sauce *n* : a spiced tomato sauce usu. made with red and green peppers
¹chill \'chil\ *vb* [ME *chillen,* fr. *chile* cold, frost, fr. OE *cele;* akin to OE *ceald* cold] *vi* **1 a** : to become cold **b** : to shiver or quake with or as if with cold **2** : to become taken with a chill **3** *of a metal* : to become surface-hardened by sudden cooling ~ *vt* **1 a** : to make cold or chilly **b** : to make cool esp. without freezing **2** : to affect as if with cold : DISPIRIT ⟨were ~*ed* by the drab austerity and the police-state atmosphere — William Attwood⟩ **3** : to harden the surface of (metal) by sudden cooling — **chill·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
²chill *adj* **1 a** : moderately cold **b** : COLD, RAW **2** : affected by cold ⟨~ travelers⟩ **3** : DISTANT, FORMAL ⟨a ~ reception⟩ **4** : DEPRESSING, DISPIRITING ⟨~ penury — Thomas Gray⟩ — **chill·ness** *n*
³chill *n* **1 a** : a sensation of cold accompanied by shivering **b** : a disagreeable sensation of coldness **2** : a moderate but disagreeable degree of cold **3** : a check to enthusiasm or warmth of feeling ⟨felt the ~ of his opponent's stare⟩
chill·er \'chil-ər\ *n* **1** : one that chills **2** : an eerie or frightening story of murder, violence, or the supernatural
chill factor *n* : WINDCHILL
chil·lum \'chil-əm\ *n* [Hindi *cilam,* fr. Per *chilam*] **1** : the part of a water pipe that contains the substance (as tobacco or hashish) which is smoked; *also* : a quantity of a substance thus smoked **2** : a funnel-shaped clay pipe for smoking
chilly \'chil-ē\ *adj* **chill·i·er; -est** **1** : noticeably cold : CHILLING **2** : unpleasantly affected by cold **3** : lacking warmth of feeling **4** : tending to arouse fear or apprehension ⟨~ suspicions⟩ — **chill·i·ly** \'chil-ə-lē\ *adv* — **chill·i·ness** \'chil-ē-nəs\ *n*
chi·mae·ra \kī-'mir-ə, kə-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, chimera] : any of a family (Chimaeridae) of marine elasmobranch fishes with a tapering or threadlike tail and usu. no anal fin
¹chime \'chīm\ *n* [ME, cymbal, fr. OF *chimbe,* fr. L *cymbalum* cymbal] **1** : an apparatus for chiming a bell or set of bells **2 a** : a musically tuned set of bells **b** : one of a set of objects giving a bell-like sound when struck **3 a** : the sound of a set of bells — usu. used in pl. **b** : a musical sound suggesting that of bells **4** : ACCORD, HARMONY ⟨such happy ~ of fact and theory —Henry Maudsley⟩
²chime *vb* **chimed; chim·ing** *vi* **1 a** : to make a musical and esp. a harmonious sound **b** : to make the sounds of a chime **2** : to be or act in accord ⟨the music and the mood *chimed* well together⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to sound musically by striking **2** : to produce by chiming **3** : to call or indicate by chiming ⟨the clock *chimed* midnight⟩ **4** : to utter repetitively : DIN 2 — **chim·er** *n*
³chime \'chīm\ *n* [ME *chimbe,* fr. OE *cimb-;* akin to OE *camb* comb] : the edge or rim of a cask
chime in *vi* **1** : to break into a conversation or discussion esp. to express an opinion **2** : to combine harmoniously ⟨the artist's illustrations *chime in* perfectly with the text —*Book Production*⟩ ~ *vt* : to remark while chiming in

chi·me·ra *or* **chi·mae·ra** \kī-'mir-ə, kə-\ *n* [L *chimaera*, fr. Gk *chimaira* she-goat, chimera; akin to Gk *cheimōn* winter — more at HIBERNATE] **1 a** *cap* : a fire-breathing she-monster in Greek mythology having a lion's head, a goat's body, and a serpent's tail **b** : an imaginary monster compounded of incongruous parts **2** : an illusion or fabrication of the mind; *esp* : an unrealizable dream ⟨a fancy, a ~ in my brain, troubles me in my prayer —John Donne⟩ **3** : an individual, organ, or part consisting of tissues of diverse genetic constitution and occurring esp. in plants and most frequently at a graft union

chi·mere \shə-'mi(ə)r, chə-\ *n* [ME *chimmer, chemeyr*] : a loose sleeveless robe (as of black satin) worn by Anglican bishops over the rochet

chi·me·ri·cal \kī-'mer-i-kəl, kə-, -'mir-\ *or* **chi·me·ric** \-ik\ *adj* [*chimera*] **1** : existing only as the product of unrestrained imagination : fantastically visionary or improbable **2** : inclined to fantastic schemes or projects ***syn*** see IMAGINARY ***ant*** feasible — **chi·me·ri·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

chi·me·rism \kī-'mi(ə)r-ˌiz-əm, kə-; 'kī-mə-ˌriz-\ *n* : the state of being a genetic chimera

chim·ney \'chim-nē\ *n, pl* **chimneys** [ME, fr. MF *cheminée*, fr. LL *caminata*, fr. L *caminus* furnace, fireplace, fr. Gk *kaminos;* akin to Gk *kamara* vault] **1** *dial* : FIREPLACE, HEARTH **2** : a vertical structure incorporated into a building and enclosing a flue or flues that carry off smoke; *esp* : the part of such a structure extending above a roof **3** : SMOKESTACK **4** : a tube usu. of glass placed around a flame (as of a lamp) **5** : something (as a narrow cleft in rock) resembling a chimney

chim·ney·piece \'chim-nē-ˌpēs\ *n* : an ornamental construction over and around a fireplace that includes the mantel

chimney pot *n* : a usu. earthenware pipe placed at the top of a chimney

chimney sweep *n* : one whose occupation is cleaning soot from chimney flues — called also *chimney sweeper*

chimney swift *n* : a small sooty-gray bird (*Chaetura pelagica*) with long narrow wings that often builds its nest inside an unused chimney — called also *chimney swallow*

chimp \'chimp, 'shimp\ *n* : CHIMPANZEE

chim·pan·zee \ˌchim-ˌpan-'zē, ˌshim-, -pən-; chim-'pan-zē, shim-\ *n* [Kongo dial. *chimpenzi*] : an anthropoid ape (*Pan troglodytes*) of equatorial Africa that is smaller, weaker, and more arboreal than the gorilla

¹chin \'chin\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *cinn;* akin to OHG *kinni* chin, L *gena* cheek, Gk *genys* jaw, cheek] **1** : the lower portion of the face lying below the lower lip and including the prominence of the lower jaw **2** : the surface beneath or between the branches of the lower jaw — **chin·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

²chin *vb* **chinned; chin·ning** *vt* **1** : to bring to or hold with the chin ⟨*chinned* his violin⟩ **2** : to raise (oneself) while hanging by the hands until the chin is level with the support ~ *vi, slang* : to talk idly : CHATTER

Chin *abbr* Chinese

chi·na \'chī-nə\ *n* [Per *chīnī* Chinese porcelain] **1** : PORCELAIN: *also* : vitreous porcelain wares (as dishes, vases, or ornaments) for domestic use **2** : earthenware or porcelain tableware ⟨set the table with the good ~⟩ **3** : CROCKERY

China aster *n* : a common annual garden aster (*Callistephus chinensis*) native to northern China that occurs in many shown forms

chi·na·ber·ry \'chī-nə-ˌber-ē, *South also* 'chā-nē-ˌber-ē\ *n* **1** : a soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*) of the southern U.S. and Mexico **2** : a small Asiatic tree (*Melia azedarach* of the mahogany family) naturalized in the southern U.S. where it is widely planted for shade or ornament

china clay *n* : KAOLIN

china closet *n* : a cabinet or cupboard for the storage or display of household china

Chi·na·man \'chī-nə-mən\ *n* : a native of China : CHINESE — often taken to be offensive

China rose *n* **1** : any of numerous garden roses derived from a shrubby Chinese rose (*Rosa chinensis*) **2** : a large showy-flowered Asiatic hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*)

Chi·na·town \'chī-nə-ˌtaůn\ *n* : the Chinese quarter of a city

China tree *n* : CHINABERRY

chi·na·ware \'chī-nə-ˌwa(ə)r, -ˌwe(ə)r\ *n* : tableware made of china

chin·bone \'chin-'bōn, -ˌbōn\ *n* : MANDIBLE: *esp* : the median anterior part of the human mandible

chinch \'chinch\ *n* [Sp *chinche*, fr. L *cimic-, cimex*] : BEDBUG

chinch bug *n* : a small black-and-white bug (*Blissus leucopterus*) very destructive to cereal grasses

chin·che·rin·chee \ˌchin-chə-ri(n)-'chē, ˌchiŋ-kə-\ *n, pl* **chincherinchee** *or* **chincherinchees** [origin unknown] : a southern African perennial bulbous herb (*Ornithogalum thyrsoides*) with long-lasting spikes of starry white blossoms

chin·chil·la \chin-'chil-ə\ *n* [Sp] **1** : a small rodent (*Chinchilla laniger*) that is the size of a large squirrel, has very soft fur of a pearly gray color, is native to the mountains of Peru and Chile, and is extensively bred in captivity; *also* : its fur **2** : a heavy twilled woolen coating

¹chine \'chīn\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *eschine*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *scina* shinbone, needle — more at SHIN] **1** : BACKBONE, SPINE: *also* : a cut of meat or fish including the backbone or part of it and the surrounding flesh **2** : RIDGE, CREST **3** : the intersection of the bottom and the sides of a flat or V-bottomed boat

²chine *vt* **chined; chin·ing** : to cut through the backbone of (as in butchering)

Chi·nese \chī-'nēz, -'nēs\ *n, pl* **Chinese** **1 a** : a native or inhabitant of China **b** : a person of Chinese descent **2** : a group of related languages used by the people of China that are often mutually unintelligible in their spoken form but share a single system of writing and that constitute a branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family; *specif* : MANDARIN — **Chinese** *adj*

Chinese boxes *n pl* : a set of boxes graduated in size so that each fits into the next larger one

Chinese cabbage *n* : either of two Asiatic brassicas (*Brassica pekinensis* and *B. chinensis*) widely used as greens

Chinese checkers *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : a game in which each player seeks to be the first to transfer a set of marbles from a home point to the opposite point of a pitted 6-pointed star by single moves or jumps

Chinese chestnut *n* : an Asiatic chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*) that is resistant to chestnut blight

Chinese copy *n* : an exact imitation or duplicate that includes defects as well as desired qualities

Chinese date *n* : an Asiatic jujube (*Ziziphus jujuba*)

Chinese lacquer *n* : LACQUER 1b

Chinese lantern *n* : a collapsible lantern of thin colored paper

Chinese puzzle *n* **1** : an intricate or ingenious puzzle **2** : something intricate and obscure

Chinese wall *n* [*Chinese Wall*, a defensive wall built in the 3d cent. B.C. between China and Mongolia] : a strong barrier; *esp* : a serious obstacle to understanding

Ching *or* **Ch'ing** \'chiŋ\ *n* [Chin (Pek) *ch'ing*¹] : a Manchu dynasty in China dated 1644–1912 and the last imperial dynasty

¹chink \'chiŋk\ *n* [prob. alter. of ME *chin* crack, fissure, fr. OE *cine;* akin to OE *cīnan* to gape, OHG *chīnan* to split open] **1** : a small cleft, slit, or fissure ⟨a ~ in the curtain⟩ **2** : a means of evasion or escape : LOOPHOLE ⟨a ~ in the law⟩ **3** : a narrow beam of light shining through a chink

²chink *vt* : to fill the chinks of (as by caulking) ⟨~ a log cabin⟩

³chink *n* [imit.] **1** : a short sharp sound **2** *archaic* : COIN, MONEY

⁴chink *vi* : to make a slight sharp metallic sound ~ *vt* : to cause to make a chink

chi·no \'chē-(ˌ)nō, 'shē-\ *n, pl* **chinos** [AmerSp] **1** : a usu. khaki cotton twill of the type used for military uniforms **2** *pl* : an article of clothing made of chino

Chi·no- \ˌchī-(ˌ)nō\ *comb form* : Chinese and ⟨*Chino*-Japanese⟩

chi·noi·se·rie \shēn-'wäz-(ə-)rē, ˌshēn-ˌwäz-(ə-)'rē\ *n* [F, fr. *chinois* Chinese, fr. *Chine* China] : a style in art (as in decoration) reflecting Chinese qualities or motifs; *also* : an object or decoration in this style

Chi·nook \shə-'nůk, chə-, -'nük\ *n, pl* **Chinook** *or* **Chinooks** [Chehalis *Tsinúk*] **1** : a member of an Amerindian people of Oregon **2** : a Chinookan language of the Chinook and other nearby peoples **3** *not cap* **a** : a warm moist southwest wind of the coast from Oregon northward **b** : a warm dry wind that descends the eastern slopes of the Rocky mountains

Chi·nook·an \-ən\ *n* : a language family of Washington and Oregon — **Chinookan** *adj*

Chinook Jargon *n* : a pidgin language based on Chinook and other Indian languages, French, and English and formerly used as a lingua franca in the northwestern U.S. and on the Pacific coast of Canada and Alaska

Chinook salmon *n* : a large commercially important salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) that occurs in the northern Pacific ocean and usu. has red flesh

chin·qua·pin \'chiŋ-ki-ˌpin\ *n* [alter. of earlier *chincomen*, of Algonquian origin] **1** : any of several trees (genera *Castanea* or *Castanopsis*); *esp* : a dwarf chestnut (*Castanea pumila*) of the U.S. **2** : the edible nut of a chinquapin

chintz \'chin(t)s\ *n* [earlier *chints*, pl. of *chint*, fr. Hindi *chīṭ*] **1** : a printed calico from India **2** : a usu. glazed printed cotton fabric

chintzy \'chin(t)-sē\ *adj* **chintz·i·er; -est** **1** : decorated with or as if with chintz **2** : GAUDY, CHEAP ⟨~ toys⟩

chin–up \'chin-ˌəp\ *n* : the act or an instance of chinning oneself performed esp. as a conditioning exercise

chin–wag \-ˌwag\ *n, slang* : CONVERSATION, CHAT

¹chip \'chip\ *n* [ME] **1 a** : a small usu. thin and flat piece (as of wood or stone) cut, struck, or flaked off **b** (1) : a small thin slice of food; *esp* : POTATO CHIP (2) : FRENCH FRY **2** : something small, worthless, or trivial **3 a** : one of the counters used as a token for money in poker and other games **b** *pl* : MONEY — used esp. in the phrase *in the chips* **4** : a piece of dried dung — usu. used in combination ⟨cow ~⟩ **5** : a flaw left after a chip is removed **6** : INTEGRATED CIRCUIT **7** : CHIP SHOT — **chip off the old block** : a child that resembles his parent — **chip on one's shoulder** : a challenging or belligerent attitude

²chip *vb* **chipped; chip·ping** *vt* **1 a** : to cut or hew with an edged tool **b** (1) : to cut or break (a small piece) from something (2) : to cut or break a fragment from **2** *Brit* : CHAFF, BANTER ~ *vi* **1** : to break off in small pieces **2** : to play a chip shot

chip·board \'chip-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a paperboard made from waste paper

chip in *vb* : CONTRIBUTE ⟨everyone *chipped in* for the gift⟩

chip·munk \'chip-ˌməŋk\ *n* [alter. of earlier *chitmunk*, of Algonquian origin; akin to Ojibwa *atchitamō* squirrel] : any of numerous small striped semiterrestrial American squirrels (genera *Tamias* and *Eutamias*)

chipped beef \'chip(t)-\ *n* : smoked dried beef sliced thin

Chip·pen·dale \'chip-ən-ˌdāl\ *adj* [Thomas *Chippendale*] : of or relating to an 18th century English furniture style characterized by graceful outline and often ornate rococo ornamentation

¹chip·per \'chip-ər\ *n* : one that chips

²chipper *adj* [perh. alter. of E dial. *kipper* (lively)] : GAY, SPRIGHTLY

Chip·pe·wa \'chip-ə-ˌwȯ, -ˌwä, -ˌwā, -wə\ *n, pl* **Chippewa** *or* **Chippewas** : OJIBWA

chip shot *n* : a short usu. low approach shot in golf that lofts the ball to the green and allows it to roll

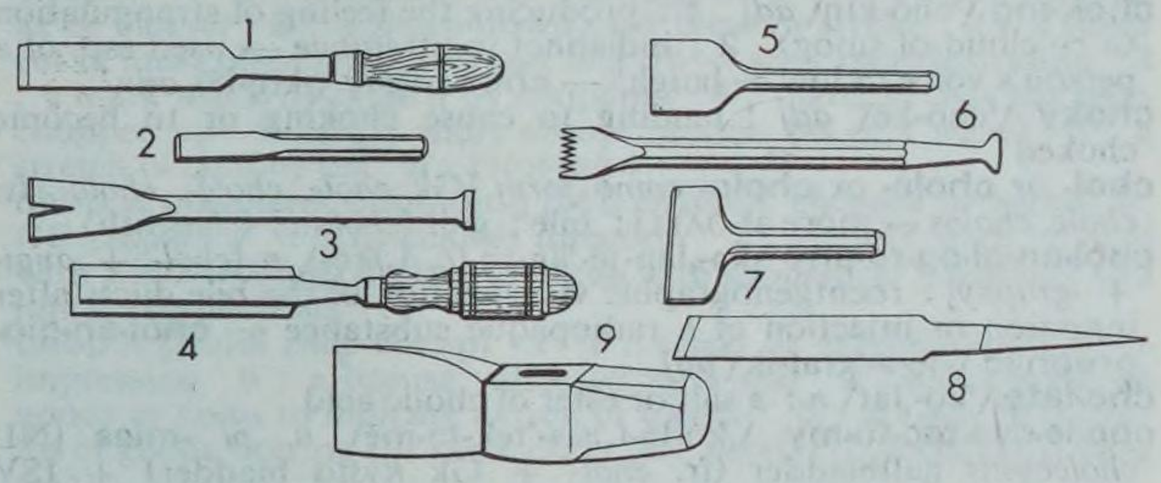
chir- *or* **chiro-** *comb form* [L, fr. Gk *cheir-, cheiro-*, fr. *cheir;* akin to Hitt *kesar* hand] : hand ⟨*chiro*practic⟩

Chi–Rho \'kī-'rō, 'kē-\ *n, pl* **Chi–Rhos** [*chi* + *rho*] : a Christian monogram and symbol formed from the first two letters X and P of the Greek word for *Christ* — called also *Christogram*

Chir·i·ca·hua \ˌchir-ə-'kä-wə\ *n, pl* **Chiricahua** *or* **Chiricahuas** : a member of an Apache people of Arizona

chirk \'chərk\ *vb* [ME *charken, chirken* to creak, chirp, fr. OE *cearcian* to creak; akin to OE *cracian* to crack] : CHEER ⟨play with her and ~ her up a little —Harriet B. Stowe⟩

chi·rog·ra·pher \kī-'räg-rə-fər\ *n* : one who studies or practices chirography
chi·rog·ra·phy \-fē\ *n* **1** : HANDWRITING, PENMANSHIP **2** : CALLIGRAPHY 1 — **chi·ro·graph·ic** \ˌkī-rə-'graf-ik\ *or* **chi·ro·graph·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj*
chi·ro·man·cy \'kī-rə-ˌman(t)-sē\ *n* [prob. fr. MF *chiromancie*, fr. ML *chiromantia*, fr. Gk *cheir-* chir- + *-manteia* -mancy — more at -MANCY] : PALMISTRY — **chi·ro·man·cer** \-ˌman(t)-sər\ *n*
chi·ron·o·mid \kī-'rän-ə-məd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *cheironomos* one who gestures with his hands] : any of a family (Chironomidae) of midges that lack piercing mouthparts
chi·rop·o·dy \kə-'räp-əd-ē, shə- *also* kī-\ *n* [*chir-* + *pod-*, fr. its original concern with both hands and feet] : PODIATRY — **chi·rop·o·dist** \-əd-əst\ *n*
chi·ro·prac·tic \'kī-rə-ˌprak-tik\ *n* [*chir-* + Gk *praktikos* practical, operative — more at PRACTICAL] : a system of healing which holds that disease results from a lack of normal nerve function and which employs manipulation and specific adjustment of body structures (as the spinal column) — **chi·ro·prac·tor** \-tər\ *n*
chi·rop·ter \kī-'räp-tər, 'kī-ˌ\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *cheir* hand + *pteron* wing — more at FEATHER] : ³BAT — **chi·rop·ter·an** \kī-'räp-tə-rən\ *adj or n*
chirp \'chərp\ *n* [imit.] : the characteristic short sharp sound esp. of a small bird or insect — **chirp** *vi* — **chirp·i·ly** \'chər-pə-lē\ *adv* — **chirpy** \'chər-pē\ *adj*
chirr \'chər\ *n* [imit.] : the short vibrant or trilled sound characteristic of an insect (as a grasshopper or cicada) — **chirr** *vi*
¹chir·rup \'chər-əp, 'chir-\ *vi* [imit.] **1** : CHIRP **2** : to make a sound like a chirrup ~ *vt* : to utter by chirruping
²chirrup *n* : CHIRP
chi·rur·geon \kī-'rər-jən\ *n* [ME *cirurgian*, fr. OF *cirurgien*, fr. *cirurgie* surgery] *archaic* : SURGEON
¹chis·el \'chiz-əl\ *n* [ME, fr. ONF, prob. alter. of *chisoir* goldsmith's chisel, fr. (assumed) VL *caesorium* cutting instrument, fr. L *caesus*, pp. of *caedere* to cut — more at CONCISE] : a metal tool with a cutting edge at the end of a blade used in dressing, shaping, or working a solid material (as wood, stone, or metal)



chisels: *1* socket paring chisel, *2* cold chisel, *3* box chisel, *4* beveled firmer chisel, *5* floor chisel, *6* stonecutter's chisel, *7* bricklayer's chisel, *8* turning chisel, *9* blacksmith's chisel

²chisel *vb* **-eled** *or* **-elled; -el·ing** *or* **-el·ling** \'chiz-(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* **1** : to cut or work with or as if with a chisel **2** : to employ shrewd or unfair practices on in order to obtain one's end; *also* : to obtain by such practices ⟨~ a job⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to work with a chisel **2 a** : to employ shrewd or unfair practices **b** : to thrust oneself : INTRUDE ⟨~ in on a racket⟩ — **chis·el·er** \-(ə-)lər\ *n*
chis·eled *or* **chis·elled** \'chiz-əld\ *adj* **1** : cut or wrought with a chisel **2** : appearing as if chiseled : CLEAR-CUT ⟨sharply ~ features⟩
chi–square \'kī-'skwa(ə)r, -'skwe(ə)r\ *n* : a statistic that is a sum of terms each of which is a quotient obtained by dividing the square of the difference between the observed and theoretical values of a quantity by the theoretical value
chi–square distribution *n* : a probability density function that gives the distribution of the sum of the squares of a number of independent random variables each with a normal distribution with zero mean and unit variance, that has the property that the sum of two random variables with such a distribution also has one, and that is widely used in testing statistical hypotheses esp. about the theoretical and observed values of a quantity and about population variances and standard deviations
¹chit \'chit\ *n* [ME *chitte* kitten, cub] **1** : CHILD **2** : a pert young woman
²chit *n* [Hindi *citthī*] **1** : a short letter or note; *esp* : a signed voucher of a small debt (as for food) **2** : a small slip of paper with writing on it
chit·chat \'chit-ˌchat\ *n* [redupl. of *chat*] : SMALL TALK, GOSSIP — **chitchat** *vi*
chi·tin \'kīt-ᵊn\ *n* [F *chitine*, fr. Gk *chitōn* chiton, tunic] : a horny polysaccharide that forms part of the hard outer integument esp. of insects and crustaceans — **chi·tin·ous** \'kīt-ᵊn-əs, 'kīt-nəs\ *adj*
chi·ton \'kīt-ᵊn, 'kī-ˌtän\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *chitōn* tunic; of Sem origin; akin to Heb *kuttōneth* tunic] **1** : any of an order (Polyplacophora) of elongated bilaterally symmetrical marine mollusks with a dorsal shell of calcareous plates **2** [Gk *chitōn*] : the basic garment of ancient Greece worn usu. knee-length by men and full-length by women
chit·ter \'chit-ər\ *vi* [ME *chiteren*, prob. of imit. origin] : TWITTER, CHIRP; *also* : CHATTER
chit·ter·lings *or* **chit·lings** *or* **chit·lins** \'chit-lənz\ *n pl* [ME *chiterling*] : the intestines of hogs esp. when prepared as food
chi·val·ric \shə-'val-rik\ *adj* : relating to chivalry : CHIVALROUS
chiv·al·rous \'shiv-əl-rəs\ *adj* **1** : VALIANT **2** : of, relating to, or characteristic of chivalry and knight-errantry **3 a** : marked by honor, generosity, and courtesy **b** : marked by gracious courtesy and high-minded consideration esp. to women ***syn*** see CIVIL ***ant*** unchivalrous, churlish — **chiv·al·rous·ly** *adv* — **chiv·al·rous·ness** *n*
chiv·al·ry \'shiv-əl-rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [ME *chivalrie*, fr. OF *chevalerie*, fr. *chevalier*] **1** : mounted men-at-arms **2** *archaic* **a** : martial valor **b** : knightly skill **3** : gallant or distinguished gentlemen **4** : the system, spirit, or customs of medieval knighthood **5** : the qualities (as bravery, honor, protection of the weak, and generous treatment of foes) of the ideal knight : chivalrous conduct
chive \'chīv\ *n* [ME, fr. ONF, fr. L *cepa* onion] : a perennial plant (*Allium schoenoprasum*) related to the onion
chivy *or* **chiv·vy** \'chiv-ē\ *vt* **chiv·ied** *or* **chiv·vied; chivy·ing** *or* **chiv·vy·ing** [*chivy*, n. (chase, hunt), prob. fr. E dial. *Chevy Chase* chase, confusion, fr. the name of a ballad describing the battle of Otterburn (1388)] **1** : to tease or annoy with persistent petty attacks : HARRY, HARASS **2** : MANEUVER, MANIPULATE ***syn*** see BAIT
chlam·ydo·mo·nas \ˌklam-əd-ə-'mō-nəs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L *chlamyd-, chlamys* + NL *monas* monad] : any of a genus (*Chlamydomonas*) of single-celled photosynthetic flagellates or algae that have two flagella and are common in fresh water and damp soil
chla·mydo·spore \klə-'mid-ə-ˌspō(ə)r, -ˌspȯ(ə)r\ *n* [L *chlamyd-, chlamys* + ISV *spore*] : a thick-walled usu. resting spore — **chla·mydo·spor·ic** \klə-ˌmid-ə-'spōr-ik, -'spȯr-\ *adj*
chla·mys \'klam-əs, 'klām-əs\ *n, pl* **chla·mys·es** *or* **chla·my·des** \-ə-ˌdēz\ [L *chlamyd-, chlamys*, fr. Gk] : a short oblong mantle worn by young men of ancient Greece
Chloe \'klō-ē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Chloē*] : a lover of Daphnis in a Greek pastoral romance
chlor- *or* **chloro-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *chlōros* greenish yellow — more at YELLOW] **1** : green ⟨*chlor*ine⟩ ⟨*chlor*osis⟩ **2** : chlorine : containing chlorine ⟨*chlor*ic⟩ ⟨*chloro*prene⟩
chlo·ral \'klōr-əl, 'klȯr-\ *n* [F, fr. *chlor-* + *al*cool alcohol] **1** : a pungent colorless oily aldehyde CCl_3CHO used in making DDT and chloral hydrate **2** : CHLORAL HYDRATE
chloral hydrate *n* : a bitter white crystalline drug $C_2H_3Cl_3O_2$ used as a hypnotic or in knockout drops
chlo·ral·ose \'klōr-ə-ˌlōs, 'klȯr-, -ˌlōz\ *n* : a bitter crystalline compound $C_8H_{11}Cl_3O_6$ used as a hypnotic — **chlo·ral·osed** \-ˌlōst, -ˌlōzd\ *adj*
chlo·ram·bu·cil \klōr-'am-byə-ˌsil, klȯr-\ *n* [*chlor-* + *am*in- + *bu*tyric + *-cil* (of unknown origin)] : a nitrogen mustard derivative $C_{14}H_{19}Cl_2NO_2$ used esp. to treat leukemias and Hodgkin's disease
chlo·ra·mine \'klōr-ə-ˌmēn, 'klȯr-\ *n* [ISV] : any of various compounds containing nitrogen and chlorine
chlor·am·phen·i·col \ˌklōr-ˌam-'fen-i-ˌkȯl, ˌklȯr-, -ˌkōl\ *n* [*chlor-* + *am*id- + *phen-* + *nitr-* + gly*col*] : a broad-spectrum antibiotic $C_{11}H_{12}Cl_2N_2O_5$ isolated from cultures of a soil microorganism (*Streptomyces venezuelae*) or prepared synthetically
chlo·rate \'klō(ə)r-ˌāt, 'klȯ(ə)r-\ *n* : a salt containing the radical ClO_3 ⟨~ of potassium⟩
chlor·dane \'klȯ(ə)r-ˌdān\ *or* **chlor·dan** \-ˌdan\ *n* [*chlor-* + in*dane*, in*dan* (C_9H_{10})] : a highly chlorinated viscous volatile liquid insecticide $C_{10}H_6Cl_8$
chlor·di·az·epox·ide \ˌklōr-dī-ˌaz-ə-'päk-ˌsīd, ˌklȯr-\ *n* [*chlor-* + *di-* + *az-* + *epoxide*] : a compound $C_{16}H_{14}ClN_3O$ the hydrochloride of which is used as a tranquilizer in the treatment of various psychoneuroses and alcoholism
chlo·rel·la \klə-'rel-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *chlōros*] : any of a genus (*Chlorella*) of unicellular green algae potentially a cheap source of high-grade protein and B-complex vitamins
chlo·ric \'klōr-ik, 'klȯr-\ *adj* : relating to or obtained from chlorine esp. with a valence of five
chlo·ride \'klō(ə)r-ˌīd, 'klȯ(ə)r-\ *n* [G *chlorid*, fr. *chlor-* + *-id* -ide] : a compound of chlorine with another element or radical; *esp* : a salt or ester of hydrochloric acid
chloride of lime : BLEACHING POWDER
chlo·ri·nate \'klōr-ə-ˌnāt, 'klȯr-\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** : to treat or cause to combine with chlorine or a chlorine compound — **chlo·ri·na·tion** \ˌklōr-ə-'nā-shən, ˌklȯr-\ *n* — **chlo·ri·na·tor** \'klōr-ə-ˌnāt-ər, 'klȯr-\ *n*
chlorinated lime *n* : BLEACHING POWDER
chlo·rine \'klō(ə)r-ˌēn, 'klȯ(ə)r-, -ən\ *n* : a halogen element that is isolated as a heavy greenish yellow gas of pungent odor and is used esp. as a bleach, oxidizing agent, and disinfectant in water purification — see ELEMENT table
chlo·rin·i·ty \klōr-'in-ət-ē, klȯr-\ *n* [*chlorine* + *-ity*] : a measure of the amount of halides present in one kilogram of seawater
¹chlo·rite \'klō(ə)r-ˌīt, 'klȯ(ə)r-\ *n* [G *chlorit*, fr. L *chloritis*, a green stone, fr. Gk *chlōritis*, fr. *chlōros*] : any of a group of monoclinic usu. green minerals associated with and resembling the micas — **chlo·rit·ic** \klōr-'it-ik, klȯr-\ *adj*
²chlorite *n* [prob. fr. F, fr. *chlor-*] : a salt containing the group ClO_2 ⟨~ of sodium⟩
chloro- — see CHLOR-
chlo·ro·ben·zene \ˌklōr-ō-'ben-ˌzēn, ˌklȯr-, -ben-'\ *n* [ISV] : a colorless flammable volatile toxic liquid C_6H_5Cl used in organic synthesis (as of DDT) and as a solvent
¹chlo·ro·form \'klōr-ə-ˌfȯrm, 'klȯr-\ *n* [F *chloroforme*, fr. *chlor-* + *formyle* formyl; fr. its having been regarded as a trichloride of this radical] : a colorless volatile heavy toxic liquid $CHCl_3$ with an ether odor used esp. as a solvent or as a general anesthetic
²chloroform *vt* : to treat with chloroform esp. so as to produce anesthesia or death
chlo·ro·gen·ic acid \ˌklōr-ə-ˌjen-ik-, ˌklȯr-\ *n* : a crystalline acid $C_{16}H_{18}O_9$ occurring in various plant parts (as potatoes or coffee beans)

chlo·ro·hy·drin \ˌklōr-ə-ˈhī-drən, ˌklȯr-\ *n* [ISV, fr. *chlor-* + *hydr-*] : any of various organic compounds derived from glycols or polyhydroxy alcohols by substitution of chlorine for part of the hydroxyl groups

Chlo·ro·my·ce·tin \ˌklōr-ō-mī-ˈsēt-ᵊn, ˌklȯr-\ *trademark* — used for chloramphenicol

chlo·ro·phyll \ˈklōr-ə-ˌfil, ˈklȯr-, -fəl\ *n* [F *chlorophylle*, fr. *chlor-* + Gk *phyllon* leaf — more at BLADE] **1** : the green photosynthetic coloring matter of plants found in chloroplasts and made up chiefly of a blue-black ester $C_{55}H_{72}MgN_4O_5$ and a dark green ester $C_{55}H_{70}MgN_4O_6$ — called also respectively *chlorophyll a*, *chlorophyll b* **2** : a waxy green chlorophyll-containing substance extracted from green plants and used as a coloring agent or deodorant — **chlo·ro·phyl·lose** \ˌklōr-ə-ˈfil-ˌōs, ˌklȯr-, -(ˌ)fil-ˈ\ *adj* — **chlo·ro·phyl·lous** \-ˈfil-əs\ *adj*

chlo·ro·pic·rin \ˌklōr-ə-ˈpik-rən, ˌklȯr-\ *n* [G *chlorpikrin*, fr. *chlor-* + Gk *pikros* bitter] : a heavy colorless liquid CCl_3NO_2 that causes tears and vomiting and is used esp. as a soil fumigant

chlo·ro·plast \ˈklōr-ə-ˌplast, ˈklȯr-\ *n* [ISV] : a plastid that contains chlorophyll and is the site of photosynthesis and starch formation — see CELL illustration

chlo·ro·prene \-ˌprēn\ *n* [*chlor-* + iso*prene*] : a colorless liquid C_4H_5Cl used esp. in making neoprene by polymerization

chlo·ro·quine \ˈklōr-ə-ˌkwēn, ˈklȯr-\ *n* [*chlor-* + *quinoline*] : an antimalarial drug $C_{18}H_{26}ClN_3$ administered as the bitter crystalline diphosphate

chlo·ro·sis \klə-ˈrō-səs\ *n* **1** : an iron-deficiency anemia in young girls characterized by a greenish color of the skin — called also *greensickness* **2** : a diseased condition in green plants marked by yellowing or blanching — **chlo·rot·ic** \-ˈrät-ik\ *adj* — **chlo·rot·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

chlo·rous \ˈklōr-əs, ˈklȯr-\ *adj* : relating to or obtained from chlorine esp. with a valence of three

chlor·prom·a·zine \klōr-ˈpräm-ə-ˌzēn, klȯr-\ *n* [*chlor-* + *pro*pyl + *m*ethyl + phenothi*azine*] : a phenothiazine derivative $C_{17}H_{19}ClN_2S$ used as a tranquilizer in the form of its hydrochloride

chlor·prop·amide \-ˈpräp-ə-ˌmīd, -ˈprōp-\ *n* [*chlor-* + *propane* + *amide*] : a sulfonyl urea compound $C_{10}H_{13}ClN_2O_3S$ used to reduce blood sugar in the treatment of mild diabetes

chlor·tet·ra·cy·cline \ˌklōr-ˌte-trə-ˈsī-ˌklēn, ˌklȯr-\ *n* : a yellow crystalline antibiotic $C_{22}H_{23}ClN_2O_8$ produced by a soil actinomycete (*Streptomyces aureofaciens*), used in the treatment of diseases, and added to animal feeds for stimulating growth

chm *abbr* **1** chairman **2** checkmate

cho·ano·cyte \kō-ˈan-ə-ˌsīt\ *n* [ISV *choan-* (funnel-shaped) (fr. Gk *choanē* funnel) + *-cyte*] : COLLAR CELL

¹chock \ˈchäk\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : a wedge or block for steadying a body (as a cask) and holding it motionless, for filling in an unwanted space, or for blocking the movement of a wheel **2** : a heavy metal casting (as on the bow or stern of a ship) with two short horn-shaped arms curving inward between which ropes or hawsers may pass for mooring or towing

²chock *vt* **1** : to provide, stop, or make fast with or as if with chocks **2** : to raise or support on chocks

³chock *adv* : as close or as completely as possible

¹chock·a·block \ˈchäk-ə-ˌbläk\ *adj* **1** : brought close together **2** : very full : CROWDED

²chockablock *adv* : in a crowded manner or condition ⟨families living ~⟩

chock–full \ˈchək-ˈfůl, ˈchäk-\ *adj* [ME *chokkefull*, prob. fr. *choken* to choke + *full*] : full to the limit : CRAMMED

choc·o·late \ˈchäk-(ə-)lət, ˈchȯk-\ *n* [Sp, fr. Nahuatl *xocoatl*] **1** : a food prepared from ground roasted cacao beans **2** : a beverage of chocolate in water or milk **3** : a small candy with a center (as a fondant) and a chocolate coating **4** : a variable color averaging a brownish gray — **chocolate** *adj*

chocolate–box *adj* [fr. the pictures formerly commonly seen on boxes of chocolates] : superficially pretty or sentimental ⟨his fiancée wanted him to paint her, and always in a ~ pose —L. S. Gannett⟩

chocolate tree *n* : CACAO 1

choc·o·laty *or* **choc·o·lat·ey** \ˈchäk-(ə-)lət-ē, ˈchȯk-\ *adj* : made of or resembling chocolate

Choc·taw \ˈchäk-(ˌ)tȯ\ *n, pl* **Choctaw** *or* **Choctaws** [Choctaw *Chahta*] **1** : a member of an Amerindian people of Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana **2** : the language of the Choctaw and Chickasaw people

¹choice \ˈchȯis\ *n* [ME *chois*, fr. OF, fr. *choisir* to choose, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *kiosan* to choose — more at CHOOSE] **1** : the act of choosing : SELECTION **2** : power of choosing : OPTION **3 a** : a person or thing chosen **b** : the best part : CREAM **4** : a sufficient number and variety to choose among **5** : care in selecting **6** : a grade of meat between prime and good

syn CHOICE, OPTION, ALTERNATIVE, PREFERENCE, SELECTION, ELECTION *shared meaning element* : the act or opportunity of choosing or the thing chosen

²choice *adj* **choic·er; choic·est** **1** : worthy of being chosen : SELECT **2** : selected with care : well chosen **3 a** : of high quality **b** : of a grade between prime and good ⟨~ meat⟩ — **choice·ly** *adv* — **choice·ness** *n*

syn CHOICE, EXQUISITE, ELEGANT, RARE, DAINTY, DELICATE *shared meaning element* : having qualities that appeal to a cultivated taste ***ant*** indifferent

¹choir \ˈkwī(-ə)r\ *n* [ME *quer*, fr. OF *cuer*, fr. ML *chorus*, fr. L, chorus] **1** : an organized company of singers esp. in church service **2** : a group of instruments of the same class ⟨a brass ~⟩ **3** : an organized group of persons or things **4** : a division of angels **5** : the part of a church occupied by the singers or by the clergy; *specif* : the part of the chancel between sanctuary and nave **6** : a group organized for ensemble speaking

²choir *vi* : to sing or sound in chorus or concert

³choir *adj* : of the class in a religious order bound to recite the Divine Office and devoted chiefly to the order's special work

choir·boy \ˈkwī(-ə)r-ˌbȯi\ *n* : a boy member of a choir

choir loft *n* : a gallery occupied by a church choir

choir·mas·ter \-ˌmas-tər\ *n* : the director of a choir (as in a church)

¹choke \ˈchōk\ *vb* **choked; chok·ing** [ME *choken*, alter. of *achoken*, fr. OE *acēocian*] *vt* **1** : to check normal breathing of by compressing or obstructing the windpipe or by poisoning or adulterating available air **2** : to check or suppress expression of or by : SILENCE ⟨a cloture rule designed to ~ off discussion⟩ **3 a** : to check the growth, development, or activity of ⟨the flowers were *choked* by the weeds⟩ **b** : to obstruct by filling up or clogging ⟨leaves *choked* the drain⟩ **c** : to fill completely : JAM ⟨dandelions *choked* the strips of lawn dividing the auto lanes —Herman Wouk⟩ **4** : to enrich the fuel mixture of (a motor) by partially shutting off the air intake of the carburetor **5** : to grip (as a baseball bat) some distance from the end of the handle ~ *vi* **1** : to become choked in breathing **2 a** : to become obstructed or checked **b** : to become or feel constricted in the throat (as from strong emotion) — usu. used with *up* ⟨he *choked* up and couldn't finish his speech⟩ **3** : to shorten one's grip esp. on the handle of a bat — usu. used with *up* **4** : to lose one's composure and fail to perform effectively in a critical situation

²choke *n* **1** : the act of choking **2** : something that obstructs passage or flow: as **a** : a valve for choking a gasoline engine **b** : a constriction in an outlet (as of an oil well) that restricts flow **c** : REACTOR 2 **d** : a narrowing toward the muzzle in the bore of a gun **e** : an attachment that allows variation of muzzle constriction of a shotgun

choke·ber·ry \-ˌber-ē\ *n* : a small berrylike astringent fruit; *also* : a shrub (genus *Aronia*) of the rose family bearing chokeberries

choke·cher·ry \-ˌcher-ē, -ˈcher-\ *n* : any of several American wild cherries with bitter or astringent fruit; *also* : this fruit

choke coil *n* : REACTOR 2

choke collar *n* : a collar that may be tightened as a noose and that is used esp. in training and controlling powerful or stubborn dogs

choke·damp \ˈchōk-ˌdamp\ *n* : BLACKDAMP

chok·er \ˈchō-kər\ *n* **1** : one that chokes **2** : something worn closely about the throat or neck: as **a** : a wide ornamental cloth for the neck; *esp* : STOCK **b** : a high stiff collar **c** : a short necklace

chok·ing \ˈchō-kiŋ\ *adj* **1** : producing the feeling of strangulation ⟨a ~ cloud of smog⟩ **2** : indistinct in utterance — used esp. of a person's voice ⟨a low ~ laugh⟩ — **chok·ing·ly** \-kiŋ-lē\ *adv*

choky \ˈchō-kē\ *adj* : tending to cause choking or to become choked

chol- *or* **chole-** *or* **cholo-** *comb form* [Gk *chol-*, *cholē-*, *cholo-*, fr. *cholē*, *cholos* — more at GALL] : bile : gall ⟨*chol*ate⟩ ⟨*chole*lith⟩

chol·an·gi·og·ra·phy \kə-ˌlan-jē-ˈäg-rə-fē, (ˌ)kō-\ *n* [*chol-* + *angi-* + *-graphy*] : roentgenographic visualization of the bile ducts after ingestion or injection of a radiopaque substance — **chol·an·gio·graph·ic** \-jē-ə-ˈgraf-ik\ *adj*

cho·late \ˈkō-ˌlāt\ *n* : a salt or ester of cholic acid

cho·le·cys·tec·to·my \ˌkō-lə-(ˌ)sis-ˈtek-tə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** [NL *cholecystis* gallbladder (fr. *chol-* + Gk *kystis* bladder) + ISV *-ectomy* — more at CYST] : surgical excision of the gallbladder

cho·le·cys·ti·tis \-ˈtīt-əs\ *n, pl* **-tit·i·des** \-ˈtit-ə-ˌdēz\ [NL, fr. *cholecystis*] : inflammation of the gallbladder

cho·le·cys·to·ki·nin \-ˌsis-tə-ˈkī-nən\ *n* [NL *cholecystis* + E *-o-* + *kinin*] : a hormone secreted by the duodenal mucosa that regulates the emptying of the gallbladder and secretion of enzymes by the pancreas — called also *cholecystokinin-pancreozymin*, *pancreozymin*

cho·le·li·thi·a·sis \ˌkō-li-lith-ˈī-ə-səs\ *n* [NL *chol-* + *lithiasis*] : production of gallstones; *also* : the resulting abnormal condition

cho·ler \ˈkäl-ər, ˈkō-lər\ *n* [ME *coler*, fr. MF *colere*, fr. L *cholera* bilious diesase, fr. Gk, fr. *cholē*] **1 a** *archaic* : YELLOW BILE **b** *obs* : BILE 1a **2** *obs* : the quality or state of being bilious **3** : the quality or state of being irascible

chol·era \ˈkäl-ə-rə\ *n* [ME *colera* bile, fr. L *cholera*] : any of several diseases of man and domestic animals usu. marked by severe gastrointestinal symptoms; *esp* : ASIATIC CHOLERA — **chol·e·ra·ic** \ˌkäl-ə-ˈrā-ik\ *adj*

chol·era mor·bus \ˌkäl-ə-rə-ˈmȯr-bəs\ *n* [NL, lit., the disease cholera] : a gastrointestinal disturbance characterized by griping, diarrhea, and sometimes vomiting — not used technically

cho·ler·ic \ˈkäl-ə-rik, kə-ˈler-ik\ *adj* **1** : easily moved to often unreasonable or excessive anger : hot-tempered **2** : ANGRY, IRATE

syn see IRASCIBLE ***ant*** placid, imperturbable

cho·les·ter·ol \kə-ˈles-tə-ˌrōl, -ˌrȯl\ *n* [F *cholestérine*, fr. *chol-* + Gk *stereos* solid] : a steroid alcohol $C_{27}H_{45}OH$ present in animal cells and body fluids, important in physiological processes, and implicated experimentally as a factor in arteriosclerosis

cho·lic acid \ˌkō-lik-\ *n* [Gk *cholikos* bilious, fr. *cholē*] : a crystalline bile acid $C_{24}H_{40}O_5$

cho·line \ˈkō-ˌlēn\ *n* [ISV] : a base $C_5H_{15}NO_2$ that occurs in many animal and plant products and is a vitamin of the B complex essential to the liver function

cho·lin·er·gic \ˌkō-lə-ˈnər-jik\ *adj* [ISV acetyl*choline* + Gk *ergon* work — more at WORK] **1** *of autonomic nerve fibers* : liberating or activated by acetylcholine **2** : resembling acetylcholine esp. in physiologic action

cho·lin·es·ter·ase \ˌkō-lə-ˈnes-tə-ˌrās, -ˌrāz\ *n* **1** : ACETYLCHOLINESTERASE **2** : an enzyme that hydrolyzes choline esters and that is found esp. in blood plasma — called also *pseudocholinesterase*

cho·li·no·lyt·ic \ˌkō-lə-nō-ˈlit-ik\ *adj* [*choline* + *-o-* + *-lytic*] : interfering with the action of acetylcholine or cholinergic agents — **cholinolytic** *n*

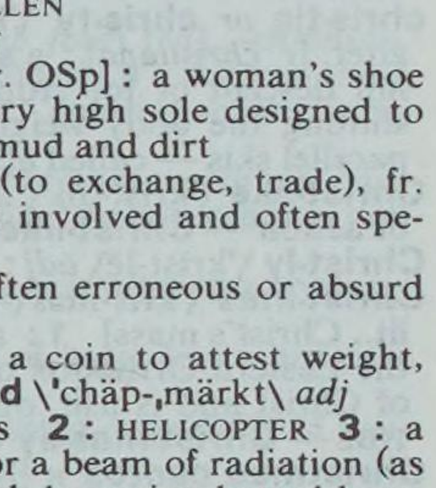
chol·la \ˈchȯi-(y)ə\ *n* [MeẋSp, fr. Sp, head] : any of several arborescent very spiny cacti (genus *Opuntia*) of the southwestern U.S. and Mexico

chomp \ˈchämp, ˈchȯmp\ *vb* [alter. of *champ*] *vt* : to chew or bite on ⟨he ~*ed* his cigar in anger —J. A. Michener⟩ ~ *vi* : to chew or bite on something

chon \ˈchän\ *n, pl* **chon** [Korean] — see *won* at MONEY table

chondr- *or* **chondri-** *or* **chondro-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *chondr-*, *chondro-*, fr. *chondros* grain, cartilage] : cartilage ⟨*chondro*cranium⟩

chon·drio·some \'kän-drē-ə-ˌsōm\ *n* [Gk *chondrion*, dim. of *chondros*, + ISV *-some*] : MITOCHONDRION
chon·drite \'kän-ˌdrīt\ *n* [ISV, fr. Gk *chondros* grain] : a meteoric stone characterized by the presence of chondrules — **chon·drit·ic** \kän-'drit-ik\ *adj*
chon·dro·cra·ni·um \ˌkän-drō-'krā-nē-əm\ *n* : the embryonic cartilaginous cranium; *also* : the part of the adult skull derived therefrom
chon·droi·tin \kän-'drȯit-ᵊn, -'drō-ət-ᵊn\ *n* [ISV *chondroitic* acid (an acid found in cartilage) (fr. *chondr-*) + *-in*] : a mucopolysaccharide occurring in sulfated form in various animal tissues (as cartilage and tendons)
chon·drule \'kän-(ˌ)drül\ *n* [Gk *chondros* grain] : a rounded granule of cosmic origin often found embedded in meteoric stones and sometimes free in marine sediments
choose \'chüz\ *vb* **chose** \'chōz\; **cho·sen** \'chōz-ᵊn\; **choos·ing** \'chü-zin\ [ME *chosen*, fr. OE *cēosan;* akin to OHG *kiosan* to choose, L *gustare* to taste] *vt* **1 a** : to select freely and after consideration **b** : to decide on esp. by vote : ELECT ⟨*chosen* to serve as senator⟩ **2 a** : to have a preference for **b** (1) : DECIDE ⟨*chose* to go by train⟩ (2) : PREFER ~ *vi* **1** : to make a selection **2** : to take an alternative — used after *cannot* and usu. followed by *but* ⟨when earth is so kind, men cannot ~ but be happy —J. A. Froude⟩ — **choos·er** \'chü-zər\ *n*
choose up *vt* : to form (sides) esp. for a game by having opposing captains choose their players ~ *vi* : to form sides for a game ⟨let's *choose up* and play ball⟩
choosy *or* **choos·ey** \'chü-zē\ *adj* **choos·i·er; -est** : fastidiously selective : PARTICULAR
¹chop \'chäp\ *vb* **chopped; chop·ping** [ME *chappen, choppen* — more at CHAP] *vt* **1 a** : to cut into or sever usu. by repeated blows of a sharp instrument ⟨~ down a tree⟩ **b** : to cut into pieces : MINCE — often used with *up* ⟨~ up the vegetables⟩ **c** : to weed and thin out (young cotton) **2** : to strike (a ball) with a short quick downward stroke **3** : to subject to the action of a chopper ⟨~ a beam of light⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to make a quick stroke or repeated strokes with or as if with a sharp instrument (as an ax) **2** *archaic* : to move or act suddenly or violently
²chop *n* **1 a** : a forceful usu. slanting blow with or as if with an ax or cleaver **b** : a sharp downward blow or stroke **2** : a small cut of meat often including part of a rib — see LAMB illustration **3** : a mark made by or as if by chopping **4** : material that has been chopped up **5 a** : a short abrupt motion (as of a wave) **b** : a stretch of choppy sea **6** : CHOPPER 4
³chop *vi* **chopped; chop·ping** [ME *chappen, choppen* to barter, fr. OE *cēapian*] **1** : to change direction **2** : to veer with or as if with wind — **chop logic** : to argue with sophistical reasoning and minute distinctions
⁴chop *n* [Hindi *chāp* stamp] **1 a** : a seal or official stamp or its impression **b** : a license validated by a seal **2 a** : a mark on goods or coins to indicate nature or quality **b** : a kind, brand, or lot of goods bearing the same chop **c** : QUALITY, GRADE ⟨first-*chop* tea⟩
chop–chop \'chäp-ˌchäp\ *adv* [Pidgin E, redupl. of *chop* fast — more at CHOPSTICK] : without delay : QUICKLY
chop·fall·en \'chäp-ˌfȯ-lən\ *var of* CHAPFALLEN
chop·house \'chäp-ˌhaus\ *n* : RESTAURANT
cho·pine \shä-'pēn, chä-\ *n* [MF *chapin*, fr. OSp] : a woman's shoe of the 16th and 17th centuries with a very high sole designed to increase stature and protect the feet from mud and dirt
¹chop·log·ic \'chäp-ˌläj-ik\ *n* [obs. *chop* (to exchange, trade), fr. ME *choppen* to barter — more at CHOP] : involved and often specious argumentation
²choplogic *adj* : given to complex and often erroneous or absurd argumentation ⟨a ~ speech⟩
chop mark *n* : an indentation made on a coin to attest weight, silver content, or legality — **chop–marked** \'chäp-ˌmärkt\ *adj*
chop·per \'chäp-ər\ *n* **1** : one that chops **2** : HELICOPTER **3** : a device that interrupts an electric current or a beam of radiation (as light) at short regular intervals **4** : a high-bouncing batted baseball **5** : a customized motorcycle
chop·pi·ness \'chäp-ē-nəs\ *n* : the quality or state of being choppy
chopping block *n* : a wooden block on which material (as meat, wood, or vegetables) is cut, split, or diced
¹chop·py \'chäp-ē\ *adj* **chop·pi·er; -est** [²*chop*] : being roughened : CHAPPED
²choppy *adj* **chop·pi·er; -est** [³*chop*] *of the wind* : CHANGEABLE, VARIABLE
³choppy *adj* **choppier; -est** [¹*chop*] **1** : rough with small waves **2** : JERKY, DISCONNECTED ⟨criticized for his ~ novel⟩ — **chop·pi·ly** \'chäp-ə-lē\ *adv*
chops \'chäps\ *n pl* [alter. of ⁴*chap*] **1** : JAW **2 a** : MOUTH **b** : the fleshy covering of the jaws ⟨the hungry dog licked his ~⟩
chop·stick \'chäp-ˌstik\ *n* [Pidgin E, fr. *chop* fast (of Chinese origin; akin to Cant *kap*) + E *stick*] : one of a pair of slender sticks held between thumb and fingers and used chiefly in oriental countries to lift food to the mouth


chopsticks

chop su·ey \chäp-'sü-ē\ *n, pl* **chop sueys** [Chin (Cant) *shap sui* odds and ends, fr. *shap* miscellaneous + *sui* bits] : a dish prepared chiefly from bean sprouts, bamboo shoots, water chestnuts, onions, mushrooms, and meat or fish and served with rice and soy sauce
cho·ra·gus \kə-'rā-gəs\ *or* **cho·re·gus** \-'rē-, -'rā-\ *n* [L & Gk; L *choragus*, fr. Gk *choragos, chorēgos*, fr. *choros* chorus + *agein* to lead — more at AGENT] **1** : the leader of a chorus or choir; *broadly* : the leader of any group or movement **2** : a leader of a dramatic chorus in ancient Greece — **cho·rag·ic** \-'raj-ik\ *adj*
cho·ral \'kōr-əl, 'kȯr-\ *adj* [F or ML; F *choral*, fr. ML *choralis*, fr. L *chorus*] **1 a** : of or relating to a chorus or choir ⟨a ~ group⟩ **b** : accompanied with song ⟨a ~ dance⟩ **2** : sung or designed for singing by a choir ⟨a ~ arrangement⟩ — **cho·ral·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*
cho·rale *also* **cho·ral** \kə-'ral, -'räl\ *n* [G *choral*, short for *choralgesang* choral song] **1** : a hymn or psalm sung to a traditional or composed melody in church; *also* : a hymn tune or a harmonization of a traditional melody ⟨a Bach ~ ⟩ **2** : CHORUS, CHOIR
chorale prelude *n* : a composition usu. for organ based on a chorale
choral speaking *n* : ensemble speaking of poetry or prose by a group often using various voice combinations and contrasts
¹chord \'kȯ(ə)rd\ *n* [alter. of ME *cord*, short for *accord*] : a combination of tones that blend harmoniously when sounded together
²chord *vi* **1** : ACCORD **2** : to play chords esp. on a stringed instrument ~ *vt* **1** : to make chords on **2** : HARMONIZE
³chord *n* [alter. of ¹*cord*] **1** : CORD 3a **2** : a straight line joining two points on a curve; *specif* : the segment of a secant between its intersections with a curve **3** : an individual emotion or disposition **4** : either of the two outside members of a truss connected and braced by the web members **5** : the straight line joining the leading and trailing edges of an airfoil
chord·al \'kȯrd-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or suggesting a chord **2** : relating to music characterized more by harmony than by counterpoint
chor·da·meso·derm \ˌkȯrd-ə-'mez-ə-ˌdərm *also* -'mes-\ *n* [NL *chorda* cord + E *mesoderm*] : the portion of the embryonic mesoderm that forms notochord and related structures and serves as an inductor of neural structures — **chor·da·meso·der·mal** \-ˌmez-ə-'dər-məl, -ˌmes-\ *adj*
chor·date \'kȯrd-ət, 'kȯ(ə)r-ˌdāt\ *n* [deriv. of L *chorda* cord] : any of a phylum or subkingdom (Chordata) of animals having at least at some stage of development a notochord, dorsally situated central nervous system, and gill clefts and including the vertebrates, lancelets, and tunicates — **chordate** *adj*
chord organ *n* : an electronic or reed organ with buttons to produce simple chords
chore \'chō(ə)r, 'chȯ(ə)r\ *n* [alter. of *chare*] **1** *pl* : the regular or daily light work of a household or farm **2** : a routine task or job **3** : a difficult or disagreeable task ***syn*** see TASK
-chore \ˌkō(ə)r, ˌkȯ(ə)r\ *n comb form* [Gk *chōrein* to withdraw, go; akin to Gk *chēros* bereaved — more at HEIR] : plant distributed by (such) an agency ⟨zoo*chore*⟩ — **-cho·rous** \'kōr-əs, 'kȯr-\ *adj comb form* — **-cho·ry** \ˌkōr-ē, ˌkȯr-\ *n comb form*
cho·rea \kə-'rē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. L, dance, fr. Gk *choreia*, fr. *choros* chorus] : a nervous disorder (as of man or dogs) marked by spasmodic movements of limbs and facial muscles and by incoordination
chore boy *n* **1** : one who does chores; *esp* : a man who does the domestic maintenance tasks and helps the cook in a lumber camp **2** : a person who assumes responsibility for onerous detail in an undertaking
chore·man \'chō(ə)r-mən, 'chȯ(ə)r-\ *n* : a worker who performs menial jobs in a factory or camp (as a logging or construction camp)
cho·reo·dra·ma \ˌkōr-ē-ō-'dräm-ə, -'dram-\ *n* [Gk *choreia* dance + E *drama*] : a dance drama for large groups
cho·reo·graph \'kōr-ē-ə-ˌgraf, 'kȯr-\ *vt* : to compose the choreography of ~ *vi* : to engage in choreography — **cho·re·og·ra·pher** \ˌkōr-ē-'äg-rə-fər, ˌkȯr-\ *n*
cho·re·og·ra·phy \ˌkōr-ē-'äg-rə-fē, ˌkȯr-\ *n, pl* **-phies** [F *chorégraphie*, fr. Gk *choreia* + F *-graphie* -graphy] **1** : the art of symbolically representing dancing **2** : stage dancing as distinguished from social or ballroom dancing **3 a** : the composition and arrangement of dances esp. for ballet **b** : a composition created by this art — **cho·reo·graph·ic** \ˌkōr-ē-ə-'graf-ik, ˌkȯr-\ *adj* — **cho·reo·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
chor·iamb \'kōr-ē-ˌam(b), 'kȯr-\ *n, pl* **-iambs** \-ˌamz\ [LL *choriambus*, fr. Gk *choriambos*, fr. *choreios* of a chorus, (fr. *choros*) + *iambos* iambus] : a prosodic foot consisting of a trochee followed by an iamb — **chor·iam·bic** \ˌkōr-ē-'am-bik, ˌkȯr-\ *adj*
cho·ric \'kōr-ik, 'kȯr-, 'kär-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being in the style of a chorus and esp. a Greek chorus — **cho·ri·cally** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cho·rine \'kō(ə)r-ˌēn, 'kȯ(ə)r-\ *n* [*chor*us + *-ine*] : CHORUS GIRL
cho·rio·al·lan·to·is \ˌkōr-ē-ō-ə-'lant-ə-wəs, ˌkȯr-\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *chorion* + NL *allantois*] : a vascular fetal membrane composed of the fused chorion and adjacent wall of the allantois that in the hen's egg is used as a living culture medium for viruses and for tissues — **cho·rio·al·lan·to·ic** \-ˌal-ən-'tō-ik\ *adj*
cho·rio·car·ci·no·ma \-ˌkärs-ᵊn-'ō-mə\ *n* [NL, fr. *chorion* + *carcinoma*] : a malignant tumor developing in the uterus from trophoblast and rarely in the testes from a neoplasm
cho·ri·on \'kōr-ē-'än, 'kȯr-\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk] : the highly vascular outer embryonic membrane of higher vertebrates that in placental mammals is associated with the allantois in the formation of the placenta — **cho·ri·on·ic** \ˌkōr-ē-'än-ik, ˌkȯr-\ *adj*
cho·ris·ter \'kōr-ə-stər, 'kȯr-, 'kär-\ *n* [ME *querister*, fr. AF *cueristre*, fr. ML *chorista*, fr. L *chorus*] **1** : a singer in a choir; *specif* : CHOIRBOY **2** : the singer in a church choir who leads the singing and in the absence of instrumental accompaniment sets the pitch and tempo
cho·ri·zo \chə-'rē-(ˌ)zō, -(ˌ)sō\ *n, pl* **-zos** [Sp] : pork sausage that is highly seasoned with cayenne pepper, pimientos, garlic, and paprika

C–horizon *n* : the layer of a soil profile lying beneath the B-horizon and consisting essentially of more or less weathered parent rock
cho·rog·ra·phy \kə-'räg-rə-fē\ *n* [L *chorographia*, fr. Gk *chōrographia*, fr. *chōros* place + *-graphia* -graphy] **1** : the art of describing or mapping a region or district **2** : a description or map of a region; *also* : the physical conformation and features of such a region — **cho·ro·graph·ic** \ˌkȯr-ə-'graf-ik, ˌkär-\ *adj*
cho·roid \'kō(ə)r-ˌȯid, 'kȯ(ə)r-\ *also* **cho·ri·oid** \'kōr-ē-ˌȯid, 'kȯr-\ *n* [*choroid coat*] : a vascular membrane containing large branched pigment cells that lies between the retina and the sclerotic coat of the vertebrate eye — see EYE illustration — **choroid** *adj* — **cho·roi·dal** \kə-'rȯid-ᵊl\ *adj*
choroid coat *n* [NL *choroides* resembling the chorion, fr. Gk *chorioeidēs*, fr. *chorion*] : CHOROID
chor·tle \'chȯrt-ᵊl\ *vb* **chor·tled; chor·tling** \'chȯrt-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ [blend of *chuckle* and *snort*] *vi* **1** : to sing or chant exultantly ⟨he *chortled* in his joy —Lewis Carroll⟩ **2** : to laugh or chuckle esp. in satisfaction or exultation ~ *vt* : to express effervescently or with a chortling intonation — **chortle** *n* — **chor·tler** \'chȯrt-lər, -ᵊl-ər\ *n*
¹cho·rus \'kōr-əs, 'kȯr-\ *n* [L, ring dance, chorus, fr. Gk *choros*] **1 a** : a company of singers and dancers in Athenian drama participating in or commenting on the action; *also* : a similar company in later plays **b** : a character in Elizabethan drama who speaks the prologue and epilogue and comments on the action **c** : an organized company of singers who sing in concert : CHOIR; *specif* : a body of singers who sing the choral parts of a work (as in opera) **d** : a group of dancers and singers supporting the featured players in a musical comedy or revue **2 a** : a part of a song or hymn recurring at intervals **b** : the part of a drama sung or spoken by the chorus **c** : a composition to be sung by a number of voices in concert **d** : the main part of a popular song **3** : something performed, sung, or uttered simultaneously by a number of persons or animals; *also* : sounds so uttered **4** : a unanimous utterance by members of a group ⟨a ~ of boos⟩ — **in chorus** : in unison
²chorus *vt* : to sing or utter in chorus
chorus boy *n* : a young man who sings or dances in the chorus of a theatrical production (as a musical comedy or revue)
chorus girl *n* : a young woman who sings or dances in the chorus of a theatrical production (as a musical comedy or revue) — called also *chorine*
¹chose *past of* CHOOSE
²chose \'shōz\ *n* [F, fr. L *causa* cause, reason] : a piece of personal property : THING
¹cho·sen \'chōz-ᵊn\ *adj* [ME, fr. pp. of *chosen* to choose] **1** : selected or marked for favor or special privilege ⟨an hour granted to a ~ few⟩ **2** : ELECT
²chosen *n, pl* **chosen** : one who is the object of choice or of divine favor : an elect person
chott \'shät\ *n* [F *chott*, fr. Ar *shaṭṭ*] : a shallow saline lake of northern Africa; *also* : the dried bed of such a lake
Chou \'jō\ *n* [Chin (Pek) *Chou¹*] : a Chinese dynasty traditionally dated 1122 to about 256 B.C. and marked by the development of the philosophical schools of Confucius, Mencius, Lao-tzu, and Mo Ti
chough \'chəf\ *n* [ME] : a bird of an Old World genus (*Pyrrhocorax*) that is related to the crows and has red legs and glossy black plumage
¹chouse \'chaůs\ *vt* **choused; chous·ing** [Turk *çavuş* doorkeeper, messenger] : CHEAT, TRICK
²chouse *vt* **choused; chous·ing** [origin unknown] *West* : to drive or herd roughly
¹chow \'chaů\ *n* [perh. fr. Chin (Pek) *chiao³* meat dumpling] : FOOD, VICTUALS
²chow *vi* : EAT — often used with *down*
³chow *n* : CHOW CHOW
chow·chow \'chaů-ˌchaů\ *n* [Pidgin E] **1** : a Chinese preserve of ginger, fruits, and peels in heavy syrup **2** : a relish of chopped mixed pickles in mustard sauce
chow chow \'chaů-ˌchaů\ *n, often cap both Cs* [fr. a Chin dial. word akin to Cant *kaú* dog] : a heavy-coated blocky dog with a broad head and muzzle, a very full ruff of long hair, and a distinctive blue-black tongue and black-lined mouth — called also *chow*



chow chow

¹chow·der \'chaůd-ər\ *n* [F *chaudière* kettle, contents of a kettle, fr. LL *caldaria* — more at CALDRON] : a thick soup or stew of seafood (as clams or mussels) usu. made with milk, salt pork or bacon, onions and other vegetables (as potatoes); *also* : a soup resembling chowder ⟨corn ~⟩
²chowder *vt* : to make chowder of
chow·der·head \-ˌhed\ *n* : DOLT, BLOCKHEAD — **chow·der·headed** \ˌchaůd-ər-'hed-əd\ *adj*
chow·hound \'chaů-ˌhaůnd\ *n* : one excessively fond of food : GLUTTON
chow line *n* : a line of people waiting to be served food (as in a military mess)
chow mein \'chaů-'mān\ *n* [Chin (Pek) *ch'ao³ mien⁴*, fr. *ch'ao³* to fry + *mien⁴* dough] : a thick stew of shredded or diced meat, mushrooms, vegetables, and seasonings that is usu. served with fried noodles
chow·time \'chaů-ˌtīm\ *n* : MEALTIME
chres·tom·a·thy \kre-'stäm-ə-thē\ *n, pl* **-thies** [NL *chrestomathia*, fr. Gk *chrēstomatheia*, fr. *chrēstos* useful + *manthanein* to learn; akin to Skt *hrasva* small — more at MATHEMATICAL] **1** : a selection of passages compiled as an aid to learning a language **2** : a volume of selections from an author
chrism \'kriz-əm\ *n* [ME *crisme*, fr. OE *crisma*, fr. LL *chrisma*, fr. Gk, ointment, fr. *chriein* to anoint; akin to OE *grēot* grit, sand] : consecrated oil used in Greek and Latin churches esp. in baptism, confirmation, and ordination
chris·mon \'kriz-ˌmän\ *n, pl* **chris·ma** \-mə\ *or* **chrismons** [ML, fr. L *Christus* Christ + LL *monogramma* monogram] : CHI-RHO
chris·om \'kriz-əm\ *n* [ME *crisom*, short for *crisom cloth*, fr. *crisom* chrism + *cloth*] : a white cloth or robe put on a person at baptism as a symbol of innocence
chrisom child *n* : a child that dies in its first month
Christ \'krīst\ *n* [ME *Crist*, fr. OE, fr. L *Christus*, fr. Gk *Christos*, lit., anointed, fr. *chriein* to anoint] **1** : MESSIAH **2** : JESUS **3** : an ideal type of humanity **4** *Christian Science* : the ideal truth that comes as a divine manifestation of God to destroy incarnate error
chris·ten \'kris-ᵊn\ *vt* **chris·tened; chris·ten·ing** \'kris-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ [ME *cristnen*, fr. OE *cristnian*, fr. *cristen* Christian, fr. L *christianus*] **1 a** : BAPTIZE **b** : to name at baptism **2** : to name or dedicate (as a ship) by a ceremony suggestive of baptism **3** : NAME **4** : to use for the first time
Chris·ten·dom \'kris-ᵊn-dəm\ *n* [ME *cristendom*, fr. OE *cristendōm*, fr. *cristen*] **1** : CHRISTIANITY **2** : the part of the world in which Christianity prevails
chris·ten·ing *n* : the ceremony of baptizing and naming a child
¹Chris·tian \'kris(h)-chən\ *n* [L *christianus*, adj. & n., fr. Gk *christianos*, fr. *Christos*] **1 a** : one who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ **b** (1) : DISCIPLE 2 (2) : a member of one of the Churches of Christ separating from the Disciples of Christ in 1906 (3) : a member of the Christian denomination having part in the union of the United Church of Christ concluded in 1961 **2** : the hero in Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*
²Christian *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to Christianity ⟨~ scriptures⟩ **b** : based on or conforming with Christianity ⟨~ ethics⟩ **2 a** : of or relating to a Christian ⟨~ responsibilities⟩ **b** : professing Christianity ⟨a ~ affirmation⟩ **3** : commendably decent or generous ⟨has a very ~ concern for others⟩ — **Chris·tian·ly** *adv*
Christian Brother *n* : a member of the Roman Catholic institute of Brothers of the Christian Schools founded by St. John Baptist de la Salle in France in 1684 and dedicated to education
Christian era *n* : the period dating from the birth of Christ
chris·ti·ania \ˌkris(h)-chē-'an-ē-ə, ˌkris-tē-, -'än-\ *n* [*Christiania*, former name of Oslo, Norway] : CHRISTIE
Chris·tian·i·ty \ˌkris(h)-chē-'an-ət-ē, ˌkris-tē-'an-, kris(h)-'chan-\ *n* **1** : the religion derived from Jesus Christ, based on the Bible as sacred scripture, and professed by Eastern, Roman Catholic, and Protestant bodies **2** : conformity to the Christian religion
Chris·tian·ize \'kris(h)-chə-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to make Christian — **Chris·tian·iza·tion** \ˌkris(h)-chə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **Chris·tian·iz·er** \'kris(h)-chə-ˌnī-zər\ *n*
Christian name *n* **1** : a name given at christening or confirmation **2** : a name that precedes one's surname; *esp* : FIRST NAME
Christian Science *n* : a religion discovered by Mary Baker Eddy in 1866 that was organized under the official name of the Church of Christ, Scientist, that derives its teachings from the Scriptures as understood by its adherents, and that includes a practice of spiritual healing based on the teaching that cause and effect are mental and that sin, sickness, and death will be destroyed by a full understanding of the divine principle of Jesus's teaching and healing — **Christian Scientist** *n*
chris·tie *or* **chris·ty** \'kris-tē\ *n, pl* **christies** [by shortening & alter. fr. *christiana*] : a skiing turn used for altering the direction of hill descent or for stopping and executed usu. at high speed by shifting the body weight forward and skidding into a turn with parallel skis — called also *christiania*
Christ·like \'krīst-ˌlīk\ *adj* : resembling Christ in character, spirit, or action — **Christ·like·ness** *n*
Christ·ly \'krīst-lē\ *adj* : of, relating to, or resembling Christ
Christ·mas \'kris-məs\ *n* [ME *Christemasse*, fr. OE *Cristes mæsse*, lit., Christ's mass] **1** : a Christian feast on December 25 or among the Eastern Orthodox on January 7 that commemorates the birth of Christ and is usu. observed as a legal holiday **2** : CHRISTMASTIDE — **Christ·mas·sy** \-mə-sē\ *adj*
Christmas cactus *n* [fr. its annual blooming around Christmastime] : a branching So. American cactus (*Zygocactus truncatus*) with flat stems, short joints, and showy red zygomorphic flowers — called also *crab cactus*
Christmas card *n* : an ornamental card with a greeting sent at Christmas
Christmas club *n* : a savings account in which regular deposits are made throughout the year to provide money for Christmas shopping
Christmas Eve *n* : the eve of Christmas
Christmas fern *n* : a No. American evergreen fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) used for decoration in winter — see FERN illustration
Christmas rose *n* : a European herb (*Helleborus niger*) of the buttercup family that has white or purplish flowers produced in winter
Christ·mas·tide \'kris-mə-ˌstīd\ *n* : the festival season from Christmas Eve till after New Year's Day or esp. in England till Epiphany
Christ·mas·time \-mə-ˌstīm\ *n* : the Christmas season
Christmas tree *n* **1** : a usu. evergreen tree decorated at Christmas **2** : an oil-well control device consisting of an assembly of fittings placed at the top of the well **3** : a set of flashing red, yellow, and green lights used to start drag races
Chris·to·cen·tric \ˌkris-tə-'sen-trik, ˌkrīs-\ *adj* [Gk *Christos* Christ + E *-centric*] : centering theologically on Christ
Chris·to·gram \'kris-tə-ˌgram, 'krīs-\ *n* [Gk *Christos* Christ + E *-gram*] : a graphic symbol of Christ; *esp* : CHI-RHO
Chris·tol·o·gy \kris-'täl-ə-jē, krīs-\ *n* [Gk *Christos* Christ + E *-logy*] : theological interpretation of the person and work of Christ — **Chris·to·log·i·cal** \ˌkris-tə-'läj-i-kəl, 'krīs-\ *adj*
Christ's–thorn \'krīs(ts)-'thȯ(ə)rn\ *n* : any of several prickly or thorny shrubs of Palestine (esp. the shrub *Paliurus spina-christi* or the jujube *Ziziphus jujuba*)
chrom- *or* **chromo-** *comb form* [F, fr. Gk *chrōma* color] **1** : chromium ⟨*chromize*⟩ **2 a** : color : colored ⟨*chromo*sphere⟩ **b** : pigment ⟨*chromo*gen⟩

chro·ma \'krō-mə\ *n* [Gk *chrōma*] **1** : SATURATION 4a **2** : a quality of color combining hue and saturation
chro·maf·fin \'krō-mə-fən\ *adj* [ISV *chrom-* + L *affinis* bordering on, related — more at AFFINITY] : staining deeply with chromium salts ⟨~ cells of the adrenal medulla⟩
chromat- *or* **chromato-** *comb form* [Gk *chrōmat-, chrōma*] **1** : color ⟨*chromat*id⟩ **2** : chromatin ⟨*chromato*lysis⟩
chro·mate \'krō-ˌmāt\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *chrōma*] : a salt or ester of chromic acid
[1]chro·mat·ic \krō-'mat-ik\ *adj* [Gk *chrōmatikos*, fr. *chrōmat-, chrōma* skin, color, modified tone; akin to OE *grēot* sand — more at GRIT] **1 a** : of or relating to color or color phenomena or sensations **b** : highly colored **2** : of or relating to chroma **3 a** : of, relating to, or giving all the tones of the chromatic scale **b** : characterized by frequent use of nonharmonic tones or of harmonies based on nonharmonic tones — **chro·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **chro·mat·i·cism** \-'mat-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n*
[2]chromatic *n* : ACCIDENTAL 2
chromatic aberration *n* : aberration caused by the differences in refraction of the colored rays of the spectrum
chro·ma·tic·i·ty \ˌkrō-mə-'tis-ət-ē\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of being chromatic **2** : the quality of color characterized by its dominant or complementary wavelength and purity taken together
chro·mat·ics \krō-'mat-iks\ *n pl but sing in constr* : the branch of colorimetry that deals with hue and saturation
chromatic scale *n* : a musical scale consisting entirely of half steps
chro·ma·tid \'krō-mə-təd\ *n* : one of the paired complex constituent strands of a chromosome — compare CHROMONEMA
chro·ma·tin \'krō-mət-ən\ *n* : the part of a cell nucleus that stains intensely with basic dyes; *specif* : a complex of a polymerized nucleic acid with basic proteins of protamine or histone type present in chromosomes and carrying the genes — **chro·ma·tin·ic** \ˌkrō-mə-'tin-ik\ *adj*
chro·mato·gram \krō-'mat-ə-ˌgram, krə-\ *n* : the pattern formed on the adsorbent medium by the layers of components separated by chromatography
chro·ma·tog·ra·phy \ˌkrō-mə-'täg-rə-fē\ *n* : a process of separating esp. a solution of closely related compounds by allowing a solution to seep through an adsorbent (as clay or paper) so that each compound becomes adsorbed in a separate often colored layer — **chromato·graph** \krō-'mat-ə-ˌgraf, krə-\ *vt* — **chro·mato·graph·ic** \-ˌmat-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj* — **chro·mato·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
chro·ma·tol·y·sis \ˌkrō-mə-'täl-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] : the dissolution and breaking up of chromophil material (as chromatin) of a cell — **chro·mato·lyt·ic** \krō-ˌmat-ᵊl-'it-ik, krə-\ *adj*
chro·mato·phore \krō-'mat-ə-ˌfō(ə)r, krə-, -ˌfȯ(ə)r\ *n* [ISV] **1** : a pigment-bearing cell; *esp* : one of the integumental cells of an animal capable of causing skin color changes by expanding or contracting **2** : the organelle of photosynthesis in blue-green algae and photosynthetic bacteria; *broadly* : CHROMOPLAST, CHLOROPLAST
[1]chrome \'krōm\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *chrōma*] **1 a** : CHROMIUM **b** : a chromium pigment **2** : something plated with an alloy of chromium
[2]chrome *vt* **chromed; chrom·ing** **1** : to treat with a compound of chromium (as in dyeing) **2** : CHROMIZE
-chrome \ˌkrōm\ *n comb form or adj comb form* [ML *-chromat-, -chroma* colored thing, fr. Gk *chrōmat-, chrōma*] **1** : colored thing ⟨helio*chrome*⟩ : colored ⟨hetero*chrome*⟩ **2** : coloring matter ⟨uro*chrome*⟩
chrome alum *n* : an alum with trivalent chromium; *esp* : a dark violet salt $KCr(SO_4)_2.12H_2O$ used in tanning, in photography, and as a mordant in dyeing
chrome green *n* : any of various brilliant green pigments containing or consisting of chromium compounds
chrome red *n* : a red pigment consisting of basic lead chromate $PbCrO_4PbO$
chrome yellow *n* : a yellow pigment consisting essentially of neutral lead chromate $PbCrO_4$
chro·mic \'krō-mik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or derived from chromium esp. with a valence of three
chromic acid *n* : an acid H_2CrO_4 analogous to sulfuric acid but known only in solution and esp. in the form of its salts
chro·mide \'krō-ˌmīd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *chromis*, a sea fish] : any of several small brightly colored African fishes (family Cichlidae)
chro·mi·nance \'krō-mən-nən(t)s\ *n* [*chrom-* + lu*minance*] : the difference between a color and a chosen reference color of the same luminous intensity in color television
chro·mite \'krō-ˌmīt\ *n* [G *chromit*, fr. *chrom-*] **1** : a mineral $FeCr_2O_4$ that consists of an oxide of iron and chromium **2** : an oxide of bivalent chromium
chro·mi·um \'krō-mē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. F *chrome*] : a blue-white metallic element found naturally only in combination and used esp. in alloys and in electroplating — see ELEMENT table
chro·mize \'krō-ˌmīz\ *vt* **chro·mized; chro·miz·ing** : to treat (metal) with chromium in order to form a protective surface alloy
chro·mo \'krō(ˌ)mō\ *n, pl* **chromos** : CHROMOLITHOGRAPH
chro·mo·gen \'krō-mə-jən\ *n* [ISV] **1 a** : a precursor of a biochemical pigment **b** : a compound not itself a dye but containing a chromophore and so capable of becoming one **2** : a pigment-producing microorganism — **chro·mo·gen·ic** \ˌkrō-mə-'jen-ik\ *adj*
chro·mo·litho·graph \ˌkrō-mə-'lith-ə-ˌgraf\ *n* : a picture printed in colors from a series of stones prepared by the lithographic process — **chro·mo·litho·graph·ic** \-ˌlith-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj* — **chro·mo·lithog·ra·phy** \-lith-'äg-rə-fē\ *n*
chro·mo·mere \'krō-mə-ˌmi(ə)r\ *n* [ISV] : one of the small bead-shaped and heavily staining concentrations of chromatin that are linearly arranged along the chromosome — **chro·mo·mer·ic** \ˌkrō-mə-'mer-ik, -'mi(ə)r-\ *adj*
chro·mo·ne·ma \ˌkrō-mə-'nē-mə\ *n, pl* **-ne·ma·ta** \-'nē-mət-ə\ [NL, fr. *chrom-* + Gk *nēmat-, nēma* thread — more at NEMAT-] : the coiled filamentous core of a chromatid — **chro·mo·ne·mal** \-'nē-məl\ *or* **chro·mo·ne·ma·tal** \-'nē-mət-ᵊl, -'nem-ət-\ *or* **chro·mo·ne·mat·ic** \-ni-'mat-ik\ *adj*
chro·mo·phil \'krō-mə-ˌfil\ *or* **chro·mat·o·phil** \krō-'mat-ə-ˌfil\ *adj* [ISV] : staining readily with dyes
chro·mo·phore \'krō-mə-ˌfō(ə)r, -ˌfȯ(ə)r\ *n* [ISV] : a chemical group that gives rise to color in molecule — **chro·mo·phor·ic** \ˌkrō-mə-'fȯr-ik, -'fär-\ *adj*
chro·mo·plast \'krō-mə-ˌplast\ *n* [ISV] : a colored plastid usu. containing red or yellow pigment (as carotene)
chro·mo·pro·tein \ˌkro-mə-'prō-ˌtēn, -'prōt-ē-ən\ *n* : a compound (as hemoglobin) of a protein with a metal-containing pigment (as heme) or a carotenoid
chro·mo·some \'krō-mə-ˌsōm, -ˌzōm\ *n* [ISV] : one of the usu. linear nucleoprotein-containing basophilic bodies of the cell nucleus made up of chromatids — **chro·mo·som·al** \ˌkrō-mə-'sō-məl, -'zō\ *adj* — **chro·mo·som·al·ly** \-mə-lē\ *adv* — **chro·mo·so·mic** \-mik\ *adj*
chromosome number *n* : the usu. constant number of chromosomes characteristic of a particular kind of animal or plant
chro·mo·sphere \'krō-mə-ˌsfi(ə)r\ *n* : the lower part of the atmosphere of the sun that is thousands of miles thick and is composed chiefly of hydrogen gas; *also* : a similar part of the atmosphere of any star — **chro·mo·spher·ic** \ˌkrō-mə-'sfi(ə)r-ik, -'sfer-\ *adj*
chro·mous \'krō-məs\ *adj* : of, relating to, or derived from chromium esp. with a valence of two
chron *abbr* **1** chronicle **2** chronological; chronology
Chron *abbr* Chronicles
chron- *or* **chrono-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *chronos*] : time ⟨*chrono*gram⟩
chron·ax·ie *or* **chron·axy** \'krōn-ˌak-sē, 'krän-\ *n* [F *chronaxie*, fr. *chron-* + Gk *axia* value, fr. *axios* worthy] : the minimum time required for excitation of a structure (as a nerve cell) by a constant electric current of twice the threshold voltage
chron·ic \'krän-ik\ *adj* [F *chronique*, fr. Gk *chronikos* of time, fr. *chronos*] **1 a** : marked by long duration or frequent recurrence : not acute ⟨~ indigestion⟩ ⟨~ experiments⟩ **b** : suffering from a chronic disease ⟨the special needs of ~ patients⟩ **2 a** : always present or encountered; *esp* : constantly vexing, weakening, or troubling ⟨~ petty warfare⟩ **b** : being such habitually ⟨a ~ grumbler⟩ ***syn*** see INVETERATE — **chronic** *n* — **chron·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **chron·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **chro·nic·i·ty** \krä-'nis-ət-ē, krō-\ *n*
[1]chron·i·cle \'krän-i-kəl\ *n* [ME *cronicle*, fr. AF, alter. of OF *chronique*, fr. L *chronica*, fr. Gk *chronika*, fr. neut. pl. of *chronikos*] **1** : a usu. continuous and detailed historical account of events arranged in order of time without analysis or interpretation **2** : NARRATIVE ***syn*** see HISTORY
[2]chronicle *vt* **-cled; -cling** \-k(ə-)liŋ\ **1** : to record in or as if in a chronicle **2** : LIST, DESCRIBE — **chron·i·cler** \-k(ə-)lər\ *n*
chronicle play *n* : a play with a theme from history consisting usu. of rather loosely connected episodes chronologically arranged
Chron·i·cles \'krän-i-kəlz\ *n pl but sing in constr* : either of two historical books of canonical Jewish and Christian Scripture — see BIBLE table
chro·no·gram \'krän-ə-ˌgram, 'krō-nə-\ *n* **1** : an inscription, sentence, or phrase in which certain letters express a date or epoch **2** : the record made by a chronograph — **chro·no·gram·mat·ic** \ˌkrän-ə-grə-'mat-ik, ˌkrō-nə-\ *or* **chro·no·gram·mat·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj*
chro·no·graph \'krän-ə-ˌgraf, 'krō-nə-\ *n* : an instrument for measuring and recording time intervals: as **a** : an instrument having a revolving drum on which a stylus makes marks **b** : a watch with a sweep-second hand **c** : an instrument for measuring the time of flight of projectiles — **chro·no·graph·ic** \ˌkrän-ə-'graf-ik, ˌkrō-nə\ *adj* — **chro·nog·ra·phy** \krə-'näg-rə-fē\ *n*
chro·nol·o·ger \krə-'näl-ə-jər\ *n* : CHRONOLOGIST
chro·no·log·i·cal \ˌkrän-ᵊl-'äj-i-kəl, ˌkrōn-\ *also* **chro·no·log·ic** \-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or arranged in or according to the order of time ⟨~ tables of American history⟩ — **chro·no·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
chro·nol·o·gist \krə-'näl-ə-jəst\ *n* : an expert in chronology
chro·nol·o·gize \krə-'näl-ə-ˌjīz\ *vt* **-gized; -giz·ing** : to arrange chronologically : establish the order in time of (as events or documents)
chro·nol·o·gy \-jē\ *n, pl* **-gies** [NL *chronologia*, fr. *chron-* + *-logia* -logy] **1** : the science that deals with measuring time by regular divisions and that assigns to events their proper dates **2** : a chronological table or list **3** : an arrangement in order of occurrence
chro·nom·e·ter \krə-'näm-ət-ər\ *n* : an instrument for measuring time : TIMEPIECE; *esp* : one designed to keep time with great accuracy
chro·no·met·ric \ˌkrän-ə-'me-trik, ˌkrō-nə-\ *or* **chro·no·met·ri·cal** \-tri-kəl\ *adj* : of or relating to a chronometer or chronometry — **chro·no·met·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adj*
chro·nom·e·try \-ə-trē\ *n* **1** : the science of measuring time **2** : the measuring of time by periods or divisions
chro·no·scope \'krän-ə-ˌskōp, 'krō-nə-\ *n* : an instrument for precise measurement of small time intervals
chrys- *or* **chryso-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *chrysos*] : gold : yellow ⟨*chrys*arobin⟩
chrys·a·lid \'kris-ə-ləd\ *n* : CHRYSALIS — **chrysalid** *adj*
chrys·a·lis \'kris-ə-ləs\ *n, pl* **chry·sal·i·des** \kris-'al-ə-ˌdēz\ *or* **chrys·a·lis·es** [L *chrysallid-, chrysallis* gold-colored pupa of butterflies, fr. Gk, fr. *chrysos* gold, of Sem origin] **1** : a pupa of a butterfly; *broadly* : an insect pupa **2** : a protecting covering : a sheltered state or stage of being or growth ⟨a budding writer could not emerge from his ~ too soon —William Du Bois⟩
chry·san·the·mum \kris-'an(t)-thə-məm *also* kriz-\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *chrysanthemon*, fr. *chrys-* + *anthemon* flower; akin to Gk *anthos*

flower] **1** : any of various composite plants (genus *Chrysanthemum*) including weeds, ornamentals grown for their brightly colored often double flower heads, and others important as sources of medicinals and insecticides **2** : a flower head of an ornamental chrysanthemum

chrys·a·ro·bin \ˌkris-ə-ˈrō-bən\ *n* [*chrys-* + ar*aroba* + *-in*] : a powder obtained from Goa powder and used to treat skin diseases

Chry·se·is \krī-ˈsē-əs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Chrysēis*] : a daughter of a priest of Apollo in the *Iliad* narrative taken at Troy by Agamemnon but later restored to her father

chryso·ber·yl \ˈkris-ə-ˌber-əl\ *n* [L *chrysoberyllus*, fr. Gk *chrysobēryllos*, fr. *chrys-* + *bēryllos* beryl] **1** *obs* : a yellowish beryl **2** : a usu. yellow or pale green mineral $BeAl_2O_4$ consisting of beryllium aluminum oxide with a little iron and sometimes used as a gem

chrys·o·lite \ˈkris-ə-ˌlīt\ *n* [ME *crisolite*, fr. OF, fr. L *chrysolithos*, fr. Gk, fr. *chrys-* + *-lithos* -lite] : OLIVINE

chrys·o·me·lid \ˌkris-ə-ˈmel-əd, -ˈmēl-\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *chrysomēlolonthē* golden cockchafer] : any of a large family (Chrysomelidae) of small, usu. oval and smooth, shining, and brightly colored beetles (as the Colorado potato beetle) — **chrysomelid** *adj*

chryso·phyte \ˈkris-ə-ˌfīt\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *chrysos* + *phyton* plant — more at PHYT-] : any of a major group (Chrysophyta) of algae (as diatoms) with yellowish green to golden brown pigments

chrys·o·prase \ˈkris-ə-ˌprāz\ *n* [ME *crisopace*, fr. OF, fr. L *chrysoprasus*, fr. Gk *chrysoprasos*, fr. *chrys-* + *prason* leek; akin to L *porrum* leek] : an apple-green chalcedony valued as a gem

chrys·o·tile \-ˌtīl\ *n* [G *chrysotil*, fr. *chrys-* + *-til* fiber, fr. Gk *tillein* to pluck] : a mineral consisting of a fibrous silky serpentine and constituting a kind of asbestos

chthon·ic \ˈthän-ik\ *or* **chtho·ni·an** \ˈthō-nē-ən\ *adj* [Gk *chthon-*, *chthōn* earth — more at HUMBLE] : INFERNAL ⟨~ deities⟩

chub \ˈchəb\ *n, pl* **chub** *or* **chubs** [ME *chubbe*] **1** : any of various freshwater cyprinid fishes (esp. of the genera *Gila, Hybopsis,* and *Nocomis*) **2** : any of several marine or freshwater fishes not closely related to the true chub

chub·bi·ly \ˈchəb-ə-lē\ *adv* : in the manner of one that is chubby

chub·by \ˈchəb-ē\ *adj* **chub·bi·er; -est** [*chub*] : PLUMP ⟨a ~ boy⟩ — **chub·bi·ness** \ˈchəb-ē-nəs\ *n*

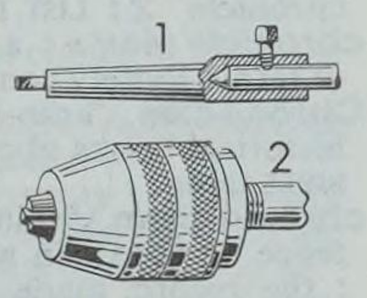
[1]chuck \ˈchək\ *vb* [ME *chukken*] : CLUCK

[2]chuck *n* — used as a term of endearment

[3]chuck *vt* [origin unknown] **1** : PAT, TAP **2 a** : TOSS **b** : DISCARD ⟨~*ed* his old shirt⟩ **c** : DISMISS, OUST — used esp. with *out* ⟨was ~*ed* out of office⟩ **3** : to have done with ⟨~*ed* up his job⟩ — **chuck it** : QUIT, YIELD

[4]chuck *n* **1** : a pat or nudge under the chin **2** : TOSS, JERK

[5]chuck *n* [E dial. *chuck* (lump)] **1 a** : a portion of a side of dressed beef including most of the neck, the parts about the shoulder blade, and those about the first three ribs — see BEEF illustration **b** : a similar cut of dressed veal or lamb **2** *chiefly West* : FOOD **3** : an attachment for holding a workpiece or tool in a machine (as a drill press or lathe)



chucks 3: *1* with setscrew, *2* drill chuck

chuck·hole \ˈchək-ˌhōl, ˈchəg-\ *n* [*[3]chuck* + *hole*] : a hole or rut in a road

chuck·le \ˈchək-əl\ *vi* **chuck·led; chuck·ling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [prob. freq. of *[1]chuck*] **1** : to laugh inwardly or quietly **2** : to make a continuous gentle sound resembling suppressed mirth ⟨the clear bright water *chuckled* over gravel—B. A. Williams⟩ — **chuckle** *n* — **chuck·le·some** \-əl-səm\ *adj* — **chuck·ling·ly** \-(ə-)liŋ-lē\ *adv*

chuck·le·head \ˈchək-əl-ˌhed\ *n* [*chuckle* (lumpish) + *head*] : BLOCKHEAD — **chuck·le·head·ed** \ˌchək-əl-ˈhed-əd\ *adj*

chuck wagon *n* [*[5]chuck*] : a wagon carrying a stove and provisions for cooking (as on a ranch)

chuck·wal·la \ˈchək-ˌwäl-ə\ *or* **chuck·a·wal·la** \ˈchək-ə-ˌwäl-ə\ *n* [MexSp *chacahuala*] : a large edible herbivorous lizard (*Sauromalus obesus* of the family Iguanidae) of desert regions of the southwestern U.S.

chuck-will's-wid·ow \ˌchək-ˌwilz-ˈwid-(ˌ)ō, -ˈwid-ə(-w)\ *n* [imit.] : a goatsucker (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) of the southern U.S.

[1]chuff \ˈchəf\ *n* [ME *chuffe*] : BOOR, CHURL

[2]chuff *n* [imit.] : the sound of noisy exhaust or exhalations

[3]chuff *vi* : to produce noisy exhaust or exhalations : proceed or operate with chuffs ⟨the ~*ing* and snorting of switch engines — Paul Gallico⟩

chuf·fy \ˈchəf-ē\ *adj* **chuf·fi·er; -est** [perh. fr. E dial. *chuff* chubby] : FAT, CHUBBY

[1]chug \ˈchəg\ *n* [imit.] : a dull explosive sound made by or as if by a laboring engine

[2]chug *vi* **chugged; chug·ging** : to move or go with chugs ⟨a locomotive *chugging* along⟩ — **chug·ger** *n*

chug·a·lug \ˈchəg-ə-ˌləg\ *vb* **-lugged; -lug·ging** [imit.] *vt* : to drink a whole container of without pause ~ *vi* : to drink a whole container (as of beer) without pause

chu·kar \chə-ˈkär\ *n, pl* **chukar** *or* **chukars** [Hindi *cakor*] : a largely gray and black Indian partridge (*Alectoris graeca chukar*) introduced into dry parts of the western U.S.

chuk·ka \ˈchək-ə\ *n* [*chukka*, alter. of *chukker*; fr. a similar polo player's boot] : a usu. ankle-length leather boot with two pairs of eyelets or a buckle and strap

chuk·ker *or* **chuk·kar** \ˈchək-ər\ *or* **chuk·ka** \ˈchək-ə\ *n* [Hindi *cakkar* circular course, fr. Skt *cakra* wheel, circle — more at WHEEL] : a playing period of a polo game

[1]chum \ˈchəm\ *n* [perh. by shortening & alter. fr. *chamber fellow* (roommate)] : a close friend : PAL — **chum·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

[2]chum *vi* **chummed; chum·ming** **1** : to room together **2 a** : to be a close friend **b** : to show affable friendliness

[3]chum *n* [origin unknown] : chopped fish or other matter thrown overboard to attract fish

[4]chum *vb* **chummed; chumming** *vi* : to throw chum overboard to attract fish ~ *vt* : to attract with chum ⟨*chumming* the fish with cut-up shrimp⟩

chum·my \ˈchəm-ē\ *adj* **chum·mi·er; -est** : INTIMATE, SOCIABLE — **chum·mi·ly** \ˈchəm-ə-lē\ *adv* — **chum·mi·ness** \ˈchəm-ē-nəs\ *n*

chump \ˈchəmp\ *n* [perh. blend of *chunk* and *lump*] : FOOL, DUPE

[1]chunk \ˈchəŋk\ *n* [perh. alter of *chuck* (short piece of wood)] **1** : a short thick piece or lump (as of wood or coal) **2** : a large noteworthy quantity ⟨bet a sizable ~ of money on the race⟩ **3** : a strong thickset horse usu. smaller than a draft horse

[2]chunk *vi* [imit.] : to make a dull plunging or explosive sound ⟨the rhythmic ~*ing* of thrown quoits —John Updike⟩

chunky \ˈchəŋ-kē\ *adj* **chunk·i·er; -est** **1** : STOCKY **2** : filled with chunks ⟨breakfast . . . with toast and ~ marmalade —*The People*⟩ — **chunk·i·ly** \-kə-lē\ *adv*

chun·ter \ˈchənt-ər\ *vi* [prob. of imit. origin] *Brit* : to talk in a low inarticulate way : MUTTER

[1]church \ˈchərch\ *n* [ME *chirche*, fr. OE *cirice*; akin to OHG *kirihha* church; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc word derived fr. LGk *kyriakon*, fr. Gk, neut. of *kyriakos* of the lord, fr. *kyrios* lord, master, fr. *kyros* power; akin to L *cavus* hollow — more at CAVE] **1** : a building for public and esp. Christian worship **2** : the clergy or officialdom of a religious body **3** : a body or organization of religious believers as: **a** : the whole body of Christians **b** : DENOMINATION **c** : CONGREGATION **4** : a public divine worship ⟨goes to ~ every Sunday⟩ **5** : the clerical profession ⟨considered the ~ as a possible career⟩

[2]church *vt* : to bring to church to receive one of its rites

[3]church *adj* **1** : of or relating to a church ⟨~ government⟩ **2** *chiefly Brit* : of or relating to the established church

churched \ˈchərcht\ *adj* : affiliated with a church

church father *n* : FATHER 4

church·go·er \ˈchərch-ˌgō(-ə)r\ *n* : one who frequently attends church — **church·go·ing** \-ˌgō-iŋ, -ˌgȯ(-)iŋ\ *adj or n*

church·ian·i·ty \ˌchər-chē-ˈan-ət-ē\ *n* [*church* + *-ianity* (as in *Christianity*)] : the usu. excessive or sectarian attachment to the practices and interests of a particular church

church·ing *n* : the administration or reception of a rite of the church; *specif* : a ceremony in some churches by which women after childbirth are received in the church with prayers, blessings, and thanksgiving

church key *n* : an implement with a triangular pointed head for piercing the tops of cans (as of beer)

church·less \ˈchərch-ləs\ *adj* : not affiliated with a church

church·ly \ˈchərch-lē\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a church **2** : suitable to or suggestive of a church **3** : adhering to a church **4** : CHURCHY 2 — **church·li·ness** *n*

church·man \ˈchərch-mən\ *n* **1** : CLERGYMAN **2** : a member of a church

church·man·ship \-mən-ˌship\ *n* : the attitude, belief, or practice of a churchman

church mode *n* : one of several usu. 8-tone scales prevalent in medieval music each utilizing a different pattern of intervals and each beginning on a different tone

Church of England : the established episcopal church of England

church register *n* : a parish register of baptisms, marriages, and deaths

church school *n* **1** : a school providing a general education but supported by a particular church in contrast to a public school or a nondenominational private school **2** : an organization of officers, teachers, and pupils for purposes of moral and religious education under the supervision of a local church

Church Slavic *n* : OLD CHURCH SLAVONIC

church·war·den \ˈchərch-ˌwȯrd-ᵊn\ *n* **1** : one of two lay parish officers in Anglican churches with responsibility esp. for parish property and alms **2** : a long-stemmed clay pipe

church·wom·an \-ˌwům-ən\ *n* : a woman who is a member of a church

churchy \ˈchər-chē\ *adj* **1** : of or suggesting a church **2** : marked by strict conformity or zealous adherence to the forms or beliefs of a church

church·yard \-ˌyärd\ *n* : a yard that belongs to a church and is often used as a burial ground

churl \ˈchər(-ə)l\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *ceorl* man, ceorl; akin to Gk *gēras* old age — more at CORN] **1** : CEORL **2** : a medieval peasant **3** : RUSTIC, COUNTRYMAN **4 a** : a rude ill-bred person **b** : a stingy morose person

churl·ish \ˈchər-lish\ *adj* **1** : of or resembling a churl : VULGAR **2** : resembling or befitting a churl (as in lack of refinement or delicacy of feelings) **3** : difficult to work with or deal with : INTRACTABLE ⟨~ soil⟩ ***syn*** see BOORISH — **churl·ish·ly** *adv* — **churl·ish·ness** *n*

[1]churn \ˈchərn\ *n* [ME *chyrne*, fr. OE *cyrin*; akin to OE *corn* grain; fr. the granular appearance of cream as it is churned — more at CORN] : a vessel in which milk or cream is agitated to separate the oily globules from the other parts and thus to obtain butter

[2]churn *vt* **1** : to agitate (milk or cream) in a churn in order to make butter **2 a** : to stir or agitate violently ⟨an old stern-wheeler ~*ing* the muddy river⟩ **b** : to make (as foam) by so doing **3** : to make (the account of a client) excessively active by frequent purchases and sales primarily in order to generate commissions ~ *vi* **1** : to work a churn **2 a** : to produce or be in violent motion **b** : to proceed by means of rotating members (as wheels)

churn out *vt* : to produce mechanically : grind out ⟨generators . . . able to *churn out* 2,100,000 kilowatts —Lawrence Mosher⟩

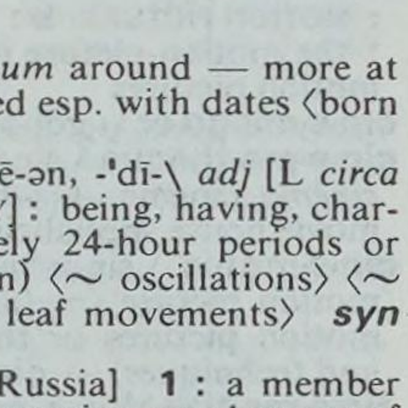
churr \ˈchər\ *vi* [imit.] : to make a vibrant or whirring noise like that made by some insects (as the cockchafer) or by some birds (as the partridge) — **churr** *n*

chur·ri·gue·resque \ˌchůr-i-gə-ˈresk\ *adj, often cap* [Sp *churrigueresco*, fr. José *Churriguera* †1725 Sp architect] : of or relating to a Spanish baroque architectural style characterized by elaborate surface decoration or its Latin-American adaptation

[1]chute \ˈshüt\ *n* [F, fr. OF, fr. *cheoir* to fall, fr. L *cadere* — more at CHANCE] **1 a** : FALL 6b **b** : a quick descent (as in a river) : RAPID **2** : an inclined plane, sloping channel, or passage down or through which things may pass : SLIDE **3** : PARACHUTE

²chute *vb* **chut·ed; chut·ing** *vt* : to convey by a chute ~ *vi* **1** : to go in or as if in a chute **2** : to utilize a chute (as by passing ore down it)
chut·ist \'shüt-əst\ *n* : PARACHUTIST
chut·ney \'chət-nē\ *n, pl* **chutneys** [Hindi *caṭnī*] : a condiment that is made of acid fruits with added raisins, dates, and onions and seasoned with spices
chutz·pah *or* **chutz·pa** \'hůt-spə, 'k̲ůt-, -(ˌ)spä\ *n* [Yiddish, fr. L Heb *ḥuspāh*] : supreme self-confidence : NERVE, GALL
chyle \'kī(ə)l\ *n* [LL *chylus*, fr. Gk *chylos* juice, chyle, fr. *chein* to pour — more at FOUND] : lymph that is milky from emulsified fats, characteristically present in the lacteals, and most apparent during intestinal absorption of fats — **chy·lous** \'kī-ləs\ *adj*
chy·lo·mi·cron \ˌkī-lō-'mī-ˌkrän\ *n* [Gk *chylos* + *mikron*, neut. of *mikros* small] : a microscopic lipid particle common in the blood during fat digestion and assimilation
chyme \'kīm\ *n* [NL *chymus*, fr. LL, chyle, fr. Gk *chymos* juice, fr. *chein*] : the semifluid mass of partly digested food expelled by the stomach into the duodenum — **chy·mous** \'kī-məs\ *adj*
chy·mo·tryp·sin \ˌkī-mō-'trip-sən\ *n* [*chyme* + *-o-* + *trypsin*] : a pancreatic proteinase acting on proteins by breaking internal peptide bonds
chy·mo·tryp·sin·o·gen \-ˌtrip-'sin-ə-jən\ *n* : a zymogen that is converted by trypsin to chymotrypsin
Ci *abbr* **1** cirrus **2** curie
CI *abbr* **1** cast iron **2** certificate of insurance **3** cost and insurance
CIA *abbr* Central Intelligence Agency
cía *abbr* [Sp *compañía*] company
CIAA *abbr* Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association
ciao \'chaů\ *interj* [It, fr. It dial., alter. of *schiavo* (I am your) slave, fr. ML *sclavus*] — used conventionally as an utterance at meeting or parting
ci·bo·ri·um \sə-'bōr-ē-əm, -'bȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ria** \-ē-ə\ [ML, fr. L, cup, fr. Gk *kibōrion*] **1** : a goblet-shaped vessel for holding eucharistic bread **2** : BALDACHIN; *specif* : a freestanding vaulted canopy supported by four columns over a high altar
ci·ca·da \sə-'kād-ə, -'käd-; sī-'kād-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, cicada] : any of a family (Cicadidae) of homopterous insects with a stout body, wide blunt head, and large transparent wings
ci·ca·la \sə-'käl-ə\ *n* [It, fr. ML, alter. of L *cicada*] : CICADA
cic·a·tri·cial \ˌsik-ə-'trish-əl\ *adj* : of or relating to a cicatrix
cic·a·tri·cle \'sik-ə-ˌtrik-əl\ *n* [L *cicatricula*] **1** : CICATRIX 2a **2** : BLASTODISC
ci·ca·trix \'sik-ə-ˌtriks, sə-'kā-triks\ *n, pl* **ci·ca·tri·ces** \ˌsik-ə-'trī-(ˌ)sēz, sə-'kā-trə-ˌsēz\ [L *cicatric-, cicatrix*] **1** : a scar resulting from formation and contraction of fibrous tissue in a flesh wound **2** : a mark resembling a scar esp. when caused by the previous attachment of a part or organ: as **a** : a mark left on a stem after the fall of a leaf or bract **b** : HILUM 1a
cic·a·trize \'sik-ə-ˌtrīz\ *vb* **-trized; -triz·ing** *vt* **1** : to induce the formation of a scar in **2** : SCAR ~ *vi* : to heal by forming a scar — **cic·a·tri·za·tion** \ˌsik-ə-trə-'zā-shən\ *n*
ci·ce·ro·ne \ˌsis-ə-'rō-nē, ˌchē-chə-\ *n, pl* **-ni** \-(ˌ)nē\ [It, fr. *Cicerone* Cicero] : a guide who conducts sightseers
cich·lid \'sik-ləd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *kichlē* thrush, a kind of wrasse; akin to Gk *chelidōn* swallow — more at CELANDINE] : any of a family (Cichlidae) of mostly tropical spiny-finned freshwater fishes including several kept in tropical aquariums — **cichlid** *adj*
ci·cis·beo \ˌchē-chəz-'bā-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-bei** \-'bā-ˌē\ [It] : LOVER, GALLANT — **ci·cis·be·ism** \-'bā-ˌiz-əm\ *n*
CID *abbr* **1** Criminal Investigation Department **2** cubic inch displacement
-cid·al \'sīd-ᵊl\ *adj comb form* [LL *-cidalis*, fr. L *-cida*] : killing : having power to kill ⟨filaricidal⟩
-cide \ˌsīd\ *n comb form* [MF, fr. L *-cida*, fr. *caedere* to cut, kill — more at CONCISE] **1** : killer ⟨insecticide⟩ **2** [MF, fr. L *-cidium*, fr. *caedere*] : killing ⟨suicide⟩
ci·der \'sīd-ər\ *n* [ME *sidre*, fr. OF, fr. LL *sicera* strong drink, fr. Gk *sikera*, fr. Heb *shēkhār*] **1** : the expressed juice of fruit (as apples) used as a beverage or for making other products (as applejack) **2** *Brit* : fermented apple juice often made sparkling by carbonation or fermentation in a sealed container
cider vinegar *n* : vinegar made from fermented cider
ci–de·vant \ˌsēd-ə-'vä⁽ⁿ⁾\ *adj* [F, lit., formerly] : FORMER
cie *abbr* [F *compagnie*] company
CIF *abbr* **1** central information file **2** cost, insurance, and freight
ci·gar \sig-'är\ *n* [Sp *cigarro*] : a small roll of tobacco leaf for smoking
cig·a·rette *also* **cig·a·ret** \ˌsig-ə-'ret, 'sig-ə-ˌ\ *n* [F *cigarette*, dim. of *cigare* cigar, fr. Sp *cigarro*] : a narrow tube of cut tobacco enclosed in paper and designed for smoking
cig·a·ril·lo \ˌsig-ə-'ril-(ˌ)ō, -'rē-(ˌ)(y)ō\ *n, pl* **-los** [Sp *cigarrillo* cigaret, dim. of *cigarro* cigar] **1** : a very small cigar **2** : a cigarette wrapped in tobacco rather than paper
cil·i·ary \'sil-ē-ˌer-ē\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to cilia **2** : of, relating to, or being the annular suspension of the lens of the eye
¹cil·i·ate \'sil-ē-ət, -ē-ˌāt\ *or* **cil·i·at·ed** \-ˌāt-əd\ *adj* : provided with cilia — **cil·i·ate·ly** *adv*
²ciliate *n* : any of a subphylum (Ciliophora) of ciliate protozoans
cil·i·um \'sil-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ia** \-ē-ə\ [NL, fr. L, eyelid] **1** : EYELASH **2** : a minute short hairlike process often forming part of a fringe; *esp* : one of a cell that is capable of lashing movement and serves esp. in free unicellular organisms to produce locomotion or in higher forms a current of fluid
ci·mex \'sī-ˌmeks\ *n, pl* **ci·mi·ces** \'sī-mə-ˌsēz, 'sim-ə-\ [L *cimic-, cimex* — more at CHINCH] : BEDBUG
¹Cim·me·ri·an \sə-'mir-ē-ən\ *adj* : very dark or gloomy : STYGIAN ⟨there under ebon shades . . . in dark ~ desert ever dwell —John Milton⟩
²Cimmerian *n* [L *Cimmerii*, a mythical people, fr. Gk *Kimmerioi*] : one of a mythical people described by Homer as dwelling in a remote realm of mist and gloom
C in C *abbr* commander in chief
¹cinch \'sinch\ *n* [Sp *cincha*, fr. L *cingula* girdle, girth, fr. *cingere*] **1** : a strong girth for a pack or saddle **2** : a tight grip **3 a** : a thing done with ease **b** : a certainty to happen
²cinch *vt* **1** : to put a cinch on **2** : to make certain : ASSURE ~ *vi* : to perform the act of cinching : tighten the cinch — often used with *up*
cin·cho·na \siŋ-'kō-nə, sin-'chō-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. the countess of *Chinchón* †1641 wife of the Peruvian viceroy] **1** : any of a genus (*Cinchona*) of So. American trees and shrubs of the madder family **2** : the dried bark of a cinchona (as *C. ledgeriana*) containing alkaloids (as quinine) and used as a specific in malaria
cin·cho·nine \'siŋ-kə-ˌnēn, 'sin-chə-\ *n* : a bitter white crystalline alkaloid $C_{19}H_{22}N_2O$ found esp. in cinchona bark and used like quinine
cin·cho·nism \'siŋ-kə-ˌniz-əm, 'sin-chə-\ *n* : a disorder due to excessive or prolonged use of cinchona or its alkaloids and marked by temporary deafness, ringing in the ears, headache, dizziness, and rash
cinc·ture \'siŋ(k)-chər\ *n* [L *cinctura* girdle, fr. *cinctus*, pp. of *cingere* to gird; akin to Skt *kāñcī* girdle] **1** : the act of encircling **2 a** : an encircling area **b** : GIRDLE, BELT; *esp* : a cord or sash of cloth worn around an ecclesiastical vestment (as an alb) or the habit of a religious
cin·der \'sin-dər\ *n* [ME *sinder*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *sintar* dross, slag, OSlav *sędra* stalactite] **1** : the slag from a metal furnace : DROSS **2 a** *pl* : ASHES **b** : a fragment of ash **3 a** : a partly burned combustible in which fire is extinct **b** : a hot coal without flame **c** : a partly burned coal capable of further burning without flame **4** : a fragment of lava from an erupting volcano — **cinder** *vt* — **cin·dery** \-d(ə-)rē\ *adj*
cinder block *n* : a hollow rectangular building block made of cement and coal cinders
Cin·der·el·la \ˌsin-də-'rel-ə\ *n* **1** : a fairy-tale heroine who is used as a drudge by her stepmother but ends up happily married to a prince through the intervention of her fairy godmother **2** : one resembling the fairy-tale Cinderella: as **a** : one suffering undeserved neglect **b** : one suddenly lifted from obscurity to honor or significance
cine \'sin-ē\ *n* [short for *cinema*] : MOTION PICTURE
cine- *comb form* [*cinema*] : motion picture ⟨*cine*camera⟩ ⟨*cine*film⟩ ⟨*cine*-X ray⟩
cine·an·gio·car·di·og·ra·phy \ˌsin-ē-'an-jē-ō-ˌkärd-ē-'äg-rə-fē\ *n* [*cine-* + *angi-* + *cardi-* + *-graphy*] : motion-picture photography of a fluoroscopic screen recording passage of a contrasting medium through the chambers of the heart and large blood vessels — **cine·an·gio·car·dio·graph·ic** \-ˌkärd-ē-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj*
cine·an·gi·og·ra·phy \-ˌan-jē-'äg-rə-fē\ *n* [*cine-* + *angi-* + *-graphy*] : motion-picture photography of a fluorescent screen recording passage of a contrasting medium through the blood vessels — **cine·an·gio·graph·ic** \-jē-ə-'graf-ik\ *adj*
cine·ast \'sin-ē-ˌast, -ē-əst\ *or* **ciné·aste** \'sin-ē-ˌast\ *n* [F *cinéaste*, fr. *ciné* cine + *-aste* (as in *enthousiaste* enthusiast)] : a devotee of motion pictures
cin·e·ma \'sin-ə-mə\ *n* [short for *cinematograph*] **1** *chiefly Brit* **a** : MOTION PICTURE **b** : a motion-picture theater **2 a** : MOVIES; *esp* : the motion-picture industry **b** : the art or technique of making motion pictures
cin·e·ma·go·er \-ˌgō(-ə)r\ *n* : MOVIEGOER
cin·e·ma·theque \ˌsin-ə-mə-'tek\ *n* [F *cinémathèque* film library, fr. *cinéma* cinema + *-thèque* (as in *bibliothèque* library)] : a small movie house specializing in avant-garde films
cin·e·mat·ic \ˌsin-ə-'mat-ik\ *adj* **1** : filmed and presented as a motion picture ⟨~ fantasies⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or suitable for motion pictures or the filming of motion pictures ⟨~ principles and techniques⟩ — **cin·e·mat·i·cal·ly** \-'mat-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cin·e·ma·tize \'sin-ə-mə-ˌtīz\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz·ing** : to make a motion picture of (as a novel) : adapt for motion pictures
cin·e·mat·o·graph \ˌsin-ə-'mat-ə-ˌgraf\ *n* [F *cinématographe*, fr. Gk *kinēmat-, kinēma* movement (fr. *kinein* to move) + *-o-* + *-graphe* -graph — more at HIGHT] **1** *chiefly Brit* : a motion-picture camera, projector, theater, or show **2** *chiefly Brit* : CINEMA 2b
cin·e·ma·tog·ra·pher \ˌsin-ə-mə-'täg-rə-fər\ *n* **1** : a motion-picture cameraman **2** : a motion-picture projectionist
cin·e·ma·tog·ra·phy \ˌsin-ə-mə-'täg-rə-fē\ *n* : the art or science of motion-picture photography — **cin·e·mat·o·graph·ic** \-ˌmat-ə-'graf-ik\ *also* **cin·e·mat·o·graph·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **cin·e·mat·o·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ci·ne·ma ve·ri·té \'sin-ə-mə-ˌver-ə-'tā\ *n* [F *cinéma-vérité*, lit., truth cinema] : the art or technique of filming a motion picture so as to convey candid realism
cin·e·ole \'sin-ē-ˌōl\ *n* [ISV, by transposition fr. NL *oleum cinae* wormseed oil] : a liquid $C_{10}H_{18}O$ with a camphor odor contained in many essential oils (as of eucalyptus) and used esp. as an expectorant
cin·er·ar·ia \ˌsin-ə-'rer-ē-ə, -'rar-\ *n* [NL, fr. L, fem. of *cinerarius* of ashes, fr. *ciner-, cinis*] : any of several pot plants deriving from a perennial composite herb (*Senecio cruentus*) of the Canary islands and having heart-shaped leaves and clusters of bright flower heads
cin·er·ar·i·um \-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ia** \-ē-ə\ [L, fr. *ciner-, cinis*] : a place to receive the ashes of the cremated dead — **cin·er·ary** \'sin-ə-ˌrer-ē\ *adj*
ci·ne·re·ous \sə-'nir-ē-əs\ *adj* [L *cinereus*, fr. *ciner-, cinis* ashes] **1** : gray tinged with black **2** : resembling or consisting of ashes
cin·er·in \'sin-ə-rən\ *n* [L *ciner-, cinis* ashes] : either of two compounds $C_{20}H_{28}O_3$ and $C_{21}H_{28}O_5$ of high insecticidal properties

cin·gu·lum \'siŋ-gyə-ləm\ *n, pl* **-la** \-lə\ [NL, fr. L, girdle, fr. *cingere* to gird — more at CINCTURE] : a differentiated band or a girdle (as of color) — **cin·gu·late** \-lət\ *adj*
cin·na·bar \'sin-ə-ˌbär\ *n* [ME *cynabare*, fr. MF & L; MF *cenobre*, fr. L *cinnabaris*, fr. Gk *kinnabari* of non-IE origin; akin to Ar *zinjafr* cinnabar] **1** : native red mercuric sulfide HgS that is the only important ore of mercury **2** : artificial red mercuric sulfide used esp. as a pigment **3** : a European moth (*Tyria jacobeae*) with grayish black fore wings marked with red and clear reddish pink hind wings that has been introduced into the U.S. in attempts to control ragwort on the leaves of which its larvae feed — called also *cinnabar moth* — **cin·na·bar·ine** \-ˌbär-ˌīn, ˌsin-ə-'bär-ən\ *adj*
cin·nam·ic \sə-'nam-ik\ *adj* [F *cinnamique*, fr. *cinname* cinnamon, fr. L *cinnamon*] : of, relating to, or obtained from cinnamon
cinnamic acid *n* : a white crystalline odorless acid $C_9H_8O_2$ found esp. in cinnamon oil and storax
cin·na·mon \'sin-ə-mən\ *n, often attrib* [ME *cynamone*, fr. L *cinnamomum, cinnamon*, fr. Gk *kinnamōmon, kinnamon*, of non-IE origin; akin to Heb *qinnāmōn* cinnamon] **1 a** : the highly aromatic bark of any of several trees (genus *Cinnamomum*) of the laurel family used as a spice **b** : a tree that yields cinnamon **2** : a light yellowish brown
cinnamon fern *n* : a large No. American fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) with cinnamon-colored spore-bearing fronds shorter than and separate from the green foliage fronds
cinnamon stone *n* : ESSONITE
cin·quain \'siŋ-ˌkān, 'saŋ-\ *n* [F, fr. *cinq* five, fr. L *quinque* — more at FIVE] : a five-line stanza
cin·que·cen·tist \ˌchiŋ-kwi-'chent-əst\ *n* : an Italian of the cinquecento; *esp* : a poet or artist of this period
cin·que·cen·to \ˌchiŋ-kwi-'chen-(ˌ)tō\ *n* [It, lit., five hundred, fr. *cinque* five (fr. L *quinque*) + *cento* hundred, fr. L *centum* — more at HUNDRED] : the 16th century esp. in Italian art
cinque·foil \'siŋk-ˌfȯil, 'saŋk-\ *n* [ME *sink foil*, fr. MF *cincfoille*, fr. L *quinquefolium*, fr. *quinque* five + *folium* leaf — more at BLADE] **1** : any of a genus (*Potentilla*) of plants of the rose family with 5-lobed leaves **2** : a design enclosed by five joined foils
ci·on *var of* SCION
¹ci·pher \'sī-fər\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. MF *cifre*, fr. ML *cifra*, fr. Ar *ṣifr* empty, cipher, zero] **1 a** : ZERO 1a **b** : one that has no weight, worth, or influence : NONENTITY **2 a** : a method of transforming a text in order to conceal its meaning — compare CODE 3b **b** : a message in code **3** : ARABIC NUMERAL **4** : a combination of symbolic letters; *esp* : the interwoven initials of a name
²cipher *vb* **ci·phered; ci·pher·ing** \-f(ə-)riŋ\ *vi* : to use figures in a mathematical process ~ *vt* **1** : ENCIPHER **2** : to compute arithmetically
cipher alphabet *n* : a set of one-to-one equivalences between a sequence of plaintext letters and the sequence of their cipher substitutes used in cryptography
ci·pher·text \'sī-fər-ˌtekst\ *n* : the enciphered form of a text or of its elements — compare PLAINTEXT
ci·pho·ny \'sī-fə-nē\ *n* [*ci*pher + tele*phony*] : the electronic scrambling of voice transmissions
cir *abbr* circle, circular
circ *abbr* circular
cir·ca \'sər-kə, 'ki(ə)r-(ˌ)kä\ *prep* [L, fr. *circum* around — more at CIRCUM-] : at, in, or of approximately — used esp. with dates ⟨born ~ 1600⟩
cir·ca·di·an \sər-'kād-ē-ən, -'kad-; sər-kə-'dē-ən, -'dī-\ *adj* [L *circa* about + *dies* day + E *-an* — more at DEITY] : being, having, characterized by, or occurring in approximately 24-hour periods or cycles (as of biological activity or function) ⟨~ oscillations⟩ ⟨~ periodicity⟩ ⟨~ rhythms in hatching⟩ ⟨~ leaf movements⟩ ***syn*** see DAILY
Cir·cas·sian \(ˌ)sər-'kash-ən\ *n* [*Circassia*, Russia] **1** : a member of a group of peoples of the Caucasus of Caucasian race but not of Indo-European speech **2** : the language of the Circassian peoples — **Circassian** *adj*
Circassian walnut *n* : the light brown irregularly black-veined wood of the English walnut much used for veneer and cabinetwork
Cir·ce \'sər-(ˌ)sē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kirkē*] : a sorceress who changed Odysseus' men into swine but was forced by Odysseus to change them back
cir·ci·nate \'sərs-ᵊn-ˌāt\ *adj* [L *circinatus*, pp. of *circinare* to round, fr. *circinus* pair of compasses, fr. *circus*] : ROUNDED, COILED: *esp* : rolled up on the axis with the apex as a center ⟨~ fern fronds unfolding⟩ — **cir·ci·nate·ly** *adv*
¹cir·cle \'sər-kəl\ *n, often attrib* [ME *cercle*, fr. OF, fr. L *circulus*, dim. of *circus* circle, circus, fr. or akin to Gk *krikos, kirkos* ring] **1 a** : RING, HALO **b** : a closed plane curve every point of which is equidistant from a fixed point within the curve **c** : the plane surface bounded by such a curve **2** : the orbit or period of revolution of a heavenly body **3** : something in the form of a circle or section of a circle: as **a** : CIRCLET, DIADEM **b** : an instrument of astronomical observation the graduated limb of which consists of an entire circle **c** : a balcony or tier of seats in a theater **d** : a circle formed on the surface of a sphere by the intersection of a plane that passes through it ⟨~ of latitude⟩ **e** : ROTARY **4** : an area of action or influence : REALM **5 a** : CYCLE, ROUND ⟨the wheel has come full ~⟩ **b** : fallacious reasoning in which something to be demonstrated is covertly assumed **6** : a group of persons sharing a common interest or revolving about a common center ⟨ the sewing ~ of her church⟩ ⟨the gossip of court ~s⟩ **7** : a territorial or administrative division or district ***syn*** see SET



circle 1b: *AB* diameter: *C* center; *CD, CA, CB,* radii; *EKF* arc on chord *EF; EFKL* (area) segment on chord *EF; ACD* (area) sector; *GH* secant; *TPM* tangent at point *P; EKFBPDA* circumference

²circle *vb* **cir·cled; cir·cling** \-k(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* **1** : to enclose in or as if in a circle **2** : to move or revolve around ~ *vi* **1 a** : to move in or as if in a circle **b** : CIRCULATE **2** : to describe or extend in a circle — **cir·cler** \-k(ə-)lər\ *n*
circle graph *n* : PIE CHART
cir·clet \'sər-klət\ *n* : a little circle; *esp* : a circular ornament
¹cir·cuit \'sər-kət\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. MF *circuite*, fr. L *circuitus*, fr. pp. of *circumire, circuire* to go around, fr. *circum-* + *ire* to go — more at ISSUE] **1 a** : a usu. circular line encompassing an area **b** : the space enclosed within such a line **2 a** : a course around a periphery **b** : a circuitous or indirect route **3 a** : a regular tour (as by a traveling judge or preacher) around an assigned district or territory **b** : the route traveled **c** : a group of church congregations ministered to by one pastor **4 a** : the complete path of an electric current including usu. the source of electric energy **b** : an assemblage of electronic elements : HOOKUP **c** : a two-way communication path between points (as in a computer) **5 a** : an association of similar groups : LEAGUE **b** : a group of establishments offering similar entertainment or presenting a series of contests; *esp* : a chain of theaters at which productions are successively presented — **cir·cuit·al** \-kət-ᵊl\ *adj*
²circuit *vt* : to make a circuit about ~ *vi* : to make a circuit
circuit breaker *n* : a switch that automatically interrupts an electric circuit under an infrequent abnormal condition
circuit court *n* : a court that sits at two or more places within one judicial district
circuit judge *n* : a judge who holds a circuit court
cir·cu·itous \(ˌ)sər-'kyü-ət-əs\ *adj* **1** : marked by a circular or winding course ⟨a ~ route⟩ **2** : marked by roundabout or indirect procedure — **cir·cu·itous·ly** *adv* — **cir·cu·itous·ness** *n*
circuit rider *n* : a clergyman assigned to a circuit esp. in a rural area
cir·cuit·ry \'sər-kə-trē\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1** : the detailed plan of an electric circuit **2** : the components of an electric circuit
cir·cu·ity \(ˌ)sər-'kyü-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ities** [irreg. fr. *circuit*] : lack of straightforwardness : INDIRECTION ⟨mired so deeply in its own complicated ~ of words —C. O. Gregory⟩
¹cir·cu·lar \'sər-kyə-lər\ *adj* [ME *circuler*, fr. MF, fr. LL *circularis*, fr. L *circulus* circle] **1** : having the form of a circle : ROUND **2** : moving in or describing a circle or spiral **3** : CIRCUITOUS, INDIRECT ⟨a ~ explanation⟩ **4** : characterized by reasoning in a circle ⟨~ arguments⟩ **5** : marked by or moving in a cycle **6** : intended for circulation — **cir·cu·lar·i·ty** \ˌsər-kyə-'lar-ət-ē\ *n* — **cir·cu·lar·ly** \'sər-kyə-lər-lē\ *adv* — **cir·cu·lar·ness** *n*
²circular *n* : a paper (as a leaflet) intended for wide distribution
circular file *n* : WASTEBASKET
circular function *n* : TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTION
cir·cu·lar·ize \'sər-kyə-lə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1 a** : to send circulars to **b** : to poll by questionnaire **2** : PUBLICIZE — **cir·cu·lar·iza·tion** \ˌsər-kyə-lə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n*
circular measure *n* : the measure of an angle in radians
cir·cu·late \'sər-kyə-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *circulatus*, pp. of *circulare*, fr. *circulus* circle] *vi* **1** : to move in a circle, circuit, or orbit; *esp* : to follow a course that returns to the starting point ⟨blood ~s through the body⟩ **2** : to pass from person to person or place to place: as **a** : to flow without obstruction **b** : to become well known or widespread ⟨rumors *circulated* through the town⟩ **c** : to go from group to group at a social gathering **d** : to come into the hands of readers; *specif* : to become sold or distributed ~ *vt* : to cause to circulate — **cir·cu·lat·able** \-ˌlāt-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **cir·cu·la·tive** \-ˌlāt-iv\ *adj* — **cir·cu·la·tor** \-ˌlāt-ər\ *n* — **cir·cu·la·to·ry** \-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*
circulating decimal *n* : REPEATING DECIMAL
cir·cu·la·tion \ˌsər-kyə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1** : FLOW **2** : orderly movement through a circuit; *esp* : the movement of blood through the vessels of the body induced by the pumping action of the heart **3 a** : passage or transmission from person to person or place to place; *esp* : the interchange of currency ⟨coins in ~⟩ **b** : the extent of dissemination: as (1) : the average number of copies of a publication sold over a given period (2) : the total number of items taken by borrowers from a library
circulatory system *n* : the system of blood, blood vessels, lymphatics, and heart concerned with the circulation of the blood and lymph
circum- *prefix* [OF or L; OF, fr. L, fr. *circum*, fr. *circus* circle — more at CIRCLE] : around : about ⟨*circum*polar⟩
cir·cum·am·bi·ent \ˌsər-kə-'mam-bē-ənt\ *adj* [LL *circumambient-, circumambiens*, prp. of *circumambire* to surround in a circle, fr. L *circum-* + *ambire* to go around — more at AMBIENT] : being on all sides : ENCOMPASSING — **cir·cum·am·bi·ent·ly** *adv*
cir·cum·am·bu·late \-byə-ˌlāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [LL *circumambulatus*, pp. of *circumambulare*, fr. L *circum-* + *ambulare* to walk] : to circle on foot esp. ritualistically
cir·cum·cise \'sər-kəm-ˌsīz\ *vt* **-cised; -cis·ing** [ME *circumcisen*, fr. L *circumcisus*, pp. of *circumcidere*, fr. *circum-* + *caedere* to cut — more at CONCISE] : to cut off the prepuce of (a male) or the clitoris of (a female) — **cir·cum·cis·er** *n*
cir·cum·ci·sion \ˌsər-kəm-'sizh-ən, 'sər-kəm-ˌ\ *n* **1 a** : the act of circumcising; *specif* : a Jewish rite performed on male infants as a sign of inclusion in the Jewish religious community **b** : the condition of being circumcised **2** *cap* : January 1 observed as a church festival in commemoration of the circumcision of Jesus
cir·cum·fer·ence \sə(r)-'kəm(p)-fərn(t)s, -f(ə-)rən(t)s\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *circumferentia*, fr. *circumferre* to carry around, fr. *circum-* + *ferre* to carry — more at BEAR] **1** : the perimeter of a circle **2** : the external boundary or surface of a figure or object : PERIPHERY — **cir·cum·fer·en·tial** \-ˌkəm(p)-fə-'ren-chəl\ *adj*
¹cir·cum·flex \'sər-kəm-ˌfleks\ *adj* [L *circumflexus*, pp. of *circumflectere* to bend around, mark with a circumflex, fr. *circum-* + *flectere* to bend] **1 a** : characterized by the pitch, quantity, or quality indicated by a circumflex **b** : marked with a circumflex **2** : bending around ⟨a ~ artery⟩

²circumflex *n* : a mark ˆ, ˆ, or ˜ orig. used in Greek over long vowels to indicate a rising-falling tone and in other languages to mark length, contraction, or a particular vowel quality
cir·cum·flu·ent \(ˌ)sər-'kəm-flə-wənt, ˌsər-kəm-'flü-ənt\ *adj* [fr. L *circumfluent-, circumfluens,* prp. of *circumfluere* to flow around, fr. *circum-* + *fluere* to flow] : flowing round or surrounding in the manner of a fluid — **cir·cum·flu·ous** \(ˌ)sər-'kəm-flə-wəs\ *adj*
cir·cum·fuse \ˌsər-kəm-'fyüz\ *vt* **-fused; -fus·ing** [L *circumfusus,* pp. of *circumfundere* to pour around, fr. *circum-* + *fundere* to pour — more at FOUND] : SURROUND, ENVELOP — **cir·cum·fu·sion** \-'fyü-zhən\ *n*
cir·cum·ja·cent \ˌsər-kəm-'jās-ᵊnt\ *adj* [L *circumjacent-, circumjacens,* prp. of *circumjacēre* to lie around, fr. *circum-* + *jacēre* to lie — more at ADJACENT] : lying adjacent on all sides : SURROUNDING
cir·cum·lo·cu·tion \ˌsər-kəm-lō-'kyü-shən\ *n* [L *circumlocution-, circumlocutio,* fr. *circum-* + *locutio* speech, fr. *locutus,* pp. of *loqui* to speak] **1** : the use of an unnecessarily large number of words to express an idea **2** : evasion in speech — **cir·cum·loc·u·to·ry** \-'läk-yə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*
cir·cum·lu·nar \ˌsər-kəm-'lü-nər\ *adj* : revolving about or surrounding the moon
cir·cum·nav·i·gate \-'nav-ə-ˌgāt\ *vt* [L *circumnavigatus,* pp. of *circumnavigare* to sail around, fr. *circum-* + *navigare* to navigate] : to go completely around (as the earth) esp. by water; *also* : to go around instead of through : BYPASS ⟨~ a congested area⟩ — **cir·cum·nav·i·ga·tion** \-ˌnav-ə-'gā-shən\ *n* — **cir·cum·nav·i·ga·tor** \-'nav-ə-ˌgāt-ər\ *n*
cir·cum·po·lar \ˌsər-kəm-'pō-lər\ *adj* **1** : continually visible above the horizon ⟨a ~ star⟩ **2** : surrounding or found in the vicinity of a terrestrial pole
cir·cum·scis·sile \-'sis-əl, -ˌīl\ *adj* [L *circumscissus,* pp. of *circumscindere* to tear around, fr. *circum-* + *scindere* to cut, split — more at SHED] : dehiscing by fissure around the circumference of the pyxidium
cir·cum·scribe \'sər-kəm-ˌskrīb\ *vt* [L *circumscribere,* fr. *circum-* + *scribere* to write, draw — more at SCRIBE] **1 a** : to draw a line around **b** : to surround by a boundary **2 a** : to constrict the range or activity of definitely and clearly **b** : to define or mark off carefully **3** : to encircle (a geometrical figure) so as to touch at as many points as possible ***syn*** see LIMIT ***ant*** expand, dilate
cir·cum·scrip·tion \ˌsər-kəm-'skrip-shən\ *n* [L *circumscription-, circumscriptio,* fr. *circumscriptus,* pp. of *circumscribere*] **1** : something that circumscribes: as **a** : LIMIT, BOUNDARY **b** : RESTRICTION **2** : the act of circumscribing : the state of being circumscribed: as **a** : DEFINITION, DELIMITATION **b** : LIMITATION **3** : a circumscribed area or district
cir·cum·spect \'sər-kəm-ˌspekt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF *circonspect,* fr. L *circumspectus,* fr. pp. of *circumspicere* to look around, be cautious, fr. *circum-* + *specere* to look — more at SPY] : careful to consider all circumstances and possible consequences : PRUDENT ***syn*** see CAUTIOUS ***ant*** audacious — **cir·cum·spec·tion** \ˌsər-kəm-'spek-shən\ *n* — **cir·cum·spect·ly** \'sər-kəm-ˌspek-tlē\ *adv*
cir·cum·stance \'sər-kəm-ˌstan(t)s, -stən(t)s\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *circumstantia,* fr. *circumstant-, circumstans,* prp. of *circumstare* to stand around, fr. *circum-* + *stare* to stand — more at STAND] **1 a** : a condition, fact, or event accompanying, conditioning, or determining another : an essential or inevitable concomitant ⟨the weather is a ~ to be taken into consideration⟩ **b** : a subordinate or accessory fact or detail ⟨cost is a minor ~ in this case⟩ **c** : a piece of evidence that indicates the probability or improbability of an event (as a crime) ⟨the ~ of the missing weapon told against him⟩ ⟨the ~*s* suggest murder⟩ **2 a** : the sum of essential and environmental factors (as of an event or situation) ⟨constant and rapid change in economic ~ —G. M. Trevelyan⟩ **b** : state of affairs : EVENTUALITY ⟨open rebellion was a rare ~⟩ — often used in pl. ⟨a victim of ~*s*⟩ **c** *pl* : situation with regard to wealth ⟨he was in easy ~*s*⟩ **3** : attendant formalities and ceremonial ⟨pride, pomp, and ~ of glorious war —Shak.⟩ **4** : an event that constitutes a detail (as of a narrative or course of events) ⟨considering each ~ in turn⟩ ***syn*** see OCCURRENCE
cir·cum·stanced \-ˌstan(t)st, -stən(t)st\ *adj* : placed in particular circumstances esp. in regard to property or income
cir·cum·stan·tial \ˌsər-kəm-'stan-chəl\ *adj* **1** : belonging to, consisting in, or dependent on circumstances **2** : pertinent but not essential : INCIDENTAL **3** : marked by careful attention to detail : abounding in factual details ⟨a ~ account of the fight⟩ **4** : CEREMONIAL — **cir·cum·stan·ti·al·i·ty** \-ˌstan-chē-'al-ət-ē\ *n* — **cir·cum·stan·tial·ly** \-'stanch-(ə-)lē\ *adv*
syn CIRCUMSTANTIAL, MINUTE, PARTICULAR, DETAILED *shared meaning element* : dealing with a matter carefully and fully and usu. point by point ***ant*** abridged, summary
circumstantial evidence *n* : evidence that tends to prove a fact by proving other events or circumstances which afford a basis for a reasonable inference of the occurrence of the fact in issue
cir·cum·stan·ti·ate \ˌsər-kəm-'stan-chē-ˌāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** : to supply with circumstantial evidence or support
cir·cum·stel·lar \ˌsər-kəm-'stel-ər\ *adj* : surrounding or occurring in the vicinity of a star
¹cir·cum·val·late \-'val-ˌāt, -'val-ət\ *adj* : surrounded by or as if by a rampart; *esp* : enclosed by a ridge of tissue ⟨~ papilla⟩
²cir·cum·val·late \-'val-ˌāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *circumvallatus,* pp. of *circumvallare,* fr. *circum-* + *vallum* rampart — more at WALL] : to surround by or as if by a rampart — **cir·cum·val·la·tion** \-ˌval-'ā-shən\ *n*
cir·cum·vent \ˌsər-kəm-'vent\ *vt* [L *circumventus,* pp. of *circumvenire,* fr. *circum-* + *venire* to come — more at COME] **1 a** : to hem in **b** : to make a circuit around **2** : to check or defeat esp. by ingenuity or stratagem ***syn*** see FRUSTRATE ***ant*** conform (*as to laws*), cooperate (*with persons*) — **cir·cum·ven·tion** \-'ven-chən\ *n*
cir·cum·vo·lu·tion \(ˌ)sər-ˌkəm-və-'lü-shən, ˌsər-kəm-vō-\ *n* [ME *circumvolucioun,* fr. ML *circumvolution-, circumvolutio,* fr. L *circumvolutus,* pp. of *circumvolvere* to revolve, fr. *circum-* + *volvere* to roll — more at VOLUBLE] : an act or instance of turning around an axis

cir·cus \'sər-kəs\ *n, often attrib* [L, circle, circus — more at CIRCLE] **1 a** : a large arena enclosed by tiers of seats on three or all four sides and used esp. for sports or spectacles (as athletic contests, exhibitions of horsemanship, or in ancient times chariot racing) **b** : a public spectacle **2 a** : an arena often covered by a tent and used for variety shows usu. including feats of physical skill and daring, wild animal acts, and performances by jugglers and clowns **b** : a circus performance **c** : the physical plant, livestock, and personnel of such a circus **d** : an activity suggesting a circus ⟨huge political clambakes, outsize chowder parties and other eating ~*es* —Thomas Mario⟩ **3 a** *obs* : CIRCLE, RING **b** *Brit* : a usu. circular area at an intersection of streets — **cir·cusy** \-kə-sē\ *adj*
cirque \'sərk\ *n* [F, fr. L *circus*] **1** *archaic* : CIRCUS **2** : CIRCLE, CIRCLET **3** : a deep steep-walled basin on a mountain shaped like half a bowl
cirr- *or* **cirri-** *or* **cirro-** *comb form* [NL *cirrus*] : cirrus ⟨*cirri*ped⟩ ⟨*cirro*stratus⟩
cir·rho·sis \sə-'rō-səs\ *n, pl* **-rho·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *kirrhos* orange-colored] : fibrosis esp. of the liver with hardening caused by excessive formation of connective tissue followed by contraction — **cir·rhot·ic** \-'rät-ik\ *adj or n*
cir·ri·ped \'sir-ə-ˌped\ *or* **cir·ri·pede** \-ˌpēd\ *n* [deriv. of NL *cirr-* + L *ped-, pes* foot — more at FOOT] : any of a subclass (Cirripedia) of specialized marine crustaceans (as barnacles) free-swimming as larvae but permanently attached or parasitic as adults — **cirriped** *adj*
cir·ro·cu·mu·lus \ˌsir-ō-'kyü-myə-ləs\ *n* [NL] : a cloud form of small white rounded masses at a high altitude usu. in regular groupings forming a mackerel sky — see CLOUD illustration
cir·ro·stra·tus \ˌsir-ō-'strāt-əs, -'strat-\ *n* [NL] : a fairly uniform layer of high stratus darker than cirrus — see CLOUD illustration
cir·rous \'sir-əs\ *adj* : resembling cirrus clouds
cir·rus \'sir-əs\ *n, pl* **cir·ri** \'si(ə)r-ˌī\ [NL, fr. L, curl] **1** : TENDRIL **2** : a slender usu. flexible animal appendage: as **a** : an arm of a barnacle — see BARNACLE illustration **b** : a filament of a crinoid **c** : a fused group of cilia functioning like a limb on some protozoans **d** : the male copulatory organ of various invertebrate animals **3** : a wispy white cloud usu. of minute ice crystals formed at altitudes of 20,000 to 40,000 feet — see CLOUD illustration
cis- *prefix* [L, fr. *cis* — more at HE] **1** : on this side ⟨*cis*-border⟩ ⟨*cis*atlantic⟩ **2** *usu ital* : characterized by having such atoms or groups on the same side of the molecule ⟨*cis*-dichloroethylene⟩
cis·al·pine \(')sis-'al-ˌpīn\ *adj* : situated on the south side of the Alps ⟨*Cisalpine* Gaul⟩ — compare TRANSALPINE
cis·co \'sis-(ˌ)kō\ *n, pl* **ciscoes** [short for CanF *ciscoette*] : any of various whitefishes (genus *Coregonus*) including important food fishes (esp. *C. artedii*) of the Great Lakes region
cis·lu·nar \(')sis-'lü-nər\ *adj* : lying between the earth and the moon or the moon's orbit ⟨~ space⟩
cist \'sist, 'kist\ *n* [W, chest, fr. L *cista*] : a neolithic or Bronze Age burial chamber typically lined with stone
Cis·ter·cian \sis-'tər-shən\ *n* [ML *Cistercium* Cîteaux] : a member of a monastic order founded by St. Robert of Molesme in 1098 at Cîteaux, France, under an austere Benedictine rule — **Cistercian** *adj*
cis·tern \'sis-tərn\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *cisterne,* fr. L *cisterna,* fr. *cista* box, chest — more at CHEST] **1** : an artificial reservoir for storing liquids and esp. water; *specif* : an often underground tank for storing rainwater **2** : a large usu. silver vessel formerly used (as in cooling wine) at the dining table **3** : a fluid-containing sac or cavity in an organism
cis·ter·na \sis-'tər-nə\ *n, pl* **-nae** \-ˌnē\ [NL, fr. L, reservoir] : CISTERN 3: as **a** : one of the large spaces under the arachnoid membrane **b** : one of the interconnected vesicles or tubules comprising the endoplasmic reticulum
cis·tron \'sis-ˌträn\ *n* [*cis-* + *trans-* + ²*-on*] : a segment of DNA which specifies a single functional unit (as a protein or enzyme) and within which two heterozygous and closely linked recessive mutations are expressed in the phenotype when on different chromosomes but not when on the same chromosome — **cis·tron·ic** \sis-'trän-ik\ *adj*
cit *abbr* **1** citation; cited **2** citizen
cit·a·del \'sit-əd-ᵊl, -ə-ˌdel\ *n* [MF *citadelle,* fr. OIt *cittadella,* dim. of *cittade* city, fr. ML *civitat-, civitas* — more at CITY] **1** : a fortress that commands a city **2** : STRONGHOLD
ci·ta·tion \sī-'tā-shən\ *n* **1** : an official summons to appear (as before a court) **2 a** : an act of quoting; *esp* : the citing of a previously settled case at law **b** : EXCERPT, QUOTE **3** : MENTION: as **a** : a formal statement of the achievements of a person receiving an academic honor **b** : specific reference in a military dispatch to meritorious performance of duty ***syn*** see ENCOMIUM — **ci·ta·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*
cite \'sīt\ *vt* **cit·ed; cit·ing** [MF *citer* to cite, summon, fr. L *citare* to put in motion, rouse, summon, fr. *citus,* pp. of *ciēre* to stir, move — more at HIGHT] **1** : to call upon officially or authoritatively to appear (as before a court) **2** : to quote by way of example, authority, or proof **3 a** : to refer to; *esp* : to mention formally in commendation or praise **b** : to name in a citation **4** : to bring forward or call to another's attention esp. as an example, proof, or precedent ***syn*** see SUMMON, QUOTE, ADDUCE — **cit·able** \'sīt-ə-bəl\ *adj*
cith·a·ra \'sith-ə-rə, 'kith-\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *kithara*] : an ancient Greek stringed instrument of the lyre class
cith·er \'sith-ər, 'sith-\ *n* [F *cithare,* fr. L *cithara*] : CITTERN
cit·ied \'sit-ēd\ *adj* : occupied by cities
citi·fy \'sit-i-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** : URBANIZE

cit·i·zen \'sit-ə-zən\ *n* [ME *citizein*, fr. AF *citezein*, alter. of OF *citeien*, fr. *cité* city] **1** : an inhabitant of a city or town; *esp* : one entitled to the rights and privileges of a freeman **2 a** : a member of a state **b** : a native or naturalized person who owes allegiance to a government and is entitled to protection from it **3** : a civilian as distinguished from a specialized servant of the state — **cit·i·zen·ess** \-zə-nəs\ *n* — **cit·i·zen·ly** \-zən-lē\ *adj*

syn CITIZEN, SUBJECT, NATIONAL *shared meaning element* : a person owing allegiance to and entitled to the protection of a sovereign state

cit·i·zen·ry \-zən-rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** : a whole body of citizens

citizen's arrest *n* : an arrest made by a citizen who derives his authority from the fact that he is a citizen

citizens band *n* : one of the frequency bands that in the U.S. is allocated officially for private radio communications

cit·i·zen·ship \'sit-ə-zən-ˌship\ *n* **1** : the status of being a citizen **2** : the quality of an individual's response to membership in a community

citr- *or* **citri-** *or* **citro-** *comb form* [NL, fr. *Citrus*, genus name] **1** : citrus ⟨*citri*culture⟩ **2** : citric acid ⟨*citr*ate⟩

cit·ral \'si-ˌtral\ *n* [ISV] : an unsaturated liquid isomeric aldehyde $C_{10}H_{16}O$ of many essential oils that has a strong lemon and verbena odor and is used esp. in perfumery and as a flavoring

ci·trate \'si-ˌtrāt\ *n* [ISV] : a salt or ester of citric acid

cit·ric acid \ˌsi-trik-\ *n* [ISV] : a tricarboxylic acid $C_6H_8O_7$ occurring in cellular metabolism, obtained esp. from lemon and lime juices or by fermentation of sugars, and used as a flavoring

citric acid cycle *n* : KREBS CYCLE

cit·ri·cul·ture \'si-trə-ˌkəl-chər\ *n* : the cultivation of citrus fruits — **cit·ri·cul·tur·ist** \ˌsi-trə-'kəlch-(ə-)rəst\ *n*

[1]cit·rine \'si-ˌtrīn\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *citrin*, fr. ML *citrinus*, fr. L *citrus* citron tree] : resembling a citron or lemon esp. in color

[2]ci·trine \si-'trēn\ *n* : a black quartz changed in color by heating into a semiprecious yellow stone resembling topaz

cit·ron \'si-trən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OProv, modif. of L *citrus* citron tree] **1 a** : a fruit like the lemon in appearance and structure but larger **b** : a small shrubby citrus tree (*Citrus medica*) that produces citrons **c** : the preserved rind of the citron used esp. in cakes and puddings **2** : a small hard-fleshed watermelon used esp. in pickles and preserves

cit·ro·nel·la \ˌsi-trə-'nel-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. F *citronnelle* lemon balm, fr. *citron*] : a fragrant grass (*Cymbopogon nardus*) of southern Asia that yields an oil used in perfumery and as an insect repellent; *also* : its oil

cit·ro·nel·lal \-'nel-ˌal\ *n* [ISV, fr. NL *citronella*] : a lemon-odored aldehyde $C_{10}H_{18}O$ found in many essential oils and used in perfumery

cit·rul·line \'si-trə-ˌlēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. NL *Citrullus*, genus name of the watermelon] : a crystalline amino acid $C_6H_{13}N_3O_3$ formed esp. as an intermediate in the conversion of ornithine to arginine in the living system

cit·rus \'si-trəs\ *n, pl* **citrus** *or* **cit·rus·es** *often attrib* [NL, genus name, fr. L, citron tree] : any of a genus (*Citrus*) of often thorny trees and shrubs of the rue family grown in warm regions for their edible fruit (as the orange) with firm usu. thick rind and pulpy flesh

citrus red mite *n* : a comparatively large mite (*Panonychus citri*) that is a destructive pest on the foliage of citrus — called also *citrus red spider*

cit·tern \'sit-ərn\ *or* **cith·ern** \'sith-ərn, 'sith-\ *or* **cith·ren** \'sith-rən\ *n* [blend of *cither* and *gittern*] : a guitar with a pear-shaped flat-backed body popular esp. in Renaissance England

city \'sit-ē\ *n, pl* **cit·ies** *often attrib* [ME *citie* large or small town, fr. OF *cité* capital city, fr. ML *civitat-, civitas*, fr. L, citizenship, state, city of Rome, fr. *civis* citizen — more at HOME] **1 a** : an inhabited place of greater size, population, or importance than a town or village **b** : an incorporated British town usu. of major size or importance having the status of an episcopal see **c** : a usu. large or important municipality in the U.S. governed under a charter granted by the state **d** : an incorporated municipal unit of the highest class in Canada **2** : CITY-STATE **3** : the people of a city

city council *n* : the legislative body of a city

city edition *n* : an edition of a usu. metropolitan newspaper that is designed for sale within the city

city editor *n* : a newspaper editor with varying functions but usu. in charge of local news and staff assignments

city father *n* : a member (as an alderman or councilman) of the governing body of a city

city hall *n* **1** : the chief administrative building of a city **2 a** : a municipal government **b** : city officialdom or bureaucracy ⟨you can't fight *city hall*⟩

city manager *n* : an official employed by an elected council to direct the administration of a city government

city plan *n* : an organized arrangement (as of streets, parks, and business and residential areas) of a city with a view to convenience, appearance, healthful environment, and future growth — **city planning** *n*

city planner *n* : one that makes city plans; *esp* : a professional who participates in such activity

city room *n* : the department where local news is handled in a newspaper editorial office

city·scape \'sit-ē-ˌskāp\ *n* **1** : a pictorial representation of a city **2** : a city viewed as a scene ⟨the skyscrapers which now bedizen the American ~ —*Amer. Mercury*⟩ **3** : a pictorial composition of urban elements

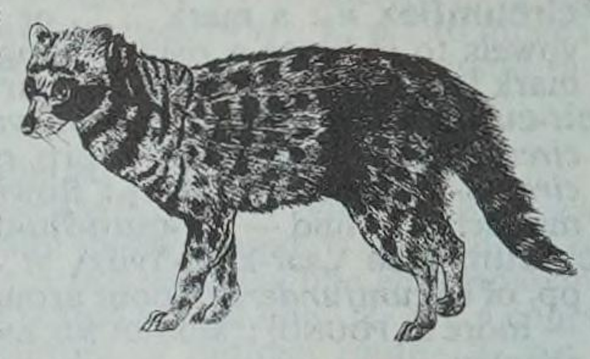
city slicker *n* : SLICKER 2b

city–state \'sit-ē-'stāt, -ˌstāt\ *n* : an autonomous state consisting of a city and surrounding territory

civ *abbr* civil; civilian

civ·et \'siv-ət\ *n* [MF *civette*, fr. OIt *zibetto*, fr. Ar *zabād* civet perfume] : a thick yellowish musky-odored substance found in a pouch near the sexual organs of the civet cat and used in perfume

civet cat *n* **1 a** : any of several carnivorous mammals (family Viverridae); *esp* : a long-bodied short-legged African animal (*Civettictis civetta*) that produces most of the civet of commerce **b** : CACOMISTLE **c** : any of the small spotted skunks (genus *Spilogale*) of western No. America **2** : the fur of a civet cat



civet cat 1a

civ·ic \'siv-ik\ *adj* [L *civicus*, fr. *civis* citizen] : of or relating to a citizen, a city, citizenship, or civil affairs — **civ·i·cal·ly** \'siv-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

civ·ic–mind·ed \ˌsiv-ik-'mīn-dəd\ *adj* : disposed to look after civic needs and interests — **civ·ic–mind·ed·ness** *n*

civ·ics \'siv-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : a social science dealing with the rights and duties of citizens

civ·il \'siv-əl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *civilis*, fr. *civis*] **1 a** : of or relating to citizens ⟨~ liberties⟩ **b** : of or relating to the state or its citizenry **2 a** : CIVILIZED ⟨~ society⟩ **b** : adequate in courtesy and politeness : MANNERLY **3 a** : of, relating to, or based on civil law **b** : relating to private rights and to remedies sought by action or suit distinct from criminal proceedings **c** : established by law **4** *of time* : based on the mean sun and legally recognized for use in ordinary affairs **5** : of, relating to, or involving the general public, their activities, needs, or ways, or civic affairs as distinguished from special (as military or religious) affairs

syn CIVIL, POLITE, COURTEOUS, GALLANT, CHIVALROUS *shared meaning element* : observant of the forms required by good breeding. CIVIL is feeble in force, often suggesting little more than avoidance of overt rudeness. POLITE is more positive and commonly implies polish of manners and address more than warmth and cordiality ⟨the cultured, precise tone, *polite* but faintly superior —William Styron⟩ COURTEOUS implies an actively considerate and sometimes rather stately politeness ⟨listened with *courteous* attention⟩ *Gallant* and *chivalrous* imply courteous attentiveness esp. to women but GALLANT is likely to suggest dashing behavior and ornate expression ⟨ever ready with *gallant* remarks of admiration⟩ while CHIVALROUS tends to suggest high-minded and disinterested attentions ⟨felt at once *chivalrous* and paternal to the lost girl⟩ ***ant*** uncivil, rude

civil death *n* : the status of a living person equivalent in its legal consequences to natural death; *specif* : deprivation of civil rights

civil defense *n* : the complex of protective measures and emergency relief activities conducted by civilians in case of hostile attack, sabotage, or natural disaster

civil disobedience *n* : refusal to obey governmental demands or commands esp. as a nonviolent and usu. collective means of forcing concessions from the government

civil engineer *n* : an engineer whose training or occupation is in the designing and construction of public works (as roads or harbors) and of various private works — **civil engineering** *n*

ci·vil·ian \sə-'vil-yən\ *n* **1** : a specialist in Roman or modern civil law **2** : one not on active duty in a military, police, or fire-fighting force — **civilian** *adj*

ci·vil·ian·ize \-yə-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-ized; -izing** : to convert from military to civilian status or control — **ci·vil·ian·iza·tion** \-ˌvil-yə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n*

civ·i·li·sa·tion, civ·i·lise *chiefly Brit var of* CIVILIZATION, CIVILIZE

ci·vil·i·ty \sə-'vil-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** *archaic* : training in the humanities **2 a** : COURTESY, POLITENESS **b** : a polite act or expression

civ·i·li·za·tion \ˌsiv-ə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : a relatively high level of cultural and technological development; *specif* : the stage of cultural development at which writing and the keeping of written records is attained **b** : the culture characteristic of a particular time or place **2** : the process of becoming civilized **3 a** : refinement of thought, manners, or taste **b** : a situation of urban comfort

civ·i·lize \'siv-ə-ˌlīz\ *vb* **-lized; -liz·ing** *vt* **1** : to cause to develop out of a primitive state; *specif* : to bring to a technically advanced and rationally ordered stage of cultural development **2 a** : EDUCATE, REFINE **b** : SOCIALIZE 1 ~ *vi* : to acquire the customs and amenities of a civil community — **civ·i·liz·able** \-ˌlī-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **civ·i·liz·er** *n*

civ·i·lized *adj* : of or relating to peoples or nations in a state of civilization

civil law *n, often cap C&L* **1** : Roman law esp. as set forth in the Justinian code **2** : the body of private law developed from Roman law and used in Louisiana and in many countries outside the English-speaking world **3** : the law established by a nation or state for its own jurisdiction **4** : the law of civil or private rights

civil liberty *n* : freedom from arbitrary governmental interference (as with the right of free speech) specif. by denial of governmental power and in the U.S. esp. as guaranteed by the Bill of Rights — usu. used in pl. — **civil lib·er·tar·i·an** \-ˌlib-ər-'ter-ē-ən\ *n*

civ·il·ly \'siv-ə(l)-lē\ *adv* **1** : in a civil manner : POLITELY **2** : in terms of civil rights, law, or matters ⟨~ dead⟩

civil marriage *n* : a marriage performed by a magistrate

civil right·er \-'rīt-ər\ *n* : an advocate of civil rights; *esp* : one who works to gain civil rights for minority groups

civil right·ist \-'rīt-əst\ *n* : CIVIL RIGHTER

civil rights *n pl* : the nonpolitical rights of a citizen; *esp* : the rights of personal liberty guaranteed to U.S. citizens by the 13th and 14th amendments to the Constitution and by acts of Congress

civil servant *n* **1** : a member of a civil service **2** : a member of the administrative staff of an international agency (as the United Nations)

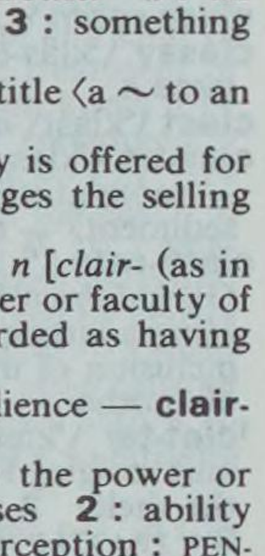
civil service *n* : the administrative service of a government or international agency exclusive of the armed forces; *esp* : one in which appointments are determined by competitive examination

civil war *n* : a war between opposing groups of citizens of the same country

Civ·i·tan \'siv-ə-ˌtan\ *n* [*Civitan (club)*] : a member of a major national and international service club

civ·vy *also* **civ·ie** \'siv-ē\ *n, pl* **civvies** *also* **civies** **1** *pl* : civilian clothes as distinguished from a military uniform **2** : CIVILIAN

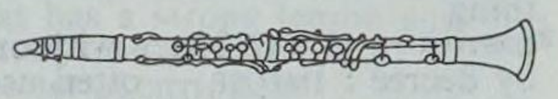
CJ *abbr* chief justice
ck *abbr* **1** cask **2** check
cl *abbr* **1** centiliter **2** class **3** clause **4** close **5** closet **6** cloth
Cl *symbol* chlorine
CL *abbr* **1** carload **2** center line **3** civil law **4** common law
Cla *abbr* Clackmannanshire
CLA *abbr* College Language Association
[1]clab·ber \'klab-ər\ *n* [short for *bonnyclabber*] *chiefly dial* : sour milk that has thickened or curdled
[2]clabber *vi, chiefly dial* : CURDLE
clach·an \'klak̲-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. ScGael] *Scot & Irish* : HAMLET
[1]clack \'klak\ *vb* [ME *clacken*, of imit. origin] *vi* **1** : CHATTER, PRATTLE **2** : to make an abrupt striking sound or series of sounds **3** *of fowl* : CACKLE, CLUCK ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to make a clatter **2** : to produce with a chattering sound; *specif* : BLAB — **clack·er** *n*
[2]clack *n* **1 a** : rapid continuous talk : CHATTER **b** : TONGUE **2** *archaic* : an object (as a clack valve) that produces clapping or rattling noises usu. in regular rapid sequence **3** : a sound of clacking ⟨the ~ of a typewriter⟩
clack valve *n* : a valve usu. hinged at one edge that permits flow of fluid in one direction only and that closes with a clacking sound
Clac·to·ni·an \klak-'tō-nē-ən\ *adj* [*Clacton*-on-Sea, England] : of or relating to a Lower Paleolithic culture characterized by stone flakes with a half cone at the point of striking
[1]clad \'klad\ *adj* [pp. of *clothe*] **1** : being covered or clothed ⟨ivy-*clad* buildings⟩ **2** *of a coin* : consisting of outer layers of one metal bonded to a core of a different metal
[2]clad *vt* **clad; clad·ding** : SHEATHE, FACE; *specif* : to cover (a metal) with another metal by bonding
[3]clad *n* **1** : a composite material formed by cladding; *specif* : a clad coin **2** : something that overlays : CLADDING; *specif* : the outer layer of a clad coin
clad·ding \'klad-iŋ\ *n* : something that covers or overlays ⟨stone ~ on a building wall⟩; *specif* : metal coating bonded to a metal core
clad·ode \'klad-ˌōd\ *n* [NL *cladodium*, fr. Gk *klados*] : CLADOPHYLL — **cla·do·di·al** \kla-'dōd-ē-əl\ *adj*
clado·gen·e·sis \ˌklad-ə-'jen-ə-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *klados* branch + L *genesis*] : evolutionary change characterized by treelike branching of taxa — **clado·ge·net·ic** \ˌklad-ō-jə-'net-ik\ *adj* — **clado·ge·net·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
clado·phyll \'klad-ə-ˌfil\ *n* [NL *cladophyllum*, fr. Gk *klados* branch + *phyllon* leaf —more at GLADIATOR, BLADE] : a branch assuming the form of and closely resembling an ordinary foliage leaf and often bearing leaves or flowers on its margins
[1]claim \'klām\ *vt* [ME *claimen*, fr. OF *clamer*, fr. L *clamare* to cry out, shout; akin to L *calare* to call — more at LOW] **1 a** : to ask for esp. as a right ⟨~*ed* the inheritance⟩ **b** : to call for : REQUIRE ⟨this matter ~*s* our attention⟩ **2** : to take as the rightful owner ⟨went to ~ his bags at the station⟩ **3** : to assert in the face of possible contradiction : MAINTAIN ⟨~*ed* that he'd been cheated⟩ ***syn*** see DEMAND — **claim·able** \'klā-mə-bəl\ *adj* — **claim·er** *n*
[2]claim *n* **1** : a demand for something due or believed to be due ⟨insurance ~⟩ **2 a** : a right to something; *specif* : a title to a debt, privilege, or other thing in the possession of another **b** : an assertion open to challenge ⟨a ~ of authenticity⟩ **3** : something that is claimed; *esp* : a tract of land staked out
claim·ant \'klā-mənt\ *n* : one that asserts a right or title ⟨a ~ to an estate⟩
claiming race *n* : a horse race in which each entry is offered for sale for a specified price to a purchaser who pledges the selling price before the race
clair·au·di·ence \kla(ə)r-'ȯd-ē-ən(t)s, kle(ə)r-, -'äd-\ *n* [*clair-* (as in *clairvoyance*) + *audience* (act of hearing)] : the power or faculty of hearing something not present to the ear but regarded as having objective reality
clair·au·di·ent \-ənt\ *adj* : of or relating to clairaudience — **clair·au·di·ent·ly** *adv*
clair·voy·ance \kla(ə)r-'vȯi-ən(t)s, kle(ə)r-\ *n* **1** : the power or faculty of discerning objects not present to the senses **2** : ability to perceive matters beyond the range of ordinary perception : PENETRATION
[1]clair·voy·ant \-ənt\ *adj* [F, fr. *clair* clear (fr. L *clarus*) + *voyant*, prp. of *voir* to see, fr. L *vidēre*] **1** : unusually perceptive : DISCERNING **2** : of or relating to clairvoyance — **clair·voy·ant·ly** *adv*
[2]clairvoyant *n* : one having the power of clairvoyance
[1]clam \'klam\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *clamm* bond, fetter; akin to OHG *klamma* constriction, L *glomus* ball] : CLAMP, CLASP
[2]clam *n, often attrib* [[1]*clam*; fr. the clamping action of the shells] **1 a** : any of numerous edible marine bivalve mollusks living in sand or mud **b** : a freshwater mussel **2** : a stolid or closemouthed person **3** : CLAMSHELL
[3]clam *vi* **clammed; clam·ming** : to gather clams esp. by digging
cla·mant \'klā-mənt, 'klam-ənt\ *adj* [L *clamant-*, *clamans*, prp. of *clamare* to cry out] **1** : CLAMOROUS, BLATANT **2** : demanding attention : URGENT — **cla·mant·ly** *adv*
clam·bake \'klam-ˌbāk\ *n* **1 a** : an outdoor party; *esp* : a seashore outing where food is cooked on heated rocks covered by seaweed **b** : the food served at a clambake **2** : a gathering characterized by noisy sociability; *esp* : a political rally
clam·ber \'klam-(b)ər\ *vi* **clam·bered; clam·ber·ing** \'klam-b(ə-)riŋ, 'klam-(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *clambren*; akin to OE *climban* to climb] : to climb awkwardly (as by scrambling) ⟨~*ed* over the rocks⟩ — **clam·ber·er** \-(b)ər-ər\ *n*
clam·my \'klam-ē\ *adj* **clam·mi·er; -est** [ME, prob. fr. *clammen* to smear, stick, fr. OE *clǣman*; akin to OE *clǣg* clay] **1** : being damp, soft, sticky, and usu. cool ⟨a ~ and intensely cold mist —Charles Dickens⟩ **2 a** : lacking normal human warmth ⟨the ~ atmosphere of an institution⟩ **b** : ALOOF, REPELLENT — **clam·mi·ly** \'klam-ə-lē\ *adv* — **clam·mi·ness** \'klam-ē-nəs\ *n*



clam 1a: *a* incurrent orifice, *b* siphon, *c* excurrent orifice, *d* mantle, *e* shell, *f* foot

[1]clamor \'klam-ər\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *clamour*, fr. L *clamor*, fr. *clamare* to cry out — more at CLAIM] **1 a** : noisy shouting **b** : a loud continuous noise **2** : insistent public expression (as of support or protest) ⟨a ~ against increased taxes⟩
[2]clamor *vb* **clam·ored; clam·or·ing** \'klam-(ə-)riŋ\ *vi* **1** : to make a din **2** : to become loudly insistent ⟨~*ed* for his impeachment⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to utter or proclaim insistently and noisily **2** : to influence by means of clamor
[3]clamor *vt* [origin unknown] *obs* : SILENCE
clam·or·ous \'klam-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* **1** : marked by confused din or outcry : TUMULTUOUS ⟨the busy ~ market⟩ **2** : noisily insistent ***syn*** see VOCIFEROUS ***ant*** taciturn — **clam·or·ous·ly** *adv* — **clam·or·ous·ness** *n*
clam·our \'klam-ər\ *chiefly Brit var of* CLAMOR
[1]clamp \'klamp\ *n* [ME, prob. fr. (assumed) MD *klampe*; akin to OE *clamm* bond, fetter — more at CLAM] **1** : a device designed to bind or constrict or to press two or more parts together so as to hold them firmly **2** : any of various instruments or appliances having parts brought together for holding or compressing something
[2]clamp *vt* **1** : to fasten with or as if with a clamp **2 a** : to place by decree : IMPOSE — often used with *on* ⟨~*ed* on a curfew after the riots⟩ **b** : to hold tightly
clamp·down \'klamp-ˌdaůn\ *n* : the act or action of making regulations and restrictions more stringent : CRACKDOWN ⟨a ~ on charge accounts, bank loans, and other inflationary influences — *Time*⟩
clamp down \(')klamp-'daůn\ *vi* : to impose restrictions : become repressive ⟨the police are *clamping down* on speeders⟩
clam·shell \'klam-ˌshel\ *n* **1** : a bucket or grapple (as on a dredge) having two hinged jaws **2** : an excavating machine having a clamshell
clam up *vi* : to become silent ⟨he *clammed up* when asked for details⟩
clam worm *n* : any of several large burrowing polychaete worms (as a nereis) often used as bait
clan \'klan\ *n* [ME, fr. ScGael *clann* offspring, clan, fr. OIr *cland* plant, offspring, fr. L *planta* plant] **1 a** : a Celtic group esp. in the Scottish Highlands comprising a number of households whose heads claim descent from a common ancestor **b** : SIB 3 **2** : a group united by a common interest or common characteristics
clan·des·tine \klaṇ-'des-tən *also* -ˌtīn *or* -ˌtēn *or* 'klan-dəs-\ *adj* [MF or L; MF *clandestin*, fr. L *clandestinus*, irreg. fr. *clam* secretly; akin to L *celare* to hide — more at HELL] : held in or conducted with secrecy : SURREPTITIOUS ***syn*** see SECRET ***ant*** open — **clan·des·tine·ly** *adv* — **clan·des·tine·ness** *n*
[1]clang \'klaŋ\ *vb* [L *clangere*; akin to Gk *klazein* to scream, bark, OE *hlōwan* to low] *vi* **1 a** : to make a loud metallic ringing sound ⟨anvils ~*ed*⟩ **b** : to go with a clang **2** : to utter the characteristic harsh cry of a bird ~ *vt* : to cause to clang ⟨~ a bell⟩
[2]clang *n* **1** : a loud ringing metallic sound ⟨the ~ of a fire alarm⟩ **2** : a harsh cry of a bird (as a crane or goose)
[1]clan·gor \'klaŋ-ər *also* -gər\ *n* [L *clangor*, fr. *clangere*] : a resounding clang or medley of clangs ⟨the ~ of hammers⟩ — **clan·gor·ous** \-(g)ə-rəs\ *adj* — **clan·gor·ous·ly** *adv*
[2]clangor *vi* : to make a clangor
clan·gour \'klaŋ-ər, -gər\ *chiefly Brit var of* CLANGOR
[1]clank \'klaŋk\ *vb* [prob. imit.] *vi* **1** : to make a clank or series of clanks ⟨the radiator hissed and ~*ed*⟩ **2** : to go with a clank ⟨tanks ~*ing* through the streets⟩ ~ *vt* : to cause to clank — **clank·ing·ly** \'klaŋ-kiŋ-lē\ *adv*
[2]clank *n* : a sharp brief metallic ringing sound
clan·nish \'klan-ish\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a clan **2** : tending to associate only with a select group of similar background or status ⟨~ immigrants⟩ — **clan·nish·ly** *adv* — **clan·nish·ness** *n*
clans·man \'klanz-mən\ *n* : a member of a clan
[1]clap \'klap\ *vb* **clapped** *also* **clapt; clap·ping** [ME *clappen*, fr. OE *clæppan*; akin to OHG *klaphōn* to beat, L *glēba* clod — more at CLIP] *vt* **1** : to strike (as two flat hard surfaces) together so as to produce a sharp percussive noise **2 a** : to strike (the hands) together repeatedly usu. in applause **b** : APPLAUD **3** : to strike with the flat of the hand in a friendly way ⟨*clapped* his friend on the shoulder⟩ **4** : to place, put, or set esp. energetically ⟨~ him into jail⟩ **5** : to improvise hastily ~ *vi* **1** : to produce a percussive sound; *esp* : SLAM **2** : to go abruptly or briskly **3** : APPLAUD
[2]clap *n* **1** : a device that makes a clapping noise **2** *obs* : a sudden stroke of fortune and esp. ill fortune **3** : a loud percussive noise; *specif* : a sudden crash of thunder **4 a** : a sudden blow **b** : a friendly slap ⟨a ~ on the shoulder⟩ **5** : the sound of clapping hands; *esp* : APPLAUSE
[3]clap *n* [MF *clapoir* bubo] : GONORRHEA
clap·board \'klab-ərd; 'kla(p)-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* [part trans. of D *klaphout* stave wood] **1** *archaic* : a size of board for making staves and wainscoting **2** : a narrow board usu. thicker at one edge than the other used for siding — **clapboard** *vt*
clap·per \'klap-ər\ *n* : one that makes a clapping sound: as **a** : the tongue of a bell — see BELL illustration **b** *slang* : the tongue of a talkative person **c** : a mechanical device that makes noise esp. by the banging of one part against another **d** : a person who applauds
clap·per·claw \'klap-ər-ˌklȯ\ *vt* [perh. fr. *clapper* + *claw* (v.)] **1** *dial Eng* : to claw with the nails **2** *dial Eng* : SCOLD, REVILE
[1]clap·trap \'klap-ˌtrap\ *n* [[2]*clap*; fr. its attempt to win applause] : pretentious nonsense : TRASH

²claptrap *adj* : characterized by or suggestive of claptrap; *esp* : of a cheap showy nature ⟨~ sentiment⟩
claque \'klak\ *n* [F, fr. *claquer* to clap, of imit. origin] **1** : a group hired to applaud at a performance **2** : a group of sycophants
cla·queur \kla-'kər\ *n* [F, fr. *claquer* to clap] : a member of a claque
clar·ence \'klar-ən(t)s\ *n* [duke of *Clarence*, later William IV of England] : a closed four-wheeled four-passenger carriage
clar·et \'klar-ət\ *n* [ME, fr. MF (*vin*) *claret* clear wine, fr. *claret* clear, fr. *cler* clear] **1** : a dry red table wine from the Bordeaux district of France; *also* : a similar wine produced elsewhere **2** : a dark purplish red — **claret** *adj*
Cla·re·tian \klə-'rē-shən, kla-\ *n* [St. Anthony *Claret* †1870 Sp priest] : a member of the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary founded by St. Anthony Claret in Vich, Spain, in 1849 — **Claretian** *adj*
clar·i·fy \'klar-ə-ˌfī\ *vb* **-fied; fy·ing** [ME *clarifien*, fr. MF *clarifier*, fr. LL *clarificare*, fr. L *clarus* clear — more at CLEAR] *vt* **1** : to make (as a liquid) clear or pure usu. by freeing from suspended matter **2** : to free of confusion **3** : to make understandable ~ *vi* : to become clear — **clar·i·fi·ca·tion** \ˌklar-ə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* — **clar·i·fi·er** \'klar-ə-ˌfī(-ə)r\ *n*
clar·i·net \ˌklar-ə-'net, 'klar-ə-nət\ *n* [F *clarinette*, prob. deriv. of ML *clarion-*, *clario*] : a single-reed woodwind instrument having a cylindrical tube with a moderately flared bell and a usual range from D below middle C upward for 3½ octaves — **clar·i·net·ist** *or* **clar·i·net·tist** \ˌklar-ə-'net-əst\ *n*


clarinet

¹clar·i·on \'klar-ē-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & ML; MF *clairon*, fr. ML *clarion-*, *clario*, fr. L *clarus* clear] **1** : a medieval trumpet with clear shrill tones **2** : the sound of or as if of a clarion
²clarion *adj* : brilliantly clear; *esp* : STENTORIAN ⟨a ~ call to action⟩
clar·i·ty \'klar-ət-ē\ *n* [ME *clarite*, fr. L *claritat-*, *claritas*, fr. *clarus*] : the quality or state of being clear : LUCIDITY ⟨the ~ of her voice⟩
clark·ia \'klär-kē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. William *Clark* †1838 Am explorer] : a showy annual herb (genus *Clarkia*) of the evening-primrose family of the Pacific slope of No. America
cla·ro \'klär-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **claroes** [Sp, fr. *claro* light, fr. L *clarus*] : a light-colored generally mild cigar
clary \'kla(ə)r-ē, 'kle(ə)r-\ *n, pl* **clar·ies** [ME *clarie*, fr. MF *sclaree*, fr. ML *sclareia*] : an aromatic mint (*Salvia sclarea*) of southern Europe grown as a potherb and ornamental
¹clash \'klash\ *vb* [imit] *vi* **1** : to make a clash ⟨cymbals ~*ed*⟩ **2** : to come into conflict ⟨where ignorant armies ~ by night —Matthew Arnold⟩ ~ *vt* : to cause to clash — **clash·er** *n*
²clash *n* **1** : a noisy usu. metallic sound of collision **2 a** : a hostile encounter : SKIRMISH ⟨a ~ between the two armies⟩ **b** : a sharp conflict ⟨a ~ of opinions⟩
clas·mato·cyte \klaz-'mat-ə-ˌsīt\ *n* [ISV, fr. Gk *klasmat-*, *klasma* fragment (fr. *klan* to break) + ISV *-cyte* — more at HALT] : HISTIOCYTE — **clas·mato·cyt·ic** \(ˌ)klaz-ˌmat-ə-'sit-ik\ *adj*
¹clasp \'klasp\ *n* [ME *claspe*] **1 a** : a device (as a hook) for holding objects or parts together **b** : a device (as a bar) attached to a military medal to indicate an additional award of the medal or the action or service for which it was awarded **2** : a holding or enveloping with or as if with the hands or arms ***syn*** see HOLD
²clasp *vt* **1** : to fasten with or as if with a clasp ⟨a robe ~*ed* with a brooch⟩ **2** : to enclose and hold with the arms; *specif* : EMBRACE **3** : to seize with or as if with the hand : GRASP
clasp·er \'klas-pər\ *n* : a male copulatory structure: **a** : one of a pair of external anal processes of an insect **b** : one of a pair of organs on the pelvic fins of elasmobranch fishes
clasp knife *n* : POCKETKNIFE; *esp* : a large one-bladed folding knife having a catch to hold the blade open
¹class \'klas\ *n, often attrib* [F *classe*, fr. L *classis* group called to arms, class of citizens; akin to L *calare* to call — more at LOW] **1 a** : a group sharing the same economic or social status ⟨the working ~⟩ **b** : social rank; *esp* : high social rank **c** : high quality : ELEGANCE **2 a** : a course of instruction **b** : a body of students meeting regularly to study the same subject **c** : the period during which such a body meets **d** : a body of students or alumni whose year of graduation is the same **3** : a group, set, or kind sharing common attributes: as **a** : a major category in biological taxonomy ranking above the order and below the phylum or division **b** : a group of adjacent and discrete or continuous values of a random variable **c** : SET 19 **4** : a division or rating based on grade or quality
²class *vt* : CLASSIFY
class action *n* : a legal action undertaken by one or more plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and all other persons having an identical interest in the alleged wrong
class–con·scious *adj* **1** : actively aware of one's common status with others in a particular economic or social level of society **2** : believing in and actively aware of class struggle — **class consciousness** *n*
¹clas·sic \'klas-ik\ *adj* [F or L; F *classique*, fr. L *classicus* of the highest class of Roman citizens, of the first rank, fr. *classis*] **1 a** : of recognized value : serving as a standard of excellence **b** : TRADITIONAL, ENDURING **c** : characterized by simple tailored lines in fashion year after year ⟨a ~ suit⟩ **2** : of or relating to the ancient Greeks and Romans or their culture : CLASSICAL **3 a** : historically memorable **b** : noted because of special literary or historical associations ⟨Paris is the ~ refuge of expatriates⟩ **4 a** : AUTHENTIC, AUTHORITATIVE **b** : TYPICAL ⟨a ~ example of guilt by association⟩
²classic *n* **1** : a literary work of ancient Greece or Rome **2 a** : a work of enduring excellence; *also* : its author **b** : an authoritative source **3** : a typical example **4** : a traditional event ⟨a football ~⟩
clas·si·cal \'klas-i-kəl\ *adj* [L *classicus*] **1** : STANDARD, CLASSIC **2 a** : of or relating to the ancient Greek and Roman world and esp. to its literature, art, architecture, or ideals **b** : versed in the classics **3 a** : of or relating to music of the late 18th and early 19th centuries characterized by an emphasis on simplicity, objectivity, and proportion; *also* : of or relating to a composer of this music **b** : of, relating to, or being music in the educated European tradition that includes such forms as art song, chamber music, opera, and symphony as distinguished from folk or popular music or jazz **4 a** : AUTHORITATIVE, TRADITIONAL **b** (1) : of or relating to a form or system considered of first significance in earlier times ⟨~ Mendelian genetics versus modern molecular genetics⟩ (2) : not involving relativity, wave mechanics, or quantum theory ⟨~ physics⟩ **c** : conforming to a pattern of usage sanctioned by a body of literature rather than by everyday speech **5** : concerned with or giving instruction in the humanities, the fine arts, and the broad aspects of science ⟨a ~ curriculum⟩
clas·si·cal·ism \'klas-i-kə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* : CLASSICISM — **clas·si·cal·ist** \-ləst\ *n*
clas·si·cal·i·ty \ˌklas-ə-'kal-ət-ē\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of being classic **2** : classical scholarship
clas·si·cal·ly \'klas-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* : in a classic or classical manner
clas·si·cism \'klas-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n* **1 a** : the principles or style embodied in the literature, art, or architecture of ancient Greece and Rome **b** : classical scholarship **c** : a classical idiom or expression **2** : adherence to traditional standards (as of simplicity, restraint, and proportion) that are universally and enduringly valid
clas·si·cist \-səst\ *n* **1** : an advocate or follower of classicism **2** : a classical scholar — **clas·si·cis·tic** \ˌklas-ə-'sis-tik\ *adj*
clas·si·cize \'klas-ə-ˌsīz\ *vb* **-cized; -ciz·ing** *vt* : to make classic or classical ~ *vi* : to follow classic style
clas·si·fi·ca·tion \ˌklas-(ə-)fə-'kā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of classifying **2 a** : systematic arrangement in groups or categories according to established criteria; *specif* : TAXONOMY **b** : CLASS, CATEGORY — **clas·si·fi·ca·to·ri·ly** \ˌklas-(ə-)fə-kə-'tōr-ə-lē, kla-ˌsif-ə-, -'tȯr-\ *adv* — **clas·si·fi·ca·to·ry** \'klas-(ə-)fə-kə-ˌtōr-ē, kla-'sif-ə-, -ˌtȯr-; 'klas-(ə-)fə-ˌkāt-ə-rē\ *adj*
clas·si·fied \'klas-ə-ˌfīd\ *adj* **1** : divided into classes or placed in a class ⟨~ ads⟩ **2** : withheld from general circulation for reasons of national security ⟨~ information⟩
clas·si·fi·er \'klas-ə-ˌfī(-ə)r\ *n* **1** : one that classifies; *specif* : a machine for sorting out the constituents of a substance (as ore) **2** : a word or morpheme used with numerals or with nouns designating countable or measurable objects
clas·si·fy \'klas-ə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** **1** : to arrange in classes ⟨~*ing* books according to subject matter⟩ **2** : to assign (as a document) to a category — **clas·si·fi·able** \-ˌfī-ə-bəl\ *adj*
class interval *n* : CLASS 3b; *also* : the width of a statistical class
clas·sis \'klas-əs\ *n, pl* **clas·ses** \'klas-ˌēz\ [NL, fr. L, class] **1** : a governing body in some Reformed churches (as in the former Reformed Church in the U. S.) corresponding to a presbytery **2** : the district governed by a classis
class·less \'klas-ləs\ *adj* **1** : free from distinctions of social class ⟨a ~ society⟩ **2** : belonging to no particular social class — **class·less·ness** *n*
class·mate \-ˌmāt\ *n* : a member of the same class in a school or college
class·room \-ˌrüm, -ˌrům\ *n* : a place where classes meet
classy \'klas-ē\ *adj* **class·i·er; -est** : ELEGANT, STYLISH — **class·i·ness** *n*
clast \'klast\ *n* [Gk *klastos* broken] : a fragment of rock
clas·tic \'klas-tik\ *adj* [ISV, fr. Gk *klastos* broken, fr. *klan* to break — more at HALT] : made up of fragments of preexisting rocks ⟨a ~ sediment⟩ — **clastic** *n*
clath·rate \'klath-ˌrāt\ *adj* [L *clathratus*, fr. *clathri* (pl.) lattice, fr. Gk *klēithron* bar, fr. *kleiein* to close — more at CLOSE] **1** : resembling a lattice **2** : relating to or being a compound formed by the inclusion of molecules of one kind in cavities of the crystal lattice of another — **clathrate** *n*
¹clat·ter \'klat-ər\ *vb* [ME *clatren*, fr. (assumed) OE *clatrian*; of imit. origin] *vi* **1** : to make a rattling sound ⟨the dishes ~*ed* on the shelf⟩ **2** : to move or go with a clatter ⟨~*ed* down the stairs⟩ **3** : PRATTLE ~ *vt* : to cause to clatter — **clat·ter·er** \-ər-ər\ *n* — **clat·ter·ing·ly** \'klat-ə-riŋ-lē\ *adv*
²clatter *n* **1** : a rattling sound (as of hard bodies striking together) ⟨the ~ of pots and pans⟩ **2** : COMMOTION ⟨the midday ~ of the business district⟩ **3** : noisy chatter — **clat·tery** \'klat-ə-rē\ *adj*
clau·di·ca·tion \ˌklȯd-ə-'kā-shən\ *n* [L *claudication-*, *claudicatio*, fr. *claudicatus*, pp. of *claudicare* to limp, fr. *claudus* lame; akin to L *claudere* to close — more at CLOSE] : the quality or state of being lame : LIMPING
claus·al \'klȯ-zəl\ *adj* : relating to or of the nature of a clause
clause \'klȯz\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, clause, fr. ML *clausa* close of a rhetorical period, fr. L, fem. of *clausus*, pp. of *claudere* to close] **1** : a separate section of a discourse or writing; *specif* : a distinct article in a formal document **2** : a group of words containing a subject and predicate and functioning as a member of a complex or compound sentence
claus·tral \'klȯ-strəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. ML *claustralis*, fr. *claustrum* cloister — more at CLOISTER] : CLOISTRAL
claus·tro·pho·bia \ˌklȯ-strə-'fō-bē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. L *claustrum* bar, bolt + NL *phobia* — more at CLOISTER] : abnormal dread of being in closed or narrow spaces — **claus·tro·pho·bic** \-bik\ *adj*
cla·vate \'klā-ˌvāt\ *adj* [NL *clavatus*, fr. L *clava* club, fr. *clavus* nail, knot in wood] : gradually thickening near the distal end : CLAVIFORM — **cla·vate·ly** *adv* — **cla·va·tion** \klā-'vā-shən\ *n*
clave *past of* CLEAVE
cla·ver \'klā-vər\ *vi* [prob. of Celt origin; akin to ScGael *clabaire* babbler] *chiefly Scot* : PRATE, GOSSIP — **claver** *n, chiefly Scot*
clav·i·chord \'klav-ə-ˌkȯ(ə)rd\ *n* [ML *clavichordium*, fr. L *clavis* key + *chorda* string — more at CORD] : an early keyboard instrument having strings pressed by tangents attached directly to the key ends — **clav·i·chord·ist** \-əst\ *n*
clav·i·cle \'klav-i-kəl\ *n* [F *clavicule*, fr. NL *clavicula*, fr. L, dim. of L *clavis* key; akin to Gk *kleid-*, *kleis* key, L *claudere* to close — more at CLOSE] : a bone of the vertebrate shoulder girdle typically

serving to link the scapula and sternum — **cla·vic·u·lar** \kla-'vik-yə-lər, klə-\ *adj*

cla·vier \klə-'vi(ə)r; 'klāv-ē-ər, 'klav-\ *n* [F, fr. OF, key bearer, fr. L *clavis* key] **1** : the keyboard of a musical instrument **2** [G *klavier*, fr. F *clavier*] : an early keyboard instrument — **cla·vier·ist** \klə-'vir-əst; 'klāv-ē-ə-rəst, 'klav-\ *n* — **cla·vier·is·tic** \klə-ˌvi(ə)r-'is-tik; ˌklāv-ē-ə-'ris-tik, ˌklav-\ *adj*

clav·i·form \'klav-ə-ˌfȯrm\ *adj* [L *clava* club] : shaped like a club

¹claw \'klȯ\ *n, often attrib* [ME *clawe*, fr. OE *clawu* hoof, claw; akin to ON *klō* claw, OE *cliewen* ball — more at CLEW] **1** : a sharp usu. slender and curved nail on the toe of an animal **2** : any of various similar sharp curved processes esp. if at the end of a limb (as of an insect); *also* : a limb ending in such a process **3** : one of the pincerlike organs terminating some limbs of various arthropods (as a lobster or scorpion) **4** : something that resembles a claw; *specif* : the forked end of a tool (as a hammer) **5** : a wound from or as if from a claw — **clawed** \'klȯd\ *adj*

²claw *vt* : to rake, seize, dig, or progress with or as if with claws ~ *vi* : to scrape, scratch, dig, or pull with or as if with claws

claw hammer *n* **1** : a hammer with one end of the head forked for pulling out nails **2** : TAILCOAT

¹clay \'klā\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *clǣg;* akin to OHG *klīwa* bran, LL *glut-, glus* glue, MGk *glia*] **1 a** : an earthy material that is plastic when moist but hard when fired, that is composed mainly of fine particles of hydrous aluminum silicates and other minerals, and that is used for brick, tile, and pottery; *specif* : soil composed chiefly of this material having particles less than a specified size **b** : EARTH, MUD **2 a** : a substance that resembles clay in plasticity and is used for modeling **b** : the human body as distinguished from the spirit **3** : CLAY COURT — **clay·ey** \'klā-ē\ *adj* — **clay·ish** \'klā-ish\ *adj*

²clay *vt* : to treat or cover with clay; *also* : to filter through clay

clay·bank \'klā-ˌbaŋk\ *n* : a horse of yellowish color

clay court *n* : a tennis court with a clay surface

clay loam *n* : a loam containing from 20 to 30 percent clay

clay mineral *n* : any of a group of hydrous silicates of aluminum and sometimes other metals formed chiefly in weathering processes and occurring esp. in clay and shale

clay·more \'klā-ˌmō(ə)r, -ˌmȯ(ə)r\ *n* [ScGael *claidheamh mōr*, lit., great sword] : a large 2-edged sword formerly used by Scottish Highlanders; *also* : their basket-hilted broadsword

clay·pan \-ˌpan\ *n* : hardpan consisting mainly of clay

clay pigeon *n* : a saucer-shaped target usu. made of baked clay and pitch and thrown from a trap in skeet and trapshooting

clay·ware \'klā-ˌwa(ə)r, -ˌwe(ə)r\ *n* : articles made of fired clay

cld *abbr* **1** called **2** cleared

¹clean \'klēn\ *adj* [ME *clene*, fr. OE *clǣne;* akin to OHG *kleini* delicate, dainty, Gk *glainoi* ornaments] **1 a** : free from dirt or pollution ⟨changed to ~ clothes⟩ ⟨ship with a ~ bottom⟩ **b** : free from contamination or disease **c** : relatively free from radioactive fallout ⟨a ~ atomic explosion⟩ **2 a** : UNADULTERATED, PURE ⟨the ~ thrill of one's first flight⟩ **b** *of a precious stone* : having no interior flaws visible **c** : free from growth that hinders tillage **3 a** : free from moral corruption or sinister connections of any kind ⟨a candidate with a ~ record⟩ **b** : free from offensive treatment of sexual subjects and from the use of obscenity ⟨do you know a ~ joke⟩ **c** : observing the rules : FAIR ⟨a ~ fight⟩ **4** : ceremonially or spiritually pure ⟨and all who are ~ may eat flesh — Lev 7:19 (RSV)⟩ **5 a** : THOROUGH, COMPLETE ⟨a ~ break with the past⟩ **b** : deftly executed : SKILLFUL ⟨~ ballet technique⟩ **6 a** : relatively free from error or blemish : CLEAR; *specif* : LEGIBLE ⟨~ copy⟩ **b** : UNENCUMBERED ⟨~ bill of sale⟩ **7 a** : characterized by clarity and precision : TRIM ⟨a ~ prose style⟩ ⟨architecture with ~ almost austere lines⟩ **b** : EVEN, SMOOTH ⟨a ~ edge⟩ ⟨a sharp blow causing a ~ break⟩ **8 a** : EMPTY ⟨the whaling ship returned with a ~ hold⟩ **b** *slang* : carrying no concealed weapons **9** : habitually neat — **clean·ness** \'klēn-nəs\ *n*

²clean *adv* **1 a** : so as to clean ⟨a new broom sweeps ~⟩ **b** : in a clean manner ⟨play the game ~⟩ **2** : all the way : COMPLETELY ⟨the bullet went ~ through his arm⟩

³clean *vt* **1** : to rid of dirt, impurities, or extraneous matter **2 a** : STRIP, EMPTY ⟨the tree was ~*ed* of fruit by hurricane winds⟩ ⟨the hungry men quickly ~*ed* the platter⟩ **b** : to deprive of money or possessions — often used with *out* ⟨they ~*ed* him out completely⟩ ~ *vi* : to undergo or perform a process of cleaning ⟨~ up before dinner⟩ — **clean·able** \'klē-nə-bəl\ *adj* — **clean·er** *n* — **clean house** **1** : to clean a house and its furniture **2** : to eradicate whatever is obstructive, thwarting, or degrading

⁴clean *n* : an act of cleaning dirt esp. from the surface of something

clean and jerk *n* : a lift in weight lifting in which the weight is raised to shoulder height, held momentarily, and then quickly thrust overhead usu. with a lunge or a spring from the legs — compare PRESS, SNATCH

clean–cut \'klēn-'kət\ *adj* **1** : cut so that the surface or edge is smooth and even **2** : sharply defined **3** : of wholesome appearance

clean·er \'klē-nər\ *n* **1** : one whose work is cleaning **2** : a preparation for cleaning **3** : an implement or machine for cleaning — **to the cleaners** *slang* : to or through the experience of being deprived of all one's money

clean·hand·ed \'klēn-'han-dəd\ *adj* : innocent of wrongdoing

cleaning woman *n* : a woman who hires herself out for housecleaning

clean–limbed \'klēn-'limd\ *adj* : well proportioned : TRIM ⟨~ youths⟩

¹clean·ly \'klen-lē\ *adj* **clean·li·er; -est** **1** : careful to keep clean : FASTIDIOUS **2** : habitually kept clean — **clean·li·ness** *n*

²clean·ly \'klēn-lē\ *adv* : in a clean manner

clean room \'klēn-ˌ\ *n* : a room for the manufacture or assembly of objects (as precision parts) that is maintained at a high level of cleanliness by special means

cleanse \'klenz\ *vb* **cleansed; cleans·ing** [ME *clensen*, fr. OE *clǣnsian* to purify, fr. *clǣne* clean] : CLEAN

cleans·er \'klen-zər\ *n* **1** : one that cleanses **2** : a preparation (as a scouring powder or a skin cream) used for cleaning

¹clean-up \'klē-ˌnəp\ *n* **1** : an act or instance of cleaning **2** : an exceptionally large profit : KILLING

²cleanup *adj* : being in the fourth position in the batting order of a baseball team

clean up \(')klē-'nəp\ *vi* : to make a spectacular profit in a business enterprise or a killing in speculation or gambling

¹clear \'kli(ə)r\ *adj* [ME *clere*, fr. OF *cler*, fr. L *clarus* clear, bright; akin to L *calare* to call — more at LOW] **1 a** : BRIGHT, LUMINOUS **b** : CLOUDLESS; *specif* : less than one-tenth covered ⟨a ~ sky⟩ **c** : free from mist, haze, or dust ⟨a ~ day⟩ **d** : UNTROUBLED, SERENE ⟨a ~ gaze⟩ **2** : CLEAN, PURE: as **a** : free from blemishes **b** : easily seen through : TRANSPARENT **c** : free from abnormal sounds on auscultation **3 a** : easily heard **b** : easily visible : PLAIN **c** : free from obscurity or ambiguity : easily understood : UNMISTAKABLE **4 a** : capable of sharp discernment : KEEN **b** : free from doubt : SURE **5** : free from guile or guilt : INNOCENT **6** : unhampered by restriction or limitation: as **a** : unencumbered by debts or charges **b** : NET ⟨a ~ profit⟩ **c** : UNQUALIFIED, ABSOLUTE **d** : free from obstruction **e** : emptied of contents or cargo **f** : free from entanglement **g** : BARE, DENUDED — **clear·ly** *adv* — **clear·ness** *n*

syn **1** CLEAR, PERSPICUOUS, LUCID *shared meaning element* : quickly and easily understood ***ant*** unintelligible, abstruse **2** see EVIDENT

²clear *adv* **1** : in a clear manner ⟨to cry loud and ~⟩ **2** : all the way ⟨can see ~ to the mountains on a day like this⟩

³clear *vt* **1 a** : to make clear or translucent **b** : to free from pollution or cloudiness **2 a** : to free from accusation or blame : VINDICATE ⟨the opportunity to ~ himself⟩ **b** : to certify as trustworthy ⟨~ a man for top secret military work⟩ **3 a** : to give insight to : ENLIGHTEN **b** : to make intelligible : EXPLAIN ⟨~ up the mystery⟩ **4 a** : to free from obstruction: as (1) : OPEN (2) : DISENTANGLE ⟨~ a fishing line⟩ (3) : to rid or make a rasping noise as if ridding (the throat) of phlegm (4) : to erase accumulated totals or stored data from (as a business machine or computer memory) **b** (1) : to submit for approval (2) : AUTHORIZE ⟨the chairman ~*ed* the article for publication⟩ **5 a** : to free from obligation or encumbrance **b** : SETTLE, DISCHARGE ⟨~ an account⟩ **c** (1) : to free (a ship or shipment) by payment of duties or harbor fees (2) : to pass through (customs) **d** : to gain without deduction : NET ⟨~ a profit⟩ **e** : to put through a clearinghouse **6 a** : to get rid of : REMOVE ⟨~ the land of trees and brush⟩ **b** : TRANSMIT, DISPATCH **7 a** : to go over, under, or by without touching **b** : PASS ⟨the bill ~*ed* the legislature⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to become clear ⟨it ~*ed* up quickly after the rain⟩ **b** : to go away : VANISH ⟨the symptoms ~*ed* gradually⟩ **c** : SELL **2 a** : to obtain permission to discharge cargo **b** : to conform to regulations or pay requisite fees prior to leaving port **3** : to pass through a clearinghouse **4** : to go to an authority (as for approval) before becoming effective — **clear·able** \'klir-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **clear·er** \'klir-ər\ *n* — **clear the air** *also* **clear the atmosphere** : to remove elements of hostility, tension, confusion, or uncertainty from the mood or temper of the time

⁴clear *n* **1** : a clear space or part **2** : a high arcing shot over an opponent's head in badminton — **in the clear** **1** : in inside measurement **2** : free from guilt or suspicion **3** : in plaintext : not in code or cipher ⟨a message sent *in the clear*⟩

clear–air turbulence *n* : sudden severe turbulence occurring in cloudless regions that causes violent jarring or buffeting of aircraft — abbr. *CAT*

clear·ance \'klir-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : an act or process of clearing: as **a** : the act of clearing a ship at the customhouse; *also* : the papers showing that a ship has cleared **b** : the offsetting of checks and other claims among banks through a clearinghouse **c** : certification as clear of objection : AUTHORIZATION **d** : a sale to clear out stock **2** : the distance by which one object clears another or the clear space between them

¹clear–cut \'kli(ə)r-'kət\ *adj* **1** : sharply outlined : DISTINCT **2** : free from ambiguity or uncertainty : UNAMBIGUOUS ***syn*** see INCISIVE

²clear–cut *vt* **-cut; -cut·ting** : to cut all the trees in (a stand of timber)

clear–eyed \'kli(ə)r-'īd\ *adj* **1** : having clear eyes **2** : DISCERNING

clear·head·ed \-'hed-əd\ *adj* : having a clear understanding : PERCEPTIVE — **clear·head·ed·ly** *adv* — **clear·head·ed·ness** *n*

clear·ing \'kli(ə)r-iŋ\ *n* **1** : the act or process of making or becoming clear **2** : a tract of land cleared of wood and brush **3 a** : a method of exchanging and offsetting commercial papers or accounts with cash settlement only of the balances due after the clearing **b** *pl* : the gross amount of balances so adjusted

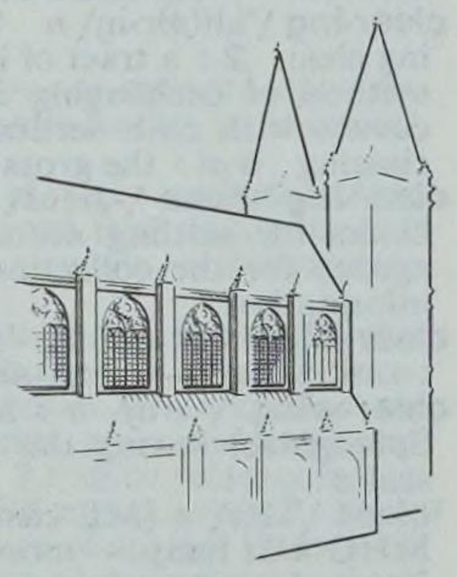
clear·ing·house \-ˌhaus\ *n* **1** : an establishment maintained by banks for settling mutual claims and accounts **2** : a central agency for the collection, classification, and distribution esp. of information

clear–sight·ed \'kli(ə)r-'sīt-əd\ *adj* **1** : having clear vision **2** : DISCERNING — **clear–sight·ed·ly** *adv* — **clear–sight·ed·ness** *n*

clear·wing \-ˌwiŋ\ *n* : a moth (as of the families Aegeriidae or Sphingidae) having the wings largely transparent and devoid of scales

¹cleat \'klēt\ *n* [ME *clete* wedge, fr. (assumed) OE *clēat;* akin to MHG *klōz* lump — more at CLOUT] **1 a** : a wedge-shaped piece fastened to or projecting from something and serving as a support or check **b** : a wooden or metal fitting usu. with two projecting horns around which a rope may be made fast **2 a** : a strip fas-

tened across something to give strength or hold in position **b** (1) : a projecting piece (as on the bottom of a shoe) that furnishes a grip (2) *pl* : shoes equipped with cleats
²cleat *vt* **1** : to secure to or by a cleat **2** : to provide with a cleat
cleav·able \'klē-və-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being split
cleav·age \'klē-vij\ *n* **1 a** : the quality of a crystallized substance or rock of splitting along definite planes **b** : a fragment (as of a diamond) obtained by splitting **2** : the action of cleaving : the state of being cleft **3** : cell division; *esp* : the series of mitotic divisions of the egg that results in the formation of the blastomeres and changes the single-celled zygote into a multicellular embryo **4** : the splitting of a molecule into simpler molecules **5** : the depression between a woman's breasts esp. when made visible by the wearing of a low-cut dress
¹cleave \'klēv\ *vi* **cleaved** \'klēvd\ *or* **clove** \'klōv\ *also* **clave** \'klāv\; **cleav·ing** [ME *clevien*, fr. OE *clifian*] : to adhere firmly and closely or loyally and unwaveringly ***syn*** see STICK
²cleave *vb* **cleaved** \'klēvd\ *also* **cleft** \'kleft\ *or* **clove** \'klōv\; **cleaved** *also* **cleft** *or* **clo·ven** \'klō-vən\; **cleav·ing** [ME *cleven*, fr. OE *clēofan;* akin to ON *kljūfa* to split, L *glubere* to peel, Gk *glyphein* to carve] *vt* **1** : to divide by or as if by a cutting blow : SPLIT **2** : to separate into distinct parts and esp. into groups having divergent views ~ *vi* **1** : to split esp. along the grain **2** : to penetrate or pass through something by or as if by cutting ***syn*** see TEAR
cleav·er \'klē-vər\ *n* **1** : one that cleaves; *esp* : a butcher's implement for cutting animal carcasses into joints or pieces **2** : a rock ridge protruding from a glacier or snowfield
cleav·ers \'klē-vərz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [ME *clivre*, alter. of OE *clife* burdock, cleavers; akin to OE *clifian* to cleave, adhere] **1** : an annual plant (*Galium aparine*) of the madder family that has numerous stalked white flowers, stems covered with curved prickles, and whorls of bristle-tipped leaves **2** : a plant related to cleavers
cleek \'klēk\ *n* [ME (northern) *cleke*, fr. *cleken* to clutch] *chiefly Scot* : a large hook (as for a pot over a fire)
clef \'klef\ *n* [F, lit., key, fr. L *clavis* — more at CLAVICLE] : a sign placed at the beginning of a musical staff to determine the position of the notes
¹cleft \'kleft\ *n* [ME *clift*, fr. OE *geclyft;* akin to OE *clēofan* to cleave] **1** : a space or opening made by splitting : FISSURE **2** : a usu. V-shaped indented formation : a hollow between ridges or protuberances ⟨the anal ~ of the human body⟩
²cleft *adj* [ME, fr. pp. of *cleven*] : partially split or divided; *specif* : divided about halfway to the midrib ⟨a ~ leaf⟩
cleft palate *n* : congenital fissure of the roof of the mouth
cleis·tog·a·my \klī-'stäg-ə-mē\ *n* [Gk *kleistos* closed (fr. *kleiein* to close) + ISV *-gamy* — more at CLOSE] : the production (as in violets) of small inconspicuous closed self-pollinating flowers additional to and often more fruitful than the showier type — **cleis·tog·a·mous** \-məs\ *or* **cleis·to·gam·ic** \ˌklī-stə-'gam-ik\ *adj* — **cleis·tog·a·mous·ly** *adv*
cle·ma·tis \'klem-ət-əs; kli-'mat-əs, -'māt-, -'mät-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, fr. Gk *klēmatis* brushwood, clematis, fr. *klēmat-, klēma* twig, fr. Gk *klan* to break — more at HALT] : a vine or herb (genera *Clematis, Atragene,* or *Viorna*) of the buttercup family having three leaflets on each leaf and usu. white or purple flowers
clem·en·cy \'klem-ən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1 a** : disposition to be merciful and esp. to moderate the severity of punishment due **b** : an act or instance of leniency **2** : pleasant mildness of weather ***syn*** see MERCY ***ant*** harshness
clem·ent \'klem-ənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *clement-, clemens*] **1** : inclined to be merciful : LENIENT ⟨a ~ judge⟩ **2** : MILD ⟨~ weather for November⟩ — **clem·ent·ly** *adv*
¹clench \'klench\ *vt* [ME *clenchen*, fr. OE *-clencan;* akin to OE *clingan* to cling] **1** : CLINCH 1 **2** : to hold fast : CLUTCH ⟨he ~*ed* the arms of his chair⟩ **3** : to set or close tightly ⟨~*ed* his teeth⟩ ⟨~*ed* his fists⟩
²clench *n* **1** : the end of a nail that is turned back in clinching it **2** : an act or instance of clenching
clepe \'klēp\ *vt* **cleped** \'klēpt, 'klept\; **cleped** *or* **ycleped** \i-\ *or* **yclept** \i-'klept \; **clep·ing** \'klē-piŋ\ [ME *clepen*, fr. OE *clipian* to speak, call; akin to OFris *kleppa* to ring, knock] *archaic* : NAME, CALL
clep·sy·dra \'klep-sə-drə\ *n, pl* **-dras** *or* **-drae** \-ˌdrē, -ˌdrī\ [L, fr. Gk *klepsydra*, fr. *kleptein* to steal + *hydōr* water — more at KLEPT-, WATER] : WATER CLOCK
clere·sto·ry *or* **clear·sto·ry** \'kli(ə)r-ˌstōr-ē, -ˌstȯr-\ *n* [ME, fr. *clere* clear + *story*] **1** : an outside wall of a room or building that rises above an adjoining roof and contains windows **2** : GALLERY **3** : a ventilating section of a railroad car roof



clerestory 1

cler·gy \'klər-jē\ *n* [ME *clergie*, fr. OF, knowledge, learning, fr. *clerc* clergyman] **1** : a group ordained to perform pastoral or sacerdotal functions in a Christian church **2** : the official or sacerdotal class of a non-Christian religion
cler·gy·man \-ji-mən\ *n* : a member of the clergy
cler·ic \'kler-ik\ *n* [LL *clericus*] : a member of the clergy; *specif* : one in orders below the grade of priest
¹cler·i·cal \'kler-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the clergy, a clergyman, or a cleric **2** : of or relating to a clerk or office worker — **cler·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
²clerical *n* **1** : CLERGYMAN **2** : CLERICALIST **3** : CLERK
clerical collar *n* : a narrow stiffly upright white collar worn buttoned at the back of the neck by clergymen
cler·i·cal·ism \'kler-i-kə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* : a policy of maintaining or increasing the power of a religious hierarchy
cler·i·cal·ist \-ləst\ *n* : one that favors maintained or increased ecclesiastical power and influence
cler·i·hew \'kler-i-ˌhyü\ *n* [Edmund *Clerihew* Bentley †1956 E writer] : a light verse quatrain rhyming *aabb* and usu. dealing with a person named in the initial rhyme
cler·i·sy \'kler-ə-sē\ *n* [G *klerisei* clergy, fr. ML *clericia*, fr. LL *clericus* cleric] : INTELLIGENTSIA
¹clerk \'klərk, *Brit usu rhymes with "lark"*\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *clerc* & OE *cleric, clerc*, both fr. LL *clericus*, fr. LGk *klērikos*, fr. Gk *klēros* lot, inheritance (in allusion to Deut 18:2); akin to Gk *klan* to break — more at HALT] **1** : CLERIC **2** *archaic* : SCHOLAR **3 a** : an official responsible for correspondence, records, and accounts ⟨city ~⟩ **b** : one employed to keep records or accounts or to perform general office work **c** : one who works at a sales or service counter
²clerk *vi* : to act or work as a clerk ⟨~*ed* in his father's store⟩
clerk·ly \'klər-klē\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of a clerk **2** *archaic* : SCHOLARLY — **clerkly** *adv*
clerk regular *n, pl* **clerks regular** : a Roman Catholic religious combining life in a monastic community with the ministry of a diocesan priest
clerk·ship \'klərk-ˌship\ *n* : the office or business of a clerk
clev·er \'klev-ər\ *adj* [ME *cliver*, prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *kljūfa* to split — more at CLEAVE] **1 a** : skillful or adroit in using the hands or body : NIMBLE **b** : mentally quick and resourceful but often lacking in depth and soundness **2** : marked by wit or ingenuity **3** *dial* **a** : GOOD **b** : easy to use or handle — **clev·er·ish** \-(ə-)rish\ *adj* — **clev·er·ly** \-ər-lē\ *adv* — **clev·er·ness** \-ər-nəs\ *n*
syn **1** see INTELLIGENT ***ant*** dull
2 CLEVER, ADROIT, CUNNING, INGENIOUS *shared meaning element* : having or showing practical wit or skill in contriving
clev·is \'klev-əs\ *n* [earlier *clevi*, prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *kljūfa* to split] : a usu. U-shaped metal shackle that has the ends drilled to receive a pin or bolt and that is used for attaching or suspending parts
¹clew *or* **clue** \'klü\ *n* [ME *clewe*, fr. OE *cliewen;* akin to OHG *kliuwa* ball, Skt *glau* lump] **1** : a ball of thread, yarn, or cord **2** *usu clue* : something that guides through an intricate procedure or maze of difficulties; *specif* : a piece of evidence that leads one toward the solution of a problem **3 a** : a lower corner or only the after corner of a sail **b** : a metal loop attached to the lower corner of a sail **c** *pl* : a combination of lines by which a hammock is suspended
²clew *or* **clue** *vt* **clewed** *or* **clued; clew·ing** *or* **clue·ing** *or* **clu·ing** **1** : to roll into a ball **2** *usu clue* **a** : to provide with a clue **b** : to give reliable information to ⟨~ me in on how it happened⟩ **3** : to haul (a sail) up or down by ropes through the clews
cli·ché \kli-'shā\ *n* [F, lit., stereotype, fr. pp. of *clicher* to stereotype, of imit. origin] **1** : a trite phrase or expression; *also* : the idea expressed by it **2** : a hackneyed theme or situation — **cliché** *adj*
cli·chéd \-'shād\ *adj* **1** : marked by or abounding in clichés **2** : HACKNEYED
¹click \'klik\ *n* [prob. imit.] **1 a** : a slight sharp noise **b** : a speech sound in some languages made by enclosing air between two stop articulations of the tongue, enlarging the enclosure to rarefy the air, and suddenly opening the enclosure **2** : DETENT
²click *vt* : to strike, move, or produce with a click ⟨~*ed* his heels together⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to make a click ⟨the Geiger counter was ~*ing* furiously⟩ **2 a** : to fit or agree exactly **b** : to fit together : hit it off ⟨they did not ~ as friends⟩ **c** : to function smoothly **d** : SUCCEED ⟨a movie that ~*s*⟩
click beetle *n* : any of a family (Elateridae) of beetles able to right themselves with a click when inverted
click stop *n* : a turnable control device (as for a camera diaphragm opening) that engages with a definite click at specific setting positions
cli·ent \'klī-ənt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF *client*, fr. L *client-, cliens;* akin to L *clinare* to lean — more at LEAN] **1** : a person under the protection of another : DEPENDENT **2 a** : a person who engages the professional advice or services of another ⟨a lawyer's ~*s*⟩ **b** : CUSTOMER ⟨hotel ~*s*⟩ **c** : a person served by or utilizing the services of a social agency ⟨a welfare ~⟩ — **cli·ent·age** \-ən-tij\ *n* — **cli·en·tal** \klī-'ent-ᵊl,'klī-ənt-\ *adj*
cli·en·tele \ˌklī-ən-'tel, ˌklē-ən- *also* ˌklē-ˌän-\ *n* [F *clientèle*, fr. L *clientela*, fr. *client-, cliens*] : a body of clients ⟨a shop that caters to an exclusive ~⟩
cliff \'klif\ *n* [ME *clif*, fr. OE; akin to OE *clifian* to adhere to] : a very steep, vertical, or overhanging face of rock, earth, or ice : PRECIPICE — **cliffy** \'klif-ē\ *adj*
cliff dweller *n* **1** *often cap C&D* **a** : a member of a prehistoric Amerindian people of the southwestern U.S. who built their homes on rock ledges or in the natural recesses of canyon walls and cliffs **b** : a member of any cliff-dwelling people **2** : a person who lives in a large usu. metropolitan apartment building — **cliff dwelling** *n*
cliff–hang \'klif-ˌhaŋ\ *vi* [back-formation fr. *cliff-hanger*] : to end an installment of a cliff-hanger with a suspenseful melodramatic unresolved conflict; *also* : to await the outcome of a suspenseful situation
cliff–hang·er \-ˌhaŋ-ər\ *n* **1** : an adventure serial or melodrama; *esp* : one presented in installments each ending in suspense **2** : a contest whose outcome is in doubt up to the very end
¹cli·mac·ter·ic \klī-'mak-t(ə-)rik, ˌklī-ˌmak-'ter-ik\ *adj* [L *climactericus*, fr. Gk *klimaktērikos*, fr. *klimaktēr* critical point, lit., rung of a ladder, fr. *klimak-, klimax* ladder] **1** : constituting or relating to a critical period (as of life) **2** : CRITICAL, CRUCIAL
²climacteric *n* **1** : a major turning point or critical stage **2** : MENOPAUSE; *also* : a corresponding period in the male during which sexual activity and competence are reduced **3** : the maximum to which the respiratory rate of fruit rises just prior to full ripening

cli·mac·tic \klī-'mak-tik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or constituting a climax — **cli·mac·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

cli·mate \'klī-mət\ *n* [ME *climat*, fr. MF, fr. LL *climat-*, *clima*, fr. Gk *klimat-*, *klima* inclination, latitude, climate, fr. *klinein* to lean — more at LEAN] **1** : a region of the earth having specified climatic conditions **2** : the average course or condition of the weather at a place over a period of years as exhibited by temperature, wind velocity, and precipitation **3** : the prevailing temper or environmental conditions characterizing a group or period : MILIEU ⟨a ~ of fear⟩ — **cli·mat·ic** \klī-'mat-ik\ *adj* — **cli·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

cli·ma·tol·o·gy \ˌklī-mə-'täl-ə-jē\ *n* : the science that deals with climates and their phenomena — **cli·ma·to·log·i·cal** \ˌklī-mət-ᵊl-'äj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **cli·ma·to·log·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **cli·ma·tol·o·gist** \-mə-'täl-ə-jəst\ *n*

¹cli·max \'klī-ˌmaks\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *klimax* ladder, fr. *klinein* to lean] **1** : a figure of speech in which a series of phrases or sentences is arranged in ascending order of rhetorical forcefulness **2 a** : the highest point : CULMINATION **b** : the point of highest dramatic tension or a major turning point in the action (as of a play) **c** : ORGASM **d** : MENOPAUSE **3** : a relatively stable stage or community esp. of plants that is achieved through successful adjustment to an environment; *esp* : the final stage in ecological succession ***syn*** see SUMMIT

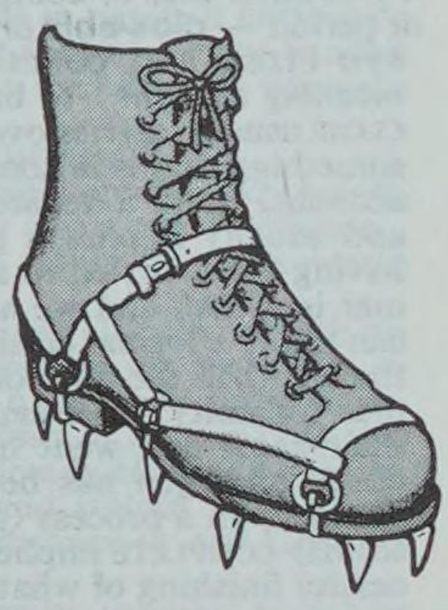
²climax *vi* : to come to a climax ⟨a riot ~*ing* in the destruction of several houses⟩ ~ *vt* : to bring to a climax ⟨~*ed* his boxing career with a knockout⟩

¹climb \'klīm\ *vb* [ME *climben*, fr. OE *climban*; akin to OE *clamm* bond, fetter — more at CLAM] *vi* **1 a** : to go upward with gradual or continuous progress : RISE ⟨watching the smoke ~⟩ ⟨the airplane ~*ed* slowly⟩ **b** : to slope upward ⟨the road ~*s* steadily⟩ **2 a** : to go upward or raise oneself esp. by grasping or clutching with the hands ⟨~*ed* upon her father's knee⟩ **b** *of a plant* : to ascend in growth (as by twining) **3** : to go about or down usu. by grasping or holding with the hands ⟨~ down the ladder⟩ **4** : to get into or out of clothing usu. with some haste or effort ⟨the firemen ~*ed* into their clothes⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to go upward on or along, to the top of, or over ⟨~ a hill⟩ **2** : to draw or pull oneself up, over, or to the top of by using hands and feet ⟨children ~*ing* the tree⟩ **3** : to grow up or over ***syn*** see ASCEND ***ant*** descend — **climb·able** \'klī-mə-bəl\ *adj*

²climb *n* **1** : a place where climbing is necessary to progress **2** : the act or an instance of climbing : ascent by climbing

climb·er \'klī-mər\ *n* : one that climbs or helps in climbing

climbing iron *n* : a steel framework with spikes attached that may be affixed to one's boots for climbing



climbing iron

clime \'klīm\ *n* [LL *clima*] : CLIMATE ⟨traveled to warmer ~*s*⟩

clin *abbr* clinical

clin- *or* **clino-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *klinein* to lean — more at LEAN] : lean : slant ⟨*clino*meter⟩

-cli·nal \'klīn-ᵊl\ *adj comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk *klinein*] : sloping ⟨mono*clinal*⟩

¹clinch \'klinch\ *vb* [prob. alter. of ¹*clench*] *vt* **1 a** : to turn over or flatten the protruding pointed end of (a driven nail); *also* : to treat (a screw, bolt, or rivet) in a similar way **b** : to fasten in this way **2** : CLENCH 3 **3** : to make final or irrefutable : SETTLE ⟨that ~*ed* the argument⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to hold an opponent (as in boxing) at close quarters with one or both arms **2** : to hold fast or firmly — **clinch·ing·ly** \'klin-chiŋ-lē\ *adv*

²clinch *n* **1** : a fastening by means of a clinched nail, rivet, or bolt; *also* : the clinched part of a nail, rivet, or bolt **2** *archaic* : PUN **3** : an act or instance of clinching in boxing

clinch·er \'klin-chər\ *n* : one that clinches: as **a** : a decisive fact, argument, act, or remark ⟨the expense was the ~ that persuaded us to give up the enterprise⟩ **b** : an automobile tire with flanged beads fitting into the wheel rim

cline \'klīn\ *n* [Gk *klinein* to lean] : a graded series of morphological or physiological differences exhibited by a group of related organisms usu. along a line of environmental or geographic transition — **clin·al** \'klīn-ᵊl\ *adj* — **clin·al·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

-cline \ˌklīn\ *n comb form* [back-formation fr. *-clinal*] : slope ⟨mono*cline*⟩

¹cling \'kliŋ\ *vi* **clung** \'kləŋ\; **cling·ing** [ME *clingen*, fr. OE *clingan*; akin to OHG *klunga* tangled ball of thread, MIr *glacc* hand] **1 a** : to hold together **b** : to adhere as if glued firmly **c** : to hold or hold on tightly or tenaciously **2 a** : to have a strong emotional attachment or dependence **b** : to remain or linger as if resisting complete dissipation or dispersal ⟨the odor *clung* to the room for hours⟩ ***syn*** see STICK — **clingy** \'kliŋ-ē\ *adj*

²cling *n* : an act or instance of clinging : ADHERENCE

cling·stone \'kliŋ-ˌstōn\ *n* : a fruit (as a peach) whose flesh adheres strongly to the pit

clin·ic \'klin-ik\ *n* [F *clinique*, fr. Gk *klinikē* medical practice at the sickbed, fr. fem. of *klinikos* of a bed, fr. *klinē* bed, fr. *klinein* to lean, recline — more at LEAN] **1** : a class of medical instruction in which patients are examined and discussed **2** : a group meeting devoted to the analysis and solution of concrete problems or to the acquiring of specific skills or knowledge in a particular field ⟨writing ~*s*⟩ ⟨golf ~*s*⟩ **3 a** : a facility (as of a hospital) for diagnosis and treatment of outpatients **b** : a group practice in which several physicians work cooperatively

-clin·ic \'klin-ik\ *adj comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk *klinein*] **1** : inclining : dipping ⟨iso*clinic*⟩ **2** : having (so many) oblique intersections of the axes ⟨mono*clinic*⟩ ⟨tri*clinic*⟩

clin·i·cal \'klin-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or conducted in or as if in a clinic: as **a** : involving direct observation of the patient **b** : apparent to or based on clinical observation **2** : analytical, detached, or coolly dispassionate ⟨a ~ attitude⟩ — **clin·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

clinical thermometer *n* : a thermometer for measuring body temperature that has a constriction in the tube where the column of liquid breaks and continues to indicate the maximum temperature to which the thermometer was exposed until reset by shaking

cli·ni·cian \klin-'ish-ən\ *n* : one qualified in the clinical practice of medicine, psychiatry, or psychology as distinguished from one specializing in laboratory or research techniques

clinico- *comb form* : clinical and ⟨*clinico*pathological⟩ ⟨*clinico*statistical⟩

clin·i·co·path·o·log·ic \'klin-i-(ˌ)kō-ˌpath-ə-'läj-ik\ *or* **clin·i·co·path·o·log·i·cal** \-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* : involving both clinical and pathologic factors, aspects, or approaches — **clin·i·co·path·o·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

¹clink \'kliŋk\ *vb* [ME *clinken*, of imit. origin] *vi* : to give out a slight sharp short metallic sound ~ *vt* : to cause to clink

²clink *n* : a clinking sound

³clink *n* [*Clink*, a prison in Southwark, London, England] *slang* : a prison cell : JAIL

¹clin·ker \'kliŋ-kər\ *n* [alter. of earlier *klincard* (a hard yellowish Dutch brick)] **1** : a brick that has been burned too much in the kiln **2** : stony matter fused together : SLAG

²clinker *vb* **clin·kered; clin·ker·ing** \'kliŋ-k(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* **1** : to cause to form clinker **2** : to clear out the clinkers from ~ *vi* : to turn to clinker under heat

³clink·er \'kliŋ-kər\ *n* [¹*clink*] **1** *Brit* : something first-rate **2 a** : a wrong note **b** : a serious mistake or error : BONER **c** : an utter failure : FLOP ⟨the play turned out to be a ~⟩

clink·er–built \-ˌbilt\ *adj* [*clinker*, n. (clinch)] : having the external planks or plates overlapping like the clapboards on a house ⟨a ~ boat⟩

clink·ety–clank \ˌkliŋ-kət-ē-'klaŋk\ *n* [imit.] : a repeated usu. rhythmic clanking sound ⟨the ~ of a loose tire chain⟩

cli·nom·e·ter \klī-'näm-ət-ər\ *n* : any of various instruments for measuring angles of elevation or inclination — **cli·no·met·ric** \ˌklī-nə-'me-trik\ *adj* — **cli·nom·e·try** \klī-'näm-ə-trē\ *n*

-cli·nous \'klī-nəs\ *adj comb form* [prob. fr. NL *-clinus*, fr. Gk *klinē* bed — more at CLINIC] : having the androecium and gynoecium in a (single or different) flower or (two separate) flowers ⟨di*clinous*⟩

¹clin·quant \'kliŋ-kənt, klaⁿ-käⁿ\ *adj* [MF, fr. prp. of *clinquer* to glitter, lit., to clink, of imit. origin] : glittering with gold or tinsel

²clinquant *n* [F, fr. *clinquant*, adj.] : imitation gold leaf : TINSEL

clin·to·nia \klin-'tō-nē-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. DeWitt *Clinton*] : any of a genus (*Clintonia*) of herbs of the lily family with yellow or white flowers

Clio \'klī-(ˌ)ō, 'klē-\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kleiō*] **1** : the Greek Muse of history **2** *pl* **Cli·os** : a statuette awarded annually by a professional organization for notable achievement in radio and television commercials

¹clip \'klip\ *vb* **clipped; clip·ping** [ME *clippen*, fr. OE *clyppan*; akin to OHG *klāftra* fathom, L *gleba* clod, *globus* globe] *vt* **1** : ENCOMPASS **2 a** : to hold in a tight grip : CLUTCH **b** : to clasp or fasten with a clip

²clip *n* **1** : any of various devices that grip, clasp, or hook **2** : a device to hold cartridges for charging the magazines of some rifles; *also* : a magazine from which ammunition is fed into the chamber of a firearm **3** : a piece of jewelry held in position by a spring clip

³clip *vb* **clipped; clip·ping** [ME *clippen*, fr. ON *klippa*] *vt* **1 a** : to cut or cut off with or as if with shears ⟨~ a dog's hair⟩ ⟨~ an hour off traveling time⟩ **b** : to cut off the distal or outer part of **c** (1) : ³EXCISE (2) : to cut items out of (as a newspaper) **2 a** : CURTAIL, DIMINISH ⟨tried to ~ his influence⟩ **b** : to abbreviate in speech or writing **3** : HIT, PUNCH **4** : to illegally block (an opposing player) in football **5** : to take money from unfairly or dishonestly esp. by overcharging ⟨the nightclub *clipped* the tourist for $200⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to clip something **2** : to travel or pass rapidly **3** : to clip an opposing player in football

⁴clip *n* **1 a** *pl, Scot* : SHEARS **b** : a 2-bladed instrument for cutting esp. the nails **2** : something that is clipped: as **a** : the product of a single shearing (as of sheep) **b** : a crop of wool of a sheep, a flock, or a region **c** : a section of filmed material **d** : a clipping esp. from a newspaper **3** : an act of clipping **4** : a sharp blow **5** : a rapid pace **6** : a single instance or occasion : TIME ⟨he charged $10 a ~⟩ — often used in the phrase *at a clip* ⟨trained 1000 workers at a *clip*⟩

clip·board \'klip-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a small writing board with a spring clip at the top for holding papers

clip joint *n* **1** *slang* : a place of public entertainment (as a nightclub) that makes a practice of defrauding patrons (as by overcharging) **2** *slang* : a business that makes a practice of overcharging

clip–on \ˌklip-ˌȯn, -ˌän\ *adj* : of or relating to something that clips on ⟨a ~ tie⟩ ⟨~ earrings⟩

clip on \(')klip-'ȯn, -'än\ *vi* : to be capable of being fastened by an attached clip ⟨the medal *clips on* to the coat lapel⟩

clip·per \'klip-ər\ *n* **1** : one that clips something **2** : an implement for clipping esp. hair, fingernails, or toenails — usu. used in pl. **3 a** : one that moves swiftly **b** : a fast sailing ship; *esp* : one with long slender lines, an overhanging bow, tall raking masts, and a large sail area

clip·ping \'klip-iŋ\ *n* : something that is clipped off or out of something; *esp* : an item clipped from a publication

clip·sheet \'klip-ˌshēt\ *n* : a sheet of newspaper material issued by an organization and usu. printed on only one side to facilitate clipping and reprinting

clique \'klēk, 'klik\ *n* [F] : a narrow exclusive circle or group of persons; *esp* : one held together by a presumed identity of interests, views, or purposes ***syn*** see SET — **cliqu·ey** *or* **cliquy** \'klēk-ē, 'klik-\ *adj* — **cliqu·ish** \-ish\ *adj* — **cliqu·ish·ly** *adv* — **cliqu·ish·ness** *n*

cli·tel·lum \klī-'tel-əm\ *n, pl* **-la** \-ə\ [NL, modif. of L *clitellae* pack-saddle] : a thickened glandular section of the body wall of some annelids that secretes a viscid sac in which the eggs are deposited

cli·to·ris \'klit-ə-rəs, 'klīt-\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *kleitoris*] : a small organ at the anterior or ventral part of the vulva homologous to the penis — **cli·to·ral** \'klit-ə-rəl, 'klīt-\ *or* **cli·tor·ic** \kli-'tȯr-ik, klī-, -'tär-\ *adj*

clk *abbr* clerk

clo *abbr* clothing

clo·aca \klō-'ā-kə\ *n, pl* **-acae** \-ˌkē, -ˌsē\ [L; akin to Gk *klyzein* to wash] **1** : ³SEWER **2** [NL, fr. L] : the common chamber into which the intestinal, urinary, and generative canals discharge in birds, reptiles, amphibians, and many fishes; *also* : a comparable chamber of an invertebrate — **clo·acal** \-'ā-kəl\ *adj*

¹cloak \'klōk\ *n* [ME *cloke*, fr. ONF *cloque* bell, cloak, fr. ML *clocca* bell; fr. its shape] **1** : a loose outer garment **2** : something that conceals : PRETENSE, DISGUISE

²cloak *vt* : to cover or hide with a cloak ***syn*** see DISGUISE

cloak-and-dag·ger *adj* : dealing in or suggestive of melodramatic intrigue and action usu. involving secret agents and espionage

cloak·room \'klō-ˌkrüm, -ˌkru̇m\ *n* **1 a** : a room in which outdoor clothing may be placed during one's stay **b** : a room or cubicle where garments, parcels, and luggage may be checked for temporary safekeeping (as in a theater) **2** : an anteroom of a legislative chamber where members may keep their wraps, rest, and confer with colleagues

clob·ber \'kläb-ər\ *vt* **clob·bered; clob·ber·ing** \-(ə-)riŋ\ [origin unknown] **1** : to pound mercilessly; *also* : to hit with force : SMASH **2** : to defeat overwhelmingly

cloche \'klōsh\ *n* [F, lit., bell, fr. ML *clocca*] : a woman's small helmetlike hat usu. with deep rounded crown and very narrow brim

¹clock \'kläk\ *n, often attrib* [ME *clok*, fr. MD *clocke* bell, clock, fr. ONF or ML; ONF *cloque* bell, fr. ML *clocca*, of Celt origin; akin to MIr *clocc* bell] **1** : a device other than a watch for indicating or measuring time commonly by means of hands moving on a dial **2** : a registering device with a dial and indicator attached to a mechanism to measure or gauge its functioning or to record its output; *specif* : SPEEDOMETER **3** : TIME CLOCK **4** : a synchronizing device (as in a computer) that produces pulses at regular intervals — **around the clock** **1** : continuously for 24 hours : day and night without cessation **2** : without relaxation and heedless of time — **kill the clock** *or* **run out the clock** : to use up as much as possible of the playing time remaining in a game (as football) while retaining possession of the ball or puck esp. to protect a lead

²clock *vt* **1** : to time with a stopwatch or by an electric timing device **2** : to register on a mechanical recording device ⟨wind velocities were ~*ed* at 80 miles per hour⟩ ~ *vi* : to register on a time sheet or time clock : PUNCH — used with *in, out, on, off* ⟨he ~*ed* in late⟩ — **clock·er** *n*

³clock *n* [prob. fr. *clock* (bell); fr. its original bell-like shape] : an ornamental figure on the ankle or side of a stocking or sock

clock·like \'kläk-ˌlīk\ *adj* : unusually regular, undeviating, and precise ⟨does his job with ~ efficiency⟩

clock-watcher \-ˌwäch-ər\ *n* : a person (as a worker or student) who displays lack of zeal or interest esp. by keeping close watch on the passage of time — **clock-watch·ing** \-iŋ\ *n*

clock·wise \'kläk-ˌwīz\ *adv* : in the direction in which the hands of a clock rotate as viewed from in front — **clockwise** *adj*

clock·work \-ˌwərk\ *n* **1** : machinery containing a train of wheels of small size (as in a mechanical toy or a bomb-actuating device) **2** : something that seems to perform in response to clockwork or to be controlled by clockwork

clod \'kläd\ *n* [ME, alter. of *clot*] **1 a** : a lump or mass esp. of earth or clay **b** : SOIL, EARTH **2** : OAF, DOLT — **clod·dish** \'kläd-ish\ *adj* — **clod·dish·ness** *n* — **clod·dy** \'kläd-ē\ *adj*

clod·hop·per \'kläd-ˌhäp-ər\ *n* **1** : a clumsy and uncouth rustic **2** : a large heavy shoe

clod·hop·ping \-ˌhäp-iŋ\ *adj* : BOORISH, RUDE

clod·poll *or* **clod·pole** \'kläd-ˌpōl\ *n* : BLOCKHEAD

clo·fi·brate \klō-'fīb-ˌrāt, -'fib-\ *n* [perh. fr. *chlor-* + *fibr-* + propionate] : a compound $C_{12}H_{15}ClO_3$ used esp. in the treatment of hypercholesterolemia

¹clog \'kläg\ *n* [ME *clogge* short thick piece of wood] **1 a** : a weight attached esp. to an animal to hinder motion **b** : something that shackles or impedes : ENCUMBRANCE 1 **2** : a shoe, sandal, or overshoe having a thick typically wooden sole

²clog *vb* **clogged; clog·ging** *vt* **1** : ENCUMBER **2 a** : to impede with a clog : HINDER **b** : to halt or retard the progress, operation, or growth of ⟨restraints that have been *clogging* the market —T. W. Arnold⟩ **3** : to fill beyond capacity : OVERLOAD ⟨cars *clogged* the main street for hours⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to become filled with extraneous matter ⟨the heater *clogged* with dust⟩ **2** : to unite in a mass : CLOT **3** : to dance a clog dance ***syn*** see HAMPER ***ant*** expedite, facilitate

clog dance *n* : a dance in which the performer wears clogs and beats out a clattering rhythm on the floor — **clog dancer** *n* — **clog dancing** *n*

cloi·son·né \ˌklȯiz-ᵊn-'ā, klə-ˌwäz-\ *adj* [F, fr. pp. of *cloisonner* to partition] : of, relating to, or being a style of enamel decoration in which the enamel is applied and fired in raised cells (as of soldered wires) on a usu. metal background — compare CHAMPLEVÉ — **cloisonné** *n*

¹clois·ter \'klȯi-stər\ *n* [ME *cloistre*, fr. OF, fr. ML *claustrum*, fr. L, bar, bolt, fr. *claudere* to close — more at CLOSE] **1 a** : an area within a monastery or convent to which the religious are normally restricted **b** : a monastic establishment **c** : monastic life **2** : a covered passage on the side of a court usu. having one side walled and the other an open arcade or colonnade

²cloister *vt* **clois·tered; clois·ter·ing** \-st(ə-)riŋ\ **1** : to seclude from the world in or as if in a cloister ⟨a scientist who ~*s* himself in a laboratory⟩ **2** : to surround with a cloister ⟨~*ed* gardens⟩

clois·tral \'klȯi-strəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or suggestive of a cloister

clois·tress \'klȯi-strəs\ *n, obs* : NUN

clo·mi·phene \'kläm-ə-ˌfēn, 'klōm-\ *n* [*chlor-* + *amine* + *-phene* (fr. *phenyl*)] : an ovulation-inducing synthetic drug $C_{26}H_{28}ClNO$

¹clone \'klōn\ *n* [Gk *klōn* twig, slip; akin to Gk *klan* to break] : the aggregate of the asexually produced progeny of an individual — **clon·al** \'klōn-ᵊl\ *adj* — **clon·al·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

²clone *vt* **cloned; clon·ing** : to cause to grow as a clone

¹clonk \'kläŋk, 'klȯŋk\ *vi* [imit.] : to make a dull thumping sound as if from impact of a hard object on a hard but hollow surface ~ *vt* : to produce a clonk

²clonk *n* : a clonking sound

clo·nus \'klō-nəs\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *klonos* agitation; akin to L *celer* swift] : a forced series of alternating contractions and partial relaxations of a muscle occurring in some nervous diseases — **clon·ic** \'klän-ik\ *adj* — **clo·nic·i·ty** \klō-'nis-ət-ē, klä-\ *n*

cloot \'klüt\ *n* [prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *klō* claw] **1** *Scot* : a cloven hoof **2** *pl, cap, Scot* : CLOOTIE

Cloot·ie \'klüt-ē\ *n* [dim. of *cloot*] *chiefly Scot* — used as a name of the devil

clop \'kläp\ *n* [imit.] : a sound made by or as if by a hoof or wooden shoe against the pavement — **clop** *vi*

clop-clop \'kläp-ˌkläp\ *n* : a sound of rhythmically repeated clops — **clop-clop** *vi*

¹close \'klōz\ *vb* **closed; clos·ing** [ME *closen*, fr. OF *clos-*, stem of *clore*, fr. L *claudere*] *vt* **1 a** : to move so as to bar passage through something ⟨~ the gate⟩ **b** : to block against entry or passage ⟨~ a street⟩ **c** : to deny access to ⟨because of drought the governor *closed* the woodlands⟩ **d** : SCREEN, EXCLUDE ⟨~ a view⟩ **e** : to suspend or stop the operations of ⟨~ school⟩ **2** *archaic* : ENCLOSE, CONTAIN **3 a** : to bring to an end or period ⟨~ a charge account⟩ **b** : to conclude discussion or negotiation about ⟨the question is *closed*⟩; *also* : to consummate by performing something previously agreed ⟨~ a transfer of real estate title⟩ **4 a** : to bring or bind together the parts or edges of ⟨a *closed* fist⟩ **b** : to fill up (as an opening) ⟨~ a crack with patching plaster⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to contract, fold, swing, or slide so as to leave no opening ⟨the door *closed* quietly⟩ **b** : to cease operation ⟨the factory *closed* down⟩ ⟨the stores ~ at 9 p.m.⟩ **2 a** : to draw near ⟨the ship was *closing* with the island⟩ **b** : to engage in a struggle at close quarters : GRAPPLE ⟨~ with the enemy⟩ **3** : to come together : MEET **4** : to enter into or complete an agreement **5** : to come to an end or period — **clos·able** *or* **close·able** \'klō-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **clos·er** *n*

syn CLOSE, END, CONCLUDE, FINISH, COMPLETE, TERMINATE *shared meaning element* : to bring or come to a stopping point or limit. CLOSE usually carries over from another sense the idea of action on something that is in some way open as well as unfinished ⟨*close* an account⟩ ⟨*close* a debate⟩ END conveys a stronger sense of finality and usually implies a progress or development which is felt as having been carried to a conclusion ⟨the harvest is past, the summer is *ended*, and we are not saved —Jer 8:20 (AV)⟩ CONCLUDE can imply a formal closing (as of a meeting) and often stresses less the fact than the form of that closing ⟨concluded his speech with a plea for unity⟩ or it can be very close to *close* or *end* ⟨*concluded* their game and went home⟩ FINISH implies that something proposed or begun has been done and may stress completion of a final step in a process ⟨*finished* the dress by carefully pressing the seams⟩ COMPLETE implies the removal of all deficiencies or a successful finishing of what has been undertaken ⟨[his] education was ended, if not *completed* —J. T. Farrell⟩ TERMINATE implies the setting of a limit in time or space ⟨the path *terminates* near the lake⟩

— **close one's doors** **1** : to refuse admission ⟨the nation *closed its doors* to immigrants⟩ **2** : to go out of business ⟨after nearly 40 years he had to *close his doors* for lack of trade⟩ — **close one's eyes to** : to ignore deliberately — **close ranks** : to unite in a concerted stand esp. to meet a challenge — **close the door** : to be uncompromisingly obstructive ⟨his attitude *closed the door* to further negotiation⟩

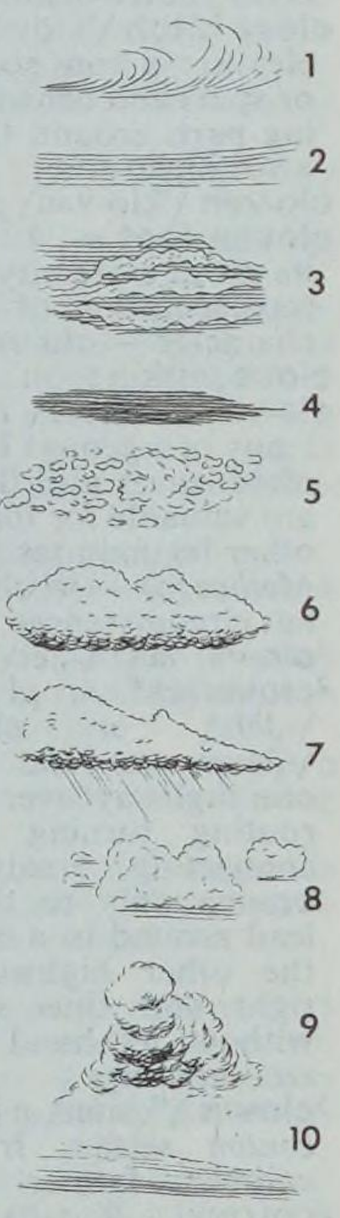
²close \'klōz\ *n* **1 a** : a coming or bringing to a conclusion ⟨at the ~ of the party⟩ **b** : a conclusion or end in time or existence : CESSATION ⟨the decade drew to a ~⟩ **c** : the concluding passage (as of a speech or play) **2** : the conclusion of a musical strain or period : CADENCE **3** *archaic* : a hostile encounter **4** : the movement of the free foot in dancing toward or into contact with the supporting foot with or without a transfer of weight

³close \'klōs, *U.S. also* 'klōz\ *n* [ME *clos*, lit., enclosure, fr. OF *clos*, fr. L *clausum*, fr. neuter of *clausus*, pp.] **1 a** : an enclosed area **b** *Brit* : the precinct of a cathedral **2** *chiefly Brit* **a** : a narrow passage leading from a street to a court and the houses within or to the common stairway of tenements **b** : a road closed at one end

⁴close \'klōs\ *adj* **clos·er; clos·est** [ME *clos*, fr. MF, fr. L *clausus*, pp. of *claudere* to shut, close; akin to Gk *kleiein* to close, OHG *sliozan*] **1** : having no openings : CLOSED **2 a** : confined or confining strictly ⟨five days of ~ arrest⟩ **b** (1) *of a vowel* : HIGH 12 (2) : formed with the tongue in a higher position than for the other vowel of a pair **3** : restricted to a privileged class **4 a** : SECLUDED, SECRET **b** : SECRETIVE ⟨she could tell us something if she would . . . but she was as ~ as wax —A. Conan Doyle⟩ **5** : STRICT, RIGOROUS ⟨keep ~ watch⟩ **6** : hot and stuffy **7** : reluctant to part with money or possessions : cautious and often stingy in expenditure **8** : having little space between items or units **9 a** : fitting tightly or exactly **b** : very short or near to the surface ⟨the barber gave him a ~ shave⟩ **c** : matching or blending without gap **10** : being near in time, space, effect, or degree **11** : INTIMATE, FAMILIAR **12 a** : ACCURATE, PRECISE ⟨a ~ study⟩ **b** : marked by fidelity to an original ⟨a ~ copy of an old master⟩ **c** : TERSE, COMPACT **13** : having an even or nearly even score ⟨a ~ baseball game⟩ **14** : difficult to obtain ⟨money is ~⟩ **15** *of punctuation* : characterized by liberal use esp. of commas — **close·ly** *adv* — **close·ness** *n*

syn **1** CLOSE, DENSE, COMPACT, THICK *shared meaning element* : having constituent parts that are massed or gathered tightly together ***ant*** open
2 see STINGY ***ant*** liberal
— **close to home** : within one's personal interests so that one is strongly affected ⟨the audience felt that the speaker's remarks hit pretty *close to home*⟩
[5]close \'klōs\ *adv* : in a close position or manner : NEAR
close call \'klōs-\ *n* : a narrow escape
close corporation \'klōs-\ *n* : a corporation whose stock is held by a few persons who are often those active in the management
close-cropped \'klō-ˌskräpt\ *adj* **1** : clipped short **2** : having the hair clipped short
closed \'klōzd\ *adj* **1 a** : not open **b** : ENCLOSED ⟨a ~ porch⟩ **2 a** : forming a self-contained unit allowing no additions ⟨~ association⟩ **b** (1) : traced by a moving point that returns to an arbitrary starting point ⟨~ curve⟩; *also* : so formed that every plane section is a closed curve ⟨~ surface⟩ (2) : characterized by mathematical elements that when subjected to an operation produce only elements of the same set ⟨the set of whole numbers is ~ under addition and multiplication⟩ (3) : containing all the limit points of every possible subset ⟨a ~ set⟩ **c** : characterized by continuous return and reuse of the working substance ⟨a ~ cooling system⟩ **d** *of a racecourse* : having the same starting and finishing point **3 a** : confined to a few ⟨~ membership⟩ **b** : excluding participation of outsiders or witnesses : conducted in strict secrecy **c** : rigidly excluding outside influence ⟨~ economy⟩ ⟨a ~ mind⟩ **4** : ending in a consonant ⟨~ syllable⟩
closed chain *n* : RING 10
closed circuit *n* : a television installation in which the signal is transmitted by wire to a limited number of receivers
closed couplet *n* : a rhymed couplet in which the sense is complete
closed-door \ˌklōz-ˌdō(ə)r, -ˌdȯ(ə)r\ *adj* : done or carried on in a closed session barring public and press ⟨a ~ session of the investigating committee⟩
closed-end \ˌklōz-ˌdend\ *adj* : having a fixed capitalization of shares that are traded on the market at prices determined by the operation of the law of supply and demand ⟨a ~ investment company⟩ — compare OPEN-END
closed loop *n* : an automatic control system for an operation or process in which feedback in a closed path or group of paths acts to maintain output at a desired level
close down \(ˈ)klōz-\ *vi* : to settle or appear close around so as to block any outward view ⟨fog presently *closed down*⟩
closed shop *n* : an establishment in which the employer by agreement hires only union members in good standing
closed stance *n* : a preparatory position (as in baseball batting or golf) in which the forward foot (as the left foot of a right-handed person) is closer to the line of play than the back foot — compare OPEN STANCE
close-fist-ed \ˈklōs-ˈfis-təd\ *adj* : STINGY, TIGHTFISTED
close-grained \-ˈgrānd\ *adj* : having a closely compacted smooth texture; *esp* : having narrow annual rings or small wood elements
close-hauled \-ˈhȯld\ *adj* : having the sails set for sailing as nearly against the wind as the ship will go
close in \(ˈ)klō-ˈzin\ *vi* **1** : to gather in close all around with an oppressing or isolating effect ⟨despair *closed in* on her⟩ **2** : to approach from various directions to close quarters esp. for an attack, raid, or arrest ⟨intelligence agents *closed in* on him⟩ **3** : to grow dark ⟨the short November day was already *closing in* —Ellen Glasgow⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to encircle closely and isolate **2** : to enshroud to such an extent as to preclude entrance or exit ⟨the airport is *closed in*⟩
close-knit \ˈklō-ˈsnit\ *adj* : bound together by intimate social or cultural ties or by close economic or political ties ⟨the immigrants had left their ~ little villages —Oscar Handlin⟩
close-lipped \ˈklō-ˈslipt\ *adj* : TIGHT-LIPPED
close-mouthed \ˈklō-ˈsmau̇thd, -ˈsmau̇tht\ *adj* : cautious in speaking : UNCOMMUNICATIVE; *also* : SECRETIVE ⟨is ~ about her work⟩
close order *n* : an arrangement of troops for formations, drill, or marching according to an exact scheme prescribing fixed distances and intervals
close-out \ˈklō-ˌzau̇t\ *n* **1** : a clearing out by a sale usu. at reduced prices of the whole remaining stock (as of a business) **2** : an article offered or bought at a closeout
close out \(ˈ)klō-ˈzau̇t\ *vt* **1 a** : EXCLUDE **b** : PRECLUDE ⟨*close out* his chances⟩ **2 a** : to dispose of a whole stock of by sale **b** : to dispose of (a business) **c** : SELL ⟨*closed out* his share of the business⟩ **d** : to put (an account) in order for disposal or transfer **3 a** : TERMINATE **b** : to discontinue operation ~ *vi* **1** : to sell out a business **2** : to buy or sell securities or commodities in order to terminate an account (as when margin is exhausted)
close quarters \ˈklōs-\ *n pl* : immediate contact or close range ⟨fought at *close quarters*⟩
close shave \ˈklōs(h)-\ *n* : a narrow escape
close-stool \ˈklōs-ˌstül\ *n* : a stool holding a chamber pot
[1]clos-et \ˈkläz-ət, ˈklȯz-\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, dim. of *clos* enclosure] **1 a** : an apartment or small room for privacy **b** : a monarch's or official's private chamber for counsel or devotions **2** : a cabinet or recess for china, household utensils, or clothing : CUPBOARD **3** : a place of retreat or privacy **4** : WATER CLOSET **5** : a state or condition of secrecy, privacy, or obscurity — **clo-set-ful** \-ˌfu̇l\ *n*
[2]closet *adj* **1** : closely private **2** : working in or suited to the closet as the place of seclusion or study : THEORETICAL **3** : being so in private ⟨a ~ racist⟩
[3]closet *vt* **1** : to shut up in or as if in a closet **2** : to take into a closet for a secret interview
closet drama *n* : drama suited primarily for reading rather than production
closet queen *n* : one who secretly engages in homosexual activities while leading an ostensibly heterosexual life
close-up \ˈklō-ˌsəp *also* -ˌzəp\ *n* **1** : a photograph or movie shot taken at close range **2** : an intimate view or examination of something

clos-ing \ˈklō-ziŋ\ *n* **1** : a concluding part (as of a speech) **2** : a closable gap (as in an article of wear)
clos-trid-i-um \klä-ˈstrid-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ia** \-ē-ə\ [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *klōstēr* spindle, fr. *klōthein* to spin] : any of various spore-forming mostly anaerobic soil or intestinal bacteria (esp. genus *Clostridium*) — compare BOTULISM — **clos-trid-i-al** \-ē-əl\ *adj*
[1]clo-sure \ˈklō-zhər\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *clausura*, fr. *clausus*, pp. of *claudere* to close — more at CLOSE] **1** *archaic* : means of enclosing : ENCLOSURE **2** : an act of closing : the condition of being closed ⟨~ of the eyelids⟩ **3** : something that closes ⟨pocket with zipper ~⟩ **4** [trans. of F *clôture*] : CLOTURE **5** : the property that a number system or a set has when it is mathematically closed under an operation **6** : a set that contains a given set together with all the limit points of the given set
[2]closure *vt* **clo-sured; clo-sur-ing** \ˈklōzh-(ə-)riŋ\ : CLOTURE
[1]clot \ˈklät\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *clott;* akin to MHG *klōz* lump, ball — more at CLOUT] **1** : a portion of a substance cleaving together in a thick nondescript mass (as of clay or gum) **2 a** : a roundish viscous lump formed by coagulation of a portion of liquid or by melting **b** : the coagulum produced by clotting of blood **3** *Brit* : BLOCKHEAD **4** : CLUSTER
[2]clot *vb* **clot-ted; clot-ting** *vi* **1** : to become a clot : form clots **2** : to undergo a sequence of complex chemical and physical reactions that results in conversion of fluid blood into a coagulum : COAGULATE ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to clot **2** : to fill with clots
cloth \ˈklȯth\ *n, pl* **cloths** \ˈklȯthz, ˈklȯths\ *often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *clāth;* akin to OE *clīthan* to adhere to, LL *glut-, glus* glue] **1 a** : a pliable material made usu. by weaving, felting, or knitting natural or synthetic fibers and filaments **b** : a similar material (as of glass) **2** : a piece of cloth adapted for a particular purpose; *esp* : TABLECLOTH **3 a** : a distinctive dress of a profession or calling **b** : the dress of the clergy; *also* : CLERGY
clothe \ˈklōth\ *vt* **clothed** *or* **clad** \ˈklad\; **cloth-ing** [ME *clothen*, fr. OE *clāthian*, fr. *clāth* cloth, garment] **1 a** : to cover with or as if with cloth or clothing : DRESS **b** : to provide with clothes **2** : to express or enhance by suitably significant language : COUCH ⟨treaties *clothed* in stately phraseology⟩ **3** : to endow esp. with power or a quality ⟨an act *clothing* Indians with United States citizenship⟩
clothes \ˈklō(th)z\ *n pl, often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *clāthas*, pl. of *clāth* cloth, garment] **1** : CLOTHING **2** : BEDCLOTHES **3** : all the cloth articles of personal and household use that can be washed
clothes-horse \-ˌhȯ(ə)rs\ *n* **1** : a frame on which to hang clothes **2** : a conspicuously dressy person
[1]clothes-line \-ˌlīn\ *n* **1** : a line (as of cord) on which clothes may be hung to dry **2** : a tackle in football in which a defensive player's outstretched arm catches the ballcarrier by the head and neck unawares
[2]clothesline *vt* : to hit (a football player) with an outstretched arm
clothes moth *n* : any of several small yellowish or buff-colored moths (esp. genera *Tinea* and *Tineola* of the family Tineidae) whose larvae eat wool, fur, or feathers
clothes-pin \ˈklō(th)z-ˌpin\ *n* : a forked piece of wood or plastic or a small spring clamp used for fastening clothes on a clothesline
clothes-press \-ˌpres\ *n* : a receptacle for clothes
clothes tree *n* : an upright post-shaped stand with hooks or pegs around the top on which to hang clothes
cloth-ier \ˈklōth-yər, ˈklō-thē-ər\ *n* [ME, alter. of *clother*, fr. *cloth*] : one who makes or sells cloth or clothing
cloth-ing \ˈklō-thiŋ\ *n* : garments in general; *also* : COVERING
cloth yard *n* : a yard esp. for measuring cloth; *specif* : a unit of 37 inches equal to the Scotch ell and used also as a length for arrows
clotted cream *n* : a thick cream made chiefly in England by slowly heating whole milk on which the cream has been allowed to rise and then skimming the cooled cream from the top — called also *Cornish cream, Devonshire cream*
clo-ture \ˈklō-chər\ *n* [F *clôture*, lit., closure, alter. of MF *closure*] : the closing or limitation of debate in a legislative body esp. by calling for a vote ⟨attempted to end the filibuster by ~⟩ — **cloture** *vt*
[1]cloud \ˈklau̇d\ *n, often attrib* [ME, rock, cloud, fr. OE *clūd;* akin to Gk *gloutos* buttock] **1 a** : a visible mass of particles of water or ice in the form of fog, mist, or haze suspended usu. at a considerable height in the air **b** : a light filmy, puffy, or billowy mass seeming to float in the air **2 a** : a usu. visible mass of minute particles suspended in the air or in a gas; *also* : one of the masses of obscuring matter in interstellar space **b** : an aggregate of charged particles (as electrons) **3** : a great crowd or multitude : SWARM ⟨~s of mosquitoes⟩ **4** : something that has a dark, lowering, or threatening aspect ⟨~s of another war began to loom over the horizon⟩ **5** : something that obscures or blemishes ⟨worked



clouds 1a: *1* cirrus, *2* cirrostratus, *3* cirrocumulus, *4* altostratus, *5* altocumulus, *6* stratocumulus, *7* nimbostratus, *8* cumulus, *9* cumulonimbus, *10* stratus

under ~s of secrecy〉 **6** : a dark or opaque vein or spot (as in marble)

²cloud *vi* **1** : to grow cloudy — usu. used with *over* or *up* 〈~*ed* over before the storm〉 **2** **a** *of facial features* : to become troubled, apprehensive, or distressed in appearance **b** : to become blurry, dubious, or ominous **3** : to billow up in the form of a cloud ~ *vt* **1** **a** : to envelop or hide with or as if with a cloud 〈smog ~*ed* our view〉 **b** : to make opaque esp. by condensation of moisture **c** : to make murky esp. with smoke or mist **2** : to make unclear or confused **3** : TAINT, SULLY 〈a ~*ed* reputation〉 **4** : to cast gloom over

cloud·ber·ry \'klau̇d-ˌber-ē\ *n* : a creeping herbaceous raspberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*) of north temperate regions; *also* : its pale amber-colored edible fruit

cloud·burst \-ˌbərst\ *n* **1** : a sudden copious rainfall **2** : DELUGE 2

cloud chamber *n* : a vessel containing saturated water vapor whose sudden expansion reveals the passage of an ionizing particle by a trail of visible droplets

cloud·land \'klau̇d-ˌland\ *n* **1** : the region of the clouds **2** : the realm of visionary speculation or poetic imagination

cloud·less \-ləs\ *adj* : free from clouds : CLEAR — **cloud·less·ly** *adv* — **cloud·less·ness** *n*

cloud·let \'klau̇d-lət\ *n* : a small cloud

cloud nine *n* [perh. fr. the ninth and highest heaven of Dante's Paradise, whose inhabitants are most blissful because nearest to God] : a feeling of extreme well-being or elation— usu. used with *on* 〈was on *cloud nine* after his victory〉

cloudy \'klau̇d-ē\ *adj* **cloud·i·er; -est** **1** : of, relating to, or resembling cloud **2** : darkened by gloom or anxiety **3** **a** : overcast with clouds; *specif* : six tenths to nine tenths covered with clouds **b** : having a cloudy sky **4** : obscure in meaning 〈~ issues〉 **5** : dimmed or dulled as if by clouds 〈a ~ mirror〉 **6** : uneven in color or texture **7** : having visible material in suspension : MURKY — **cloud·i·ly** \'klau̇d-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **cloud·i·ness** \'klau̇d-ē-nəs\ *n*

¹clout \'klau̇t\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *clūt;* akin to MHG *klōz* lump, Russ *gluda*] **1** **a** *dial chiefly Brit* : a piece of cloth or leather : RAG **b** : a household cloth **c** : an article of clothing (as for infants) **2** : a blow esp. with the hand; *also* : a hit in baseball **3** : a white cloth on a stake or frame used as a target in archery **4** : PULL, INFLUENCE 〈had a lot of ~ with the governor〉

²clout *vt* **1** : to cover or patch with a clout **2** : to hit forcefully 〈~*ed* the ball into the bleachers〉 〈whose mother has just ~*ed* his head —G. B. Shaw〉

¹clove \'klōv\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *clufu;* akin to OE *clēofan* to cleave] : one of the small bulbs (as in garlic) developed in the axils of the scales of a large bulb

²clove *past of* CLEAVE

³clove \'klōv\ *n* [alter. of ME *clowe,* fr. OF *clou* (*de girofle*), lit., nail of clove, fr. L *clavus* nail] : the dried flower bud of a tropical tree (*Eugenia aromatica*) of the myrtle family that is used as a spice and is the source of an oil; *also* : this tree

clove hitch \'klōv-\ *n* [ME *cloven, clove* divided, fr. pp. of *clevien* to cleave] : a knot securing a rope temporarily to an object (as a post or spar) and consisting of a turn around the object, over the standing part, around the object again, and under the last turn — see KNOT illustration

clo·ven \'klō-vən\ *past part of* CLEAVE

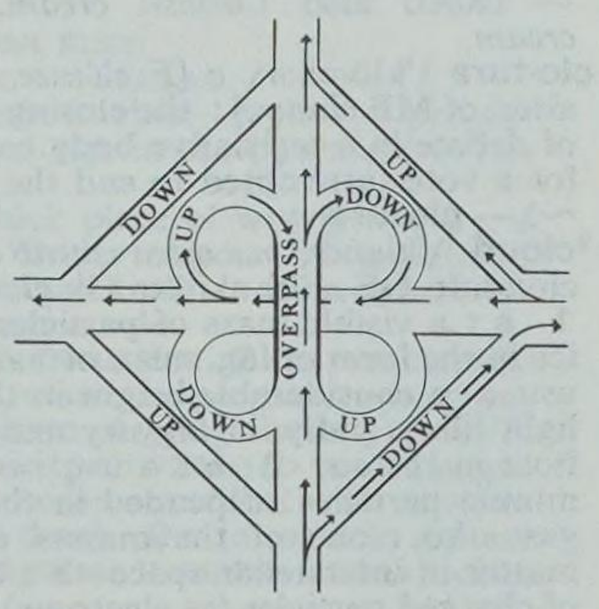
cloven foot *n* **1** : a foot (as of a sheep) divided into two parts at its distal extremity — called also *cloven hoof* **2** [fr. the traditional representation of Satan as cloven-footed] : the sign of devilish character — **clo·ven–foot·ed** \ˌklō-vən-'fu̇t-əd\ *adj*

clove pink *n* : GILLYFLOWER 1

clo·ver \'klō-vər\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *clāfre;* akin to OHG *klēo* clover] : any of a genus (*Trifolium*) of low leguminous herbs having trifoliolate leaves and flowers in dense heads and including many that are valuable for forage and attractive to bees; *also* : any of various other leguminous plants (as of the genera *Melilotus, Lespedeza,* or *Medicago*) — **in clover** *or* **in the clover** : in prosperity or in pleasant circumstances

¹clo·ver·leaf \-ˌlēf\ *adj* : resembling a clover leaf in shape

²cloverleaf *n, pl* **cloverleafs** \-ˌlēfs\ *or* **clo·ver·leaves** \-ˌlēvz\ : a road plan passing one highway over another and routing turning traffic onto connecting roadways which branch only to the right and lead around in a circle to enter the other highway from the right and thus merge traffic without left-hand turns or direct crossings



cloverleaf

¹clown \'klau̇n\ *n* [perh. fr. MF *coulon* settler, fr. L *colonus* colonist, farmer — more at COLONY] **1** : FARMER, COUNTRYMAN **2** : a rude ill-bred person : BOOR **3** **a** : a fool, jester, or comedian in an entertainment (as a play); *specif* : a grotesquely dressed comedy performer in a circus **b** : one who habitually plays the buffoon : JOKER

²clown *vi* : to act as a clown

clown·ery \'klau̇-nə-rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : clownish behavior or an instance of clownishness : BUFFOONERY

clown·ish \'klau̇-nish\ *adj* : resembling or befitting a clown (as in ignorance and lack of sophistication) ***syn*** see BOORISH — **clown·ish·ly** *adv* — **clown·ish·ness** *n*

clox·a·cil·lin \ˌkläk-sə-'sil-ən\ *n* [*chlor-* + *oxacillin*] : a synthetic oral penicillin $C_{19}H_{17}ClN_3NaO_5S$ esp. effective against staphylococci

cloy \'klȯi\ *vb* [ME *acloien* to lame, fr. MF *encloer* to drive in a nail, fr. ML *inclavare,* fr. L *in* + *clavus,* nail] *vt* : to surfeit with an excess usu. of something orig. pleasing ~ *vi* : to cause surfeit ***syn*** see SATIATE — **cloy·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

cloze \'klōz\ *adj* [by shortening and alter. fr. *closure*] : of, relating to, or being a test of reading comprehension that involves having the person being tested supply words which have been systematically deleted from a text

clr *abbr* clear; clearance

CLU *abbr* chartered life underwriter

¹club \'kləb\ *n* [ME *clubbe,* fr. ON *klubba;* akin to OHG *kolbo* club, OE *clamm* bond] **1** **a** : a heavy usu. tapering staff esp. of wood wielded as a weapon **b** : a stick or bat used to hit a ball in any of various games **c** : something resembling a club **d** : a light spar **e** : INDIAN CLUB **2** **a** : a figure that resembles a stylized clover leaf on each playing card of one of the four suits; *also* : a card marked with this figure **b** *pl but sing or pl in constr* : the suit comprising cards marked with a club **3** **a** : an association of persons for some common object usu. jointly supported and meeting periodically **b** : the meeting place of a club **c** : an association of persons participating in a plan by which they agree to make regular payments or purchases in order to secure some advantage **d** : NIGHTCLUB

²club *vb* **clubbed; club·bing** *vt* **1** **a** : to beat or strike with or as if with a club **b** : to gather into a club-shaped mass 〈*clubbed* her hair〉 **c** : to hold like a club **2** **a** : to unite or combine for a common cause **b** : to contribute to a common fund ~ *vi* **1** : to form a club : COMBINE **2** : to pay a share of a common expense : CONTRIBUTE

³club *adj* **1** : of or relating to a club **2** : consisting of foods in a fixed combination offered on a menu at a set price 〈~ breakfast〉

club·ba·ble *or* **club·able** \'kləb-ə-bəl\ *adj* : SOCIABLE

club bag *n* : a rectangular and usu. leather traveling bag that tapers to a purselike opening at the top and that is often zippered

clubbed \'kləbd\ *adj* : shaped like a club 〈~ antennae〉

club·ber \'kləb-ər\ *n* : a member of a club

club·by \'kləb-ē\ *adj* **club·bi·er; -est** : characteristic of a club or club members: as **a** : SOCIABLE **b** : open only to qualified or approved persons : SELECT — **club·bi·ness** *n*

club car *n* : LOUNGE CAR

club chair *n* : a deep low thickly upholstered easy chair often with rather low back and heavy sides and arms

club cheese *n* : a process cheese made by grinding cheddar and other cheeses usu. with added condiments and seasoning

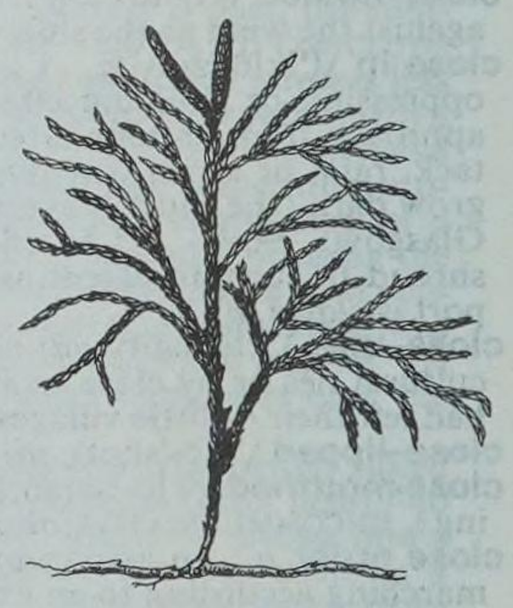
club coupe *n* : an automobile resembling a coupe in having only two doors but with a full-width rear seat accessible by tilting the front-seat backs forward

club·foot \'kləb-'fu̇t\ *n* : a misshapen foot twisted out of position from birth; *also* : this deformity — **club·foot·ed** \-'fu̇t-əd\ *adj*

club fungus *n* : any of a family (Clavariaceae) of basidiomycetes with a simple or branched often club-shaped sporophore

club·house \'kləb-ˌhau̇s\ *n* **1** : a house occupied by a club or used for club activities **2** : locker rooms used by an athletic team

club moss *n* : any of an order (Lycopodiales) of primitive vascular plants (as ground pine) often with the sporangia borne in club-shaped strobiles


club moss

club·root \'kləb-ˌrüt, -ˌru̇t\ *n* : a disease of cabbages and related plants caused by a slime mold (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) producing swellings or distortions of the root

club sandwich *n* : a sandwich of three slices of bread with two layers of various meats (as chicken or turkey) and lettuce, tomato, and mayonnaise

club soda *n* : SODA WATER 2a

club steak *n* : a small steak cut from the end of the short loin — see BEEF illustration

¹cluck \'klək\ *vb* [imit.] *vi* **1** : to make a cluck **2** : to make a clicking sound with the tongue **3** : to express interest or concern 〈critics ~*ed* over the new developments〉 ~ *vt* **1** : to call with a cluck **2** : to express with interest or concern

²cluck *n* **1** : the characteristic sound made by a hen esp. in calling her chicks **2** : a broody fowl **3** : a stupid or naive person

clue *var of* CLEW

clum·ber spaniel \ˌkləm-bər-\ *n, often cap C & S* [*Clumber,* estate in Nottinghamshire, England] : a large massive heavyset spaniel with a dense silky largely white coat

¹clump \'kləmp\ *n* [prob. fr. LG *klump;* akin to OE *clamm*] **1** : a group of things clustered together 〈a ~ of bushes〉 **2** : a compact mass **3** : a heavy tramping sound — **clumpy** \'kləm-pē\ *adj*

²clump *vi* **1** : to tread clumsily and noisily **2** : to form clumps ~ *vt* : to arrange in or cause to form clumps 〈the serum ~*s* the bacteria〉

clum·sy \'kləm-zē\ *adj* **clum·si·er; -est** [prob. fr. obs. E *clumse* (benumbed with cold)] **1** **a** : lacking dexterity, nimbleness, or grace 〈~ fingers〉 **b** : lacking tact or subtlety 〈a ~ joke〉 **2** : awkwardly or poorly made : UNWIELDY ***syn*** see AWKWARD ***ant*** adroit, facile — **clum·si·ly** \-zə-lē\ *adv* — **clum·si·ness** \-zē-nəs\ *n*

clung *past of* CLING

¹clunk \'kləŋk\ *n* [imit.] **1** : a blow or the sound of a blow : THUMP **2** : a dull or stupid person

²clunk *vi* **1** : to make a clunk **2** : to hit something with a clunk ~ *vt* : to strike or hit with a clunk

clunk·er \'kləŋ-kər\ *n* : a dilapidated rattling old machine; *esp* : JALOPY

clu·pe·id \'klü-pē-əd\ *n* [deriv. of L *clupea,* a small river fish] : any of a large family (Clupeidae) of soft-finned teleost fishes (as her-

rings) having a laterally compressed body and a forked tail — **clupeid** *adj*

[1]clus·ter \'kləs-tər\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *clyster;* akin to OE *clott* clot] **1** : a number of similar things growing together or of things or persons collected or grouped closely together : BUNCH **2** : two or more consecutive consonants or vowels in a segment of speech **3** : a group of buildings and esp. houses built close together on a sizable tract in order to preserve open spaces larger than the individual yard for common recreation ***syn*** see GROUP — **clus·tery** \-t(ə-)rē\ *adj*

[2]cluster *vb* **clus·tered; clus·ter·ing** \-t(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* **1** : to collect into a cluster ⟨~ the tents together⟩ **2** : to furnish with clusters ~ *vi* : to grow or assemble in a cluster ⟨men ~*ed* around the stove⟩

cluster college *n* : a small residential college constituting a semiautonomous division of a university and usu. specializing in one area of knowledge (as history and the social sciences)

[1]clutch \'kləch\ *vb* [ME *clucchen,* fr. OE *clyccan;* akin to MIr *glacc* hand — more at CLING] *vt* **1** : to grasp or hold with or as if with the hand or claws usu. strongly, tightly, or suddenly **2** *obs* : CLENCH ~ *vi* **1** : to seek to grasp and hold **2** : to operate an automobile clutch ***syn*** see TAKE

[2]clutch *n* **1 a** : the claws or a hand in the act of grasping or seizing firmly **b** : an often cruel or unrelenting control, power, or possession ⟨the fell ~ of circumstance —W. E. Henley⟩ **c** : the act of grasping, holding, or restraining **2** : a device for gripping an object (as at the end of a chain or tackle) **3 a** : a coupling used to connect and disconnect a driving and a driven part of a mechanism **b** : a lever operating such a clutch **4** : a tight or critical situation : PINCH ⟨the batter came through with a hit in the ~⟩ **5** : CLUTCH BAG ***syn*** see HOLD

[3]clutch *adj* **1** : made or done in a crucial situation ⟨a ~ hit drove in the winning run⟩ **2** : successful in a crucial situation ⟨a ~ pitcher⟩

[4]clutch *n* [alter. of dial. E *cletch* (hatching, brood)] **1** : a nest of eggs or a brood of chicks **2** : GROUP, BUNCH ⟨a ~ of gossipy matrons⟩

clutch bag *n* : a woman's small usu. strapless handbag — called also *clutch purse*

[1]clut·ter \'klət-ər\ *vb* [ME *clotteren* to clot, fr. *clot*] *vt* : to fill or cover with scattered or disordered things that impede movement or reduce effectiveness — often used with *up* ⟨~*ed* up his room⟩ ~ *vi, chiefly dial* : to run in disorder

[2]clutter *n* **1 a** : a crowded or confused mass or collection ⟨a ~ of shops and tenements⟩ **b** : LITTER, DISORDER ⟨the ~ in her room⟩ **2** : interfering echoes visible on a radar screen caused by reflection from objects other than the target **3** *chiefly dial* : DISTURBANCE, HUBBUB

Clydesdale \'klīdz-ˌdāl\ *n* : a heavy feathered-legged draft horse of a breed orig. from Clydesdale, Scotland

Clydesdale terrier *n* : a small terrier of a breed distinguished by erect ears, long silky coat, and short legs

clyp·e·ate \'klip-ē-ət\ *or* **clyp·e·at·ed** \-ē-ˌāt-əd\ *adj* [L & NL *clypeus* + E *-ate*] **1** : shaped like a shield or buckler **2** : having a clypeus

clyp·e·us \'klip-ē-əs\ *n, pl* **clyp·ei** \-ē-ˌī, -ē-ˌē\ [NL, fr. L, round shield] : a plate on the anterior median aspect of an insect's head

clys·ter \'klis-tər\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF *clistere,* fr. L *clyster,* fr. Gk *klystēr,* fr. *klyzein* to wash out] : ENEMA

Cly·tem·nes·tra \ˌklīt-əm-'nes-trə\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Klytaimnēstra*] : the wife and murderess of Agamemnon

cm *abbr* **1** centimeter **2** cumulative

Cm *symbol* curium

CM *abbr* **1** center matched **2** circular mil **3** common meter **4** Congregation of the Mission

cmd *abbr* command

cmdg *abbr* commanding

cmdr *abbr* commander

CMG *abbr* Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George

c–mitosis \ˌsē-\ *n* [colchicine + *mitosis*] : an artificially induced abortive nuclear division in which the chromosome number is doubled — **c–mitotic** *adj*

cml *abbr* commercial

CMSgt *abbr* chief master sergeant

CN *abbr* credit note

cni·do·blast \'nīd-ə-ˌblast\ *n* [NL *cnida* nematocyst, fr. Gk *knidē* nettle] : a cell that develops a nematocyst or develops into a nematocyst

CNO *abbr* chief of naval operations

CNS *abbr* central nervous system

co *abbr* **1** company **2** county

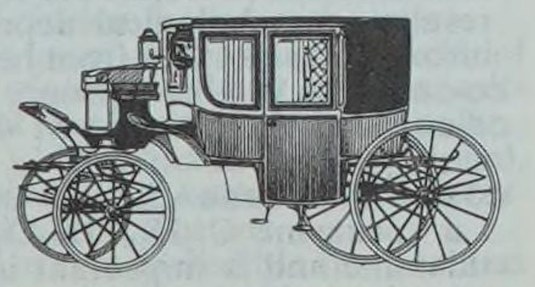
Co *symbol* cobalt

CO *abbr* **1** cash order **2** Colorado **3** commanding officer **4** conscientious objector

co- *prefix* [ME, fr. L, fr. *com-;* akin to OE *ge-,* perfective and collective prefix, Gk *koinos* common] **1** : with : together : joint : jointly ⟨*co*exist⟩ ⟨*co*heir⟩ **2** : in or to the same degree ⟨*co*extensive⟩ **3 a** : one that is associated in an action with another : fellow : partner ⟨*co*author⟩ ⟨*co*-worker⟩ **b** : having a usu. lesser share in duty or responsibility : alternate : deputy ⟨*co*pilot⟩ **4** : of, relating to, or constituting the complement of an angle ⟨*co*sine⟩ ⟨*co*declination⟩

c/o *abbr* care of

co·ac·er·vate \kō-'as-ər-ˌvāt\ *n* [L *coacervatus,* pp. of *coacervare* to heap up, fr. *co-* + *acervus* heap] : an aggregate of colloidal droplets held together by electrostatic attractive forces — **co·acer·vate** \ˌkō-ə-'sər-vət\ *adj* — **co·ac·er·va·tion** \(ˌ)kō-ˌas-ər-'vā-shən\ *n*



coach 1a

[1]coach \'kōch\ *n, often attrib* [ME *coche,* fr. MF, fr. G *kutsche*] **1 a** : a large usu. closed four-wheeled carriage having doors in the sides and an elevated seat in front for the driver **b** : a railroad passenger car intended primarily for day travel **c** : BUS 1a **d** : a house trailer **e** : an automobile body esp. of a closed model **f** : a class of passenger air transportation at a lower fare than first class **2** [fr. the concept that the tutor conveys the student through his examinations] **a** : a private tutor **b** : one who instructs or trains a performer or a team of performers; *specif* : one who instructs players in the fundamentals of a competitive sport and directs team strategy ⟨football ~⟩

[2]coach *vt* **1** : to train intensively by instruction, demonstration, and practice **2** : to act as coach to **3** : to direct the movements of (a player) ~ *vi* **1** : to go in a coach **2** : to instruct, direct, or prompt as a coach — **coach·er** *n*

coach dog *n* : DALMATIAN

coach·man \'kōch-mən\ *n* **1** : a man whose business is to drive a coach or carriage **2** : an artifical fishing fly with white wings, peacock feather body, brown hackle, and gold tag

co·act \kō-'akt\ *vi* : to act or work together — **co·ac·tive** \-'ak-tiv\ *adj*

co·ac·tion \-'ak-shən\ *n* **1** : joint action **2** : the interaction between individuals or kinds (as species) in an ecological community

co·adapt·ed \ˌkō-ə-'dap-təd\ *adj* : mutually adapted esp. by natural selection ⟨~ gene complexes⟩

co·ad·ju·tor \ˌkō-ə-'jüt-ər, kō-'aj-ət-ər\ *n* [ME *coadjutour,* fr. MF *coadjuteur,* fr. L *coadjutor,* fr. *co-* + *adjutor* aid, fr. *adjutus,* pp. of *adjuvare* to help — more at AID] **1** : one who works together with another : ASSISTANT **2** : a bishop assisting a diocesan bishop and often having the right of succession — **coadjutor** *adj*

co·ad·ju·trix \ˌkō-ə-'jü-triks, kō-'aj-ə-(ˌ)triks\ *n, pl* **co·ad·ju·tri·ces** \ˌkō-ə-'jü-trə-ˌsēz, (ˌ)kō-ˌaj-ə-'trī-(ˌ)sēz\ [NL, fem. of *coadjutor*] : a female coadjutor

co·ad·u·nate \kō-'aj-ə-nət, -ˌnāt\ *adj* [LL *coadunatus,* pp. of *coadunare* to combine, fr. L *co-* + *adunare* to unite, fr. *ad-* + *unus* one — more at ONE] : UNITED; *esp* : grown together — **co·ad·u·na·tion** \(ˌ)kō-ˌaj-ə-'nā-shən\ *n*

co·ag·u·lant \kō-'ag-yə-lənt\ *n* : something that produces coagulation

co·ag·u·lase \kō-'ag-yə-ˌlās, -ˌlāz\ *n* : an enzyme that causes coagulation

[1]co·ag·u·late \-lət, -ˌlāt\ *adj, archaic* : being clotted or congealed

[2]co·ag·u·late \kō-'ag-yə-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *coagulatus,* pp. of *coagulare* to curdle, fr. *coagulum* curdling agent, fr. *cogere* to drive together — more at COGENT] *vt* **1** : to cause to become viscous or thickened into a coherent mass : CURDLE, CLOT **2** : to gather together or form into a mass or group ~ *vi* : to become coagulated — **co·ag·u·la·bil·i·ty** \kō-ˌag-yə-lə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **co·ag·u·la·ble** \-'ag-yə-lə-bəl\ *adj* — **co·ag·u·la·tion** \-ˌag-yə-'lā-shən\ *n*

co·ag·u·lum \kō-'ag-yə-ləm\ *n, pl* **-u·la** \-lə\ *or* **-ulums** [L, coagulant] : a coagulated mass or substance : CLOT

[1]coal \'kōl\ *n, often attrib* [ME *col,* fr. OE; akin to OHG & ON *kol* burning ember, IrGael *gual* coal] **1** : a piece of glowing carbon or charred wood : EMBER **2** : CHARCOAL 1 **3 a** : a black or brownish black solid combustible substance formed by the partial decomposition of vegetable matter without free access of air and under the influence of moisture and often increased pressure and temperature that is widely used as a natural fuel **b** *pl, Brit* : pieces or a quantity of the fuel broken up for burning

[2]coal *vt* **1** : to burn to charcoal : CHAR **2** : to supply with coal ~ *vi* : to take in coal

coal·er \'kō-lər\ *n* : something (as a ship) employed in transporting or supplying coal

co·alesce \ˌkō-ə-'les\ *vi* **co·alesced; co·alesc·ing** [L *coalescere,* fr. *co-* + *alescere* to grow — more at OLD] **1** : to grow together **2 a** : to unite into a whole : FUSE ⟨allowing the new community to ~ . . . into a major city —J. A. Michener⟩ **b** : to unite for a common end : join forces ⟨people with different points of view ~ into opposing factions —I. L. Horowitz⟩ ***syn*** see MIX — **co·ales·cence** \-'les-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* — **co·ales·cent** \-ᵊnt\ *adj*

coal·field \'kōl-ˌfēld\ *n* : a region in which deposits of coal occur

coal·fish \-ˌfish\ *n* : any of several blackish or dark-backed fishes (as a pollack or sablefish)

coal gas *n* : gas made from coal: as **a** : the mixture of gases thrown off by burning coal **b** : gas made by carbonizing bituminous coal in retorts and used for heating and lighting

coal·hole \'kōl-ˌhōl\ *n* **1** : a hole for coal (as a trap or opening in a sidewalk leading to a coal bin) **2** *Brit* : a compartment for storing coal

coal·ifi·ca·tion \ˌkō-lə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* : a process in which vegetable matter becomes converted into coal of increasingly higher rank with anthracite as the final product — **coal·ify** \'kō-lə-ˌfī\ *vt*

coaling station *n* : a port at which ships may coal

co·ali·tion \ˌkō-ə-'lish-ən\ *n* [MF, fr. L *coalitus,* pp. of *coalescere*] **1 a** : the act of coalescing : UNION **b** : a body formed by the coalescing of orig. distinct elements : COMBINATION **2** : a temporary alliance of distinct parties, persons, or states for joint action — **co·ali·tion·ist** \-'lish-(ə-)nəst\ *n*

coal measures *n pl* : beds of coal with the associated rocks

coal oil *n* **1** : petroleum or a refined oil prepared from it **2** : KEROSENE

Coal·sack \'kōl-ˌsak\ *n* : either of two dark nebulae in the Milky Way located one near the Northern Cross and the other near the Southern Cross

coal seam *n* : a bed of coal usu. thick enough to be mined with profit

coal tar *n* : tar obtained by distillation of bituminous coal and used esp. in making dyes and drugs

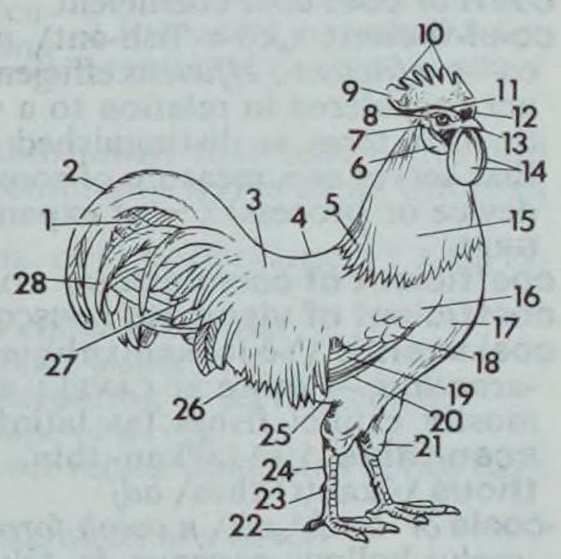
coam·ing \'kō-miŋ\ *n* [prob. irreg. fr. *comb*] : a raised frame (as around a hatchway in the deck of a ship) to keep out water
co·apt \kō-'apt\ *vt* [LL *coaptare*, fr. L *co-* + *aptus* fastened, fit — more at APT] : to fit together and make fast — **co·ap·ta·tion** \(,)kō-,ap-'tā-shən\ *n*
co·arc·tate \kō-'ärk-,tāt\ *adj* [L *coarctatus*, pp. of *coartare* to press together, fr. *co-* + *artus* narrow, confined; akin to L *artus* joint — more at ARTICLE] : CONSTRICTED; *specif* : enclosed in a rigid case ⟨~ insect pupae⟩ — **co·arc·ta·tion** \(,)kō-,ärk-'tā-shən\ *n*
coarse \'kō(ə)rs, 'kȯ(ə)rs\ *adj* **coars·er; coars·est** [ME *cors*, fr. *course*, n.] **1** : of ordinary or inferior quality or value : COMMON **2 a** (1) : composed of relatively large parts or particles ⟨~ sand⟩ (2) : loose or rough in texture ⟨~ cloth⟩ **b** : adjusted or designed for heavy, fast, or less delicate work ⟨a ~ saw with large teeth⟩ **c** : not precise or detailed with respect to adjustment or discrimination **3** : crude or unrefined in taste, manners, or language **4** : harsh, raucous, or rough in tone — **coarse·ly** *adv* — **coarse·ness** *n*
syn COARSE, VULGAR, GROSS, OBSCENE, RIBALD *shared meaning element* : offensive to good taste or moral principles ***ant*** fine, refined
coarse-grained \'kō(ə)rs-'grānd, 'kȯ(ə)rs-\ *adj* **1** : having a coarse grain **2** : CRUDE
coars·en \'kōrs-ᵊn, 'kȯrs-\ *vb* **coars·ened; coars·en·ing** \'kōrs-niŋ, 'kȯrs-, -ᵊn-iŋ\ *vt* : to make coarse ~ *vi* : to become coarse
¹coast \'kōst\ *n* [ME *cost*, fr. MF *coste*, fr. L *costa* rib, side; akin to OSlav *kostĭ* bone] **1** *obs* : BORDER, FRONTIER **2** : the land near a shore : SEASHORE **3 a** : a hill or slope suited to coasting **b** : a slide down a slope (as on a sled) **4** *often cap* : the Pacific coast of the U.S. — **coast·al** \'kōs-tᵊl\ *adj* — **coast·wise** \'kōs-,twīz\ *adv or adj*
²coast *vt* **1** *obs* : to move along or past the side of : SKIRT **2** : to sail along the shore of ~ *vi* **1 a** *archaic* : to travel on land along a coast or along or past the side of something **b** : to sail along the shore **2 a** : to slide, run, or glide downhill by the force of gravity **b** : to move along without or as if without further application of propulsive power (as by momentum or gravity) **c** : to proceed easily without special application of effort or concern
coast artillery *n* : artillery for defending a coast
coast·er \'kō-stər\ *n* **1** : one that coasts: as **a** : a person engaged in coastal traffic or commerce **b** : a ship sailing along a coast or engaged in trade between ports of the same country **2** : a resident of a seacoast **3 a** : a tray or decanter stand usu. of silver and sometimes on wheels that is used for circulating a decanter after a meal **b** : a shallow container or a plate or mat to protect a surface **4 a** : a small vehicle (as a sled or wagon) used in coasting **b** : ROLLER COASTER
coaster brake *n* : a brake in the hub of the rear wheel of a bicycle operated by reverse pressure on the pedals
coaster wagon *n* : a child's toy wagon often used for coasting
coast guard *n* **1** : a military or naval force employed in guarding a coast or responsible for the safety, order, and operation of maritime traffic in neighboring waters **2** *usu* **coast·guard** *chiefly Brit* : COASTGUARDSMAN
coast·guards·man \'kōs(t)-,gärdz-mən\ *or* **coast·guard·man** \-,gärd-mən\ *n* : a member of a coast guard
coast·land \-,land\ *n* : land bordering the sea
coast·line \'kōst-,līn\ *n* **1** : a line that forms the boundary between the land and the ocean or a lake **2** : the outline or shape of a coast
coast·ward \'kōs-twərd\ *or* **coast·wards** \-twərdz\ *adv* : toward the coast — **coastward** *adj*
¹coat \'kōt\ *n, often attrib* [ME *cote*, fr. OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *kozza* coarse mantle] **1 a** : an outer garment varying in length and style according to fashion and use **b** : something resembling a coat **2** : the external growth on an animal **3** : a layer of one substance covering another — **coat·ed** \-əd\ *adj*
²coat *vt* **1** : to cover with a coat **2** : to cover or spread with a finishing, protecting, or enclosing layer — **coat·er** *n*
coat·dress \'kōt-,dres\ *n* : a dress styled like a coat usu. with a front buttoning from neckline to hemline
coat hanger *n* : a slender arched device (as of wood, metal, or plastic) which is shaped typically somewhat like a person's shoulders and over which garments may be hung
co·ati \kə-'wät-ē, kwä-'tē\ *n* [Pg *coatí*, fr. Tupi] : a tropical American mammal (genus *Nasua*) related to the raccoon but with a longer body and tail and a long flexible snout



coati

co·ati·mun·di \kə-,wät-i-'mən-dē, ,kwät-, -'mün-\ *n* [Tupi] : COATI
coat·ing \'kōt-iŋ\ *n* **1** : COAT, COVERING **2** : cloth for coats
coat of arms [trans. of F *cotte d'armes*] **1** : a tabard or surcoat embroidered with armorial bearings **2 a** : the particular heraldic bearings (as of a person) usu. depicted on an escutcheon often with accompanying adjuncts (as a crest, motto, and supporters) **b** : a similar symbolic emblem
coat of mail : a garment of metal scales or chain mail worn as armor
coat·rack \'kōt-,rak\ *n* : a stand or rack fitted with pegs, hooks, or hangers and used for the temporary storage of garments
coat·room \-,rüm, -,rům\ *n* : CLOAKROOM
coat·tail \'kōt-,tāl\ *n* **1** : the rear flap of a man's coat **2** *pl* : the skirts of a dress coat, cutaway, or frock coat — **on one's coattails** : with the help of another; *esp* : with the benefit of another's political prestige ⟨congressmen riding into office *on the coattails* of the president⟩
coat tree *n* : CLOTHES TREE
¹co·au·thor \(')kō-'ȯ-thər\ *n* : a joint or associate author
²coauthor *vt* : to be coauthor of ⟨the two ~*ed* a novel⟩
coax \'kōks\ *vt* [earlier *cokes*, fr. *cokes*, n. (simpleton)] **1** *obs* : FONDLE, PET **2** : to influence or gently urge by caressing or flattering : WHEEDLE **3** : to draw, gain, or persuade by means of gentle urging or flattery ⟨~*ed* an answer out of her⟩ **4** : to manipulate with great perseverance and usu. with considerable effort toward a desired state or activity ⟨~ a fire to burn⟩
co·ax·i·al \(')kō-'ak-sē-əl\ *adj* **1** : having coincident axes **2** : mounted on concentric shafts — **co·ax·i·al·ly** \-sē-ə-lē\ *adv*
coaxial cable *n* : a transmission line that consists of a tube of electrically conducting material surrounding a central conductor held in place by insulators and that is used to transmit telegraph, telephone, and television signals of high frequency — called also *coaxial line*
¹cob \'käb\ *n* [ME *cobbe* leader; akin to OE *cot* cottage — more at COT] **1** : a male swan **2** *dial Eng* : a rounded mass, lump, or heap **3** : CORNCOB 1 **4** : a short-legged stocky horse usu. with an artificially high stylish action — **cob·by** \'käb-ē\ *adj*
²cob *n* [Sp *caba de barra*, lit., end of the bar] : a crudely struck old Spanish coin of irregular shape
³cob *n* [prob. fr. ¹*cob*] : a mixture that consists of unburned clay usu. with straw as a binder and that is used for constructing walls of small buildings
co·bal·a·min \kō-'bal-ə-mən\ *also* **co·bal·a·mine** \-,mēn\ *n* [*cobalt* + *vitamin*] : a member of the vitamin B_{12} group; *broadly* : the vitamin B_{12} group
co·balt \'kō-,bȯlt\ *n* [G *kobalt*, alter. of *kobold*, lit., goblin, fr. MHG *kobolt*; fr. its occurrence in silver ore, believed to be due to goblins] : a tough lustrous silver-white magnetic metallic element that is related to and occurs with iron and nickel and is used esp. in alloys — see ELEMENT table
cobalt blue *n* : a greenish blue pigment consisting essentially of cobalt oxide and alumina
co·bal·tic \kō-'bȯl-tik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing cobalt esp. with a valence of three
co·balt·ite \'kō-,bȯl-,tīt, kō-'\ *or* **co·balt·ine** \-,tēn\ *n* [*cobaltite*, alter. of *cobaltine*, fr. F, fr. *cobalt*] : a mineral consisting of a grayish to silver-white cobalt sulfarsenide CoAsS used in making smalt
co·bal·tous \kō-'bȯl-təs\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing cobalt esp. with a valence of two
cobalt 60 *n* : a heavy radioactive isotope of cobalt of the mass number 60 produced in nuclear reactors and used as a source of gamma rays (as for radiotherapy)
cob·ber \'käb-ər\ *n* [origin unknown] *Austral* : BUDDY
¹cob·ble \'käb-əl\ *vt* **cob·bled; cob·bling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *coblen*, perh. back-formation fr. *cobelere* cobbler] **1** *chiefly Brit* : to mend or patch coarsely **2** : REPAIR, MAKE ⟨*cobbled* shoes⟩ **3** : to make or put together roughly or hastily
²cobble *n* [back-formation fr. *cobblestone*] **1** : a naturally rounded stone larger than a pebble and smaller than a boulder; *esp* : such a stone used in paving a street or in construction **2** *pl, chiefly Brit* : lump coal about the size of small cobblestones
³cobble *vt* **cob·bled; cob·bling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ : to pave with cobblestones
cob·bler \'käb-lər\ *n* [ME *cobelere*] **1** : a mender or maker of shoes and often of other leather goods **2** *archaic* : a clumsy workman **3** : a tall iced drink consisting usu. of wine, rum, or whiskey, and sugar garnished with mint or a slice of lemon or orange **4** : a deep-dish fruit pie with a thick top crust
cob·ble·stone \'käb-əl-,stōn\ *n* [ME, fr. *cobble-* (prob. fr. *cob*) + *stone*] : ²COBBLE 1 — **cob·ble·stoned** \-,stōnd\ *adj*
co·bel·lig·er·ent \,kō-bə-'lij-(ə-)rənt\ *n* : a country fighting with another power against a common enemy — **cobelligerent** *adj*
co·bia \'kō-bē-ə\ *n* [origin unknown] : a large percoid fish (*Rachycentron canadum*) of warm seas that is a popular food and sport fish
co·ble \'kō-bəl\ *n* [ME] **1** *Scot* : a short flat-bottomed rowboat **2** : a flat-floored fishing boat with a rudder extending below the keel and a lugsail on a raking mast
cob·nut \'käb-,nət\ *n* : the fruit of a European hazel (*Corylus avellana grandis*); *also* : the plant bearing this fruit
CO·BOL *or* **Co·bol** \'kō-,bȯl\ *n* [*co*mmon *b*usiness *o*riented *l*anguage] : a standardized business language for programming a computer
co·bra \'kō-brə\ *n* [Pg *cobra* (*de capello*), lit., hooded snake, fr. L *colubra* snake] : any of several venomous Asiatic and African elapid snakes (genus *Naja*) that when excited expand the skin of the neck into a hood by movement of the anterior ribs; *also* : any of several related African snakes
cob·web \'käb-,web\ *n* [ME *coppeweb*, fr. *coppe* spider (fr. OE ātor-*coppe*) + *web*; akin to MD *coppe* spider] **1** : the network spread by a spider **2** : a single thread spun by a spider or insect larva **3** : something resembling a spider web ⟨filled with the ~*s* of bigotry, suspicion and restraint —Robert Smylie⟩ — **cob·webbed** \-,webd\ *adj* — **cob·web·by** \-,web-ē\ *adj*
co·ca \'kō-kə\ *n* [Sp, fr. Quechua *kúka*] **1** : any of several So. American shrubs (genus *Erythroxylon*, family Erythroxylaceae); *esp* : one (*E. coca*) with leaves resembling tea **2** : dried leaves of a coca (as *E. coca*) containing alkaloids including cocaine
co·caine \kō-'kān, 'kō-,\ *n* : a bitter crystalline alkaloid $C_{17}H_{21}NO_4$ that is obtained from coca leaves, is used as a local anesthetic, can result in psychological dependence, and in large doses produces intoxication like that from hemp
co·cain·ism \kō-'kā-,niz-əm\ *n* : habituation to cocaine
co·cain·ize \kō-'kā-,nīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to treat or anesthetize with cocaine
co·car·box·yl·ase \,kō-kär-'bäk-sə-,lās, -,lāz\ *n* [*co-* + *carboxylase*] : a coenzyme $C_{12}H_{19}ClN_4O_7P_2S{\cdot}H_2O$ that is a pyrophosphate of thiamine and is important in metabolic reactions (as decarboxylation in the Krebs cycle)
coc·cid \'käk-səd\ *n* [NL *Coccus*, genus of scales, fr. Gk *kokkos* grain, kermes] : SCALE INSECT, MEALYBUG

coc·cid·i·oi·do·my·co·sis \(ˌ)käk-ˌsid-ē-ˌȯid-ō-(ˌ)mī-ˈkō-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. *Coccidioides*, genus of fungi, (fr. *coccidium*) + *mycosis*] : a disease of man and lower animals caused by a fungus (*Coccidioides immitis*) and marked esp. by fever and localized pulmonary symptoms
coc·cid·i·o·sis \(ˌ)käk-ˌsid-ē-ˈō-səs\ *n, pl* **-oses** \-ˌsēz\ : infestation with or disease caused by coccidia
coc·cid·i·um \käk-ˈsid-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ia** \-ē-ə\ [NL, dim. of *coccus*] : any of an order (Coccidia) of protozoans usu. parasitic in the digestive epithelium of vertebrates
coc·coid \ˈkäk-ˌȯid\ *adj* : related to or resembling a coccus : GLOBOSE — **coccoid** *n*
coc·cus \ˈkäk-əs\ *n, pl* **coc·ci** \ˈkäk-ˌ(s)ī, ˈkäk-(ˌ)(s)ē\ [NL, fr. Gk *kokkos*] **1** : one of the separable carpels of a schizocarp **2** : a spherical bacterium — **coc·cal** \ˈkäk-əl\ *adj*
-coccus *n comb form, pl* **-cocci** [NL, fr. Gk *kokkos*] : berry-shaped organism ⟨Micro*coccus*⟩
coc·cy·geal \käk-ˈsij-(ē-)əl\ *adj* [ML *coccygeus* of the coccyx, fr. Gk *kokkyk-, kokkyx*] : of or relating to the coccyx
coc·cyx \ˈkäk-siks\ *n, pl* **coc·cy·ges** \ˈkäk-sə-ˌjēz\ *also* **coc·cyx·es** \ˈkäk-sik-səz\ [NL, fr. Gk *kokkyx* cuckoo, coccyx; fr. its resemblance to a cuckoo's beak] : the end of the vertebral column beyond the sacrum in man and tailless apes
co·chair \(ˈ)kō-ˈche(ə)r, -ˈcha(ə)r\ *vt* : to serve as cochairman of
co·chair·man \(ˈ)kō-ˈche(ə)r-mən, -ˈcha(ə)r-\ *n* : a joint chairman, vice-chairman, or assistant chairman
Co·chin Chi·na \ˌkō-chən-ˈchī-nə\ *n* [*Cochin China*, So. Vietnam] : any of an Asian breed of large domestic fowl with thick plumage, small wings and tail, and densely feathered legs and feet
co·chi·neal \ˈkäch-ə-ˌnēl, ˈkō-chə-\ *n* [MF & Sp; MF *cochenille*, fr. OSp *cochinilla* wood louse, cochineal] : a red dyestuff consisting of the dried bodies of female cochineal insects used esp. as a biological stain and as an indicator
cochineal insect *n* : a small bright red insect (*Dactylopius coccus*) that is related to and resembles the mealybug and feeds on cactus
co·chlea \ˈkō-klē-ə, ˈkäk-lē-\ *n pl* **co·chle·as** *or* **co·chle·ae** \-(k)lē-ˌē, -ˌī\ [NL, fr. L, snail, snail shell, fr. Gk *kochlias*, fr. *kochlos* land snail; akin to Gk *konchē* mussel] : a division of the labyrinth of the ear of higher vertebrates that is usu. coiled like a snail shell and is the seat of the hearing organ — see EAR illustration — **coch·le·ar** \-lē-ər\ *adj*
co·chle·ate \ˈkō-klē-ət, -ˌāt, ˈkäk-lē-\ *or* **co·chle·at·ed** \-ˌāt-əd\ *adj* : having the form of a snail shell
co·chro·ma·tog·ra·phy \ˌkō-ˌkrō-mə-ˈtäg-rə-fē\ *n* : chromatography of two or more samples together; *esp* : identification of an unknown substance by chromatographic comparison with a known substance
1cock \ˈkäk\ *n* [ME *cok*, fr. OE *cocc*, of imit. origin] **1 a** : the adult male of the domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) **b** : the male of birds other than the domestic fowl **c** : WOODCOCK **d** *archaic* : the crowing of a cock; *also* : COCKCROW **e** : WEATHERCOCK **2** : a device (as a faucet or valve) for regulating the flow of a liquid **3 a** : a chief person : LEADER **b** : a person of spirit and often of a certain swagger or arrogance **4 a** : the hammer in the lock of a firearm **b** : the cocked position of the hammer **5** : PENIS — usu. considered vulgar — **cock of the walk** : one that dominates a group or situation esp. overbearingly



cock 1a: *1* main tail, *2* sickle feathers, *3* saddle, *4* back, *5* cape, *6* ear lobe, *7* ear, *8* eye, *9* blade, *10* points, *11* base, *12* comb, *13* beak, *14* wattles, *15* hackle, *16* wing bow, *17* breast, *18* wing bar, *19* secondaries, *20* primaries, *21* hock, *22* claw, *23* spur, *24* shank, *25* fluff, *26* saddle feathers, *27* tail coverts, *28* lesser sickle feathers

2cock *vi* **1** : STRUT, SWAGGER **2** : to turn, tip, or stick up **3** : to position the hammer of a firearm for firing ~ *vt* **1 a** : to draw the hammer of (a firearm) back and set for firing; *also* : to set (the trigger) for firing **b** : to draw or bend back in preparation for throwing or hitting **c** : to set a mechanism (as a camera shutter) for tripping **2 a** : to set erect **b** : to turn, tip, or tilt usu. to one side **c** : to lift and place high ⟨sat down and ~*ed* his feet up on the desk⟩ **3** : to turn up (as a hat brim) — **cock a snook** *or* **cock snooks** \-ˈsnu̇k(s), -ˈsnu̇ks\ : to thumb the nose
3cock *n* : TILT, SLANT ⟨~ of the head⟩
4cock *n* [ME *cok*, of Scand origin] : a small pile (as of hay)
5cock *vt* : to put (as hay) into cocks
cock·ade \kä-ˈkād\ *n* [modif. of F *cocarde*, fr. fem. of *cocard* vain, fr. *coq* cock, fr. OF *coc*, of imit. origin] : a rosette or a similar ornament worn on the hat as a badge — **cock·ad·ed** \-ˈkād-əd\ *adj*
cock-a-hoop \ˌkäk-ə-ˈhüp, -ˈhu̇p\ *adj* [fr. the phrase *to set cock a hoop* to be festive] **1** : triumphantly boastful : EXULTING **2** : AWRY
Cock·aigne \kä-ˈkān\ *n* [ME *cokaygne*, fr. MF (*pais de*) *cocaigne* land of plenty] : an imaginary land of great luxury and ease
cock-a-leek·ie \ˌkäk-i-ˈlē-kē\ *n* [alter. of *cockie* (dim. of 1*cock*) + *leekie*, dim. of *leek*] : a soup made of chicken boiled with leeks
cock·a·lo·rum \ˌkäk-ə-ˈlōr-əm, -ˈlȯr-\ *n, pl* **-rums** [prob. modif. of obs. Flem *kockeloeren* to crow, of imit. origin] **1** : a self-important little man **2** : the game of leapfrog **3** : boastful talk
cock·a·ma·my *or* **cock·a·ma·mie** \ˌkäk-ə-ˈmā-mē\ *adj* [E dial. *cockamamy* decal, alter. of E *decalcomania*] : RIDICULOUS, INCREDIBLE ⟨of all the ~ excuses I ever heard —Leo Rosten⟩
cock-and-bull story \ˌkäk-ən-ˈbu̇l-\ *n* : an incredible story told as true
cock·a·tiel \ˌkäk-ə-ˈtē(ə)l\ *n* [D *kaketielje*, deriv. of Malay *kakatua*] : a small crested gray Australian parrot (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) with a yellow head
cock·a·too \ˈkäk-ə-ˌtü\ *n, pl* **-toos** [D *kaketoe*, fr. Malay *kakatua*, fr. *kakak* elder sibling + *tua* old] : any of numerous large noisy usu. showy and crested chiefly Australasian parrots (esp. genus *Kakatoe*)
cock·a·trice \ˈkäk-ə-trəs, -ˌtrīs\ *n* [ME *cocatrice*, fr. MF *cocatris* ichneumon, cockatrice, fr. ML *cocatric-, cocatrix* ichneumon] : a legendary serpent that is hatched by a reptile from a cock's egg and that has a deadly glance
cock·boat \ˈkäk-ˌbōt\ *n* : a small boat; *esp* : one used as a tender to a larger boat
cock·cha·fer \ˈkäk-ˌchā-fər\ *n* [1*cock* + *chafer*] : a large European beetle (*Melolontha melolontha*) destructive to vegetation as an adult and to roots as a larva; *also* : any of various related beetles
cock·crow \ˈkäk-ˌkrō\ *n* **1** : DAWN **2** : an utterance suggesting the triumphant crowing of a cock
cocked hat \ˈkäkt-\ *n* **1** : a hat with brim turned up to give a three-cornered appearance **2** : a hat with brim turned up on two sides and worn either front to back or sideways
1cock·er \ˈkäk-ər\ *vt* [ME *cokeren*] : INDULGE, PAMPER
2cocker *n* : a keeper or handler of fighting cocks
cock·er·el \ˈkäk-(ə-)rəl\ *n* [ME *cokerelle*, fr. OF dial. *kokerel*, dim. of OF *coc*] : a young male domestic fowl
cock·er spaniel \ˌkäk-ər-\ *n* [*cocking* (woodcock hunting)] : a small spaniel with long ears, square muzzle, and silky coat
cock·eye \ˈkäk-ˌī, -ˌī\ *n* : a squinting eye
cock·eyed \ˈkäk-ˈīd\ *adj* **1** : having a cockeye **2 a** : ASKEW, AWRY **b** : slightly crazy : TOPSY-TURVY ⟨a ~ scheme⟩ **c** : DRUNK — **cock·eyed·ly** \(ˈ)käk-ˈī(-ə)d-lē\ *adv* — **cock·eyed·ness** \-ˈīd-nəs\ *n*
cock·fight \ˈkäk-ˌfīt\ *n* : a contest of gamecocks usu. fitted with metal spurs — **cock·fight·ing** \-ˌfīt-iŋ\ *adj or n*
cockfight chair *n* [fr. its use for viewing sports] : READING CHAIR
cock·horse \ˈkäk-ˌhȯ(ə)rs\ *n* [perh. fr. *cock*, adj., (male) + *horse*] : ROCKING HORSE
1cock·le \ˈkäk-əl\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *coccel*] : any of several grainfield weeds; *esp* : CORN COCKLE
2cockle *n* [ME *cokille*, fr. MF *coquille* shell, modif. of L *conchylia*, pl. of *conchylium*, fr. Gk *konchylion*, fr. *konchē* conch] **1** : a bivalve mollusk (family Cardiidae) having a shell with convex radially ribbed valves; *esp* : a common edible European bivalve (*Cardium edule*) **2** : COCKLESHELL
3cockle *n* [MF *coquille*] : PUCKER, WRINKLE — **cockle** *vb*
cock·le·bur \ˈkäk-əl-ˌbər, ˈkək-\ *n* : any of a genus (*Xanthium*) of prickly-fruited composite plants; *also* : one of its stiff-spined fruits
cock·le·shell \ˈkäk-əl-ˌshel\ *n* **1 a** : the shell or one of the shell valves of a cockle **b** : a shell (as a scallop shell) suggesting a cockleshell **2** : a light flimsy boat


cockleshell 1a

cock·les of the heart \ˌkäk-əlz-\ [perh. fr. 2*cockle*] : the core of one's being — usu. used in the phrase *to warm the cockles of the heart*
cock·loft \ˈkäk-ˌlȯft\ *n* [prob. fr. 1*cock*] : a small garret
cock·ney \ˈkäk-nē\ *n, pl* **cockneys** [ME *cokeney*, lit., cocks' egg, fr. *coken* (gen. pl. of *cok* cock) + *ey* egg, fr. OE *æg*] **1** *obs* **a** : a spoiled child **b** : a squeamish woman **2 a** : a native of London and esp. of the East End of London **b** : the dialect of London or of the East End of London — **cockney** *adj* — **cock·ney·ish** \-ish\ *adj* — **cock·ney·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n*
cok·ney·fy \ˈkäk-ni-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** : to make cockney or similar to a cockney
cock·pit \ˈkäk-ˌpit\ *n* **1 a** : a pit or enclosure for cockfights **b** : a place noted for esp. bloody, violent, or long-continued conflict ⟨in the ~ of Southeast Asia —James Morris⟩ **2** *obs* : the pit of a theater **3 a** : an apartment of an old sailing warship used as quarters for junior officers and for treatment of the wounded in an engagement **b** : an open space aft of a decked area from which a small ship is steered **c** : a space in the fuselage of an airplane for the pilot or the pilot and passengers or in large passenger planes the pilot and crew — see AIRPLANE illustration **d** : the driver's compartment in an automobile
cock·roach \ˈkäk-ˌrōch\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. Sp *cucaracha* cockroach, irreg. fr. *cuca* caterpillar] : any of an order (Blattaria) of chiefly nocturnal insects including some that are domestic pests
cocks·comb \ˈkäk-ˌskōm\ *n* **1** : COXCOMB **2** : a garden plant (genus *Celosia*) of the amaranth family grown for its flowers
cocks·foot \-ˌfu̇t\ *n* : a tall hay and pasture grass (*Dactylis glomerata*) that grows in tufts with loose open panicles
cock·shut \ˈkäk-ˌshət\ *n* [fr. the time poultry are shut in to rest] *dial Eng* : evening twilight
cock·shy \-ˌshī\ *n, pl* **cockshies** [1*cock* + *shy*, n.] **1 a** : a throw at an object set up as a mark **b** : a mark or target so set up **2** : an object or person taken as a butt (as of constant criticism or ridicule)
cock·sure \ˈkäk-ˈshu̇(ə)r\ *adj* [prob. fr. 1*cock* + *sure*] **1** : feeling perfect assurance sometimes on inadequate grounds **2** : marked by overconfidence or presumptuousness : COCKY ***syn*** see SURE ***ant*** dubious, doubtful — **cock·sure·ly** *adv* — **cock·sure·ness** *n*
1cock·tail \ˈkäk-ˌtāl\ *n* [1*cock* + *tail*] **1** : a horse with its tail docked **2** : a horse not of pure breed
2cocktail *n* [prob. fr. 1*cock* + *tail*] **1 a** : an iced drink of distilled liquor mixed with flavoring ingredients **b** : something resembling or suggesting such a drink; *esp* : a mixture of diverse elements ⟨fog and smoke in equal parts — a city ~ familiar to all —*New Yorker*⟩ **2** : an appetizer (as tomato juice) served as a first course at a meal

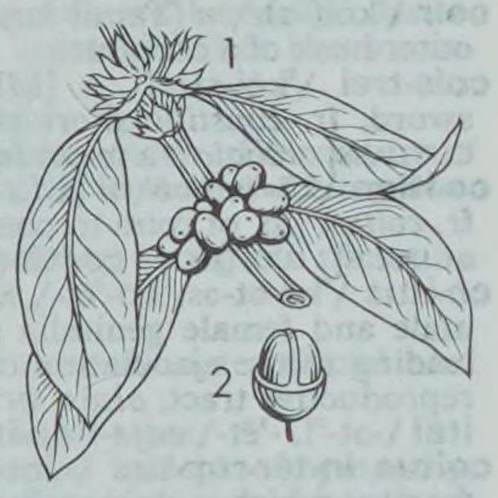
³cocktail *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or set aside for cocktails ⟨a ~ hour⟩ **2** : designed for semiformal wear ⟨~ dress⟩
cocktail glass *n* : a bell-shaped drinking glass usu. having a foot and stem and holding about three ounces
cocktail lounge *n* : a public room (as in a hotel, club, or restaurant) where cocktails and other drinks are served
cocktail party *n* : an informal or semiformal party or gathering at which cocktails are served
cocktail table *n* : COFFEE TABLE
cocky \'käk-ē\ *adj* **cock·i·er; -est** **1** : PERT, ARROGANT **2** : JAUNTY — **cock·i·ly** \'käk-ə-lē\ *adv* — **cock·i·ness** \'käk-ē-nəs\ *n*
¹co·co \'kō-(ˌ)kō\ *n, pl* **cocos** [Sp & Pg; Sp, fr. Pg *côco*, lit., bogeyman] : the coconut palm; *also* : its fruit
²coco *adj* : made from the fibrous husk of the coconut ⟨~ matting⟩
co·coa \'kō-(ˌ)kō\ *n* [modif. of Sp *cacao*] **1** : CACAO 1 **2 a** : chocolate deprived of a portion of its fat and pulverized **b** : a beverage prepared by heating powdered cocoa with water or milk
cocoa bean *n* : CACAO 2
cocoa butter *n* : a pale vegetable fat with a low melting point obtained from cacao beans
¹co·con·scious \(ˈ)kō-'kän-chəs\ *adj* **1** : experiencing or aware of the same things ⟨a ~ people⟩ **2** : of or relating to the coconscious
²coconscious *n* : mental processes outside the main stream of consciousness but sometimes available to it
co·con·scious·ness *n* : COCONSCIOUS
co·con·spir·a·tor \ˌkō-kən-'spir-ət-ər\ *n* : a fellow conspirator
co·co·nut \'kō-kə-(ˌ)nət\ *n* **1** : the drupaceous fruit of the coconut palm whose outer fibrous husk yields coir and whose nut contains thick edible meat and coconut milk **2** : the edible meat of the coconut
coconut crab *n* : PURSE CRAB
coconut oil *n* : a nearly colorless fatty oil or white semisolid fat extracted from fresh coconuts and used esp. in making soaps and food products
coconut palm *n* : a tall pinnate-leaved tropical palm (*Cocos nucifera*) prob. of American origin
¹co·coon \kə-'kün\ *n* [F *cocon*, fr. Prov *coucoun*, fr. *coco* shell, fr. L *coccum* excrescence on a tree, fr. Gk *kokkos* grain, seed, kermes] **1 a** : an envelope often largely of silk which an insect larva forms about itself and in which it passes the pupa stage — see SILKWORM illustration **b** : any of various other protective coverings produced by animals **2 a** : a covering suggesting a cocoon **b** : a protective covering placed or sprayed over military or naval equipment in storage
²cocoon *vt* : to wrap or envelop esp. tightly in or as if in a cocoon
co·cotte \kȯ-kȯt\ *n, pl* **cocottes** \-kȯt(s)\ [F] : PROSTITUTE
coc·o·zel·le \ˌkäk-ə-'zel-ē\ *n* [prob. deriv. of It *cocuzza* squash] : a summer squash resembling the zucchini
co·cur·ric·u·lar \ˌkō-kə-'rik-yə-lər\ *adj* : being outside of but usu. complementing the regular curriculum
¹cod \'käd\ *n, pl* **cod** *also* **cods** [ME] **1 a** : a soft-finned fish (*Gadus morrhua*) of the colder parts of the No. Atlantic that is a major food fish **b** : a fish of the cod family (Gadidae); *esp* : a Pacific fish (*Gadus macrocephalus*) closely related to the Atlantic cod **2** : any of various spiny-finned fishes resembling the true cods
²cod *abbr* codex
COD *abbr* **1** cash on delivery **2** collect on delivery
co·da \'kōd-ə\ *n* [It, lit., tail, fr. L *cauda*] **1 a** : a concluding musical section that is formally distinct from the main structure **b** : a concluding part of a literary or dramatic work **2** : something that serves to round out, conclude, or summarize and that has an interest of its own
cod·dle \'käd-ᵊl\ *vt* **cod·dled; cod·dling** \'käd-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ [perh. fr. *caudle*] **1** : to cook (as eggs) in liquid slowly and gently just below the boiling point **2** : to treat with extreme care : PAMPER — **cod·dler** \'käd-lər, -ᵊl-ər\ *n*
¹code \'kōd\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *caudex, codex* trunk of a tree, tablet of wood covered with wax for writing on, book; akin to L *cudere* to beat — more at HEW] **1** : a systematic statement of a body of law; *esp* : one given statutory force **2** : a system of principles or rules ⟨moral ~⟩ **3 a** : a system of signals for communication **b** : a system of symbols (as letters, numbers, or words) used to represent assigned and often secret meanings **4** : GENETIC CODE — **code·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
²code *vt* **cod·ed; cod·ing** : to put in or into the form or symbols of a code — **cod·able** \'kōd-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **cod·er** *n*
code book *n* : a book containing an alphabetical list of words or expressions with their code group equivalents for use in secret communications
co·dec·li·na·tion \(ˌ)kō-ˌdek-lə-'nā-shən\ *n* : the complement of the declination
co·de·fen·dant \ˌkō-di-'fen-dənt\ *n* : a joint defendant
code group *n* : one of the constituent groups of letters or numbers in an encoded text
co·deine \'kō-ˌdēn, 'kōd-ē-ən\ *n* [F *codéine*, fr. Gk *kōdeia* poppyhead, fr. *kōos* cavity; akin to Gk *koilos* hollow] : a morphine derivative $C_{18}H_{21}NO_3.H_2O$ that is found in opium, is weaker in action than morphine, and is used esp. in cough remedies
co·den \'kō-ˌden\ *n* [irreg. fr. ¹*code*] : a code classification assigned to a library item (as a book, document, or periodical)
code name *n* : a word made to serve as a code designation
co·de·ter·mi·na·tion \ˌkō-di-ˌtər-mə-'nā-shən\ *n* : the participation of labor with management in the determination of business policy
code word *n* **1** : CODE NAME **2** : CODE GROUP
co·dex \'kō-ˌdeks\ *n, pl* **co·di·ces** \kōd-ə-ˌsēz, 'käd-\ [L] : a manuscript book esp. of Scripture, classics, or ancient annals
cod·fish \'käd-ˌfish\ *n* : COD; *also* : its flesh used as food
cod·ger \'käj-ər\ *n* [prob. alter. of *cadger*] : a mildly eccentric or disreputable fellow
cod·i·cil \'käd-ə-səl, -ˌsil\ *n* [MF *codicille*, fr. L *codicillus*, dim. of *codic-, codex* book] **1** : a legal instrument made subsequently to a will and modifying it **2** : APPENDIX, SUPPLEMENT — **cod·i·cil·la·ry** \ˌkäd-ə-'sil-ə-rē\ *adj*
cod·i·fy \'käd-ə-ˌfī, 'kōd-\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** **1** : to reduce to a code **2 a** : SYSTEMATIZE **b** : CLASSIFY — **cod·i·fi·abil·i·ty** \ˌkäd-ə-ˌfī-ə-ˌbil-ət-ē, ˌkōd-\ *n* — **cod·i·fi·ca·tion** \-fə-'kā-shən\ *n*
¹cod·ling \'käd-liŋ\ *n* **1** : a young cod **2** : any of several hakes (esp. genus *Urophycis*)
²cod·ling \'käd-liŋ\ *or* **cod·lin** \-lən\ *n* [alter. of ME *querdlyng*] : a small immature apple; *also* : any of several elongated greenish English cooking apples
codling moth *n* : a small moth (*Laspeyresia pomonella*) whose larva lives in apples, pears, quinces, and English walnuts
cod–liver oil *n* : an oil obtained from the liver of the cod and closely related fishes and used as a source of vitamins A and D
co·dom·i·nant \(ˈ)kō-'däm-ə-nənt\ *adj* **1 a** : forming part of the main canopy of a forest ⟨~ trees⟩ **b** : sharing in the controlling influence of a biotic community **2** : being fully expressed in the heterozygous condition ⟨two ~ alleles⟩ — **codominant** *n*
co·don \'kō-ˌdän\ *n* [¹*code* + ²*-on*] : a triplet of nucleotides that is part of the genetic code and that specifies a particular amino acid in a protein or starts or stops protein synthesis
cod·piece \'käd-ˌpēs\ *n* [ME *codpese*, fr. *cod* bag, scrotum (fr. OE *codd*) + *pese* piece] : a flap or bag concealing an opening in the front of men's breeches esp. in the 15th and 16th centuries



/ codpiece

cods·wal·lop \'kädz-ˌwäl-əp\ *n* [origin unknown] *Brit* : NONSENSE
¹co·ed \'kō-ˌed\ *n* [short for *coeducational student*] : a female student in a coeducational institution
²coed *adj* **1** : COEDUCATIONAL **2** : of or relating to a coed **3** : open to both men and women
co–edi·tion \ˌkō-ə-'dish-ən\ *n* : an edition of a book published simultaneously by more than one publisher usu. in different countries and in different languages
co·ed·i·tor \(ˈ)kō-'ed-ət-ər\ *n* : one who collaborates with another in editing a newspaper, magazine, or book
co·ed·u·ca·tion \(ˌ)kō-ˌej-ə-'kā-shən\ *n* : the education of students of both sexes at the same institution
co·ed·u·ca·tion·al \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* : of or relating to coeducation — **co·ed·u·ca·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
coeff *or* **coef** *abbr* coefficient
co·ef·fi·cient \ˌkō-ə-'fish-ənt\ *n* [NL *coefficient-, coefficiens*, fr. L *co-* + *efficient-, efficiens* efficient] **1** : any of the factors of a product considered in relation to a specific factor; *esp* : a constant factor of a term as distinguished from a variable **2 a** : a number that serves as a measure of some property or characteristic (as of a device or process) ⟨~ of expansion of a metal⟩ **b** : MEASURE, DEGREE
coefficient of correlation : CORRELATION COEFFICIENT
coefficient of viscosity : VISCOSITY 3
coel·acanth \'sē-lə-ˌkan(t)th\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *koilos* hollow + NL *-acanthus* — more at CAVE] : any of a family (Coelacanthidae) of mostly extinct fishes (as latimeria) — **coelacanth** *adj* — **coel·acan·thine** \ˌsē-lə-'kan-ˌthīn, -'kan(t)-thən\ *adj* — **coel·acanthous** \-'kan(t)-thəs\ *adj*
-coele *or* **-coel** \ˌsēl\ *n comb form* [prob. fr. NL *-coela*, fr. neut. pl. of *-coelus* hollow, concave, fr. Gk *-koilos*, fr. *koilos*] : cavity : chamber : ventricle ⟨blasto*coel*⟩ ⟨entero*coele*⟩
coel·en·ter·ate \si-'lent-ə-ˌrāt, -rət\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *koilos* + *enteron* intestine — more at INTER-] : any of a phylum (Coelenterata) of basically radially symmetrical invertebrate animals including the corals, sea anemones, jellyfishes, and hydroids — **coelenterate** *adj*
coel·en·ter·on \-ˌrän, -rən\ *n, pl* **-ter·a** \-rə\ [NL, fr. Gk *koilos* + *enteron*] : the internal cavity of a coelenterate
coe·li·ac \'sē-lē-ˌak\ *var of* CELIAC
coe·lom \'sē-ləm\ *n, pl* **coeloms** *or* **coe·lo·ma·ta** \si-'lō-mət-ə\ [G, fr. Gk *koilōma* cavity, fr. *koilos*] : the usu. epithelium-lined space between the body wall and the digestive tract of metazoans above the lower worms — **coe·lo·mate** \'sē-lə-ˌmāt\ *adj or n* — **coe·lomic** \si-'läm-ik, -'lō-mik\ *adj*
coen- *or* **coeno-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *koin-, koino-*, fr. *koinos* — more at CO-] : common : general ⟨*coeno*cyte⟩
coe·no·bite \'sē-nə-ˌbīt\ *var of* CENOBITE
coe·no·cyte \'sē-nə-ˌsīt\ *n* [ISV] **1 a** : a multinucleate mass of protoplasm resulting from repeated nuclear division unaccompanied by cell fission **b** : an organism consisting of such a structure **2** : SYNCYTIUM 1 — **coe·no·cyt·ic** \ˌsē-nə-'sit-ik\ *adj*
coe·no·ge·net·ic \ˌsē-nə-jə-'net-ik\ *var of* CENOGENETIC
coe·nu·rus \si-'n(y)u̇r-əs\ *n, pl* **-nu·ri** \-'n(y)u̇(ə)r-ˌī\ [NL, fr. *coen-* + Gk *oura* tail] : a complex tapeworm larva consisting of a sac from the inner wall of which numerous scolices develop
co·en·zyme \(ˈ)kō-'en-ˌzīm\ *n* : a thermostable nonprotein compound that forms the active portion of an enzyme system after combination with an apoenzyme — **co·en·zy·mat·ic** \(ˌ)kō-ˌen-zə-'mat-ik, -(ˌ)zī-\ *adj* — **co·en·zy·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
coenzyme A *n* : a coenzyme $C_{21}H_{36}N_7O_{16}P_3S$ that occurs in all living cells and is essential to the metabolism of carbohydrates, fats, and some amino acids — compare ACETYL COENZYME A
coenzyme Q *n* : UBIQUINONE
co·equal \(ˈ)kō-'ē-kwəl\ *adj* : equal with one another — **co·equal·i·ty** \ˌkō-ē-'kwäl-ət-ē\ *n* — **co·equal·ly** \(ˈ)kō-'ē-kwə-lē\ *adv*
co·erce \kō-'ərs\ *vt* **co·erced; co·erc·ing** [L *coercēre*, fr. *co-* + *arcēre* to shut up, enclose — more at ARK] **1** : to restrain or dominate by nullifying individual will **2** : to compel to an act or choice ⟨they could ~ the citizens by threats but not persuade their agreement⟩ **3** : to enforce or bring about by force or threat ***syn*** see FORCE — **co·erc·ible** \-'ər-sə-bəl\ *adj*

co·er·cion \-'ər-zhən, -shən\ *n* : the act, process, or power of coercing
co·er·cive \-'ər-siv\ *adj* : serving or intended to coerce — **co·er·cive·ly** *adv* — **co·er·cive·ness** *n*
coercive force *n* : the opposing magnetic intensity that must be applied to a magnetized material to remove the residual magnetism
co·er·civ·i·ty \ˌkō-ˌər-'siv-ət-ē\ *n* : the property of a material determined by the value of the coercive force when the material has been magnetized to saturation
co·eta·ne·ous \ˌkō-ə-'tā-nē-əs\ *adj* [L *coaetaneus*, fr. *co-* + *aetas* age — more at AGE] : COEVAL
co·eter·nal \ˌkō-i-'tərn-ᵊl\ *adj* : equally or jointly eternal — **co·eter·nal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **co·eter·ni·ty** \-'tər-nət-ē\ *n*
co·eval \kō-'ē-vəl\ *adj* [L *coaevus*, fr. *co-* + *aevum* age, lifetime — more at AGE] : of the same or equal age, antiquity, or duration ***syn*** see CONTEMPORARY — **coeval** *n* — **co·eval·i·ty** \ˌkō-(ˌ)ē-'val-ət-ē\ *n*
co·ex·ist \ˌkō-ig-'zist\ *vi* **1** : to exist together or at the same time **2** : to live in peace with each other esp. as a matter of policy — **co·ex·is·tence** \-'zis-tən(t)s\ *n* — **co·ex·is·tent** \-tənt\ *adj*
co·ex·ten·sive \ˌkō-ik-'sten(t)-siv\ *adj* : having the same spatial or temporal scope or boundaries — **co·ex·ten·sive·ly** *adv*
co·fac·tor \'kō-ˌfak-tər\ *n* **1** : the signed minor of an element of a square matrix or of a determinant with the sign positive if the sum of the column number and row number of the element is even and with the sign negative if it is odd **2** : a substance that acts with another substance to bring about certain effects; *esp* : COENZYME
C of C *abbr* Chamber of Commerce
co·fea·ture \'kō-ˌfē-chər\ *n* : a feature (as in an entertainment) accompanying a main attraction
cof·fee \'kȯ-fē, 'käf-ē\ *n, often attrib* [It & Turk; It *caffè*, fr. Turk *kahve*, fr. Ar *qaḥwa*] **1 a** : a drink made by percolation, infusion, or decoction from the roasted and ground or pounded seeds of a coffee tree; *also* : these seeds either green or roasted **b** : COFFEE TREE 1 **2** : a cup of coffee ⟨two ~*s*⟩ **3** : COFFEE HOUR



coffee: *1* flowering and fruiting branch with leaves, *2* fruit with pericarp partly removed to show seeds

coffee break *n* : a short rest period (as in mid-morning or mid-afternoon) during which refreshments are often consumed
coffee cake *n* : a sweet rich bread often with added fruit, nuts, and spices that is sometimes glazed after baking
coffee hour *n* **1** : a usu. fixed occasion of informal meeting and chatting at which refreshments are served **2** : COFFEE BREAK
cof·fee·house \-ˌhau̇s\ *n* : an establishment that sells coffee and usu. other refreshments and that commonly serves as an informal club for its habitués
coffee klatch \-ˌklach\ *n* [part trans. of G *kaffeeklatsch*] : KAFFEEKLATSCH
coffee maker *n* : a utensil in which coffee is brewed
coffee mill *n* : a mill for grinding coffee beans
cof·fee·pot \-ˌpät\ *n* : a utensil for preparing or serving coffee
coffee ring *n* : coffee cake in the shape of a ring
coffee roll *n* : a roll made from sweet raised dough (as coffee cake dough)
coffee room *n* : a room where refreshments are served
coffee royal *n* : a drink of black coffee and a liquor (as brandy or rum) often sweetened with sugar
coffee service *n* : a usu. sterling silver or silverplate service consisting of coffeepot, sugar bowl, creamer, and tray
coffee set *n* **1** : COFFEE SERVICE **2** : a set of porcelain or pottery for the serving of coffee consisting typically of coffeepot, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, and matching cups and saucers
coffee shop *n* : a small restaurant
coffee table *n* : a low table customarily placed in front of a sofa — called also *cocktail table*
coffee–table book *n* : an expensive, lavishly illustrated, and oversize book suitable for display on a coffee table — called also *coffee-tabler*
coffee tree *n* **1 a** : a large evergreen shrub or small tree (*Coffea arabica*) of the madder family that is native to Africa but is now widely cultivated in warm regions for its seeds which form most of the coffee of commerce — called also *Arabian coffee* **b** : a tree (genus *Coffea*) related to the coffee tree **2** : KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE
¹cof·fer \'kȯ-fər, 'käf-ər\ *n* [ME *coffre*, fr. OF, fr. L *cophinus* basket, fr. Gk *kophinos*] **1** : CHEST, BOX; *esp* : STRONGBOX **2** : TREASURY, EXCHEQUER — usu. used in pl. **3** : the chamber of a canal lock **4** : a recessed panel in a vault, ceiling, or soffit
²coffer *vt* **1** : to store or hoard up in a coffer **2** : to form (as a ceiling) with recessed panels
cof·fer·dam \-ˌdam\ *n* **1** : a watertight enclosure from which water is pumped to expose the bottom of a body of water and permit construction (as of a pier) **2** : a watertight structure for making repairs below the waterline of a ship
¹cof·fin \'kȯ-fən\ *n* [ME, basket, receptacle, fr. MF *cofin*, fr. L *cophinus*] **1** : a box or chest for burying a corpse **2** : the horny body forming the hoof of a horse's foot
²coffin *vt* : to enclose in or as if in a coffin
coffin bone *n* : the bone enclosed within the hoof of the horse
coffin corner *n* : one of the corners formed by a goal line and a sideline on a football field into which a punt is often aimed so that it may go out of bounds close to the defender's goal line
coffin nail *n, slang* : CIGARETTE
cof·fle \'kȯ-fəl, 'käf-əl\ *n* [Ar *qāfila* caravan] : a train of slaves or animals fastened together
C of S *abbr* chief of staff
co·func·tion \(')kō-'fəŋ(k)-shən\ *n* : a trigonometric function whose value for the complement of an angle is equal to the value of a given trigonometric function for the angle itself ⟨the sine is the ~ of the cosine⟩
¹cog \'käg\ *n* [ME *cogge*, of Scand origin; akin to Norw *kug* cog; akin to OE *cycgel* cudgel] **1** : a tooth on the rim of a wheel or gear **2** : a necessary but subordinate person or part — **cogged** \'kägd\ *adj*
²cog *vb* **cogged; cog·ging** [*cog* (a trick)] *vi* **1** *obs* : to cheat in throwing dice **2** *obs* : DECEIVE **3** *obs* : to use venal flattery ~ *vt* **1** : to direct the fall of (dice) fraudulently **2** *obs* : WHEEDLE
³cog *vt* **cogged; cog·ging** [prob. alter. of *cock* (cog)] : to connect (as timbers or joists) by means of tenons
⁴cog *n* : a tenon on a beam or timber received into a mortise in another beam to secure the two together
⁵cog *abbr* cognate
co·gen·cy \'kō-jən-sē\ *n* : the quality or state of being cogent
co·gent \'kō-jənt\ *adj* [L *cogent-, cogens*, prp. of *cogere* to drive together, collect, fr. *co-* + *agere* to drive — more at AGENT] **1** : having power to compel or constrain ⟨~ forces of nature⟩ **2 a** : appealing forcibly to the mind or reason : CONVINCING ⟨~ evidence⟩ **b** : presented in a way that brings out pertinent and fundamental points ⟨a ~ analysis of a problem⟩ ***syn*** see VALID — **co·gent·ly** *adv*
cog·i·ta·ble \'käj-ət-ə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being brought before the mind as a thought or idea : THINKABLE
cog·i·tate \'käj-ə-ˌtāt\ *vb* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [L *cogitatus*, pp. of *cogitare* to think, think about, fr. *co-* + *agitare* to drive, agitate — more at AGITATE] *vt* **1** : to ponder or meditate on usu. with intentness and objectivity **2** : PLAN, PLOT ~ *vi* : to think deeply : PONDER ***syn*** see THINK
cog·i·ta·tion \ˌkäj-ə-'tā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the act of cogitating : MEDITATION **b** : the capacity to think or reflect **2** : THOUGHT
cog·i·ta·tive \'käj-ə-ˌtāt-iv\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to cogitation **2** : capable of or given to cogitation
co·gi·to \'kō-gi-ˌtō\ *n* [NL *cogito, ergo sum* I think, therefore I am, principle stated by René Descartes] **1** : the philosophic principle that one's existence is demonstrated by the fact that one thinks **2** : the intellectual processes of the self or ego
co·gnac \'kōn-ˌyak\ *n* [F, fr. *Cognac*, France] **1** : a brandy from the departments of Charente and Charente-Maritime distilled from white wine **2** : a French brandy
¹cog·nate \'käg-ˌnāt\ *adj* [L *cognatus*, fr. *co-* + *gnatus, natus*, pp. of *nasci* to be born; akin to L *gignere* to beget — more at KIN] **1 a** : related by blood **b** : related on the mother's side **2 a** : related by descent from the same ancestral language **b** *of a word or morpheme* : related by derivation, borrowing, or descent **c** *of a substantive* : related usu. in derivation to the verb of which it is the object **3** : of the same or similar nature : generically alike ***syn*** see RELATED — **cog·nate·ly** *adv*
²cognate *n* : one that is cognate with another
cog·na·tion \käg-'nā-shən\ *n* : cognate relationship
cog·ni·tion \käg-'nish-ən\ *n* [ME *cognicioun*, fr. L *cognition-, cognitio*, fr. *cognitus*, pp. of *cognoscere* to become acquainted with, know, fr. *co-* + *gnoscere* to come to know — more at KNOW] : the act or process of knowing including both awareness and judgment; *also* : a product of this act — **cog·ni·tion·al** \-'nish-nəl, -'nish-ənᵊl\ *adj*
cog·ni·tive \'käg-nət-iv\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or involving cognition ⟨the ~ elements of perception —C. H. Hamburg⟩ **2** : based on or capable of being reduced to empirical factual knowledge — **cog·ni·tive·ly** *adv* — **cog·ni·tiv·i·ty** \ˌkäg-nə-'tiv-ət-ē\ *n*
cognitive dissonance *n* : psychological conflict resulting from incongruous beliefs and attitudes held simultaneously
cog·ni·za·ble \'käg-nə-zə-bəl, käg-'nī-\ *adj* **1** : capable of being known **2** : capable of being judicially heard and determined — **cog·ni·za·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
cog·ni·zance \'käg-nə-zən(t)s\ *n* [ME *conisaunce*, fr. OF *conoissance*, fr. *conoistre* to know, fr. L *cognoscere*] **1** : a distinguishing mark or emblem (as a heraldic bearing) **2 a** : SURVEILLANCE, CONTROL **b** : APPREHENSION, PERCEPTION **c** : range of apprehension **d** : NOTICE, OBSERVANCE **3 a** : the right and power to hear and decide controversies : JURISDICTION **b** : the judicial hearing of a matter
cog·ni·zant \-zənt\ *adj* : having cognizance; *esp* : having special or certain knowledge often from firsthand sources ***syn*** see AWARE ***ant*** ignorant
cog·nize \käg-'nīz\ *vt* **cog·nized; cog·niz·ing** [back-formation fr. *cognizance*] : KNOW — **cog·niz·er** *n*
cog·no·men \käg-'nō-mən, 'käg-nə-\ *n, pl* **cognomens** *or* **cog·no·mi·na** \käg-'näm-ə-nə, -'nō-mə-\ [L, irreg. fr. *co-* + *nomen* name — more at NAME] **1** : SURNAME; *esp* : the third of usu. three names of a person among the ancient Romans **2** : NAME; *esp* : a distinguishing nickname or epithet — **cog·nom·i·nal** \käg-'näm-ənᵊl\ *adj*
co·gno·scen·te \ˌkän-(y)ə-'shent-ē, ˌkäg-nə-\ *n, pl* **-scen·ti** \-ē\ [obs. It (now *conoscente*), fr. *cognoscente*, adj., wise, fr. L *cognoscent-, cognoscens*, prp. of *cognoscere*] : a person having or claiming expert knowledge (as of fine arts or fashion) : CONNOISSEUR
cog·nos·ci·ble \käg-'näs-ə-bəl\ *adj* [LL *cognoscibilis*, fr. L *cognoscere*] : COGNIZABLE, KNOWABLE
co·gon \kō-'gōn\ *n* [Sp *cogón*, fr. Tag, Bisayan, & Bikol *kugon*] : any of several coarse tall grasses (genus *Imperata*) used esp. in the Philippines for thatching
cog railway *n* : a steep mountain railroad that has a rail with cogs which engages a cogwheel on the locomotive to ensure traction

cogs·well chair \ˌkägz-ˌwel-, -wəl-\ *n, often cap 1st C* [fr. the name *Cogswell*] : an upholstered easy chair with inclined back, thin open arms, and cabriole legs
cog·wheel \ˈkäg-ˌhwēl, -ˌwēl\ *n* : a wheel with cogs or teeth
co·hab·it \kō-ˈhab-ət\ *vi* [LL *cohabitare*, fr. L *co-* + *habitare* to inhabit, fr. *habitus*, pp. of *habēre* to have] **1** : to live together as husband and wife **2 a** : to live together or in company ⟨buffaloes ~*ing* with crossbred cows —*Biol. Abstracts*⟩ **b** : to exist together ⟨two strains in his philosophy . . . ~ in each of his major works —Justus Buchler⟩ — **co·hab·i·tant** \-ət-ənt\ *n* — **co·hab·i·ta·tion** \(ˌ)kō-ˌhab-ə-ˈtā-shən\ *n*
co·heir \(ˈ)kō-ˈa(ə)r, -ˈe(ə)r\ *n* : a joint heir
co·heir·ess \-əs\ *n* : a joint heiress
co·here \kō-ˈhi(ə)r\ *vb* **co·hered; co·her·ing** [L *cohaerēre*, fr. *co-* + *haerēre* to stick — more at HESITATE] *vi* **1 a** : to hold together firmly as parts of the same mass; *broadly* : STICK, ADHERE **b** : to display cohesion of plant parts **2** : to consist of parts that cohere **3 a** : to become united in principles, relationships, or interests **b** : to be logically or aesthetically consistent ~ *vt* : to make (parts or components) fit or stick together in a suitable or orderly way ***syn*** see STICK
co·her·ence \-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of cohering; *esp* : systematic connection esp. in logical discourse **2** : the property of being coherent
co·her·en·cy \kō-ˈhir-ən-sē, -ˈher-\ *n, pl* **-cies** : COHERENCE
co·her·ent \-ənt\ *adj* [MF or L; MF *cohérent*, fr. L *cohaerent-, cohaerens*, prp. of *cohaerēre*] **1** : having the quality of cohering **2** : logically consistent ⟨a ~ argument⟩ **3** : relating to electromagnetic waves that have a definite relationship to each other: as **a** : composed of wave trains in phase with each other ⟨~ light⟩ **b** : producing coherent light ⟨a ~ source⟩ — **co·her·ent·ly** *adv*
co·her·er \kō-ˈhir-ər\ *n* : a radio detector in which an imperfectly conducting contact between pieces of conductive material loosely resting against each other is materially improved in conductance by the passage of high-frequency current
co·he·sion \kō-ˈhē-zhən\ *n* [L *cohaesus*, pp. of *cohaerēre*] **1** : the act or process of sticking together tightly ⟨social and economic ~ . . . in a small city —J. B. Conant⟩ **2** : union between similar plant parts or organs **3** : molecular attraction by which the particles of a body are united throughout the mass — **co·he·sion·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
co·he·sive \kō-ˈhē-siv, -ziv\ *adj* : exhibiting or producing cohesion or coherence ⟨a ~ social unit⟩ ⟨~ soils⟩ — **co·he·sive·ly** *adv* — **co·he·sive·ness** *n*
co·ho \ˈkō-(ˌ)hō\ *n, pl* **cohos** *or* **coho** [origin unknown] : a rather small salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) with light-colored flesh that is native to both coasts of the No. Pacific and is stocked in the Great Lakes
co·hort \ˈkō-ˌhȯ(ə)rt\ *n* [MF & L; MF *cohorte*, fr. L *cohort-, cohors* — more at COURT] **1 a** : one of 10 divisions of an ancient Roman legion **b** : a group of warriors or soldiers **c** : BAND, GROUP **d** : a group of individuals having a statistical factor (as age or class membership) in common in a demographic study ⟨a ~ of premedical students⟩ **2 a** : COMPANION, ACCOMPLICE **b** : FOLLOWER, SUPPORTER
co·hosh \ˈkō-ˌhäsh\ *n* [of Algonquian origin; akin to Natick *kôshki* it is rough] : any of several American medicinal or poisonous plants: **a** : BLACK COHOSH **b** : BLUE COHOSH **c** : BANEBERRY
co·iden·ti·ty \ˌkō-ī-ˈden(t)-ət-ē, ˌkō-ə-ˈden(t)-\ *n* : identity between two or more things
¹coif \ˈkȯif, *in sense 2 usu* ˈkwäf\ *n* [ME *coife*, fr. MF, fr. LL *cofea*] **1** : a close-fitting cap: as **a** : a hoodlike cap worn by nuns under a veil **b** : a protective usu. metal skullcap formerly worn under a hood of mail **c** : a white cap formerly worn by English lawyers and esp. by serjeants-at-law; *also* : the order or rank of a serjeant-at-law **2** : COIFFURE
²coif *vt* **coiffed; coif·fing** **1** : to cover or dress with or as if with a coif **2** : to arrange (hair) by brushing, combing, or curling
coif·feur \kwä-ˈfər\ *n* [F, fr. *coiffer*] : a male hairdresser
coif·feuse \kwä-ˈfə(r)z, -ˈf(y)üz\ *n* [F, fem. of *coiffeur*] : a female hairdresser
coif·fure \kwä-ˈfyu̇(ə)r\ *n* [F, fr. *coiffer* to cover with a coif, arrange (hair), fr. *coife*] : a style or manner of arranging the hair
coiffured *adj* **1** : being dressed ⟨beautifully ~ hair⟩ **2** : having the hair brushed, combed, and curled ⟨stylishly ~ women⟩
coign of van·tage \ˌkȯi-nə-ˈvant-ij\ [*coign*, earlier spelling of ¹*coin* (corner)] : an advantageous position
¹coil \ˈkȯi(ə)l\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : TURMOIL **2** : TROUBLE
²coil *vb* [MF *coillir, cuillir* to gather — more at CULL] *vt* **1** : to wind into rings or spirals **2** : to roll or twist into a shape resembling a coil ~ *vi* **1** : to move in a circular or spiral course **2** : to form or lie in a coil — **coil·abil·i·ty** \ˌkȯi-lə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n*
³coil *n* **1 a** (1) : a series of loops (2) : SPIRAL **b** : a single loop of such a coil **2** : a number of turns of wire esp. in spiral form usu. for electromagnetic effect or for providing electrical resistance **3** : a series of connected pipes in rows, layers, or windings **4** : a roll of postage stamps; *also* : a stamp from such a roll
¹coin \ˈkȯin\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, wedge, corner, fr. L *cuneus* wedge] **1** *archaic* **a** : CORNER, CORNERSTONE **b** : WEDGE **2 a** : a usu. flat round piece of metal issued by governmental authority as money **b** : metal money **c** : something resembling a coin esp. in shape **3** : something accepted as having value or validity ⟨perhaps wisecracks . . . are respectable literary ~ in the U.S. —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ **4** : something having two different and usu. opposing sides **5** : MONEY ⟨I'm in it for the ~ —Sinclair Lewis⟩
²coin *vt* **1 a** : to make (a coin) esp. by stamping : MINT **b** : to convert (metal) into coins **c** : to shape (a piece of metal) in a mold or die **2** : CREATE, INVENT ⟨~ a phrase⟩ **3** : to make or earn (money) rapidly and in large quantity — **coin·er** *n*
³coin *adj* **1** : of or relating to coins ⟨a ~ show⟩ **2** : operated by coins ⟨a ~ laundry⟩
coin·age \ˈkȯi-nij\ *n* **1** : the act or process of coining **2 a** : COINS **b** : something (as a word) made up or invented
co·in·cide \ˌkō-ən-ˈsīd, ˈkō-ən-ˌ\ *vi* **-cid·ed; -cid·ing** [ML *coincidere*, fr. L *co-* + *incidere* to fall on, fr. *in-* + *cadere* to fall — more at CHANCE] **1 a** : to occupy the same place in space or time **b** : to occupy exactly corresponding or equivalent positions on a scale or in a series **2** : to correspond in nature, character, or function **3** : to be in accord or agreement : CONCUR ***syn*** see AGREE ***ant*** differ
co·in·ci·dence \kō-ˈin(t)-səd-ən(t)s, -sə-ˌden(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act or condition of coinciding : CORRESPONDENCE **2** : the occurrence of events that happen at the same time by accident but seem to have some connection; *also* : any of these happenings
co·in·ci·dent \-səd-ənt, -sə-ˌdent\ *adj* [F *coincident*, fr. ML *coincident-, coincidens*, prp. of *coincidere*] **1** : occupying the same space or time ⟨~ events⟩ **2** : of similar nature : HARMONIOUS ⟨a theory ~ with the facts⟩ ***syn*** see CONTEMPORARY — **co·in·ci·dent·ly** *adv*
co·in·ci·den·tal \(ˌ)kō-ˌin(t)-sə-ˈdent-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : resulting from a coincidence ⟨similarity between the two texts is too consistent to be ~⟩ **2** : occurring or existing at the same time ⟨rebellion in Burma was ~ with . . . insurrection in Malaya —W. B. Hamilton⟩ — **co·in·ci·den·tal·ly** \-ˈdent-lē, -ᵊl-ē\ *adv*
coin lock *n* : a lock released by the insertion of a coin
coin machine *n* : SLOT MACHINE
coin–op \ˈkȯi-ˌnäp\ *n* : a self-service laundry where the machines are operated by coins
co·in·sur·ance \ˌkō-ən-ˈshu̇r-ən(t)s, *chiefly South* (ˈ)kō-ˈin-ˌ\ *n* **1** : joint assumption of risk (as by two underwriters) with another **2** : a system of insurance (as fire insurance) in which the insured is obligated to maintain coverage on a risk at a stipulated percentage of its total value or in the event of loss suffer a penalty in proportion to the deficiency
co·in·sure \ˌkō-ən-ˈshu̇(ə)r\ *vt* : to insure jointly — **co·in·sur·er** *n*
coir \ˈkȯi(-ə)r\ *n* [Tamil *kayiṟu* rope] : a stiff coarse fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
cois·trel \ˈkȯi-strəl\ *n* [MF *coustillier* soldier carrying a short sword, fr. *coustille* short sword, fr. L *cultellus* knife — more at CUTLASS] *archaic* : a mean fellow : VARLET
co·ition \kō-ˈish-ən\ *n* [LL, fr. L *coition-, coitio* a coming together, fr. *coitus*, pp. of *coire* to come together, fr. *co-* + *ire* to go — more at ISSUE] : COITUS — **co·ition·al** \-ˈish-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj*
co·itus \ˈkō-ət-əs, kō-ˈēt-\ *n* [L, fr. *coitus*, pp.] : physical union of male and female genitalia accompanied by rhythmic movements leading to the ejaculation of semen from the penis into the female reproductive tract; *also* : INTERCOURSE 3 — compare ORGASM — **co·ital** \-ət-ᵊl, -ˈēt-\ *adj* — **co·ital·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*
coitus in·ter·rup·tus \-ˌint-ə-ˈrəp-təs\ *n* [NL, interrupted coitus] : coitus which is purposely interrupted in order to prevent ejaculation of sperm into the vagina
coitus re·ser·va·tus \-ˌrez-ər-ˈvāt-əs, -ˈvät-\ *n* [NL, reserved coitus] : COITUS INTERRUPTUS
¹coke \ˈkōk\ *n* [ME; akin to Sw *kälk* pith, Gk *gelgis* bulb of garlic] : the residue of coal left after destructive distillation and used as fuel; *also* : a similar residue left by other materials (as petroleum) distilled to dryness
²coke *vb* **coked; cok·ing** *vt* : to change into coke ~ *vi* : to become coked
³coke *n* [by shortening & alter.] : COCAINE
¹col \ˈkäl\ *n* [F, fr. MF, neck, fr. L *collum*] **1** : a pass in a mountain range **2** : a saddle-shaped depression in the crest of a ridge
²col *abbr* **1** colonial; colony **2** color; colored **3** column **4** counsel
³col *or* **coll** *abbr* **1** collateral **2** collect; collected; collection **3** college; collegiate
Col *abbr* **1** colonel **2** Colorado **3** Colossians
COL *abbr* cost of living
¹col- — see COM-
²col- *or* **coli-** *or* **colo-** *comb form* [NL, fr. L *colon*] **1** : colon ⟨*coli*tis⟩ ⟨*colo*stomy⟩ **2** : colon bacillus ⟨*coli*form⟩
¹cola *pl of* COLON
²co·la \ˈkō-lə\ *n* [fr. *Coca-Cola*, a trademark] : a carbonated soft drink flavored with extract from coca leaves, kola nut, sugar, caramel, and acid and aromatic substances
col·an·der \ˈkəl-ən-dər, ˈkäl-\ *n* [ME *colyndore*, prob. modif. of OProv *colador*, fr. ML *colatorium*, fr. L *colatus*, pp. of *colare* to sieve, fr. *colum* sieve] : a perforated utensil for washing or draining food
co·lat·i·tude \(ˈ)kō-ˈlat-ə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* : the complement of the latitude
col·can·non \käl-ˈkan-ən\ *n* [IrGael *cāl ceannan*, lit., white-headed cabbage] : potatoes and cabbage boiled and mashed together with butter and seasoning
col·chi·cine \ˈkäl-chə-ˌsēn, ˈkäl-kə-\ *n* : a poisonous alkaloid $C_{22}H_{25}NO_6$ extracted from the corms or seeds of the meadow saffron (*Colchicum autumnale*) and used on mitotic cells to induce polyploidy and in the treatment of gout
col·chi·cum \ˈkäl-chi-kəm, ˈkäl-ki-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, a kind of plant with a poisonous root, fr. Gk *kolchikon*, lit., product of Colchis] **1** : any of a genus (*Colchicum*) of Old World corm-producing herbs of the lily family with flowers that resemble crocuses **2** : the dried corm or dried ripe seeds of autumn crocus containing colchicine, possessing emetic, diuretic, and cathartic action, and used for gout and rheumatism
col·co·thar \ˈkäl-kə-ˌthär\ *n* [ML, fr. MF or OSp; MF *colcotar*, fr. OSp *cólcotar*, fr. Ar dial. *qulquṭār*] : a reddish brown oxide of iron left as a residue when ferrous sulfate is heated and used as glass polish and as a pigment
¹cold \ˈkōld\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *ceald, cald*; akin to OHG *kalt* cold, L *gelu* frost, *gelare* to freeze] **1** : having a low temperature often below that compatible with human comfort **2 a** : marked by lack of warm feeling : UNEMOTIONAL **b** : marked by deliberation or calculation ⟨a ~ act of aggression⟩ **3 a** : previously cooked but served cold **b** : heated insufficiently ⟨the soup was ~⟩ **c** : not heated ⟨stored in a ~ cellar⟩ **d** : made cold ⟨~ drinks⟩ **e** : unheated while being worked ⟨~ conditioning of steel prior to rolling⟩ **4 a** : DEPRESSING, CHEERLESS **b** : producing a sensation

of cold : CHILLING ⟨~ blank walls⟩ **c** : COOL 6a **5 a** : DEAD **b** : UNCONSCIOUS ⟨knocked out ~⟩ **c** : CERTAIN, SURE ⟨the actors had their lines ~ a week before opening night⟩ **6** : made uncomfortable by cold **7 a** : retaining only faint scents, traces, or clues ⟨a ~ trail⟩ **b** : STALE, UNINTERESTING ⟨~ news⟩ **8** : not illegal or suspect ⟨traded the hot car for a ~ one⟩ **9** : presented or regarded in a straightforward way : IMPERSONAL ⟨the ~ facts⟩ **10** : UNPREPARED **11** : intense and barely controlled ⟨a ~ fury⟩ — **cold·ish** *adj* — **cold·ly** \'kōl-(d)lē\ *adv* — **cold·ness** \'kōl(d)-nəs\ *n* — **in cold blood** : with premeditation : DELIBERATELY

²cold *n* **1 a** : a condition of low temperature **b** : cold weather **2** : bodily sensation produced by loss or lack of heat : CHILL **3** : a bodily disorder popularly associated with chilling; *specif* : COMMON COLD — **in the cold** : without heating — **out in the cold** : deprived of benefits given others : NEGLECTED ⟨the plan benefits management but leaves labor *out in the cold*⟩

³cold *adv* : with utter finality : TOTALLY, ABSOLUTELY ⟨he was turned down ~⟩

cold–blood·ed \'kōl(d)-'blәd-әd\ *adj* **1 a** : done or acting without consideration, compunction, or clemency ⟨~ murder⟩ **b** : MATTER-OF-FACT, EMOTIONLESS **2** : having cold blood; *specif* : having a body temperature not internally regulated but approximating that of the environment **3** *or* **cold·blood** \-'blәd\ : of mixed or inferior breeding **4** : noticeably sensitive to cold — **cold–blood·ed·ly** *adv* — **cold–blood·ed·ness** *n*

cold cash *n* : money in hand ⟨enough *cold cash* to close the deal⟩

cold chisel *n* : a chisel made of tool steel of a strength, shape, and temper suitable for chipping or cutting cold metal — see CHISEL illustration

cold comfort *n* : scant consolation : quite limited sympathy or encouragement

cold cream *n* : a soothing and cleansing cosmetic basically consisting of a perfumed emulsion of a bland vegetable oil or heavy mineral oil

cold cuts *n pl* : sliced assorted cold meats

cold duck *n* [trans. of G *kalte ente*, a drink made of a mixture of fine wines] : a beverage that consists of a blend of sparkling burgundy and champagne

cold feet *n pl* : apprehension or doubt strong enough to prevent a planned course of action

cold fish *n* : a cold aloof person

cold frame *n* : a usu. glass-covered frame without artificial heat used to protect plants and seedlings

cold front *n* : an advancing edge of a cold air mass

cold·heart·ed \'kōld-'härt-әd\ *adj* : marked by lack of sympathy, interest, or sensitivity — **cold·heart·ed·ly** *adv* — **cold·heart·ed·ness** *n*

cold rubber *n* : a wear-resistant synthetic rubber made at a low temperature (as 41° F.) and used esp. for tire treads

cold shoulder *n* : intentionally cold or unsympathetic treatment — **cold–shoul·der** *vt*

cold sore *n* : the group of blisters appearing about or within the mouth in herpes simplex

cold storage *n* **1** : storage (as of food) in a cold place for preservation **2** : a condition of being held or continued without being acted on : ABEYANCE ⟨the second world war effectively put the question into *cold storage* —Leo Marquard⟩

cold store *n* : a building for cold storage

cold sweat *n* : concurrent perspiration and chill usu. associated with fear, pain, or shock

cold turkey *n* **1** : unrelieved blunt language or procedure ⟨I'm talking *cold turkey* to you . . . I think it wise if your relationship has ended —J. B. Clayton⟩ **2** : abrupt complete cessation of the use of an addictive drug either voluntarily or under medical supervision **3** : a cold aloof person

cold type *n* : composition or typesetting (as photocomposition) done without the casting of metal; *specif* : such composition produced directly on paper by a typewriter mechanism

cold war *n* **1** : a conflict carried on by methods short of sustained overt military action and usu. without breaking off diplomatic relations — compare HOT WAR **2** : a conflict short of violence esp. between power groups (as labor and management) — **cold warrior** *n*

cold–water *adj* **1** : of or relating to temperance groups **2 a** : provided only with running cold water **b** : not having all modern plumbing or heating facilities ⟨a ~ flat⟩

cold water *n* : depreciation of something as being ill-advised, unwarranted, or worthless ⟨throw *cold water* on our hopes⟩

cold wave *n* **1** : a period of unusually cold weather **2** : a permanent wave set by a chemical preparation without the use of curlers attached to a heating unit

cole \'kōl\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *cāl*, fr. L *caulis* stem, cabbage — more at HOLE] : any of a genus (*Brassica*) of herbaceous plants (as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi, and rape)

cole·man·ite \'kōl-mә-ˌnīt\ *n* [William T. *Coleman* †1893 Am businessman and mine owner] : a mineral $Ca_2B_6O_{11}.5H_20$ consisting of a hydrous calcium borate occurring in brilliant colorless or white massive monoclinic crystals

co·le·op·tera \ˌkō-lē-'äp-tə-rə\ *n pl* [NL, deriv. of Gk *koleon* sheath + *pteron* wing — more at FEATHER] : insects that are beetles — **co·le·op·ter·ist** \-tə-rəst\ *n* — **co·le·op·ter·ous** \-tə-rəs\ *adj*

co·le·op·ter·an \-tə-rən\ *n* : ¹BEETLE 1 — **coleopteran** *adj*

co·le·op·tile \-'äp-tᵊl\ *n* [NL *coleoptilum*, fr. Gk *koleon* + *ptilon* down; akin to Gk *pteron*] : the first leaf of a monocotyledon forming a protective sheath about the plumule

co·leo·rhi·za \ˌkō-lē-ə-'rī-zə\ *n, pl* **-zae** \-(ˌ)zē\ [NL, fr. Gk *koleon* + NL *-rhiza*] : the sheath investing the hypocotyl in some plants through which the roots burst

cole·slaw \'kōl-ˌslȯ\ *n* [D *koolsla*, fr. *kool* cabbage + *sla* salad] : a salad made of raw sliced or chopped cabbage

co·le·us \'kō-lē-әs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *koleos, koleon* sheath] : any of a large genus (*Coleus*) of herbs of the mint family

cole·wort \'kōl-ˌwәrt, -ˌwȯ(ə)rt\ *n* : COLE; *esp* : one (as kale) that forms no head

coli- — see COL-

¹col·ic \'käl-ik\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *colique*, fr. L *colicus* colicky, fr. Gk *kōlikos*, fr. *kōlon*, alter. of *kolon* colon] : a paroxysm of acute abdominal pain localized in a hollow organ and caused by spasm, obstruction, or twisting

²colic *adj* : of or relating to colic : COLICKY ⟨~ crying⟩

³co·lic \'kō-lik, 'käl-ik\ *adj* : of or relating to the colon ⟨~ lymph glands⟩

co·li·cin \'kō-lə-sən\ *also* **co·li·cine** \-ˌsēn\ *n* [³*colic* + *-in* or *-ine*] : any of various antibacterial substances that are produced by some strains of intestinal bacteria and inhibit macromolecular synthesis (as of DNA or proteins)

col·icky \'käl-i-kē\ *adj* **1** : relating to or associated with colic ⟨~ pain⟩ **2** : suffering from colic ⟨~ babies⟩

col·ic·root \'käl-ik-ˌrüt, -ˌru̇t\ *n* : any of several plants having roots used in folk medicine to treat colic: as **a** : either of two bitter herbs (*Aletris farinosa* and *A. aurea*) of the lily family **b** : a wild yam (*Dioscorea paniculata*)

col·ic·weed \-ˌwēd\ *n* : SQUIRREL CORN

co·li·form \'kō-lə-ˌfȯrm, 'käl-ə-\ *adj* [NL *Escherichia coli* colon bacillus + E *-form*] : relating to, resembling, or being the colon bacillus — **coliform** *n*

co·lin \kō-'lēn\ *n* [Sp *colín*, modif. of Nahuatl *çolin*] : BOBWHITE; *also* : a related New World game bird

co·lin·ear \(')kō-'lin-ē-ər\ *adj* **1** : COLLINEAR **2** : having corresponding parts arranged in the same linear order ⟨a gene and the protein it determines are ~⟩ — **co·lin·ear·i·ty** \(ˌ)kō-ˌlin-ē-'ar-ət-ē\ *n*

co·li·phage \'kō-lə-ˌfāj, -ˌfäzh\ *n* [NL *Escherichia coli* colon bacillus + E *-phage*] : a bacteriophage active against the colon bacillus

col·i·se·um \ˌkäl-ə-'sē-әm\ *n* [ML *Colosseum, Colisseum*] **1** *cap* : COLOSSEUM 1 **2** : a large structure for public entertainments

co·lis·tin \kə-'lis-tən, kō-\ *n* [NL *colistinus*, specific epithet of the bacterium producing it] : a polymyxin produced by a bacterium (*Bacillus colistinus*) from Japanese soil

co·li·tis \kō-'līt-әs, kə-\ *n* : inflammation of the colon

coll *abbr* — see COL

coll- *or* **collo-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *koll-, kollo-*, fr. *kolla* — more at PROTOCOL] **1** : glue ⟨*coll*enchyma⟩ **2** : colloid ⟨*collo*type⟩

col·lab·o·rate \kə-'lab-ə-ˌrāt\ *vi* **-rat·ed; -rat·ing** [LL *collaboratus*, pp. of *collaborare* to labor together, fr. L *com-* + *laborare* to labor] **1** : to work jointly with others esp. in an intellectual endeavor **2** : to cooperate with or willingly assist an enemy of one's country and esp. an occupying force **3** : to cooperate with an agency or instrumentality with which one is not immediately connected — **col·lab·o·ra·tion** \-ˌlab-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* — **col·lab·o·ra·tive** \-'lab-ə-ˌrāt-iv, -(ə-)rət-\ *adj* — **col·lab·o·ra·tor** \-'lab-ə-ˌrāt-ər\ *n*

col·lab·o·ra·tion·ism \kə-ˌlab-ə-'rā-shə-ˌniz-әm\ *n* : the advocacy or practice of collaboration with an enemy — **col·lab·o·ra·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nәst\ *adj or n*

col·lage \kə-'läzh, kȯ-, kō-\ *n* [F, gluing, fr. *coller* to glue, fr. *colle* glue, fr. (assumed) VL *colla*, fr. Gk *kolla*] **1** : an artistic composition made of various materials (as paper, cloth, or wood) glued on a picture surface **2** : the art of making collages **3** : an assembly of diverse fragments ⟨a ~ of ideas⟩ **4** : a film showing disparate scenes in rapid succession without transitions — **col·lag·ist** \-'läzh-әst\ *n*

col·la·gen \'käl-ə-jən\ *n* [Gk *kolla* + ISV *-gen*] : an insoluble fibrous protein that occurs in vertebrates as the chief constituent of connective tissue fibrils and in bones and yields gelatin and glue on prolonged heating with water — **col·la·gen·ic** \ˌkäl-ə-'jen-ik\ *adj* — **col·lag·e·nous** \kə-'laj-ə-nəs\ *adj*

col·la·ge·nase \kə-'laj-ə-ˌnās, 'käl-ə-jə-, -ˌnāz\ *n* : any of a group of proteolytic enzymes that decompose collagen and gelatin

¹col·lapse \kə-'laps\ *vb* **col·lapsed; col·laps·ing** [L *collapsus*, pp. of *collabi*, fr. *com-* + *labi* to fall, slide — more at SLEEP] *vi* **1** : to break down completely : DISINTEGRATE ⟨his case had *collapsed* in a mass of legal wreckage —Erle Stanley Gardner⟩ **2** : to fall or shrink together abruptly and completely : fall into a jumbled or flattened mass through the force of external pressure ⟨a blood vessel that *collapsed*⟩ **3** : to cave or fall in or give way **4** : to suddenly lose force, significance, effectiveness, or worth **5** : to break down in vital energy, stamina, or self-control through exhaustion or disease; *esp* : to fall helpless or unconscious **6** : to fold down into a more compact shape ⟨a telescope that ~s⟩ ~ *vt* : to cause to collapse — **col·laps·ibil·i·ty** \-ˌlap-sə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **col·laps·ible** \-'lap-sə-bəl\ *adj*

²collapse *n* **1 a** : a breakdown in vital energy, strength, or stamina **b** : a state of extreme prostration and physical depression (as from circulatory failure or great loss of body fluids) **c** : an airless state of all or part of a lung originating spontaneously or induced surgically **2** : the act or action of collapsing ⟨the cutting of many tent ropes, the ~ of the canvas —Rudyard Kipling⟩ **3** : a sudden failure : BREAKDOWN, RUIN ⟨the tragedy inherent in the ~ of a society⟩ **4** : a sudden loss of force, value, or effect ⟨the ~ of respect for ancient law and custom —L. S. B. Leakey⟩ ⟨working to stave off ~ of the franc⟩

¹col·lar \'käl-ər\ *n* [ME *coler*, fr. OF, fr. L *collare*, fr. *collum* neck; akin to ON & OHG *hals* neck, OE *hwēol* wheel — more at WHEEL] **1** : a band, strip, or chain worn around the neck: as **a** : a band that serves to finish or decorate the neckline of a garment **b** : a short necklace **c** : a band about the neck of an animal **d** : a part of the harness of draft animals fitted over the shoulders and taking strain when a load is drawn **e** : an indication of control : a token of subservience ⟨refused to wear another man's ~⟩ **f** : a protective or supportive device (as a brace or cast) worn around the neck

2 : something resembling a collar in shape or use (as a ring or round flange to restrain motion or hold something in place) **3** : any of various animal structures or markings similar to a collar **4** : an act of collaring : ARREST, CAPTURE — **col·lared** \-ərd\ *adj* — **col·lar·less** \-ər-ləs\ *adj*

²collar *vt* **1 a** : to seize by the collar or neck **b** : APPREHEND, GRAB **c** : to get control of : PREEMPT ⟨with our machine . . . we can ~ nearly the whole of this market —Roald Dahl⟩ **d** : to stop and detain in unwilling conversation ⟨~*ed* the guest of honor⟩ **2** : to put a collar on

col·lar·bone \ˈkäl-ər-ˌbōn, ˌkäl-ər-ˈ\ *n* : CLAVICLE

collar cell *n* : a flagellated endodermal cell that lines the cavity of a sponge and has a contractile protoplasmic cup surrounding the flagellum — called also *choanocyte*

col·lard \ˈkäl-ərd\ *n* [alter. of *colewort*] : a stalked smooth-leaved kale — usu. used in pl.

collat *abbr* collateral

col·late \kə-ˈlāt, kä-, kō-; ˈkäl-ˌāt, ˈkōl-ˌ\ *vt* **col·lat·ed; col·lat·ing** [back-formation fr. *collation*] **1 a** : to compare critically **b** : to collect, compare carefully in order to verify, and often to integrate or arrange in order **2** [L *collatus*, pp.] : to institute (a cleric) to a benefice **3 a** : to verify the order of (printed sheets) **b** : to assemble in proper order; *esp* : to assemble (as printed sheets) in order for binding ***syn*** see COMPARE — **col·la·tor** \-ˈlāt-ər, -ˌāt-\ *n*

¹col·lat·er·al \kə-ˈlat-ə-rəl, -ˈla-trəl\ *adj* [ME, prob. fr. MF, fr. ML *collateralis*, fr. L *com-* + *lateralis* lateral] **1 a** : accompanying as secondary or subordinate : CONCOMITANT ⟨digress into ~ matters⟩ **b** : INDIRECT **c** : serving to support or reinforce : ANCILLARY **2** : belonging to the same ancestral stock but not in a direct line of descent **3** : parallel, coordinate, or corresponding in position, order, time, or significance ⟨~ states like Athens and Sparta⟩ **4 a** : of, relating to, or being collateral used as security (as for payment of a debt or performance of a contract) **b** : secured by collateral — **col·lat·er·al·i·ty** \-ˌlat-ə-ˈral-ət-ē\ *n* — **col·lat·er·al·ly** \-ˈlat-ə-rə-lē, -ˈla-trə-\ *adv*

²collateral *n* **1** : a collateral relative **2** : property (as securities) pledged by a borrower to protect the interests of the lender **3** : a branch of a bodily part (as a vein)

col·lat·er·al·ize \kə-ˈlat-ə-rə-ˌlīz, -ˈla-trə-\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to make (a loan) secure with collateral **2** : to use (as securities) for collateral

col·la·tion \kə-ˈlā-shən, kä-, kō-\ *n* **1** [ME, fr. ML *collation-*, *collatio*, fr. LL, conference, fr. L, bringing together, comparison, fr. *collatus* (pp. of *conferre* to bring together, bestow upon), fr. *com-* + *latus*, pp. of *ferre* to carry] **a** : a light meal allowed on fast days in place of lunch or supper **b** : a light meal **2** [ME, fr. L *collation-*, *collatio*] : the act, process, or result of collating

col·league \ˈkäl-ˌēg *also* -ig\ *n* [MF *collegue*, fr. L *collega*, fr. *com-* + *legare* to appoint, depute — more at LEGATE] : an associate in a profession or in a civil or ecclesiastical office — **col·league·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

col·leagues·man·ship \kə-ˈlēgz-mən-ˌship, kä-; ˈkäl-ˌēgz-, -igz-\ *n* : the theory or practice of attracting (as to a university) competent personnel by emphasizing the advantages to be gained by association with distinguished colleagues

¹col·lect \ˈkäl-ikt *also* -ˌekt\ *n* [ME *collecte*, fr. OF, fr. ML *collecta*, short for *oratio ad collectam* prayer upon assembly] **1** : a short prayer comprising an invocation, petition, and conclusion; *specif, often cap* : one preceding the eucharistic Epistle and varying with the day **2** : COLLECTION

²col·lect \kə-ˈlekt\ *vb* [L *collectus*, pp. of *colligere* to collect, fr. *com-* + *legere* to gather] *vt* **1 a** : to bring together into one body or place **b** : to gather or exact from a number of persons or sources ⟨~ taxes⟩ **2** : INFER, DEDUCE **3** : to gain or regain control of ⟨~ his thoughts⟩ **4** : to claim as due and receive payment for **5** : to call for : pick up : ESCORT ⟨~ his girl and bring her in to the cinema —F. T. B. Macartney⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to come together in a band, group, or mass : GATHER **2 a** : to collect objects **b** : to receive payment ⟨~*ing* on his insurance⟩ ***syn*** see GATHER — **col·lect·ible** *or* **col·lect·able** \-ˈlek-tə-bəl\ *adj*

³col·lect \kə-ˈlekt\ *adv or adj* : to be paid for by the receiver

col·lec·ta·nea \ˌkäl-ˌek-ˈtā-nē-ə\ *n pl* [L, neut. pl. of *collectaneus* collected, fr. *collectus*, pp.] : collected writings; *also* : literary items forming a collection

col·lect·ed \kə-ˈlek-təd\ *adj* **1** : gathered together ⟨the ~ works of Scott⟩ **2** : possessed of calmness and composure often through concentrated effort **3** *of a gait* : performed or performable by a horse from a state of collection ***syn*** see COOL ***ant*** distracted, distraught — **col·lect·ed·ly** *adv* — **col·lect·ed·ness** *n*

col·lect·ible \kə-ˈlek-tə-bəl\ *n* : a cultural object other than an antique or such traditionally collectible items as stamps, coins, or works of art that is the subject of fancier interest

col·lec·tion \kə-ˈlek-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of collecting **2** : something collected; *esp* : an accumulation of objects gathered for study, comparison, or exhibition **3** : a standard pose of a well-handled saddle horse in which it is responsive to the bit and has its head arched at the poll and the hocks well under the body so that the center of gravity is toward the rear quarters

¹col·lec·tive \kə-ˈlek-tiv\ *adj* **1** : denoting a number of persons or things considered as one group or whole ⟨*flock* is a ~ word⟩ **2 a** : formed by collecting : AGGREGATED **b** *of a fruit* : MULTIPLE **3 a** : of, relating to, or being a group of individuals **4** : marked by similarity among or with the members of a group **5** : collectivized or characterized by collectivism **6** : shared or assumed by all members of the group — **col·lec·tive·ly** *adv*

²collective *n* **1** : a collective body : GROUP **2** : a cooperative unit or organization; *specif* : COLLECTIVE FARM

collective bargaining *n* : negotiation between an employer and union representatives usu. on wages, hours, and working conditions

collective farm *n* : a farm esp. in a communist country formed from many small holdings collected into a single unit for joint operation under governmental supervision

collective mark *n* : a trademark or a service mark of a group (as a cooperative association)

collective security *n* : the maintenance by common action of the security of all members of an association of nations

col·lec·tiv·isa·tion, col·lec·tiv·ise *chiefly Brit var of* COLLECTIVIZATION, COLLECTIVIZE

col·lec·tiv·ism \kə-ˈlek-ti-ˌviz-əm\ *n* : a political or economic theory advocating collective control esp. over production and distribution or a system marked by such control — **col·lec·tiv·ist** \-vəst\ *adj or n* — **col·lec·tiv·is·tic** \-ˌlek-ti-ˈvis-tik\ *adj* — **col·lec·tiv·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

col·lec·tiv·i·ty \kə-ˌlek-ˈtiv-ət-ē, ˌkäl-ˌek-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being collective **2** : a collective whole; *esp* : the people as a body

col·lec·tiv·iza·tion \kə-ˌlek-ti-və-ˈzā-shən\ *n* : the act or process of collectivizing : the state of being collectivized

col·lec·tiv·ize \kə-ˈlek-ti-ˌvīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to organize under collective control

col·lec·tor \kə-ˈlek-tər\ *n* **1** : an official who collects funds or moneys **2** : one that makes a collection ⟨stamp ~⟩ **3** : an object or device that collects ⟨the statuette was a dust ~⟩ **4** : a conductor maintaining contact between moving and stationary parts of an electric circuit — **col·lec·tor·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

collector's item *n* : COLLECTIBLE

col·leen \kä-ˈlēn, ˈkäl-ˌēn\ *n* [IrGael *cailīn*] : an Irish girl

col·lege \ˈkäl-ij\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *collegium* society, fr. *collega* colleague — more at COLLEAGUE] **1** : a body of clergy living together and supported by a foundation **2** : a building used for an educational or religious purpose **3 a** : a self-governing constituent body of a university offering living quarters and instruction but not granting degrees ⟨Balliol and Magdalen *Colleges* at Oxford⟩ **b** : a preparatory or high school **c** : an independent institution of higher learning offering a course of general studies leading to a bachelor's degree **d** : a part of a university offering a specialized group of courses **e** : an institution offering instruction usu. in a professional, vocational, or technical field ⟨war ~⟩ ⟨business ~⟩ ⟨barber ~⟩ **4** : COMPANY, GROUP; *specif* : an organized body of persons engaged in a common pursuit or having common interests or duties **5 a** : a group of persons considered by law to be a unit **b** : a body of electors — compare ELECTORAL COLLEGE **6** : the faculty, students, or administration of a college — **college** *adj*

college boards *n pl* : a set of examinations given by a college entrance examination board and required by some colleges of all candidates for admission and by others of all those whose academic records are below a certain standard

col·le·gial \kə-ˈlē-j(ē-)əl, *esp for 2a also* -ˈlē-gē-əl\ *adj* **1** : COLLEGIATE **2 a** : marked by power or authority vested equally in each of a number of colleagues **b** : characterized by equal sharing of authority esp. by Roman Catholic bishops — **col·le·gial·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

col·le·gi·al·i·ty \-ˌlē-jē-ˈal-ət-ē, -ˌlē-gē-\ *n* : the relationship of colleagues; *specif* : parity among bishops sharing collegial authority in the Roman Catholic Church

col·le·gian \kə-ˈlē-j(ē-)ən\ *n* : a student or recent graduate of a college

col·le·giate \kə-ˈlē-jət, -jē-ət\ *adj* [ML *collegiatus*, fr. L *collegium*] **1** : of or relating to a collegiate church **2** : of, relating to, or comprising a college **3** : COLLEGIAL 2 **4** : designed for or characteristic of college students — **col·le·giate·ly** *adv*

collegiate church *n* **1** : a church other than a cathedral that has a chapter of canons **2** : a church or corporate group of churches under the joint pastorate of two or more ministers

col·le·gi·um \kə-ˈleg-ē-əm, -ˈlāg-\ *n, pl* **-gia** \-ē-ə\ *or* **-gi·ums** [modif. of Russ *kollegya*, fr. L *collegium*] : a group in which each member has approximately equal power and authority; *esp* : one in a soviet organization

col·lem·bo·lan \kə-ˈlem-bə-lən\ *n* [deriv. of *coll-* + Gk *embolos* wedge, stopper — more at EMBOLUS] : any of an order (Collembola) of small primitive wingless arthropods related to or classed among the insects — called also *springtail* — **collembolan** *or* **col·lem·bo·lous** \-ləs\ *adj*

col·len·chy·ma \kə-ˈleŋ-kə-mə, kä-\ *n* [NL] : a plant tissue of living usu. elongated cells with walls variously thickened esp. at the angles but capable of further growth — compare SCLERENCHYMA — **col·len·chy·ma·tous** \ˌkäl-ən-ˈkim-ət-əs, -ˈkī-mət-\ *adj*

col·let \ˈkäl-ət\ *n* [MF, dim. of *col* collar, fr. L *collum* neck — more at COLLAR] : a metal band, collar, ferrule, or flange: as **a** : a small collar pierced to receive the inner end of a balance spring on a timepiece **b** : a circle or flange in which a gem is set

col·lide \kə-ˈlīd\ *vi* **col·lid·ed; col·lid·ing** [L *collidere*, fr. *com-* + *laedere* to injure by striking] **1** : to come together with solid impact **2** : CLASH

col·lie \ˈkäl-ē\ *n* [prob. fr. E dial. *colly* (black)] : a large dog of a breed developed in Scotland esp. for use in herding sheep

col·lier \ˈkäl-yər\ *n* [ME *colier*, fr. *col* coal] **1** : one that produces charcoal **2** : a coal miner **3** : a ship employed in transporting coal

col·liery \ˈkäl-yə-rē\ *n, pl* **-lier·ies** : a coal mine and its connected buildings

col·lie·shang·ie \ˈkäl-ē-ˌshaŋ-ē, ˈkəl-\ *n* [perh. fr. *collie* + *shang* (kind of meal)] *Scot* : SQUABBLE, BRAWL

col·li·gate \ˈkäl-ə-gāt\ *vb* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** [L *colligatus*, pp. of *colligare*, fr. *com-* + *ligare* to tie — more at LIGATURE] *vt* **1** : to bind, unite, or group together **2** : to subsume (isolated facts) under a general concept ~ *vi* : to be or become a member of a group or unit — **col·li·ga·tion** \ˌkäl-ə-ˈgā-shən\ *n*

col·li·ga·tive \ˈkäl-ə-ˌgāt-iv\ *adj* : depending on the number of particles (as molecules) and not on the nature of the particles ⟨pressure is a ~ property⟩

col·li·mate \ˈkäl-ə-ˌmāt\ *vt* **-mat·ed; -mat·ing** [L *collimatus*, pp. of *collimare*, MS var. of *collineare* to make straight, fr. *com-* + *linea* line] **1** : to make (as rays of light) parallel **2** : to adjust the line of sight of (a transit or level) — **col·li·ma·tion** \ˌkäl-ə-ˈmā-shən\ *n*

col·li·ma·tor \'käl-ə-ˌmāt-ər\ *n* **1** : a device for producing a beam of parallel rays of light or other radiation or for forming an infinitely distant virtual image that can be viewed without parallax **2** : a device for obtaining a beam of molecules, atoms, or nuclear particles of limited cross section

col·lin·ear \kə-'lin-ē-ər, kä-\ *adj* [ISV] **1** : lying on or passing through the same straight line **2** : having axes lying end to end in a straight line ⟨~ antenna elements⟩ — **col·lin·ear·i·ty** \-ˌlin-ē-'ar-ət-ē\ *n*

col·lins \'käl-ənz\ *n* [prob. fr. the name *Collins*] : a tall iced drink that usu. has lemon juice added to a base of distilled liquor (as gin)

col·lin·sia \kə-'lin-zē-ə, kä-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Zaccheus *Collins* †1831 Am botanist] : any of a genus (*Collinsia*) of U.S. biennial or annual herbs of the figwort family

col·li·sion \kə-'lizh-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. L *collision-, collisio,* fr. *collisus,* pp. of *collidere*] **1** : an act or instance of colliding : CLASH **2** : an encounter between particles (as atoms or molecules) resulting in exchange or transformation of energy — **col·li·sion·al** \-'lizh-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj*

collision course *n* : a course (as of moving bodies or antithetical philosophies) that will result in collision or conflict if continued unaltered ⟨Roosevelt's idealism was on a *collision course* with Stalin's spheres-of-interest realpolitik —E. M. Harrington⟩

collo- — see COLL-

col·lo·cate \'käl-ə-ˌkāt\ *vb* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *collocatus,* pp. of *collocare,* fr. *com-* + *locare* to place, fr. *locus* place — more at STALL] *vt* : to set or arrange in a place or position; *esp* : to set side by side ~ *vi* : to occur in conjunction with something

col·lo·ca·tion \ˌkäl-ə-'kā-shən\ *n* : the act or result of placing or arranging together; *specif* : a noticeable arrangement or conjoining of linguistic elements (as words) — **col·lo·ca·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

col·lo·di·on \kə-'lōd-ē-ən\ *n* [modif. of NL *collodium,* fr. Gk *kollōdēs* glutinous, fr. *kolla* glue] : a viscous solution of pyroxylin used esp. as a coating for wounds or for photographic films

col·logue \kə-'lōg\ *vi* **col·logued; col·logu·ing** [origin unknown] **1** *dial* : INTRIGUE, CONSPIRE **2** : to talk privately : CONFER

col·loid \'käl-ˌȯid\ *n* [ISV *coll-* + *-oid*] **1 a** : a substance that is in a state of division preventing passage through a semipermeable membrane, consists of particles too small for resolution with an ordinary light microscope, and in suspension or solution fails to settle out and diffracts a beam of light **b** : a system consisting of a colloid together with the gaseous, liquid, or solid medium in which it is dispersed **2** : a gelatinous or mucinous substance found in tissues in disease or normally (as in the thyroid) — **col·loi·dal** \kə-'lȯid-ᵊl, kä-\ *adj* — **col·loi·dal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

col·lop \'käl-əp\ *n* [ME] **1** : a small piece or slice esp. of meat **2** : a fold of fat flesh

colloq *abbr* colloquial

col·lo·qui·al \kə-'lō-kwē-əl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to conversation : CONVERSATIONAL **2 a** : used in or characteristic of familiar and informal conversation **b** : using conversational style — **colloquial** *n* — **col·lo·qui·al·i·ty** \-ˌlō-kwē-'al-ət-ē\ *n* — **col·lo·qui·al·ly** \-'lō-kwē-ə-lē\ *adv*

col·lo·qui·al·ism \-'lō-kwē-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* **1 a** : a colloquial expression **b** : a local or regional dialect expression **2** : colloquial style

col·lo·quist \'käl-ə-kwəst\ *n* : SPEAKER

col·lo·qui·um \kə-'lō-kwē-əm\ *n, pl* **-qui·ums** *or* **-quia** \-kwē-ə\ [L, colloquy] : a usu. academic meeting at which one or more specialists deliver addresses on a topic or on related topics and then answer questions relating thereto

col·lo·quy \'käl-ə-kwē\ *n, pl* **-quies** [L *colloquium,* fr. *colloqui* to converse, fr. *com-* + *loqui* to speak] **1** : CONVERSATION, DIALOGUE **2** : a high-level serious discussion : CONFERENCE

col·lo·type \'käl-ə-ˌtīp\ *n* [ISV] **1** : a photomechanical process for making prints directly from a hardened film of gelatin or other colloid that has ink-receptive and ink-repellent parts **2** : a print made by collotype

col·lude \kə-'lüd\ *vi* **col·lud·ed; col·lud·ing** [L *colludere,* fr. *com-* + *ludere* to play, fr. *ludus* game — more at LUDICROUS] : CONSPIRE, PLOT

col·lu·sion \kə-'lü-zhən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *collusion-, collusio,* fr. *collusus,* pp. of *colludere*] : secret agreement or cooperation for an illegal or deceitful purpose — **col·lu·sive** \-'lü-siv, -ziv\ *adj* — **col·lu·sive·ly** *adv*

col·lu·vi·um \kə-'lü-vē-əm\ *n, pl* **-via** \-vē-ə\ *or* **-vi·ums** [NL, fr. ML, offscourings, alter. of L *colluvies,* fr. *colluere* to wash, fr. *com-* + *lavere* to wash — more at LYE] : rock detritus and soil accumulated at the foot of a slope — **col·lu·vi·al** \-vē-əl\ *adj*

col·ly \'käl-ē\ *vt* **col·lied; col·ly·ing** [alter. of ME *colwen,* fr. (assumed) OE *colgian,* fr. OE *col* coal] *dial chiefly Brit* : to blacken with or as if with soot

col·lyr·i·um \kə-'lir-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ia** \-ē-ə\ *or* **-i·ums** [L, fr. Gk *kollyrion* pessary, eye salve, fr. dim. of *kollyra* roll of bread] : an eye lotion : EYEWASH

col·ly·wob·bles \'käl-ē-ˌwäb-əlz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [prob. by folk etymology, fr. NL *cholera morbus,* lit., the disease cholera] : BELLYACHE

Colo *abbr* Colorado

colo- — see COL-

co·lo·cate \(')kō-'lō-ˌkāt, 'kō-lō-\ *vt* : to place two or more units in close proximity so as to share common facilities

col·o·cynth \'käl-ə-ˌsin(t)th\ *n* [L *colocynthis*] : a Mediterranean and African herbaceous vine (*Citrullus colocynthis*) related to the watermelon; *also* : its spongy fruit from which a powerful cathartic is prepared

colog *abbr* cologarithm

co·log·a·rithm \(')kō-'lȯg-ə-ˌrith-əm, -'läg-\ *n* : the logarithm of the reciprocal

co·logne \kə-'lōn\ *n* [*Cologne,* Germany] **1** : a perfumed toilet water **2** : a cream or paste of cologne sometimes formed into a semisolid stick — **co·logned** \-'lōnd\ *adj*

[1]co·lon \'kō-lən\ *n, pl* **colons** *or* **co·la** \-lə\ [L, fr. Gk *kolon*] : the part of the large intestine that extends from the cecum to the rectum — **co·lon·ic** \kō-'län-ik\ *adj*

[2]colon *n, pl* **colons** *or* **co·la** \-lə\ [L, part of a poem, fr. Gk *kōlon* limb, part of a strophe — more at CALK] **1** *pl* **cola** : a rhythmical unit of an utterance; *specif, in Greek or Latin verse* : a system or series of from two to not more than six feet having a principal accent and forming part of a line **2** *pl* **colons** **a** : a punctuation mark : used chiefly to direct attention to matter (as a list, explanation, or quotation) that follows **b** : the sign : used between the parts of a numerical expression of time in hours and minutes (as in 1:15) or in hours, minutes, and seconds (as in 8:25:30), in a bibliographical reference (as in *Nation* 130:20), in a ratio where it is usu. read as "to" (as in 4:1 read "four to one"), or in a proportion where it is usu. read as "is to" or when doubled as "as " (as in 2:1::8:4 read "two is to one as eight is to four")

[3]co·lon \kȯ-lōⁿ, kə-'lōn\ *n* [F, fr. L *colonus*] : a colonial farmer or plantation owner

[4]co·lon \kə-'lōn\ *n, pl* **co·lo·nes** \-'lō-ˌnās\ [Sp *colón*] — see MONEY table

colon bacillus *n* : any of various bacilli (esp. genera *Escherichia* and *Aerobacter*) that are normally commensal in vertebrate intestines; *esp* : one (*E. coli*) used extensively in genetic research

col·o·nel \'kərn-ᵊl\ *n* [alter. of *coronel,* fr. MF, modif. of OIt *colonnello* column of soldiers, colonel, dim. of *colonna* column, fr. L *columna*] **1 a** : a commissioned officer in the army, air force, or marine corps ranking above a lieutenant colonel and below a brigadier general **b** : LIEUTENANT COLONEL **2** : a minor titular official of a state esp. in southern or midland U.S. — used as an honorific title — **col·o·nel·cy** \-ᵊl-sē\ *n*

Colonel Blimp \ˌkərn-ᵊl-'blimp\ *n* [*Colonel Blimp,* cartoon character created by David Low] : a pompous person with out-of-date or ultraconservative views; *broadly* : REACTIONARY — **Colonel Blimp·ish** \-'blim-ˌpiz-əm\ *n*

[1]co·lo·nial \kə-'lō-nē-əl, -nyəl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of a colony **2** *often cap* : of or relating to the original 13 colonies forming the United States: as **a** : made or prevailing in America during the colonial period ⟨~ architecture was a modification of English Georgian⟩ **b** : adapted from or reminiscent of an American colonial mode of design ⟨~ furniture⟩ **3** : possessing or composed of colonies ⟨Britain's ~ empire⟩ — **co·lo·nial·ize** \-ˌīz\ *vt* — **co·lo·nial·ly** \-ē\ *adv* — **co·lo·nial·ness** *n*

[2]colonial *n* **1** : a member or inhabitant of a colony **2 a** : a product made for use in a colony **b** : a product exhibiting colonial style

co·lo·nial·ism \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of being colonial **2** : something characteristic of a colony **3 a** : control by one power over a dependent area or people **b** : a policy advocating or based on such control — **co·lo·nial·ist** \-əst\ *n or adj* — **co·lo·nial·is·tic** \-ˌlō-nē-ə-'lis-tik, -nyə-'lis-\ *adj*

col·o·nist \'käl-ə-nəst\ *n* **1** : a member or inhabitant of a colony **2** : one that colonizes or settles in a new country

col·o·ni·za·tion \ˌkäl-ə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n* : an act or instance of colonizing or of being colonized — **col·o·ni·za·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n*

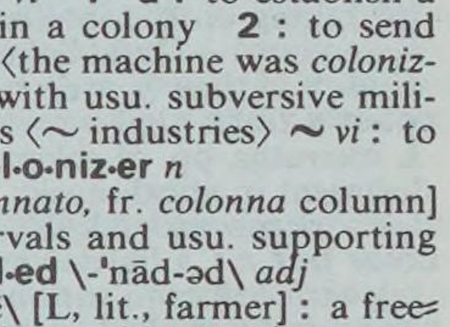
col·o·nize \'käl-ə-ˌnīz\ *vb* **-nized; -niz·ing** *vt* **1 a** : to establish a colony in or on or of **b** : to establish in a colony **2** : to send illegal or irregularly qualified voters into ⟨the machine was *colonizing* doubtful districts⟩ **3** : to infiltrate with usu. subversive militants for propaganda and strategy reasons ⟨~ industries⟩ ~ *vi* : to make or establish a colony : SETTLE — **col·o·niz·er** *n*

col·on·nade \ˌkäl-ə-'nād\ *n* [F, fr. It *colonnato,* fr. *colonna* column] : a series of columns set at regular intervals and usu. supporting the base of a roof structure — **col·on·nad·ed** \-'nād-əd\ *adj*

co·lo·nus \kə-'lō-nəs\ *n, pl* **-ni** \-ˌnī, -(ˌ)nē\ [L, lit., farmer] : a free-born serf in the later Roman Empire who could sometimes own property but who was bound to the land and obliged to pay a rent usu. in produce

col·o·ny \'käl-ə-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [ME *colonie,* fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *colonia,* fr. *colonus* farmer, colonist, fr. *colere* to cultivate — more at WHEEL] **1 a** : a body of people living in a new territory but retaining ties with the parent state **b** : the territory inhabited by such a body **2** : a distinguishable localized population within a species ⟨~ of termites⟩ **3 a** : a circumscribed mass of microorganisms usu. growing in or on a solid medium **b** : the aggregation of zooids of a compound animal **4 a** : a group of individuals or things with common characteristics or interests situated in close association ⟨an artist ~⟩ ⟨the growing ~ of off-Broadway satires —*Current Biog.*⟩ **b** : the section occupied by such a group **5** : a group of persons institutionalized away from others (as for care or correction) ⟨a leper ~⟩ ⟨a penal ~⟩; *also* : the land or buildings occupied by such a group

col·o·phon \'käl-ə-fən, -ˌfän\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *kolophōn* summit, finishing touch] **1** : an inscription placed at the end of a book or manuscript usu. with facts relative to its production **2** : an identifying device used by a printer or a publisher



colophon 2, of printer Peter Schöffer

co·lo·pho·ny \kə-'läf-ə-nē, 'käl-ə-ˌfō-\ *n, pl* **-nies** [ME *colophonie,* deriv. of Gk *Kolophōn* Colophon, an Ionian city] : ROSIN

[1]col·or \'kəl-ər\ *n, often attrib* [ME *colour,* fr. OF, fr. L *color;* akin to L *celare* to conceal — more at HELL] **1 a** : a phenomenon of light (as red, brown, pink, or gray) or visual per-

ception that enables one to differentiate otherwise identical objects **b** : the aspect of objects and light sources that may be described in terms of hue, lightness, and saturation for objects and hue, brightness, and saturation for light sources — used in this sense as the psychological basis for definitions of color in this dictionary **c** : a hue as contrasted with black, white, or gray **2 a** : an outward often deceptive show : APPEARANCE ⟨his story has the ~ of truth⟩ **b** : a legal claim to or appearance of a right, authority, or office **c** : a pretense offered as justification : PRETEXT ⟨she could have drawn from the Versailles treaty the ~ of legality for any action she chose —*Yale Rev.*⟩ **d** : an appearance of authenticity : PLAUSIBILITY ⟨lending ~ to this notion⟩ **3** : complexion tint: **a** : the tint characteristic of good health **b** : BLUSH **4 a** : vividness or variety of effects of language ⟨that ~ and force of style which were later to make him outstanding —Arthur Krock⟩ **b** : LOCAL COLOR **5 a** : an identifying badge, pennant, or flag — usu. used in pl. ⟨a ship sailing under Swedish ~*s*⟩ **b** : colored clothing distinguishing one as a member of a particular group or representative of a particular person or thing — usu. used in pl. ⟨a jockey riding under the ~*s* of his stable⟩ **6 a** *pl* : position as to a question or course of action : STAND ⟨the USSR changed neither its ~*s* nor its stripes during all of this —Norman Mailer⟩ **b** : CHARACTER, NATURE — usu. used in pl. ⟨showed himself in his true ~*s*⟩ **7** : the use or combination of colors **8** *pl* **a** : a naval or nautical salute to a flag being hoisted or lowered **b** : ARMED FORCES **9** : VITALITY, INTEREST ⟨the play had a good deal of ~ to it⟩ **10** : something used to give color : PIGMENT **11** : tonal quality in music ⟨the ~ and richness of the instrument⟩ **12** : skin pigmentation other than white characteristic of race **13** : a small particle of gold in a gold miner's pan after washing **14** : analysis of game action or strategy, statistics and background information on participants, and often anecdotes provided by a sportscaster to give variety and interest to the broadcast of a game or contest — **color** *adj* — **col·or·ism** \-ə-ˌriz-əm\ *n*

²color *vb* **col·ored; col·or·ing** \'kəl-(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* **1 a** : to give color to **b** : to change the color of (as by dyeing, staining, or painting) **2** : to change as if by dyeing or painting: as **a** : MISREPRESENT, DISTORT **b** : GLOSS, EXCUSE ⟨~ a lie⟩ **c** : INFLUENCE, AFFECT ⟨the lives of most of us have been ~*ed* by politics —Christine Weston⟩ **3** : CHARACTERIZE, LABEL ⟨call it progress; ~ it inevitable with shades of job security —C. E. Price⟩ ~ *vi* : to take on color; *specif* : BLUSH — **col·or·er** \'kəl-ər-ər\ *n*

col·or·able \'kəl-(ə-)rə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : seemingly valid or genuine **2** : intended to deceive : COUNTERFEIT ⟨~ piety⟩ ***syn*** see PLAUSIBLE — **col·or·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

Col·o·ra·do potato beetle \ˌkäl-ə-'rad-ō-, -'räd-\ *n* [*Colorado*, state of U.S.] : a black-and-yellow striped beetle (*Leptinotarsa decimlineata*) that feeds on the leaves of the potato — called also *potato beetle, potato bug*

col·or·ation \ˌkəl-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the state of being colored ⟨the dark ~ of his skin⟩ **b** : use or choice of colors (as by an artist ⟨Millet's subdued ~⟩ **c** : arrangement of colors ⟨the brilliant ~ of a butterfly's wing⟩ **2 a** : characteristic quality ⟨the newspapers . . . took on the former ~ of the magazine —L. B. Seltzer⟩ **b** : aspect suggesting an attitude : PERSUASION ⟨the chameleon talent for taking on the intellectual ~ of whatever idea he happened to fasten onto —Budd Schulberg⟩ **3** : subtle variation of intensity or quality of tone ⟨a wide range of ~ from the orchestra⟩

col·or·a·tu·ra \ˌkəl-ə-rə-'t(y)ůr-ə\ *n* [obs. It, lit., coloring, fr. LL, fr. L *coloratus*, pp. of *colorare* to color, fr. *color*] **1** : elaborate embellishment in vocal music; *broadly* : music with ornate figuration **2** : a soprano with a light, agile voice specializing in coloratura

color bar *n* : a barrier preventing colored persons from participating with whites in various activities — called also *color line*

col·or–bear·er \'kəl-ər-ˌbar-ər, -ˌber-\ *n* : one that carries a color or standard esp. in a military parade or drill

col·or–blind \-ˌblīnd\ *adj* **1** : affected with partial or total inability to distinguish one or more chromatic colors **2** : INSENSITIVE, OBLIVIOUS **3** : not recognizing differences of race ⟨tried to get the welfare establishment in Washington to abandon its ~ policy —D. P. Moynihan⟩; *esp* : free from racial prejudice ⟨a white man with an invisible black skin in a ~ community —James Farmer⟩ — **color blindness** *n*

col·or·breed \-ˌbrēd\ *vt* **-bred; -breed·ing** : to breed selectively for the development of particular colors ⟨~*ing* canaries for red⟩

col·or·cast \-ˌkast\ *n* [*color* + tele*cast*] : a television broadcast in color — **colorcast** *vb*

col·or·cast·er \-ˌkas-tər\ *n* [*color* + broad*caster*] : a broadcaster (as of a sports contest) who supplies vivid or picturesque details and often gives statistical or analytical information

¹col·ored \'kəl-ərd\ *adj* **1** : having color **2 a** : COLORFUL **b** : marked by exaggeration or bias **3 a** : of a race other than the white; *esp* : NEGRO **b** : of mixed race **4** : of or relating to colored persons

²colored *n, pl* **colored** *or* **coloreds** *often cap* : a colored person

col·or·fast \'kəl-ər-ˌfast\ *adj* : having color that retains its original hue without fading or running — **col·or·fast·ness** \-ˌfas(t)-nəs\ *n*

color filter *n* : FILTER 3b

col·or·ful \'kəl-ər-fəl\ *adj* **1** : having striking colors **2** : full of variety or interest — **col·or·ful·ly** \-f(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **col·or·ful·ness** \-fəl-nəs\ *n*

color guard *n* : a guard of honor for the colors of an organization

col·or·if·ic \ˌkəl-ə-'rif-ik\ *adj* : capable of communicating color

col·or·im·e·ter \ˌkəl-ə-'rim-ət-ər\ *n* [ISV] : an instrument or device for determining and specifying colors; *specif* : one used for chemical analysis by comparison of a liquid's color with standard colors — **col·or·i·met·ric** \ˌkəl-ə-rə-'me-trik\ *adj* — **col·or·i·met·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-) lē\ *adv* — **col·or·im·e·try** \ˌkəl-ə-'rim-ə-trē\ *n*

col·or·ing \'kəl-(ə-)riŋ\ *n* **1 a** : the act of applying colors **b** : something that produces color or color effects **c** (1) : the effect produced by applying or combining colors (2) : natural color (3) : COMPLEXION, COLORATION **d** : change of appearance (as by adding color) **2** : INFLUENCE, BIAS **3** : COLOR 4 **4** : TIMBRE, QUALITY

col·or·ist \'kəl-ə-rəst\ *n* : one that colors or deals with color — **col·or·is·tic** \ˌkəl-ə-'ris-tik\ *adj* — **col·or·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

col·or·less \'kəl-ər-ləs\ *adj* : lacking color: as **a** : PALLID, BLANCHED **b** : DULL, UNINTERESTING — **col·or·less·ly** *adv* — **col·or·less·ness** *n*

color phase *n* **1 a** : a genetic variant manifested by the occurrence of a skin or pelage color unlike the wild type of the animal group in which it appears **b** : an individual marked by such a variant **2** : a seasonally variant pelage color

color photography *n* : photographic reproduction of images in nearly natural colors

color temperature *n* : the temperature at which a blackbody emits radiant energy competent to evoke a color the same as that evoked by radiant energy from a given source (as a lamp)

co·los·sal \kə-'läs-əl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or resembling a colossus **2** : of a bulk, extent, power, or effect approaching or suggesting the stupendous or incredible **3** : of an exceptional or astonishing degree ***syn*** see HUGE — **co·los·sal·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*

col·os·se·um \ˌkäl-ə-'sē-əm\ *n* [ML, fr. L, neut. of *colosseus* colossal, fr. *colossus*] **1** *cap* : an amphitheater built in Rome in the first century A.D. **2** : COLISEUM 2

Co·los·sians \kə-'läsh-ənz *also* -'läs(h)-ē-ənz\ *n pl but sing in constr* : a letter written by St. Paul to the Christians of Colossae and included as a book in the New Testament — see BIBLE table

co·los·sus \kə-'läs-əs\ *n, pl* **co·los·sus·es** \-'läs-ə-səz\ *or* **co·los·si** \-'läs-ˌī\ [L, fr. Gk *kolossos*] **1** : a statue of gigantic size and proportions **2** : one that resembles a colossus in size or scope: **a** : a nation vastly larger and more powerful than those near it **b** : a huge industrial concern **c** : one remarkably outstanding and preeminent over others ⟨such an artistic ~ as Michelangelo — Hunter Mead⟩

co·los·to·my \kə-'läs-tə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** [ISV ²*col-* + *-stomy*] : surgical formation of an artificial anus

co·los·trum \kə-'läs-trəm\ *n* [L, beastings] : milk secreted for a few days after parturition and characterized by high protein and immune body content — **co·los·tral** \-trəl\ *adj*

col·our \'kəl-ər\ *chiefly Brit var of* COLOR

-c·o·lous \k-ə-ləs\ *adj comb form* [L *-cola* inhabitant; akin to L *colere* to inhabit — more at WHEEL] : living or growing in or on ⟨areni*colous*⟩

col·por·tage \'käl-ˌpōrt-ij, -ˌpȯrt-; ˌkäl-pōr-'täzh, -pȯr-\ *n* : a colporteur's work

col·por·teur \'käl-ˌpōrt-ər, -ˌpȯrt-; ˌkäl-pōr-'tər, -pȯr-\ *n* [F, alter. of MF *comporteur*, fr. *comporter* to bear, peddle] : a peddler of religious books

colt \'kōlt\ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OE *cild* child] **1 a** : FOAL **b** : a young male horse that is either sexually immature or has not attained an arbitrarily designated age **2** : a young untried person : NOVICE

colter *var of* COULTER

colt·ish \'kōl-tish\ *adj* **1 a** : not subjected to discipline **b** : FRISKY, PLAYFUL **2** : of, relating to, or resembling a colt — **colt·ish·ly** *adv* — **colt·ish·ness** *n*

colts·foot \'kōlts-ˌfůt\ *n, pl* **coltsfoots** : any of various plants with large rounded leaves resembling the foot of a colt; *esp* : a perennial composite herb (*Tussilago farfara*) with yellow flower heads appearing before the leaves

col·u·brid \'käl-(y)ə-brəd\ *n* [deriv. of L *colubra* snake] : any of a large cosmopolitan family (Colubridae) of nonvenomous snakes — **colubrid** *adj*

col·u·brine \-ˌbrīn\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or resembling a snake **2** : COLUBRID

co·lu·go \kə-'lü-(ˌ)gō\ *n, pl* **-gos** [prob. native name in Malaya] : FLYING LEMUR

col·um·bar·i·um \ˌkäl-əm-'bar-ē-əm, -'ber-\ *n, pl* **-ia** \-ē-ə\ [L, lit., dovecote, fr. *columba* dove] **1** : a structure of vaults lined with recesses for cinerary urns **2** : a recess in a columbarium

Co·lum·bia \kə-'ləm-bē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Christopher *Columbus*] : the United States

Co·lum·bi·an \-bē-ən\ *adj* : of or relating to the United States or to Christopher Columbus

col·um·bine \'käl-əm-ˌbīn\ *n* [ME, fr. ML *columbina*, fr. L, fem. of *columbinus* dovelike, fr. *columba* dove; akin to OHG *holuntar* elder tree, Gk *kolymbos* a bird, *kelainos* black] : any of a genus (*Aquilegia*) of plants of the buttercup family with irregular showy spurred flowers: as **a** : a red-flowered plant (*A. canadensis*) of eastern No. America **b** : a blue-flowered plant (*A. coerulea*) of the Rocky mountains

Col·um·bine \-ˌbīn, -ˌbēn\ *n* [It *Colombina*] : the saucy sweetheart of Harlequin in comedy and pantomime

co·lum·bite \kə-'ləm-ˌbīt, 'kâl-əm-\ *n* [NL *columbium*] : a black mineral $(Fe,Mn)(Cb,Ta)_2O_6$ consisting essentially of iron and columbium

co·lum·bi·um \kə-'ləm-bē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. *Columbia*] : NIOBIUM

Columbus Day *n* **1** : October 12 formerly observed as a legal holiday in many states of the U.S. in commemoration of the landing of Columbus in the Bahamas in 1492 **2** : the second Monday in October observed as a legal holiday in many states of the U.S.

col·u·mel·la \ˌkäl-(y)ə-'mel-ə\ *n, pl* **-mel·lae** \-'mel-(ˌ)ē, -ˌī\ [NL, fr. L, dim. of *columna*] **1 a** : the bony or partly cartilaginous rod connecting the tympanic membrane with the internal ear in birds and in many reptiles and amphibians **b** : the bony central axis of the cochlea **2** : the central column or axis of a spiral univalve shell **3** : the axis of the capsule in mosses and in some liverworts **4** : the central sterile portion of the sporangium in various fungi (*Mucor* and related genera) — **col·u·mel·lar** \-'mel-ər\ *adj* — **col·u·mel·late** \-ət, -ˌāt\ *adj*

col·umn \'käl-əm\ *n* [ME *columne*, fr. MF *colomne*, fr. L *columna*, fr. *columen* top; akin to L *collis* hill — more at HILL] **1 a** : a vertical arrangement of items printed or written on a page **b** : one of two or more vertical sections of a printed page separated by a rule or blank space **c** : an accumulation arranged vertically : STACK **d** : a special department or feature in a newspaper or periodical **2** : a supporting pillar; *esp* : one consisting of a usu.

round shaft, a capital, and a base **3** : something resembling a column in form, position, or function ⟨a ~ of water⟩ **4** : a long row (as of soldiers) **5** : one of the vertical lines of elements of a determinant or matrix — **col·umned** \-əmd\ *adj*

co·lum·nar \kə-'ləm-nər\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characterized by columns **2** : of, relating to, being, or composed of tall narrow somewhat cylindrical or prismatic epithelial cells

co·lum·ni·a·tion \kə-ˌləm-nē-'ā-shən\ *n* [modif. of L *columnation-, columnatio,* fr. *columna*] : the employment or the arrangement of columns in a structure

column inch *n* : a unit of measure for printed matter one column wide and one inch deep

col·um·nist \'käl-əm-(n)əst *also* 'käl-yəm-\ *n* : one who writes a newspaper or magazine column — **col·um·nis·tic** \ˌkäl-əm-'nis-tik *also* -yəm-\ *adj*

col·za \'käl-zə, 'kōl-\ *n* [F, fr. D *koolzaad,* fr. MD *coolsaet,* fr. *coole* cabbage + *saet* seed] **1** : any of several coles; *esp* : one (as rape) producing seed used as a source of oil **2** : RAPESEED

[1]com *abbr* **1** comedy; comic **2** comma

[2]com *or* **comm** *abbr* **1** command; commandant; commander; commanding **2** commentary **3** commerce; commercial **4** commission; commissioned; commissioner **5** committee **6** common; commoner **7** commonwealth **8** commune **9** communication **10** communist **11** community

COM *abbr* computer output microfilm; computer output microfilmer

com- *or* **col-** *or* **con-** *prefix* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L, with, together, thoroughly — more at CO-] : with : together : jointly — usu. *com-* before *b, p,* or *m* ⟨*com*mingle⟩, *col-* before *l* ⟨*col*linear⟩, and *con-* before other sounds ⟨*con*centrate⟩

[1]co·ma \'kō-mə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *kōma* deep sleep] **1** : a state of profound unconsciousness caused by disease, injury, or poison **2** : a state of mental or physical sluggishness : TORPOR

[2]coma *n, pl* **co·mae** \-ˌmē, -ˌmī\ [L, hair, fr. Gk *komē*] **1** : a tufted bunch (as of branches, bracts, or seed hairs) **2** : the head of a comet usu. containing a nucleus **3** : an optical aberration in which the image of a point source is a comet-shaped blur — **co·mat·ic** \kō-'mat-ik\ *adj*

Co·ma Ber·e·ni·ces \'kō-mə-ˌber-ə-'nī-(ˌ)sēz\ *n* [L (gen. *Comae Berenices*), lit., Berenice's hair] : a constellation north of Virgo and between Boötes and Leo

co·mak·er \(')kō-'mā-kər\ *n* : one that participates in an agreement; *specif* : one who stands to meet a financial obligation in case of another's default

Co·man·che \kə-'man-chē\ *n, pl* **Comanche** *or* **Comanches** [Sp, of Shoshonean origin; perh. akin to Hopi *kománči* scalp lock] : a member of an Amerindian people ranging from Wyoming and Nebraska south into New Mexico and northwestern Texas

Co·man·che·an \-chē-ən\ *adj* [*Comanche,* Texas] : of, relating to, or being the period of the Mesozoic era between the Jurassic and the Cretaceous or the corresponding system of rocks — **Comanchean** *n*

co·mate \(')kō-'māt, 'kō-ˌ\ *n* : COMPANION

co·ma·tose \'kō-mə-ˌtōs, 'käm-ə-\ *adj* [F *comateux,* fr. Gk *kōmat-, kōma*] **1** : of, resembling, or affected with coma **2** : characterized by lethargic inertness : TORPID ⟨a ~ economy⟩ ***syn*** see LETHARGIC ***ant*** awake

co·mat·u·lid \kō-'mach-ə-ləd\ *n* [deriv. of LL *comatulus* having hair neatly curled, fr. L *comatus* hairy, fr. *coma*] : any of an order (Comatulida) of free-swimming stalkless crinoids — called also *feather star*

[1]comb \'kōm\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *camb;* akin to OHG *kamb* comb, Gk *gomphos* tooth] **1 a** : a toothed instrument used esp. for adjusting, cleaning, or confining hair **b** : a structure resembling such a comb; *esp* : any of several toothed devices used in handling or ordering textile fibers **c** : CURRYCOMB **2 a** : a fleshy crest on the head of the domestic fowl and other gallinaceous birds — see COCK illustration **b** : something (as the ridge of a roof) resembling the comb of a cock **3** : HONEYCOMB — **combed** \'kōmd\ *adj* — **comb·like** \'kōm-ˌlīk\ *adj*

[2]comb *vt* **1** : to draw a comb through for the purpose of arranging or cleaning **2** : to pass across with a scraping or raking action **3 a** : to eliminate (as with a comb) by a thorough going over **b** : to search or examine systematically **4** : to use in a combing action ~ *vi* : to roll over or break into foam ⟨waves ~⟩

[3]comb *abbr* **1** combination; combined; combining **2** combustion

[1]com·bat \kəm-'bat, 'käm-ˌ\ *vb* **-bat·ed** *or* **-bat·ted; -bat·ing** *or* **-bat·ting** [MF *combattre,* fr. (assumed) VL *combattere,* fr. L *com-* + *battuere* to beat — more at BATTLE] *vi* : to engage in combat : FIGHT ~ *vt* **1** : to fight with : BATTLE **2** : to struggle against; *esp* : to strive to reduce or eliminate ⟨~ inflation⟩ ***syn*** see OPPOSE

[2]com·bat \'käm-ˌbat\ *n* **1** : a fight or contest between individuals or groups **2** : CONFLICT, CONTROVERSY **3** : active fighting in a war : ACTION ⟨casualties suffered in ~⟩

[3]com·bat \'käm-ˌbat\ *adj* **1** : relating to combat ⟨~ missions⟩ **2** : designed or destined for combat ⟨~ troops⟩

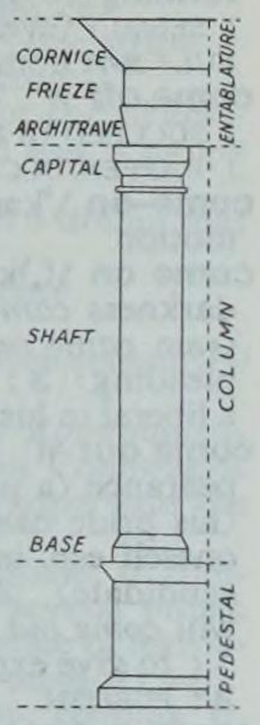
com·bat·ant \kəm-'bat-ᵊnt *also* 'käm-bət-ənt\ *n* : one that is engaged in or ready to engage in combat — **combatant** *adj*

combat fatigue *n* : a traumatic psychoneurotic reaction or an acute psychotic reaction occurring under conditions (as wartime combat) that cause intense stress

com·bat·ive \kəm-'bat-iv\ *adj* : marked by eagerness to fight or contend ⟨the ~ element in human nature⟩ ***syn*** see BELLIGERENT ***ant*** pacifistic — **com·bat·ive·ly** *adv* — **com·bat·ive·ness** *n*

combe \'küm, 'kōm\ *n* [of Celt origin; akin to W *cwm* valley] **1** *Brit* : a deep narrow valley **2** *Brit* : a valley or basin on the flank of a hill

comb·er \'kō-mər\ *n* **1** : one that combs **2** : a long curling wave of the sea



column 2 with pedestal and entablature

com·bin·abil·i·ty \kəm-ˌbī-nə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* : ability to enter into combination — **com·bin·able** \-'bī-nə-bəl\ *adj*

com·bi·nate \'käm-bə-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** **1** [L *combinatus,* pp. of *combinare*] : COMBINE **2** [back-formation fr. *combination*] : to set up the combination of (a lock)

com·bi·na·tion \ˌkäm-bə-'nā-shən\ *n, often attrib* **1 a** : a result or product of combining; *esp* : an alliance of individuals, corporations, or states united to achieve a social, political, or economic end **b** : two or more persons working as a team ⟨a double-play ~⟩ **2** : an ordered sequence: as **a** : a sequence of letters or numbers chosen in setting a lock; *also* : the mechanism operating or moved by the sequence **b** : any of the different sets of *k* individuals (as letters) that can be chosen from a population of size *n* and are considered without regard to order within the set **3** : any of various one-piece undergarments for the upper and lower parts of the body **4** : an instrument designed to perform two or more tasks **5 a** : the act or process of combining; *esp* : that of uniting to form a chemical compound **b** : the quality or state of being combined — **com·bi·na·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

combination shot *n* : a shot in pool in which a ball is pocketed by an object ball

com·bi·na·tive \'käm-bə-ˌnāt-iv, kəm-'bī-nət-\ *adj* **1** : tending or able to combine **2** : resulting from combination

com·bi·na·to·ri·al \ˌkäm-bə-nə-'tōr-ē-əl, kəm-ˌbī-nə-, -'tȯr-\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or involving combinations **2** : of or relating to the arrangement, operation, and selection of mathematical elements within finite sets and configurations ⟨~ mathematics⟩

combinatorial topology *n* : a study that deals with geometric forms based on their decomposition into combinations of the simplest geometric figures

com·bi·na·tor·ics \-'tȯr-iks, -'tär-\ *n pl but sing in constr* : combinatorial mathematics

com·bi·na·to·ry \kəm-'bī-nə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : COMBINATIVE

[1]com·bine \kəm-'bīn\ *vb* **com·bined; com·bin·ing** [ME *combinen,* fr. MF *combiner,* fr. LL *combinare,* fr. L *com-* + *bini* two by two — more at BIN-] *vt* **1 a** : to bring into such close relationship as to obscure individual characters : MERGE **b** : to cause to unite into a chemical compound **2** : INTERMIX, BLEND **3** : to possess in combination ~ *vi* **1 a** : to become one **b** : to unite to form a chemical compound **2** : to act together ***syn*** see JOIN ***ant*** separate — **com·bin·er** *n*

[2]com·bine \'käm-ˌbīn\ *n* **1** : a combination esp. of industrial interests **2** : a harvesting machine that heads, threshes, and cleans grain while moving over a field

[3]com·bine \'käm-ˌbīn\ *vt* **com·bined; com·bin·ing** : to harvest with a combine

comb·ing \'kō-miŋ\ *var of* COAMING

comb·ings \'kō-miŋz\ *n pl* : loose hair removed by a comb

combing wool *n* : long-staple strong-fibered wool found suitable for combing and used esp. in the manufacture of worsteds

com·bin·ing form \kəm-ˌbī-niŋ-\ *n* : a linguistic form that occurs only in compounds or derivatives and can be distinguished descriptively from an affix by its ability to occur as one immediate constituent of a form whose only other immediate constituent is an affix (as *cephal-* in *cephalic*) or by its being an allomorph of a morpheme having another allomorph that may occur alone or can be distinguished historically from an affix by the fact that it is borrowed from another language in which it is descriptively a word or a combining form

comb jelly *n* : CTENOPHORE

com·bo \'käm-(ˌ)bō\ *n, pl* **combos** [*combination* + *-o*] **1** : COMBINATION **2** : a usu. small jazz or dance band

com·bust \kəm-'bəst\ *vb* [L *combustus,* pp. of *comburere* to burn up, irreg. fr. *com-* + *urere* to burn — more at EMBER] : BURN

com·bus·ti·ble \kəm-'bəs-tə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : capable of combustion **2** : easily excited — **com·bus·ti·bil·i·ty** \-ˌbəs-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **combustible** *n* — **com·bus·ti·bly** \-'bəs-tə-blē\ *adv*

com·bus·tion \kəm-'bəs-chən\ *n* **1** : an act or instance of burning **2 a** : a chemical process (as an oxidation) accompanied by the evolution of light and heat **b** : a slower oxidation **3** : violent agitation : TUMULT ⟨he is seething with inner ~ —*Current Biog.*⟩ — **com·bus·tive** \-'bəs-tiv\ *adj*

com·bus·tor \-'bəs-tər\ *n* : a chamber (as in a gas turbine or a jet engine) in which combustion occurs

comd *abbr* command

comdg *abbr* commanding

comdr *abbr* commander

comdt *abbr* commandant

come \'kəm, *sometimes without stress when a stress follows*\ *vb* **came** \'kām\; **come; com·ing** \'kəm-iŋ\ [ME *comen,* fr. OE *cuman;* akin to OHG *queman* to come, L *venire,* Gk *bainein* to walk, go] *vi* **1 a** : to move toward something : APPROACH ⟨~ here⟩ **b** : to move or journey to a vicinity with a specified purpose ⟨he *came* to see us⟩ ⟨~ see us⟩ ⟨~ and see what's going on⟩ **c** (1) : to reach a particular station in a series ⟨now we ~ to the section on health⟩ (2) : to arrive in due course ⟨the time has ~⟩ **d** (1) : to approach in kind or quality ⟨this ~s near perfection⟩ (2) : to reach a condition ⟨*came* to regard him as a friend⟩ **e** (1) : to advance toward accomplishment ⟨learning new ways doesn't ~ easy⟩ ⟨the job is *coming* nicely⟩ (2) : to advance in a particular manner ⟨~ running when I call⟩ (3) : to advance, rise, or improve in rank or condition ⟨has ~ a long way⟩ **f** : to get along : FARE — often used with *along* **g** : EXTEND ⟨her dress *came* to her ankles⟩ **2 a** (1) : to arrive at a particular place, end, result, or conclusion ⟨*came* to his senses⟩ ⟨~ untied⟩ (2) : AMOUNT ⟨taxes ~ to more than it's worth⟩ **b** (1) : to appear to the mind ⟨the answer *came* to him⟩

(2) : to appear on a scene : make an appearance ⟨children ~ equipped to learn any language⟩ **c** : HAPPEN, OCCUR ⟨no harm will ~ to you⟩ **d** : ORIGINATE, ARISE ⟨wine ~*s* from grapes⟩ ⟨~ of sturdy stock⟩ ⟨the best play to ~ out of Europe this year⟩ **e** : to enter or assume a condition ⟨artillery *came* into action⟩ **f** : to fall within a field of view or a range of application ⟨this ~*s* within the terms of the treaty⟩ **g** : to issue forth ⟨a sob *came* from her throat⟩ **h** : to take form ⟨churn till the butter ~*s*⟩ **i** : to be available ⟨this model ~*s* in several sizes⟩ ⟨as good as they ~⟩ **j** : to experience orgasm **3** : to fall to a person in a division or inheritance of property **4** *obs* : to become moved favorably : RELENT **5** : to turn out to be ⟨good clothes ~ high⟩ ⟨*came* short of his goal⟩ **6** : BECOME ⟨a dream that *came* true⟩ ⟨things will ~ clear if we are patient⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to approach or be near (an age) ⟨a child *coming* eight years old⟩ **2** : to take on the aspect of ⟨~ the stern parent⟩ — **come a cropper** : to fail completely — **come across** : to meet or find by chance ⟨*came across* a long lost friend today⟩ — **come alive** : to become animated or responsive — **come apart** : to disintegrate physically or mentally — **come at** : to accomplish an understanding or mastery of : ATTAIN ⟨art is not something to *come at* by dint of study —Clive Bell⟩ — **come between** : to cause to be estranged ⟨parents *came between* the lovers⟩ — **come by** : to get possession of : ACQUIRE ⟨a good job can be hard to *come by*⟩ — **come clean** : to tell the whole story : CONFESS — **come from** : to be or have been a native or resident of — **come into** : to acquire as a possession or achievement ⟨*come into* a fortune⟩ — **come into one's own** : to achieve one's potential; *also* : to gain recognition — **come off it** : to cease foolish or pretentious talk or behavior — **come over** : to seize suddenly and strangely ⟨what's *come over* you⟩ — **come to** : to be a question of ⟨when it *comes to* pitching horseshoes, he's the champ⟩ — **come to grips with** : to wrestle with : meet firmly ⟨*coming to grips with* the problem⟩ — **come to life** **1** : to regain consciousness or vitality **2** : to take on a real or lifelike quality ⟨a writer whose characters *come to life*⟩ — **come to oneself** : to get hold of oneself : regain self-control — **come to pass** : HAPPEN — **come upon** : to come across — **come with** : to be a concomitant of : accompany or follow upon as a matter of course ⟨the increase of traffic that *comes with* new roads⟩

come about *vi* **1** : to come to pass : HAPPEN **2** : to change direction ⟨the wind has *come about* into the north⟩ **3** : to shift to a new tack

come across *vi* **1** : to give over or furnish something demanded; *esp* : to pay over money **2** : to produce an impression ⟨*comes across* as a persuasive speaker⟩

come along *vi* **1** : to accompany someone who leads the way ⟨asked me to *come along* to keep him company⟩ **2** : to make progress : SUCCEED ⟨the work is *coming along* quite well⟩ **3** : to make an appearance ⟨wouldn't just marry the first man that *came along*⟩

come around *vi* **1** : to come round **2** : MENSTRUATE

come·back \'kəm-ˌbak\ *n* **1 a** : a sharp or witty reply : RETORT **b** : a cause for complaint **2** : RECOVERY

come back \(ˌ)kəm-'bak\ *vi* **1** : to return to life or vitality **2** : to return to memory ⟨it's all *coming back* to me now⟩ **3** : REPLY, RETORT **4** : to regain a former favorable condition or position

come by *vi* : to make a visit

co·me·di·an \kə-'mēd-ē-ən\ *n* **1** *archaic* **a** : a writer of comedies **b** : an actor who plays comic roles **2** : a comical individual; *specif* : a professional entertainer who uses any of various physical or verbal means to be amusing

co·me·dic \-'mēd-ik, -'med-\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to comedy **2** : COMICAL 2

co·me·di·enne \-ˌmēd-ē-'en\ *n* [F *comédienne*, fem. of *comédien* comedian, fr. *comédie*] : a female comedian

com·e·do \'käm-ə-ˌdō\ *n, pl* **com·e·do·nes** \ˌkäm-ə-'dō-(ˌ)nēz\ [NL, fr. L, glutton, fr. *comedere* to eat — more at COMESTIBLE] : BLACKHEAD 1

come·down \'kəm-ˌdaůn\ *n* : a descent in rank or dignity

come down \(ˌ)kəm-'daůn\ *vi* **1** : to pass by tradition ⟨a story that has *come down* from medieval times⟩ **2 a** : to reduce itself : AMOUNT ⟨it *comes down* to this⟩ **b** : to deal directly with ⟨when you *come down* to it, we all depend on others⟩ **3** : to lose or fall in estate or condition ⟨he has *come down* in the world⟩ **4** : to place oneself in opposition ⟨the judge *came down* hard on gambling⟩ **5** : to become ill ⟨they *came down* with measles⟩ **6** : to recover from the effects of a stimulant drug

com·e·dy \'käm-əd-ē\ *n, pl* **-dies** [ME, fr. MF *comedie*, fr. L *comoedia*, fr. Gk *kōmōidia*, fr. *kōmos* revel + *aeidein* to sing — more at ODE] **1 a** : a drama of light and amusing character and typically with a happy ending **b** : the genre of dramatic literature dealing with the comic or with the serious in a light or satirical manner — compare TRAGEDY **2 a** : a medieval narrative that ends happily ⟨Dante's Divine *Comedy*⟩ **b** : a literary work written in a comic style or treating a comic theme **3** : a ludicrous or farcical event or series of events **4** : the comic element ⟨the ~ of many life situations⟩

comedy drama *n* : serious drama that is interspersed with comedy

comedy of manners : comedy that satirically portrays the manners and fashions of a particular class or set

come–hith·er \(ˌ)kəm-'hi͟th-ər, (ˌ)kə-'mi͟th-\ *adj* : sexually provocative ⟨that ~ look in her eyes⟩

come in *vi* **1 a** : to arrive on a scene ⟨new models *coming in*⟩ **b** : to become available ⟨data began *coming in*⟩ **2** : to place among those finishing ⟨*came in* second⟩ **3 a** : to function in an indicated manner ⟨*come in* handy⟩ **b** : to make reply to a signal or call ⟨*came in* loud and clear⟩ **4** : to assume a role or function ⟨that's where you *come in*⟩ **5** : to attain maturity, fruitfulness, or production — **come in for** : to become subject to ⟨*coming in for* increasing criticism⟩

come·ly \'kəm-lē *also* 'kōm- *or* 'käm-\ *adj* **come·li·er, -est** [ME *comly*, alter. of OE *cȳmlic* glorious, fr. *cȳme* lively, fine; akin to OHG *kūmig* weak, Gk *goan* to lament] **1** : having a generally pleasing appearance : not homely or plain **2** : pleasurably conforming to notions of good appearance, fitness, or proportion : SEEMLY ⟨everything in neat and ~ arrangement⟩ ***syn*** see BEAUTIFUL ***ant*** homely — **come·li·ness** *n*

come off *vi* **1** : to acquit oneself ⟨*came off* well in the contest⟩ **2** : SUCCEED ⟨a television series that never *came off* —*TV Guide*⟩ **3** : HAPPEN, OCCUR

come–on \'kəm-ˌȯn, -ˌän\ *n* : an attraction used esp. in sales promotion

come on \(ˌ)kəm-'ȯn, -'än\ *vi* **1 a** : to advance by degrees ⟨as darkness *came on*, it got harder to see⟩ **b** : to begin by degrees ⟨rain *came on* toward noon⟩ **2** : PLEASE — used in cajoling or pleading **3** : to project an indicated personal image ⟨*comes on* as a liberal in his political speeches⟩

come out *vi* **1 a** : to come into public view : make a public appearance ⟨a new magazine has *come out*⟩ **b** : to become evident ⟨his pride *came out* in his refusal to accept help⟩ **2** : to declare oneself esp. in public utterance ⟨*came out* in favor of the popular candidate⟩ **3** : to turn out in an outcome : end up ⟨everything will *come out* all right⟩ **4** : to make a debut — **come out with** **1** : to give expression to ⟨he *came out with* an interesting proposal⟩ **2** : PUBLISH

come–out·er \(ˌ)kə-'maůt-ər\ *n* : RADICAL, REFORMER

come over *vi* **1 a** : to change from one side (as of a controversy) to the other **b** : to visit casually : drop in ⟨*come over* anytime; we're always in⟩ **2** *Brit* : BECOME

com·er \'kəm-ər\ *n* **1** : one that comes or arrives ⟨all ~*s*⟩ **2** : one making rapid progress or showing promise

come round *vi* **1** : to return to a former condition; *esp* : to come to **2** : to accede to a particular opinion or course of action ⟨the rest of the world has *come round* to his way of living —David Halberstam⟩ **3** : to change in direction ⟨the wind *came round* at dawn⟩

[1]co·mes·ti·ble \kə-'mes-tə-bəl\ *adj* [MF, fr. ML *comestibilis*, fr. L *comestus*, pp. of *comedere* to eat, fr. *com-* + *edere* to eat — more at EAT] : EDIBLE

[2]comestible *n* : FOOD — usu. used in pl.

com·et \'käm-ət\ *n* [ME *comete*, fr. OE *cometa*, fr. L, fr. Gk *komētēs*, lit., long-haired, fr. *koman* to wear long hair, fr. *komē* hair] : a celestial body that consists of a fuzzy head usu. surrounding a bright nucleus, that often when in the part of its orbit near the sun develops a long tail which points away from the sun, and that has an orbit varying in eccentricity between nearly round and parabolic — **com·e·tary** \-ə-ˌter-ē\ *adj* — **co·met·ic** \kə-'met-ik, kä-\ *adj*

come through *vi* **1** : to do what is needed or expected **2** : to become communicated

come to *vi* **1** : to recover consciousness **2 a** : to bring a ship's head nearer the wind : LUFF **b** : to come to anchor or to a stop

come up *vi* **1** : to come near : make an approach ⟨*came up* and introduced himself⟩ **2** : to rise in rank or status ⟨an officer who *came up* from the ranks⟩ **3 a** : to come to attention or consideration ⟨the question never *came up* in discussion⟩ **b** : to occur in the course of time ⟨any problem that may *come up*⟩ **4** : to get up — used typically in a command to a horse **5** : RISE 6 — **come up with** : to produce esp. in dealing with a problem or challenge ⟨*came up with* a better solution⟩

come·up·pance \(ˌ)kə-'məp-ən(t)s\ *n* [*come up* + *-ance*] : a deserved rebuke or penalty : DESERTS

com·fit \'kəm(p)-fət, 'käm(p)-\ *n* [ME *confit*, fr. MF, fr. pp. of *confire* to prepare, fr. L *conficere*, fr. *com-* + *facere* to make — more at DO] : a confection consisting of a piece of fruit, a root, or a seed coated and preserved with sugar

[1]com·fort \'kəm(p)-fərt\ *n* **1** : strengthening aid: **a** : ASSISTANCE, SUPPORT ⟨accused of giving aid and *comfort* to the enemy⟩ **b** : consolation in time of trouble or worry : SOLACE **2 a** : a feeling of relief or encouragement **b** : contented well-being **3** : a satisfying or enjoyable experience ⟨the ~ of a good meal after hard work⟩ **4** : one that gives or brings comfort ⟨the ~*s* of civilization⟩ — **com·fort·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

[2]comfort *vt* [ME *comforten*, fr. OF *conforter*, fr. LL *confortare* to strengthen greatly, fr. L *com-* + *fortis* strong] **1** : to give strength and hope to : CHEER **2** : to ease the grief or trouble of : CONSOLE — **com·fort·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

syn COMFORT, CONSOLE, SOLACE *shared meaning element* : to act to ease the griefs or sufferings of (another) ***ant*** afflict, bother

com·fort·able \'kəm(p)-fərt-ə-bəl, 'kəm(p)(f)-tə(r)-bəl\ *adj* **1 a** : affording or enjoying contentment and security ⟨a ~ income⟩ **b** : affording or enjoying physical comfort ⟨a ~ chair⟩ ⟨was too ~ to move⟩ **2 a** : free from vexation or doubt ⟨~ assumptions that require no thought⟩ **b** : free from stress or tension ⟨a ~ routine⟩ — **com·fort·able·ness** *n* — **com·fort·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

syn COMFORTABLE, COZY, SNUG, EASY, RESTFUL *shared meaning element* : enjoying or providing circumstances that make for contentment and security ***ant*** uncomfortable, miserable

com·fort·er \'kəm(p)-fə(r)t-ər\ *n* **1 a** *cap* : HOLY SPIRIT **b** : one that gives comfort **2 a** : a long narrow usu. knitted neck scarf **b** : a warm bed covering : QUILT

comfort station *n* : REST ROOM

com·frey \'kəm(p)-frē\ *n, pl* **comfreys** [ME *cumfirie*, fr. OF, fr. L *conferva*] : any of a genus (*Symphytum*) of plants of the borage family with coarse hairy entire leaves and flowers in one-sided racemes

com·fy \'kəm(p)-fē\ *adj* **com·fi·er; -est** [by shortening & alter.] : COMFORTABLE

[1]com·ic \'käm-ik\ *adj* [L *comicus*, fr. Gk *kōmikos*, fr. *kōmos* revel] **1** : of, relating to, or marked by comedy **2** : causing laughter or amusement : FUNNY **3** : of or relating to comic strips ***syn*** see LAUGHABLE

[2]comic *n* **1** : COMEDIAN **2** : the comic element **3 a** : COMIC STRIP **b** (1) : COMIC BOOK (2) *pl* : the part of a newspaper devoted to comic strips

com·i·cal \'käm-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** *obs* : of or relating to comedy **2** : being of a kind to excite laughter esp. because of a startlingly or

unexpectedly humorous impact ***syn*** see LAUGHABLE — **com·i·cal·i·ty** \ˌkäm-i-ˈkal-ət-ē\ *n* — **com·i·cal·ly** \ˈkäm-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
comic book *n* : a magazine containing sequences of comic strips
comic–opera *adj* : not to be taken seriously ⟨a ~ regime⟩
comic opera *n* : opera having a usu. sentimental plot and characterized by spoken dialogue, humorous episodes, and usu. a happy ending
comic relief *n* : a relief from the emotional tension of a drama that is provided by the interposition of a comic episode
comic strip *n* : a group of cartoons in narrative sequence
¹com·ing \ˈkəm-iŋ\ *n* : an act or instance of arriving
²coming *adj* **1** : immediately due in sequence or development ⟨~ year⟩ **2** : gaining importance
Com·in·tern \ˈkäm-ən-ˌtərn\ *n* [Russ *Komintern*, fr. *Kommunisticheskiĭ Internatsional* Communist International] : the Communist International established in 1919 in an attempt to supersede the Second International of Socialist organizations
co·mi·tia \kə-ˈmish-(ē-)ə\ *n, pl* **comitia** [L, pl. of *comitium*, fr. *com-* + *itus*, pp. of *ire* to go — more at ISSUE] : one of several public assemblies of the people in ancient Rome for the exercise of legislative, judicial, and electoral functions — **co·mi·tial** \-ˈmish-əl\ *adj*
co·mi·ty \ˈkäm-ət-ē, ˈkō-mət-\ *n, pl* **-ties** [L *comitat-, comitas*, fr. *comis* courteous, fr. OL *cosmis*, fr. *com-* + *-smis* (akin to Skt *smayate* he smiles) — more at SMILE] **1 a** : friendly quality of social atmosphere : social harmony ⟨group activities promoting ~⟩ **b** : a loose widespread community based on common social institutions ⟨the ~ of civilization⟩ **c** : COMITY OF NATIONS **d** : the informal and voluntary recognition by courts of one jurisdiction of the laws and judicial decisions of another **2** : avoidance of proselytizing members of another religious denomination
comity of nations **1** : the courtesy and friendship of nations marked esp. by mutual recognition of executive, legislative, and judicial acts **2** : the group of nations practicing international comity
coml *abbr* commercial
comm *abbr* — see COM
com·ma \ˈkäm-ə\ *n* [LL, fr. L, part of a sentence, fr. Gk *komma* segment, clause, fr. *koptein* to cut — more at CAPON] **1** : a punctuation mark , used esp. as a mark of separation within the sentence **2** : PAUSE, INTERVAL **3** : any of several nymphalid butterflies (genus *Polygonia*) with a silvery comma-shaped mark on the underside of the hind wings
comma bacillus *n* : a bacterium (*Vibrio comma*) that causes Asiatic cholera
comma fault *n* : the careless or unjustified use of a comma between coordinate main clauses not connected by a conjunction
¹com·mand \kə-ˈmand\ *vb* [ME *comanden*, fr. OF *comander*, fr. (assumed) VL *commandare*, alter. of L *commendare* to commit to one's charge — more at COMMEND] *vt* **1** : to direct authoritatively : ORDER **2** : to exercise a dominating influence over: as **a** : to have at one's immediate disposal **b** : to demand as one's due : EXACT ⟨~s a high fee⟩ **c** : to overlook or dominate from a strategic position **d** : to have military command of as senior officer **3** *obs* : to order or request to be given ~ *vi* **1** : to have or exercise direct authority : GOVERN **2** : to give orders **3** : to be commander **4** : to have an overlook — **com·mand·able** \-ˈman-də-bəl\ *adj*
syn COMMAND, ORDER, BID, ENJOIN, DIRECT, INSTRUCT, CHARGE *shared meaning element* : to issue orders or issue an order to ***ant*** comply, obey
²command *n* **1** : the act of commanding **2 a** : an order given **b** : an electrical signal that actuates a device (as a control mechanism in a spacecraft or one step in a computer); *also* : the activation of a device by means of such a signal **3 a** : the ability to control : MASTERY **b** : the authority or right to command ⟨an air of ~ ⟩ ⟨the officer in ~⟩ **c** (1) : the power to dominate (2) : scope of vision **d** : facility in use ⟨a good ~ of French⟩ **4** : the personnel, area, or organization under a commander ⟨troops of the southern ~⟩; *specif* : a unit of the U.S. Air Force higher than an air force **5** : a position of highest usu. military authority
³command *adj* : done on command or request ⟨a ~ performance⟩
com·man·dant \ˈkäm-ən-ˌdant, -ˌdänt\ *n* : COMMANDING OFFICER
command car *n* : an open armored car designed esp. for military reconnaissance and capable of traveling over rough terrain
com·man·deer \ˌkäm-ən-ˈdi(ə)r\ *vt* [Afrik *kommandeer*, fr. F *commander* to command, fr. OF *comander*] **1 a** : to compel to perform military service **b** : to seize for military purposes **2** : to take arbitrary or forcible possession of
com·mand·er \kə-ˈman-dər\ *n* **1** : one in an official position of command or control: as **a** : COMMANDING OFFICER **b** : the presiding officer of a society or organization **2** : a commissioned officer in the navy or coast guard ranking above a lieutenant commander and below a captain — **com·mand·er·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
commander in chief : one who holds the supreme command of an armed force
com·mand·ery \kə-ˈman-d(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1** : a district under the control of a commander of an order of knights **2** : an assembly or lodge in a secret order
com·mand·ing \kə-ˈman-diŋ\ *adj* : drawing attention or priority — **com·mand·ing·ly** \-diŋ-lē\ *adv*
commanding officer *n* : an officer in command; *esp* : an officer in the armed forces in command of an organization or installation
com·mand·ment \kə-ˈman(d)-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act or power of commanding **2** : something that is commanded; *specif* : one of the biblical Ten Commandments
command module *n* : a space vehicle module designed to carry the crew, the chief communication equipment, and the equipment for reentry
com·man·do \kə-ˈman-(ˌ)dō\ *n, pl* **-dos** *or* **-does** [Afrik *kommando*, fr. D *commando* command, fr. Sp *comando*, fr. *comandar* to command, fr. F *commander*] **1** *So Afr* **a** : a military unit or command of the Boers **b** : a raiding expedition **2 a** : a military unit trained and organized as shock troops esp. for hit-and-run raids into enemy territory **b** : a member of such a specialized raiding unit
command post *n* : a post at which the commander of a unit in the field receives orders from his headquarters and exercises command over his unit
command sergeant major *n* : a noncommissioned officer in the army ranking above a first sergeant
comma splice *n* : COMMA FAULT
com·me·dia del·l'ar·te \kə-mād-ē-ə-(ˌ)del-ˈärt-ē, -ˌmed-\ *n* [It, lit., comedy of art] : Italian comedy of the 16th to 18th centuries improvised from standardized situations and stock characters
comme il faut \ˌkəm-ē(l)-ˈfō\ *adj* [F, lit., as it should be] : conforming to accepted standards : PROPER
com·mem·o·rate \kə-ˈmem-ə-ˌrāt\ *vt* **-rat·ed; -rat·ing** [L *commemoratus*, pp. of *commemorare*, fr. *com-* + *memorare* to remind of, fr. *memor* mindful — more at MEMORY] **1** : to call to remembrance **2** : to mark by some ceremony or observation : OBSERVE **3** : to serve as a memorial of ⟨a plaque that ~s the battle⟩ ***syn*** see KEEP — **com·mem·o·ra·tor** \-ˌrāt-ər\ *n*
com·mem·o·ra·tion \kə-ˌmem-ə-ˈrā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of commemorating **2** : something that commemorates
com·mem·o·ra·tive \kə-ˈmem-(ə-)rət-iv, -ˈmem-ə-ˌrāt-iv\ *adj* : intended as a commemoration : COMMEMORATING — **commemorative** *n* — **com·mem·o·ra·tive·ly** *adv*
com·mence \kə-ˈmen(t)s\ *vb* **com·menced; com·menc·ing** [ME *comencen*, fr. MF *comencer*, fr. (assumed) VL *cominitiare*, fr. L *com-* + LL *initiare* to begin, fr. L, to initiate] *vt* **1** : to enter upon : BEGIN **2** : to initiate formally by performing the first act of ⟨~ proceedings ⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to have or make a beginning : START **2** *chiefly Brit* : to begin to be or to act as **3** *chiefly Brit* : to take a degree at a university ***syn*** see BEGIN — **com·menc·er** *n*
com·mence·ment \kəm-ˈmen(t)-smənt\ *n* **1** : an act, instance, or time of commencing **2 a** : the ceremonies or the day for conferring degrees or diplomas **b** : the period of activities at this time
com·mend \kə-ˈmend\ *vb* [ME *commenden*, fr. L *commendare*, fr. *com-* + *mandare* to entrust — more at MANDATE] *vt* **1** : to entrust for care or preservation **2** : to recommend as worthy of confidence or notice **3** : to mention with approbation : PRAISE ~ *vi* : to commend or serve as a commendation of something — **com·mend·able** \-ˈmen-də-bəl\ *adj* — **com·mend·ably** \-blē\ *adv* — **com·mend·er** *n*
com·men·da·tion \ˌkäm-ən-ˈdā-shən, -ˌen-\ *n* **1 a** : an act of commending **b** : something (as a formal citation) that commends **2** *archaic* : COMPLIMENT
com·men·da·to·ry \kə-ˈmen-də-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : serving to commend
com·men·sal \kə-ˈmen(t)-səl\ *adj* [ME, fr. ML *commensalis*, fr. L *com-* + LL *mensalis* of the table, fr. L *mensa* table] **1** : of or relating to those who habitually eat together **2** : living in a state of commensalism — **commensal** *n* — **com·men·sal·ly** \-sə-lē\ *adv*
com·men·sal·ism \-sə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* : a relation between two kinds of organisms in which one obtains food or other benefits from the other without damaging or benefiting it
com·men·su·ra·ble \kə-ˈmen(t)s(-ə)-rə-bəl, -ˈmench(-ə)-\ *adj* **1** : having a common measure; *specif* : divisible by a common unit an integral number of times **2** : COMMENSURATE 2 — **com·men·su·ra·bil·i·ty** \-ˌmen(t)s(-ə)-rə-ˈbil-ət-ē, -ˈmench(-ə)-\ *n* — **com·men·su·ra·bly** \-ˈmen(t)s(-ə)-rə-blē, -ˈmench(-ə)-\ *adv*
com·men·su·rate \kə-ˈmen(t)s(-ə)-rət, -ˈmench (-ə)-\ *adj* [LL *commensuratus*, fr. L *com-* + LL *mensuratus*, pp. of *mensurare* to measure, fr. L *mensura* measure — more at MEASURE] **1** : equal in measure or extent : COEXTENSIVE ⟨lived a life ~ with the early years of the republic⟩ **2** : corresponding in size, extent, amount, or degree : PROPORTIONATE ⟨was given a job ~ with his abilities⟩ **3** : COMMENSURABLE 1 — **com·men·su·rate·ly** *adv* — **com·men·su·ra·tion** \-ˌmen(t)-sə-ˈrā-shən, -ˌmen-chə-\ *n*
¹com·ment \ˈkäm-ˌent\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *commentum*, fr. L, invention, fr. neut. of *commentus*, pp. of *comminisci* to invent, fr. *com-* + *-minisci* (akin to *ment-, mens* mind) — more at MIND] **1** : COMMENTARY **2** : a note explaining, illustrating, or criticizing the meaning of a writing ⟨~s printed in the margin⟩ **3 a** : an observation or remark expressing an opinion or attitude ⟨had no ~ for the press⟩ **b** : a judgment expressed indirectly ⟨this film is a ~ on current moral standards⟩
²comment *vi* : to explain or interpret something by comment ⟨~ing on recent developments⟩ ~ *vt* : to make a comment on ⟨the discovery . . . is hardly ~ed by the press —*Nation*⟩ ***syn*** see REMARK
com·men·tary \ˈkäm-ən-ˌter-ē\ *n, pl* **-tar·ies** **1 a** : an explanatory treatise — usu. used in pl. **b** : a record of events usu. written by a participant — usu. used in pl. **2 a** : a systematic series of explanations or interpretations (as of a writing) **b** : COMMENT 2 **3 a** : something that serves for illustration or explanation ⟨the dark, airless apartments and sunless factories . . . are a sad ~ upon our civilization —H. A. Overstreet⟩ **b** : an expression of opinion ⟨a scene that is a gem of satiric ~ on the world of art —Rose Feld⟩
com·men·tate \ˈkäm-ən-ˌtāt\ *vb* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [back-formation fr. *commentator*] *vt* : to give a commentary on ~ *vi* : to comment in a usu. expository or interpretive manner; *also* : to act as a commentator ***syn*** see REMARK
com·men·ta·tor \-ˌtāt-ər\ *n* : one who gives a commentary; *specif* : one who reports and discusses news on radio or television
¹com·merce \ˈkäm-(ˌ)ərs\ *n* [MF, fr. L *commercium*, fr. *com-* + *merc-, merx* merchandise] **1** : social intercourse : interchange of ideas, opinions, or sentiments **2** : the exchange or buying and

selling of commodities on a large scale involving transportation from place to place **3** : SEXUAL INTERCOURSE ***syn*** see BUSINESS

²com·merce \'käm-(,)ərs, kə-'mərs\ *vi* **com·merced; com·merc·ing** *archaic* : COMMUNE

¹com·mer·cial \kə-'mər-shəl\ *adj* **1 a** (1) : engaged in work designed for the market ⟨a ~ artist⟩ (2) : of or relating to commerce ⟨~ regulations⟩ (3) : characteristic of commerce ⟨~ weights⟩ (4) : suitable, adequate, or prepared for commerce ⟨found oil in ~ quantities⟩ **b** (1) : being of an average or inferior quality ⟨~ oxalic acid⟩ (2) : producing artistic work of low standards for quick market success **2 a** : viewed with regard to profit ⟨a ~ success⟩ **b** : designed for a large market **3** : emphasizing skills and subjects useful in business **4** : supported by advertisers ⟨~ TV⟩ — **com·mer·cial·ly** \-'mərsh-(ə-)lē\ *adv*

²commercial *n* : an advertisement broadcast on radio or television

commercial bank *n* : a bank including in its functions the acceptance of demand deposits subject to withdrawal by check

com·mer·cial·ism \kə-'mər-shə-,liz-əm\ *n* **1** : commercial spirit, institutions, or methods **2** : excessive emphasis on profit — **com·mer·cial·ist** \-'mərsh-(ə-)ləst\ *n* — **com·mer·cial·is·tic** \-,mər-shə-'lis-tik\ *adj*

com·mer·cial·ize \kə-'mər-shə-,līz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1 a** : to manage on a business basis for profit **b** : to develop commerce in **2** : to exploit for profit ⟨~ Christmas⟩ **3** : to debase in quality for more profit — **com·mer·cial·iza·tion** \-,mərsh-(ə-)lə-'zā-shən\ *n*

commercial paper *n* : short-term negotiable instruments arising out of commercial transactions

commercial traveler *n* : TRAVELING SALESMAN

com·mie \'käm-ē\ *n, often cap* [by shortening and alter.] : COMMUNIST

com·mi·na·tion \,käm-ə-'nā-shən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *commination-, comminatio,* fr. *comminatus,* pp. of *comminari* to threaten, fr. *com-* + *minari* to threaten] : DENUNCIATION — **com·mi·na·to·ry** \'käm-ə-nə-,tōr-ē, -,tȯr-; kə-'min-ə-, -'mīn-\ *adj*

com·min·gle \kə-'miŋ-gəl, kä-\ *vt* **1** : to blend thoroughly into a harmonious whole **2** : to combine (funds or properties) into a common fund or stock ⟨~ accounts⟩ ~ *vi* : to become commingled ***syn*** see MIX

com·mi·nute \'käm-ə-,n(y)üt\ *vt* **-nut·ed; -nut·ing** [L *comminutus,* pp. of *comminuere,* fr. *com-* + *minuere* to lessen] : to reduce to minute particles : PULVERIZE — **com·mi·nu·tion** \,käm-ə-'n(y)ü-shən\ *n*

com·mis·er·ate \kə-'miz-ə-,rāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *commiseratus,* pp. of *commiserari,* fr. *com-* + *miserari* to pity, fr. *miser* wretched] *vt* : to feel or express sorrow or compassion for ~ *vi* : to feel or express sympathy : CONDOLE ⟨~ over their hard luck⟩ — **com·mis·er·a·tive** \-'miz-ə-,rāt-iv\ *adj*

com·mis·er·a·tion \-,miz-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* : the act of commiserating

com·mis·sar \'käm-ə-,sär\ *n* [Russ *komissar,* fr. G *kommissar,* fr. ML *commissarius*] **1 a** : a Communist party official assigned to a military unit to teach party principles and policies and to ensure party loyalty **b** : one that attempts to control public opinion or its expression **2** : the head of a government department in the U.S.S.R. until 1946

com·mis·sar·i·at \,käm-ə-'ser-ē-ət, -'sar-, *esp for 3* -'sär-\ *n* [NL *commissariatus,* fr. ML *commissarius*] **1** : a system for supplying an army with food **2** : food supplies **3** [Russ *komissariat,* fr. G *kommissariat,* fr. NL *commissariatus*] : a government department in the U.S.S.R. until 1946

com·mis·sary \'käm-ə-,ser-ē\ *n, pl* **-sar·ies** [ME *commissarie,* fr. ML *commissarius,* fr. L *commissus,* pp.] **1** : one delegated by a superior to execute a duty or an office **2 a** : a store for equipment and provisions; *specif* : a supermarket operated for military personnel **b** : food supplies **c** : a lunchroom esp. in a motion-picture studio

¹com·mis·sion \kə-'mish-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *commission-, commissio* act of bringing together, fr. *commissus,* pp. of *committere*] **1 a** : a formal written warrant granting the power to perform various acts or duties **b** : a certificate conferring military rank and authority; *also* : the rank and authority so conferred **2** : an authorization or command to act in a prescribed manner or to perform prescribed acts : CHARGE **3 a** : authority to act for, in behalf of, or in place of another **b** : a task or matter entrusted to one as an agent for another ⟨executed a ~ for me abroad⟩ **4 a** : a group of persons directed to perform some duty **b** : a government agency having administrative, legislative, or judicial powers **c** : a city council having legislative and executive functions **5** : an act of committing something ⟨charged with ~ of felonies⟩ **6** : a fee paid to an agent or employee for transacting a piece of business or performing a service; *esp* : a percentage of the money received from a total paid to the agent responsible for the business **7** : an act of entrusting or giving authority — **in commission** *or* **into commission** **1** : under the authority of commissioners **2** *of a ship* : ready for active service **3** : in use or in condition for use — **on commission** : with commission serving as partial or full pay for work done — **out of commission** **1** : out of active service or use **2** : out of working order

²commission *vt* **com·mis·sioned; com·mis·sion·ing** \-'mish-(ə-)niŋ\ **1** : to furnish with a commission: as **a** : to confer a formal commission on ⟨was ~*ed* lieutenant⟩ **b** : to appoint or assign to a task or function ⟨the writer who was ~*ed* to do the biography⟩ **2** : to order to be made ⟨wealthy persons who ~*ed* portraits of themselves⟩ **3** : to put (a ship) in commission

com·mis·sion·aire \kə-,mish-ə-'na(ə)r, -'ne(ə)r\ *n* [F *commissionnaire,* fr. *commission*] *chiefly Brit* : a uniformed attendant

commissioned officer *n* : an officer of the armed forces holding by a commission a rank of second lieutenant or ensign or above

com·mis·sion·er \kə-'mish-(ə-)nər\ *n* : a person with a commission: as **a** : a member of a commission **b** : the representative of the governmental authority in a district, province, or other unit often having both judicial and administrative powers **c** : the officer in charge of a department or bureau of the public service **d** : the administrative head of a professional sport — **com·mis·sion·er·ship** \-,ship\ *n*

commission merchant *n* : one who buys or sells another's goods for a commission

commission plan *n* : a method of municipal government under which a small elective commission exercises both executive and legislative powers and each commissioner directly administers one or more municipal departments

com·mis·sure \'käm-ə-,shu̇(ə)r\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *commissura* a joining, fr. *commissus,* pp.] **1** : the place where two bodies or parts unite : CLOSURE **2** : a connecting band of nerve tissue in the brain or spinal cord — **com·mis·sur·al** \,käm-ə-'shür-əl\ *adj*

com·mit \kə-'mit\ *vb* **com·mit·ted; com·mit·ting** [ME *committen,* fr. L *committere* to connect, entrust, fr. *com-* + *mittere* to send] *vt* **1 a** : to put into charge or trust : ENTRUST **b** : to place in a prison or mental institution **c** : to consign or record for preservation ⟨~ it to memory⟩ **d** : to put into a place for disposal or safekeeping **e** : to refer (as a legislative bill) to a committee for consideration and report **2** : to carry into action deliberately ⟨~ a crime⟩ **3 a** : OBLIGATE, BIND **b** : to pledge or assign to some particular course or use ⟨all available troops were *committed* to the attack⟩ **c** : to reveal the views of ⟨refused to ~ himself on the issue⟩ ~ *vi, obs* : to perpetrate an offense — **com·mit·ta·ble** \-'mit-ə-bəl\ *adj*

syn COMMIT, ENTRUST, CONFIDE, CONSIGN, RELEGATE *shared meaning element* : to assign (as to a person or place) esp. for care or safekeeping

com·mit·ment \kə-'mit-mənt\ *n* **1 a** : an act of committing to a charge or trust: as (1) : a consignment to a penal or mental institution (2) : an act of referring a matter to a legislative committee **b** : MITTIMUS **2 a** : an agreement or pledge to do something in the future; *specif* : an engagement to assume a financial obligation at a future date **b** : something pledged **c** : the state of being obligated or emotionally impelled ⟨his ~ to unpopular causes⟩

com·mit·tal \kə-'mit-ᵊl\ *n* : COMMITMENT, CONSIGNMENT

com·mit·tee \kə-'mit-ē, *sense* 1 *also* ,käm-ə-'tē\ *n* **1** *archaic* : a person to whom a charge or trust is committed **2 a** : a body of persons delegated to consider, investigate, take action on, or report on some matter; *specif* : a group of fellow legislators chosen by a legislative body to give consideration to legislative matters **b** : a self-constituted organization for the promotion of a common object

com·mit·tee·man \kə-'mit-ē-mən, -,man\ *n* **1** : a member of a committee **2** : a party leader of a ward or precinct

committee of the whole : the whole membership of a legislative house sitting as a committee and operating under informal rules

com·mit·tee·woman \-,wu̇m-ən\ *n* : a female member of a committee

com·mix \kə-'miks, kä-\ *vb* [back-formation fr. ME *comixt* blended, fr. L *commixtus,* pp. of *commiscēre* to mix together, fr. *com-* + *miscēre* to mix — more at MIX] *vt* : MINGLE, BLEND ~ *vi* : to become mingled or blended

com·mix·ture \-chər\ *n* [L *commixtura,* fr. *commixtus*] **1** : the act or process of mixing : the state of being mixed **2** : COMPOUND, MIXTURE

commo *abbr* commodore

com·mode \kə-'mōd\ *n* [F, fr. *commode,* adj., suitable, convenient, fr. L *commodus,* fr. *com-* + *modus* measure — more at METE] **1** : a woman's ornate cap popular in the late 17th and early 18th centuries **2 a** : a low chest of drawers **b** : a movable washstand with a cupboard underneath **c** : a boxlike structure holding a chamber pot under an open seat; *also* : CHAMBER POT **d** : TOILET 3b



commode 1

com·mo·di·ous \kə-'mōd-ē-əs\ *adj* [ME, useful, fr. MF *commodieux,* fr. ML *commodiosus,* irreg. fr. L *commodum* convenience, fr. neut. of *commodus*] **1** *archaic* : HANDY, SERVICEABLE **2** : comfortably or conveniently spacious : ROOMY ⟨one ~ drawer held all his clothes⟩ ***syn*** see SPACIOUS — **com·mo·di·ous·ly** *adv* — **com·mo·di·ous·ness** *n*

com·mod·i·ty \kə-'mäd-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *commoditee,* fr. MF *commodité,* fr. L *commoditat-, commoditas,* fr. *commodus*] **1 a** : CONVENIENCE, ADVANTAGE **b** : something useful or valuable **2** : an economic good: as **a** : a product of agriculture or mining **b** : an article of commerce esp. when delivered for shipment **3** *obs* : QUANTITY, LOT

com·mo·dore \'käm-ə-,dō(ə)r, -,dȯ(ə)r\ *n* [prob. modif. of D *commandeur* commander, fr. F, fr. OF *comandeor,* fr. *comander* to command] **1 a** : a former captain in the navy in command of a squadron **b** : a former commissioned officer in the navy ranking above captain and below rear admiral and having an insignia of one star **2** : the ranking officer commanding a body of merchant ships **3** : the chief officer of a yacht club or boating association

¹com·mon \'käm-ən\ *adj* [ME *commun,* fr. OF, fr. L *communis* — more at MEAN] **1 a** : of or relating to a community at large : PUBLIC ⟨work for the ~ good⟩ **b** : known to the community ⟨~ nuisances⟩ **2 a** : belonging to or shared by two or more individuals or by all members of a group ⟨all destined to the ~ grave⟩ **b** : belonging equally to two or more quantities **c** : having two or more branches ⟨~ carotid artery⟩ **3 a** : occurring or appearing frequently : FAMILIAR ⟨a ~ sight⟩ **b** : of the best known kind ⟨~ salt⟩ **4 a** : WIDESPREAD, GENERAL ⟨being ~ knowledge⟩ **b** : characterized by a lack of privilege or special status ⟨~ people⟩ **c** : just satisfying accustomed criteria : ELEMENTARY ⟨~ decency⟩ **5 a** : falling below ordinary standards : SECOND-RATE **b** : lacking refinement ⟨~ manners⟩ **c** : completely unprincipled **6 a** : either masculine or feminine in gender **b** : denoting relations by a single case form that in a more highly inflected language might be denoted by two or more different case forms — **com·mon·ly** *adv* — **com·mon·ness** \-ən-nəs\ *n*

syn **1** see RECIPROCAL ***ant*** individual

2 COMMON, ORDINARY, PLAIN, FAMILIAR, POPULAR, VULGAR *shared meaning element* : being what is generally met with and not in any way special, strange, or unusual. COMMON implies usual every-

day quality or frequency of occurrence ⟨a *common* error⟩ ⟨lacked *common* honesty⟩ and may additionally suggest inferiority or coarseness ⟨O hard is the bed . . . and *common* the blanket and cheap —A. E. Housman⟩ ORDINARY stresses conformance in quality or kind with the regular order of things ⟨an *ordinary* pleasant summer day⟩ ⟨a very *ordinary* sort of man⟩ PLAIN is likely to suggest homely simplicity ⟨the *plain* people everywhere . . . wish to live in peace — F. D. Roosevelt⟩ FAMILIAR stresses the fact of being generally known and easily recognized ⟨a *familiar* melody⟩ POPULAR applies to what is accepted by or prevalent among people in general sometimes in contrast to upper classes or special groups ⟨a *popular* tune⟩ VULGAR, otherwise similar to *popular*, is likely to carry derogatory connotations (as of inferiority or coarseness) ⟨goods designed to appeal to the *vulgar* taste⟩ ***ant*** uncommon, exceptional

²common *n* **1** *pl* : the common people **2** *pl but sing in constr* : a dining hall **3** *pl but sing or pl in constr, often cap* **a** : the political group or estate comprising the commoners **b** : the parliamentary representatives of the commoners **c** : HOUSE OF COMMONS **4** : the legal right of taking a profit in another's land in common with the owner **5** : a piece of land subject to common use: as **a** : undivided land used esp. for pasture **b** : a public open area in a municipality **6** **a** : a religious service suitable for any of various festivals **b** : the ordinary of the Mass — **in common** : shared together

com·mon·age \'käm-ə-nij\ *n* **1** : community land **2** : COMMONALTY 1a(2)

com·mon·al·i·ty \ˌkäm-ə-'nal-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *communalitie*, alter. of *communalte*] **1** **a** : possession of common features or attributes : COMMONNESS **b** : a common feature or attribute ⟨can see *commonalities* as well as differences⟩ **2** : the common people

com·mon·al·ty \'käm-ən-ᵊl-tē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *communalte*, fr. OF *comunalté*, fr. *comunal* communal] **1** **a** (1) : the common people (2) : the political estate formed by the common people **b** : a usage or practice common to members of a group **2** : a general group or body

common carrier *n* : an individual or corporation undertaking to transport for compensation persons, goods, or messages

common cattle grub *n* : a heel fly (*Hypoderma lineatum*) which is found throughout the U.S. and whose larva is particularly destructive to cattle

common chord *n* : TRIAD 2

common cold *n* : an acute virus disease of the upper respiratory tract marked by inflammation of mucous membranes

common denominator *n* **1** : a common multiple of the denominators of a number of fractions **2** : a common trait or theme

common divisor *n* : a number or expression that divides two or more numbers or expressions without remainder — called also *common factor*

com·mon·er \'käm-ə-nər\ *n* **1** **a** : one of the common people **b** : one who is not of noble rank **2** : a student (as at Oxford) who pays for his own board

common fraction *n* : a fraction in which both the numerator and denominator are expressed as numbers and are separated by a horizontal or slanted line — compare DECIMAL

common informer *n* : INFORMER 2

common–law *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or based on the common law **2** : relating to or based on a common-law marriage ⟨his ~ wife⟩

common law *n* : the body of law developed in England primarily from judicial decisions based on custom and precedent, unwritten in statute or code, and constituting the basis of the English legal system and of the system in all of the U.S. except Louisiana

common–law marriage *n* **1** : a marriage recognized in some jurisdictions and based on the parties' agreement to consider themselves married and sometimes also on their cohabitation **2** : the cohabitation of a couple even when it does not constitute a legal marriage

common logarithm *n* : a logarithm whose base is 10

common market *n* : an economic unit formed to remove trade barriers among its members

common measure *n* : a meter consisting chiefly of iambic lines of 7 accents each arranged in alternately rhymed pairs usu. printed in 4-line stanzas — called also *common meter*

common multiple *n* : a multiple of each of two or more numbers or expressions

common noun *n* : a noun that may occur with limiting modifiers (as *a* or *an, some, every,* and *my*) and that designates any one of a class of beings or things

¹com·mon·place \'käm-ən-ˌplās\ *n* [trans. of L *locus communis* widely applicable argument, trans. of Gk *koinos topos*] **1** *archaic* : a striking passage entered in a commonplace book **2** **a** : an obvious or trite observation **b** : something taken for granted

²commonplace *adj* : routinely found : ORDINARY, UNREMARKABLE — **com·mon·place·ness** *n*

commonplace book *n* : a book of memorabilia

common pleas *n* **1** *pl* **a** : actions over which the English crown did not claim exclusive jurisdiction **b** : civil actions between English subjects **2** *pl but sing in constr* : COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

common room *n* **1** : a lounge available to all members of a residential community **2** : a room in a college for the use of the faculty

common salt *n* : SALT 1a

common school *n* : a free public school

common sense *n* **1** : sound and prudent but often unsophisticated judgment **2** : the unreflective opinions of ordinary men ***syn*** see SENSE — **com·mon·sense** \ˌkäm-ən-ˌsen(t)s\ *adj* — **com·mon·sen·si·ble** \-'sen(t)-sə-bəl\ *adj* — **com·mon·sen·si·bly** \-blē\ *adv* — **com·mon·sen·si·cal** \-'sen(t)-si-kəl\ *adj*

common stock *n* : capital stock other than preferred stock

common time *n* : the musical tempo marked by four beats per measure

common touch *n* : the gift of appealing to or arousing sympathetic interest

com·mon·weal \'käm-ən-ˌwēl\ *n* **1** : the general welfare **2** *archaic* : COMMONWEALTH

com·mon·wealth \-ˌwelth\ *n* **1** *archaic* : COMMONWEAL 1 **2** : a nation, state, or other political unit: as **a** : one founded on law and united by compact or tacit agreement of the people for the common good **b** : one in which supreme authority is vested in the people **c** : REPUBLIC **3** *cap* **a** : the English state from the death of Charles I in 1649 to the Restoration in 1660 **b** : PROTECTORATE 1b **4** : a state of the U.S. — used officially of Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia **5** *cap* : a federal union of constituent states — used officially of Australia **6** *often cap* : an association of self-governing autonomous states more or less loosely associated in a common allegiance (as to the British crown) **7** *often cap* : a political unit having local autonomy but voluntarily united with the U.S. — used officially of Puerto Rico

Commonwealth Day *n* : May 24 observed in parts of the British Commonwealth as the anniversary of Queen Victoria's birthday

common year *n* : a calendar year containing no intercalary period

com·mo·tion \kə-'mō-shən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *commotion-, commotio*, fr. *commotus*, pp. of *commovēre*] **1** : a condition of civil unrest or insurrection **2** : steady or recurrent motion **3** : mental excitement or confusion **4** **a** : a flurried disturbance : TO-DO ⟨a crowd raising a ~ in the street⟩ **b** : noisy confusion : AGITATION

com·move \kə-'müv, kä-\ *vt* **com·moved; com·mov·ing** [ME *commoeven*, fr. MF *commuev-*, pres. stem of *commovoir*, fr. L *commovēre*, fr. *com-* + *movēre* to move] **1** : to move violently : AGITATE **2** : to rouse intense feeling in : excite to passion

com·mu·nal \kə-'myün-ᵊl, 'käm-yən-ᵊl\ *adj* [F, fr. LL *communalis*, fr. L *communis*] **1** : of or relating to one or more communes **2** : of or relating to a community **3** **a** : characterized by collective ownership and use of property **b** : participated in, shared, or used in common by members of a group or community **4** : of, relating to, or based on racial or cultural groups

com·mu·nal·ism \-ᵊl-ˌiz-əm\ *n* **1** : social organization on a communal basis **2** : loyalty to a sociopolitical grouping based on religious affiliation — **com·mu·nal·ist** \-ᵊl-əst\ *n or adj*

com·mu·nal·i·ty \ˌkäm-yü-'nal-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : communal state or character **2** : a feeling of group solidarity

com·mu·nal·ize \kə-'myün-ᵊl-ˌīz, 'käm-yən-\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to make communal

com·mu·nard \ˌkäm-yü-'när(d)\ *n* [F] **1** *cap* : one who supported or participated in the Commune of Paris in 1871 **2** : one that lives in a commune

¹com·mune \kə-'myün\ *vb* **com·muned; com·mun·ing** [ME *communen* to converse, administer Communion, fr. MF *comunier* to converse, administer or receive Communion, fr. LL *communicare*, fr. L] *vt, obs* : to talk over : DISCUSS ⟨have more to ~ — Shak.⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to receive Communion **2** : to communicate intimately ⟨~ with nature⟩

²com·mune \'käm-ˌyün; kə-'myün, kä-\ *n* [F, alter. of MF *comugne*, fr. ML *communia*, fr. L, neut. pl. of *communis*] **1** : the smallest administrative district of many countries esp. in Europe **2** : COMMONALTY 1a **3** : COMMUNITY: as **a** : a medieval usu. municipal corporation **b** (1) : MIR (2) : an often rural community organized on a communal basis

com·mu·ni·ca·ble \kə-'myü-ni-kə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : capable of being communicated : TRANSMITTABLE ⟨~ disease⟩ **2** : COMMUNICATIVE — **com·mu·ni·ca·bil·i·ty** \-ˌmyü-ni-kə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **com·mu·ni·ca·ble·ness** \-'myü-ni-kə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **com·mu·ni·ca·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

com·mu·ni·cant \-'myü-ni-kənt\ *n* **1** : a church member entitled to receive Communion; *broadly* : a member of a fellowship **2** : one that communicates; *specif* : INFORMANT — **communicant** *adj*

com·mu·ni·cate \kə-'myü-nə-ˌkāt\ *vb* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *communicatus*, pp. of *communicare* to impart, participate, fr. *communis* common — more at MEAN] *vt* **1** *archaic* : SHARE **2** **a** : to convey knowledge of or information about : make known ⟨~ a story⟩ **b** : to reveal by clear signs ⟨his fear *communicated* itself to his friends⟩ **3** : to cause to pass from one to another ⟨some diseases are easily *communicated*⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to receive Communion **2** : to transmit information, thought, or feeling so that it is satisfactorily received or understood **3** : to open into each other : CONNECT ⟨the rooms ~⟩

syn COMMUNICATE, IMPART *shared meaning element* : to convey or transmit something intangible (as information, feelings, or a flavor)

com·mu·ni·ca·tee \-ˌmyü-ni-kə-'tē\ *n* : one that receives a communication

com·mu·ni·ca·tion \kə-ˌmyü-nə-'kā-shən\ *n* **1** : an act or instance of transmitting **2** **a** : information communicated **b** : a verbal or written message **3** **a** : a process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs, or behavior ⟨the function of pheromones in insect ~⟩; *also* : exchange of information **b** : personal rapport ⟨a lack of ~ between old and young persons⟩ **4** *pl* **a** : a system (as of telephones) for communicating **b** : a system of routes for moving troops, supplies, and vehicles **c** : personnel engaged in communicating **5** *pl but sing or pl in constr* **a** : a technique for expressing ideas effectively (as in speech) **b** : the technology of the transmission of information (as by the printed word, telecommunication, or the computer) — **com·mu·ni·ca·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

com·mu·ni·ca·tive \kə-'myü-nə-ˌkāt-iv, -ni-kət-iv\ *adj* **1** : tending to communicate : TALKATIVE **2** : of or relating to communication — **com·mu·ni·ca·tive·ly** *adv* — **com·mu·ni·ca·tive·ness** *n*

com·mu·ni·ca·tor \-ˌkāt-ər\ *n* : one that communicates

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com·mu·ni·ca·to·ry \kə-'myü-ni-kə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : designed to communicate information ⟨~ letters⟩
com·mu·nion \kə-'myü-nyən\ *n* [ME, fr. L *communion-, communio* mutual participation, fr. *communis*] **1** : an act or instance of sharing **2 a** *cap* : a Christian sacrament in which bread and wine are partaken of as a commemoration of the death of Christ **b** : the act of receiving the sacrament **c** *cap* : the part of the Mass in which the sacrament is received **d** *cap* : a variable verse of scripture traditionally said or sung at mass during the people's communion — called also *Communion Verse* **3** : intimate fellowship or rapport : COMMUNICATION **4** : a body of Christians having a common faith and discipline
Communion Sunday *n* : a Sunday (as the first Sunday of the month) on which a Protestant church regularly holds a Communion service
com·mu·ni·qué \kə-'myü-nə-ˌkā, -ˌmyü-nə-'\ *n* [F, fr. pp. of *communiquer* to communicate, fr. L *communicare*] : BULLETIN 1
com·mu·nism \'käm-yə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* [F *communisme*, fr. *commun* common] **1 a** : a theory advocating elimination of private property **b** : a system in which goods are owned in common and are available to all as needed **2** *cap* **a** : a doctrine based on revolutionary Marxian socialism and Marxism-Leninism that is the official ideology of the U.S.S.R. **b** : a totalitarian system of government in which a single authoritarian party controls state-owned means of production with the professed aim of establishing a stateless society **c** : a final stage of society in Marxist theory in which the state has withered away and economic goods are distributed equitably
com·mu·nist \'käm-yə-nəst\ *n* **1** : an adherent or advocate of communism **2** *cap* : COMMUNARD **3 a** *cap* : a member of a Communist party or movement **b** *often cap* : an adherent or advocate of a Communist government, party, or movement **4** *often cap* : one held to engage in left-wing, subversive, or revolutionary activities — **communist** *adj, often cap* — **com·mu·nis·tic** \ˌkäm-yə-'nis-tik\ *adj, often cap* — **com·mu·nis·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
com·mu·ni·tar·i·an \kə-ˌmyü-nə-'ter-ē-ən\ *adj* : of or relating to social organization in small cooperative partially collectivist communities — **communitarian** *n* — **com·mu·ni·tar·i·an·ism** \-ē-əˌniz-əm\ *n*
com·mu·ni·ty \kə-'myü-nət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *comunete*, fr. MF *comuneté*, fr. L *communitat-, communitas*, fr. *communis*] **1** : a unified body of individuals: as **a** : STATE, COMMONWEALTH **b** : the people with common interests living in a particular area; *broadly* : the area itself ⟨the problems of a large ~⟩ **c** : an interacting population of various kinds of individuals (as species) in a common location **d** : a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society ⟨a ~ of retired persons⟩ **e** : a group linked by a common policy **f** : a body of persons or nations having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests ⟨the international ~⟩ **g** : a body of persons of common and esp. professional interests scattered through a larger society ⟨the academic ~⟩ **2** : society at large **3 a** : joint ownership or participation ⟨asserts that ~ of goods would be the ideal institution —G. L. Dickinson⟩ **b** : common character : LIKENESS ⟨bound by ~ of interests⟩ **c** : social activity : FELLOWSHIP **d** : a social state or condition
community antenna television *n* : a system of television reception in which signals from distant stations are picked up by a tall or elevated antenna and sent by cable to the individual receivers of paying subscribers
community center *n* : a building or group of buildings for a community's educational and recreational activities
community chest *n* : a general fund accumulated from individual subscriptions to defray demands on a community for charity and social welfare
community college *n* : a nonresidential junior college that is usu. government-supported
community property *n* : property held jointly by husband and wife
com·mu·ni·ty·wide \kə-ˌmyü-nət-ē-'wīd\ *adj* : operative or effective throughout a community
com·mu·nize \'käm-yə-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-nized; -niz·ing** [back-formation fr. *communization*] **1 a** : to make common **b** : to make into state-owned property **2** : to subject to Communist principles of organization — **com·mu·ni·za·tion** \ˌkäm-yə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n*
com·mu·tate \'käm-yə-ˌtāt\ *vt* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [back-formation fr. *commutation*] : to reverse every other half cycle of (an alternating current) so as to form a unidirectional current
com·mu·ta·tion \ˌkäm-yə-'tā-shən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *commutation-, commutatio*, fr. *commutatus*, pp. of *commutare*] **1** : EXCHANGE, TRADE **2** : REPLACEMENT; *specif* : a substitution of one form of payment or charge for another **3** : a change of a legal penalty or punishment to a lesser one **4** : an act or process of commuting **5** : the action of commutating
commutation ticket *n* : a transportation ticket sold for a fixed number of trips over the same route during a limited period
com·mu·ta·tive \'käm-yə-ˌtāt-iv, kə-'myüt-ət-\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or showing commutation **2** : combining elements or having elements that combine in such a manner that the result is independent of the order in which the elements are taken ⟨a ~ group⟩ ⟨addition of the positive integers is ~⟩
com·mu·ta·tiv·i·ty \kə-ˌmyüt-ə-'tiv-ət-ē, ˌkäm-yə-tə-\ *n* : the property of being commutative ⟨the ~ of a mathematical operation⟩
com·mu·ta·tor \'käm-yə-ˌtāt-ər\ *n* **1** : a switch for reversing the direction of an electric current **2** : a series of bars or segments so connected to armature coils of a dynamo that rotation of the armature will in conjunction with fixed brushes result in unidirectional current output in the case of a generator and in the reversal of the current into the coils in the case of a motor **3** : an element of a mathematical group that when multiplied by the product of two given elements yields the product of the elements in reverse order
¹com·mute \kə-'myüt\ *vb* **com·mut·ed; com·mut·ing** [L *commutare* to change, exchange, fr. *com-* + *mutare* to change] *vt* **1 a** : to give in exchange for another : EXCHANGE **b** : CHANGE, ALTER **2** : to convert (as a payment) into another form **3** : to exchange (a penalty) for another less severe **4** : COMMUTATE ~ *vi* **1** : to make up : COMPENSATE **2** : to pay in gross **3** : to travel back and forth regularly (as between a suburb and a city) — **com·mut·able** \-'myüt-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **com·mut·er** *n*
²commute *n* : a trip made in commuting
co·mo·no·mer \(ˌ)kō-'män-ə-mər, -'mō-nə-\ *n* [*co-* + *monomer*] : one of the constituents of a copolymer
co·mose \'kō-ˌmōs\ *adj* [L *comosus* hairy, fr. *coma* hair — more at COMA] : bearing a tuft of soft hairs
¹comp \'kəmp, 'kämp\ *vi* [short for *accompany*] : to play an irregularly rhythmic jazz accompaniment
²comp *abbr* **1** comparative; compare **2** compensation **3** compiled; compiler **4** composition **5** compound **6** comprehensive **7** comptroller
¹com·pact \kəm-'pakt, käm-', 'käm-ˌ\ *adj* [ME, firmly put together, fr. L *compactus*, fr. pp. of *compingere* to put together, fr. *com-* + *pangere* to fasten — more at PACT] **1** : COMPOSED, MADE **2 a** : having parts or units closely packed or joined ⟨a ~ woolen⟩ **b** : not diffuse or verbose ⟨a ~ statement⟩ **c** : occupying a small volume by reason of efficient use of space ⟨a ~ camera⟩ ⟨a ~ formation of troops⟩ ***syn*** see CLOSE — **com·pact·ly** *adv* — **com·pact·ness** *n*
²compact *vt* **1 a** : to knit or draw together : COMBINE, CONSOLIDATE **b** : to press together : COMPRESS **2** : to make up by connecting or combining : COMPOSE ~ *vi* : to become compacted — **com·pact·ible** \-'pak-tə-bəl, -ˌpak-\ *adj* — **com·pac·tor** *or* **com·pact·er** \-'pak-tər, -ˌpak-\ *n*
³com·pact \'käm-ˌpakt\ *n* : something that is compact or compacted: **a** : a small cosmetic case (as for compressed powder) **b** : an automobile smaller than an intermediate but larger than a subcompact
⁴com·pact \'käm-ˌpakt\ *n* [L *compactum*, fr. neut. of *compactus*, pp. of *compacisci* to make an agreement, fr. *com-* + *pacisci* to contract] : an agreement or covenant between two or more parties
com·pac·tion \kəm-'pak-shən, käm-\ *n* : the act or process of compacting : the state of being compacted
¹com·pan·ion \kəm-'pan-yən\ *n* [ME *compainoun*, fr. OF *compagnon*, fr. LL *companion-, companio*, fr. L *com-* + *panis* bread, food] **1** : COMRADE, ASSOCIATE **2** *obs* : RASCAL **3 a** : one of a pair or set of matching things **b** : one employed to live with and serve another
²companion *vt* : ACCOMPANY ~ *vi* : to keep company : ASSOCIATE
³companion *n* [by folk etymology fr. D *kampanje* poop deck] **1** : a hood covering at the top of a companionway **2** : COMPANIONWAY
com·pan·ion·able \kəm-'pan-yə-nə-bəl\ *adj* : marked by, conducive to, or suggestive of companionship : SOCIABLE ⟨tells her story calmly in a quiet ~ voice —Edward Callan⟩ — **com·pan·ion·able·ness** *n* — **com·pan·ion·ably** \-blē\ *adv*
com·pan·ion·ate \kəm-'pan-yə-nət\ *adj* : relating to or in the manner of companions; *specif* : harmoniously or suitably accompanying
companionate marriage *n* : a proposed form of marriage in which legalized birth control would be practiced, the divorce of childless couples by mutual consent permitted, and neither party would have any financial or economic claim on the other
companion cell *n* : a living nucleated cell that is closely associated in origin, position, and probably function with a cell making up part of a sieve tube of a vascular plant
companion piece *n* : an object (as a literary work) that is associated with and complements another
com·pan·ion·ship \kəm-'pan-yən-ˌship\ *n* : the fellowship existing among companions
com·pan·ion·way \-yən-ˌwā\ *n* [³*companion*] : a ship's stairway from one deck to another
¹com·pa·ny \'kəmp-(ə-)nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** *often attrib* [ME *companie*, fr. OF *compagnie*, fr. *compain* companion, fr. LL *companio*] **1 a** : association with another : FELLOWSHIP ⟨enjoy a person's ~⟩ **b** : COMPANIONS, ASSOCIATES ⟨know a person by the ~ he keeps⟩ **c** : VISITORS, GUESTS ⟨having ~ for dinner⟩ **2 a** : a group of persons or things ⟨a ~ of horsemen⟩ **b** : a body of soldiers; *specif* : a unit (as of infantry) consisting usu. of a headquarters and two or more platoons **c** : an organization of musical or dramatic performers ⟨an opera ~⟩ **d** : the officers and men of a ship **e** : a fire-fighting unit **3 a** : a chartered commercial organization or medieval trade guild **b** : an association of persons for carrying on a commercial or industrial enterprise **c** : those members of a partnership firm whose names do not appear in the firm name ⟨John Doe and *Company*⟩
²company *vt* **-nied; -ny·ing** : ACCOMPANY ⟨may . . . fair winds ~ your safe return —John Masefield⟩ ~ *vi* : ASSOCIATE
company officer *n* : a commissioned officer in the army, air force, or marine corps of the rank of captain, first lieutenant, or second lieutenant — called also *company grade officer;* compare FIELD OFFICER, GENERAL OFFICER
company town *n* : a community that is dependent on one firm for all or most of the necessary services or functions of town life (as employment, housing, and stores)
company union *n* : an unaffiliated labor union of the employees of a single firm; *esp* : one dominated by the employer
com·pa·ra·bil·i·ty \ˌkäm-p(ə-)rə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* : the quality or state of being comparable
com·pa·ra·ble \'käm-p(ə-)rə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : capable of or suitable for comparison **2** : EQUIVALENT, SIMILAR ⟨fabrics of ~ quality⟩ — **com·pa·ra·ble·ness** *n* — **com·pa·ra·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
com·par·a·tist \kəm-'par-ət-əst\ *n* [*comparative* + *-ist*] : one that uses a comparative method (as in the study of literature)
¹com·par·a·tive \kəm-'par-ət-iv\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or constituting the degree of comparison in a language that denotes increase in the quality, quantity, or relation expressed by an adjective or adverb **2** : considered as if in comparison to something else as a standard not quite attained : RELATIVE ⟨~ stranger⟩ **3** : characterized by the systematic comparison of phenomena and esp. of

likenesses and dissimilarities ⟨~ anatomy⟩ — **com·par·a·tive·ly** *adv* — **com·par·a·tive·ness** *n*

²comparative *n* **1 a** : one that compares with another esp. on equal footing : RIVAL **b** : one that makes witty or mocking comparisons **2** : the comparative degree or form in a language

com·par·a·tiv·ist \kəm-'par-ət-i-vəst\ *n* : COMPARATIST

com·par·a·tor \kəm-'par-ət-ər\ *n* : a device for comparing something with a similar thing or with a standard measure

¹com·pare \kəm-'pa(ə)r, -'pe(ə)r\ *vb* **com·pared; com·par·ing** [ME *comparen*, fr. MF *comparer*, fr. L *comparare* to couple, compare, fr. *compar* like, fr. *com-* + *par* equal] *vt* **1** : to represent as similar : LIKEN **2** : to examine the character or qualities of esp. in order to discover resemblances or differences **3** : to inflect or modify (an adjective or adverb) according to the degrees of comparison **~** *vi* **1** : to bear being compared **2** : to make comparisons **3** : to be equal or alike

syn COMPARE, CONTRAST, COLLATE *shared meaning element* : to set side by side in order to show likenesses and differences

²compare *n* : COMPARISON ⟨beauty beyond ~⟩

com·par·i·son \kəm-'par-ə-sən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *comparaison*, fr. L *comparation-*, *comparatio*, fr. *comparatus*, pp. of *comparare*] **1** : the act or process of comparing: **a** : the representing of one thing or person as similar to or like another ⟨a ~ of man to monkey⟩ **b** : an examination of two or more items to establish similarities and dissimilarities **2** : identity of features : SIMILARITY ⟨several points of ~ between two authors⟩ **3** : the modification of an adjective or adverb to denote different levels of quality, quantity, or relation

com·part \kəm-'pärt\ *vt* [It *compartire*, fr. LL *compartiri* to share out, fr. L *com-* + *partiri* to share, fr. *part-*, *pars* part, share] : to mark out into parts; *specif* : to lay out in parts according to a plan

¹com·part·ment \kəm-'pärt-mənt\ *n* [MF *compartiment*, fr. It *compartimento*, fr. *compartire*] **1** : one of the parts into which an enclosed space is divided **2** : a separate division or section — **com·part·men·tal** \kəm-ˌpärt-'ment-ᵊl, ˌkäm-\ *adj*

²com·part·ment \-ˌment, -mənt\ *vt* : COMPARTMENTALIZE

com·part·men·tal·ize \kəm-ˌpärt-'ment-ᵊl-ˌīz, ˌkäm-\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to separate into isolated compartments or categories ⟨*compartmentalized* knowledge —H. M. McLuhan⟩ — **com·part·men·tal·iza·tion** \-ˌment-ᵊl-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*

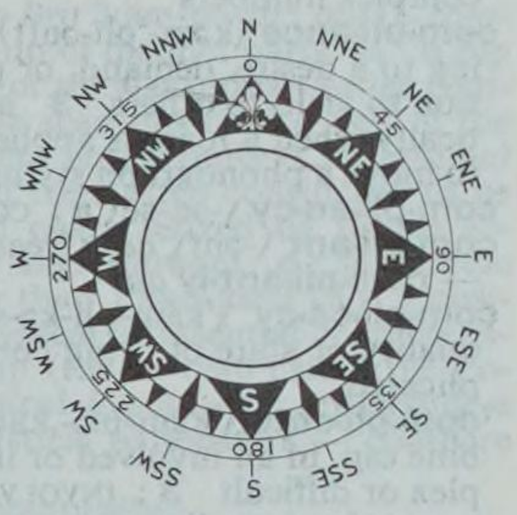
com·part·men·ta·tion \kəm-ˌpärt-mən-'tā-shən, -ˌmen-\ *n* : division into separate sections or units

¹com·pass \'kəm-pəs *also* 'käm-\ *vt* [ME *compassen*, fr. OF *compasser* to measure, fr. (assumed) VL *compassare* to pace off, fr. L *com-* + *passus* pace] **1** : to devise or contrive often with craft or skill **2 a** : ENCOMPASS **b** : to travel entirely around ⟨~ the earth⟩ **3 a** : to bring about : ACHIEVE **b** : to get into one's possession or power : OBTAIN **4** : COMPREHEND ***syn*** see REACH — **com·pass·able** \-pə-sə-bəl\ *adj*

²compass *n* **1 a** : BOUNDARY, CIRCUMFERENCE ⟨within the ~ of the city walls⟩ **b** : a circumscribed space ⟨within the narrow ~ of 21 pages —V. L. Parrington⟩ **c** : RANGE, SCOPE ⟨the ~ of a voice⟩ **2** : a curved or roundabout course ⟨a ~ of seven days' journey — 2 Kings 3:9 (AV)⟩ **3 a** : a device for determining directions by means of a magnetic needle or group of needles turning freely on a pivot and pointing to the magnetic north **b** : any of various nonmagnetic devices that serve the same purpose as the magnetic compass **c** : an instrument for describing circles or transferring measurements that consists of two pointed branches joined at the top by a pivot — usu. used in pl.; called also *pair of compasses*

³compass *adj* **1** : forming a curve ⟨a ~ timber⟩ **2** : semicircular in plan — used of a bow window

compass card *n* : the circular card attached to the needles of a mariner's compass on which are marked 32 points of the compass and the 360° of the circle



compass card

com·pas·sion \kəm-'pash-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or LL; MF, fr. LL *compassion-*, *compassio*, fr *compassus*, pp. of *compati* to sympathize, fr. L *com-* + *pati* to bear, suffer — more at PATIENT] : sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it ***syn*** see SYMPATHY — **com·pas·sion·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

¹com·pas·sion·ate \kəm-'pash-(ə-)nət\ *adj* **1** : having or showing compassion : SYMPATHETIC **2** : granted because of unusual distressing circumstances affecting an individual — used of leaves and other military privileges — **com·pas·sion·ate·ly** *adv* — **com·pas·sion·ate·ness** *n*

²com·pas·sion·ate \-'pash-ə-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** : PITY

compass plant *n* : a coarse yellow-flowered composite plant (*Silphium laciniatum*) with large pinnatifid leaves—called also *rosinweed*

com·pat·i·ble \kəm-'pat-ə-bəl\ *adj* [MF, fr. ML *compatibilis*, lit., sympathetic, fr. LL *compatī*] **1** : capable of existing together in harmony **2** : capable of cross-fertilizing freely or uniting vegetatively **3** : being or relating to a system in which color television broadcasts may be received in black and white on receivers without special modification **4** : capable of forming a homogeneous mixture that neither separates nor is altered by chemical interaction ***syn*** see CONSONANT ***ant*** incompatible — **com·pat·i·bil·i·ty** \-ˌpat-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **com·pat·i·ble·ness** \-'pat-ə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **com·pat·i·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

com·pa·tri·ot \kəm-'pā-trē-ət, käm-, -trē-ˌät, *chiefly Brit* -'pa-\ *n* [F *compatriote*, fr. LL *compatriota*, fr. L *com-* + LL *patriota* fellow countryman — more at PATRIOT] **1** : a fellow countryman **2** : COMPEER, COLLEAGUE — **com·pa·tri·ot·ic** \kəm-ˌpā-trē-'ät-ik, ˌkäm-, *chiefly Brit* -ˌpa-\ *adj*

compd *abbr* compound

¹com·peer \'käm-ˌpi(ə)r, käm-', kəm-'\ *n* **1** [ME, fr. OF *compere*, lit., godfather, fr. ML *compater*, fr. L *com-* + *pater* father — more at FATHER] : COMPANION **2** [modif. of L *compar*, fr. *compar*, adj., like — more at COMPARE] : EQUAL, PEER

²compeer *vt*, *obs* : EQUAL, MATCH

com·pel \kəm-'pel\ *vt* **com·pelled; com·pel·ling** [ME *compellen*, fr. MF *compellir*, fr. L *compellere*, fr. *com-* + *pellere* to drive — more at FELT] **1** : to drive or urge forcefully or irresistibly ⟨poverty *compelled* him to work⟩ **2** : to cause to do or occur by overwhelming pressure ⟨exhaustion of ammunition *compelled* their surrender⟩ **3** *archaic* : to drive together ***syn*** see FORCE — **com·pel·la·ble** \-'pel-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **com·pel·ler** *n*

com·pel·la·tion \ˌkäm-pə-'lā-shən, -ˌpel-'ā-\ *n* [L *compellation-*, *compellatio*, fr. *compellatus*, pp. of *compellare* to address, fr. *com-* + *-pellare* (as in *appellare* to accost, appeal to)] **1** : an act or action of addressing someone **2** : APPELLATION 2

com·pend \'käm-ˌpend\ *n* [ML *compendium*] : COMPENDIUM

com·pen·di·ous \kəm-'pen-dē-əs\ *adj* : marked by brief expression of a comprehensive matter ***syn*** see CONCISE — **com·pen·di·ous·ly** *adv* — **com·pen·di·ous·ness** *n*

com·pen·di·um \kəm-'pen-dē-əm\ *n, pl* **-di·ums** *or* **-dia** \-dē-ə\ [ML, fr. L, saving, shortcut, fr. *compendere* to weigh together, fr. *com-* + *pendere* to weigh — more at PENDANT] : a brief summary of a larger work or of a field of knowledge : ABSTRACT

com·pen·sa·ble \kəm-'pen(t)-sə-bəl\ *adj* : that is to be or can be compensated — **com·pen·sa·bil·i·ty** \kəm-ˌpen(t)-sə-'bil-ət-ē, ˌkäm-\ *n*

com·pen·sate \'käm-pən-ˌsāt, -ˌpen-\ *vb* **-sat·ed; -sat·ing** [L *compensatus*, pp. of *compensare*, fr. *compensus*, pp. of *compendere*] *vt* **1** : to be equivalent to : COUNTERBALANCE **2** : to make an appropriate and usu. counterbalancing payment to ⟨~ a neighbor for damage to his property⟩ **3 a** : to provide with means of counteracting variation **b** : to neutralize the effect of (variations) **~** *vi* **1** : to supply an equivalent — used with *for* **2** : to offset an error, defect, or undesired effect — **com·pen·sa·tive** \'käm-pən-ˌsāt-iv, -ˌpen-; kəm-'pen(t)-sət-\ *adj* — **com·pen·sa·tor** \'käm-pən-ˌsāt-ər, -ˌpen-\ *n* — **com·pen·sa·to·ry** \kəm-'pen(t)-sə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

syn **1** COMPENSATE, COUNTERVAIL, BALANCE, OFFSET *shared meaning element* : to make up for what is excessive or deficient or helpful or harmful

2 see PAY

com·pen·sa·tion \ˌkäm-pən-'sā-shən, -ˌpen-\ *n* **1 a** (1) : correction of an organic inferiority or loss by hypertrophy or by increased functioning of another organ or unimpaired parts of the same organ (2) : a psychological mechanism by which feelings of inferiority, frustration, or failure in one field are counterbalanced by achievement in another **b** : adjustment of the phase retardation of one light ray with respect to that of another **2 a** : something that constitutes an equivalent or recompense ⟨age has its ~s⟩; *specif* : payment to an unemployed or injured worker or his dependents **b** : PAYMENT, REMUNERATION — **com·pen·sa·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

¹com·pere \'käm-ˌpe(ə)r\ *n* [F *compère*, lit. godfather — more at COMPEER] *Brit* : the master of ceremonies of an entertainment (as a television program)

²compere *vb* **com·pered; com·per·ing** *vt*, *Brit* : to act as compere for **~** *vi*, *Brit* : to act as a compere

com·pete \kəm-'pēt\ *vi* **com·pet·ed; com·pet·ing** [LL *competere* to seek together, fr. L, to come together, agree, be suitable, fr. *com-* + *petere* to go to, seek — more at FEATHER] : to strive consciously or unconsciously for an objective (as position, profit, or a prize) : be in a state of rivalry ***syn*** see RIVAL

com·pe·tence \'käm-pət-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : a sufficiency of means for the necessities and conveniences of life ⟨provided his family with a comfortable ~ —Rex Ingamells⟩ **2** : the quality or state of being competent: as **a** : the properties of an embryonic field that enable it to respond in a characteristic manner to an inductor **b** : readiness of bacteria to undergo genetic transformation

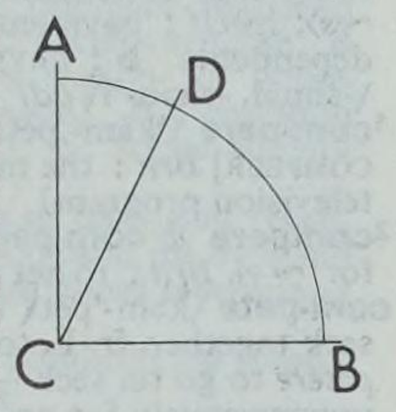
com·pe·ten·cy \-pət-ən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** : COMPETENCE

com·pe·tent \'käm-pət-ənt\ *adj* [ME, suitable, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *competent-*, *competens*, fr. prp. of *competere* to be suitable] **1** : having requisite or adequate ability or qualities : FIT ⟨a ~ workman⟩ ⟨a ~ and well constructed novel —Elaine Bender⟩ **2** : proper or rightly pertinent **3** : legally qualified or adequate ⟨a ~ witness⟩ **4** : having the capacity to function or develop in a particular way; *specif* : having the capacity to respond (as by producing an antibody) to an antigenic determinant ⟨immunologically ~ cells⟩ ***syn*** **1** see ABLE **2** see SUFFICIENT ***ant*** incompetent — **com·pe·tent·ly** *adv*

com·pe·ti·tion \ˌkäm-pə-'tish-ən\ *n* [LL *competition-*, *competitio*, fr. L *competitus*, pp. of *competere*] **1** : the act or process of competing : RIVALRY **2** : a contest between rivals ⟨a high-diving ~⟩; *also* : the person competing ⟨keep ahead of the ~⟩ **3** : the effort of two or more parties acting independently to secure the business of a third party by offering the most favorable terms **4** : active demand by two or more organisms or kinds of organisms for some environmental resource in short supply — **com·pet·i·to·ry** \kəm-'pet-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

com·pet·i·tive \kəm-'pet-ət-iv\ *adj* **1** : relating to, characterized by, or based on competition ⟨~ sports⟩ ⟨~ examinations⟩ **2** : inclined, desiring, or suited to compete ⟨a ~ breed of men —Ken Purdy⟩ ⟨salary benefits must be ~ —M. S. Eisenhower⟩ **3** : depending for effectiveness on the relative concentration of two or more substances ⟨~ inhibition of an enzyme⟩ — **com·pet·i·tive·ly** *adv* — **com·pet·i·tive·ness** *n*

com·pet·i·tor \kəm-'pet-ət-ər\ *n* : one that competes: as **a** : RIVAL **b** : one selling or buying goods or services in the same market as another **c** : an organism that lives in competition with another
com·pi·la·tion \ˌkäm-pə-'lā-shən *also* -ˌpī-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of compiling **2** : something compiled ⟨a ~ of statistics⟩
com·pile \kəm-'pī(ə)l\ *vt* **com·piled; com·pil·ing** [ME *compilen*, fr. MF *compiler*, fr. L *compilare* to plunder] **1** : to collect into a volume **2** : to compose out of materials from other documents
com·pil·er \kəm-'pī-lər\ *n* **1** : one that compiles **2** : a computer program that translates instructions written in a higher-level symbolic language (as COBOL) into machine language
com·pla·cence \kəm-'plās-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* **1** : calm or secure satisfaction with one's self or lot : SELF-SATISFACTION **2** *obs* : COMPLAISANCE **3** : UNCONCERN
com·pla·cen·cy \-ᵊn-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : COMPLACENCE; *esp* : self-satisfaction accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies **2** : an instance of complacency ⟨a book which broke up . . . theological *complacencies* — *Times Lit. Supp.*⟩
com·pla·cent \kəm-'plās-ᵊnt\ *adj* [L *complacent-, complacens*, prp. of *complacēre* to please greatly, fr. *com-* + *placēre* to please — more at PLEASE] **1** : SELF-SATISFIED ⟨a ~ smile⟩ **2** : COMPLAISANT 1 **3** : UNCONCERNED ⟨~ about inflation —N. H. Jacoby⟩ — **com·pla·cent·ly** *adv*
com·plain \kəm-'plān\ *vi* [ME *compleynen*, fr. MF *complaindre*, fr. (assumed) VL *complangere*, fr. L *com-* + *plangere* to lament — more at PLAINT] **1** : to express grief, pain, or discontent **2** : to make a formal accusation or charge — **com·plain·er** *n* — **com·plain·ing·ly** \-'plā-niŋ-lē\ *adv*
com·plain·ant \kəm-'plā-nənt\ *n* : the party who makes the complaint in a legal action or proceeding
com·plaint \kəm-'plānt\ *n* [ME *compleynte*, fr. MF *complainte*, fr. OF, fr. *complaindre*] **1** : expression of grief, pain, or resentment **2 a** : something that is the cause or subject of protest or outcry **b** : a bodily ailment or disease **3** : a formal allegation against a party
com·plai·sance \kəm-'plās-ᵊn(t)s, -'plāz-; ˌkäm-plā-'zan(t)s, -plə-, -'zän(t)s\ *n* : disposition to please or comply : AFFABILITY
com·plai·sant \-ᵊnt, -'zant, -'zänt\ *adj* [F, fr. MF, fr. prp. of *complaire* to gratify, acquiesce, fr. L *complacēre* to please greatly] **1** : marked by an inclination to please or oblige **2** : tending to consent to others' wishes ***syn*** see AMIABLE ***ant*** contrary, perverse — **com·plai·sant·ly** *adv*
com·pleat \kəm-'plēt\ *adj* [archaic variant of *complete* in *The Compleat Angler* (1653) by Izaak Walton] : COMPLETE 3 ⟨the ~ conductor, experienced in opera as well as in the symphonic repertoire — Winthrop Sargeant⟩
com·plect·ed \kəm-'plek-təd\ *adj* [irreg. fr. *complexion*] : having a specified facial complexion ⟨a tall, thin man, fairly dark ~ —E. J. Kahn⟩
¹com·ple·ment \'käm-plə-mənt\ *n* [ME, fr. L *complementum*, fr. *complēre*] **1 a** : something that fills up, completes, or makes perfect **b** : the quantity or number required to make a thing complete ⟨he had the usual ~ of eyes and ears —Francis Parkman⟩; *specif* : the whole force or personnel of a ship **c** : one of two mutually completing parts : COUNTERPART **2 a** : an angle or arc that when added to a given angle or arc equals a right angle **b** : the set of all elements that do not belong to a given set and are contained in a particular mathematical set containing the given set **c** : a number that when added to another number of the same sign yields zero if the significant digit farthest to the left is discarded **3** : the interval in music required with a given interval to complete the octave **4** : an added word or expression by which a predication is made complete ⟨*president* and *beautiful* in "they elected him president" and "he thought her beautiful" are ~*s*⟩ **5** : the thermolabile substance in normal blood serum and plasma that in combination with antibodies causes the destruction of bacteria, foreign blood corpuscles, and other antigens



complement 2a: *ACB* right angle; *ACD* complement of *DCB* (and vice versa); *AD* complement of *DB* (and vice versa)

²com·ple·ment \-ˌment\ *vt* **1** : to be complementary to **2** *obs* : COMPLIMENT ~ *vi, obs* : to exchange formal courtesies
com·ple·men·tal \ˌkäm-plə-'ment-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : relating to or being a complement **2** *obs* : CEREMONIOUS, COMPLIMENTARY
com·ple·men·tar·i·ty \ˌkäm-plə-(ˌ)men-'tar-ət-ē, -mən-\ *n* : the quality or state of being complementary
com·ple·men·ta·ry \ˌkäm-plə-'ment-ə-rē, -'men-trē\ *adj* **1** : serving to fill out or complete **2** : mutually supplying each other's lack **3** : relating to or constituting one of a pair of contrasting colors that produce a neutral color when combined in suitable proportions **4** : of or relating to the precise pairing of purine and pyrimidine bases between strands of DNA and sometimes RNA such that the structure of one strand determines the other — **com·ple·men·ta·ri·ly** \-'men-trə-lē, -(ˌ)men-'ter-ə-lē, -'ment-ə-rə-lē\ *adv* — **com·ple·men·ta·ri·ness** \-'ment-ə-rē-nəs, -'men-trē-\ *n* — **complementary** *n*
complementary angles *n pl* : two angles whose sum is 90 degrees
com·ple·men·ta·tion \ˌkäm-plə-(ˌ)men-'tā-shən, -mən-\ *n* **1** : the determination of the complement of a given mathematical set **2** : production of normal phenotype in an individual heterozygous for two closely related mutations with one on each homologous chromosome and at a slightly different position
complement fixation *n* : the absorption of complement to the product of the union of an antibody and the antigen for which it is specific when added to a mixture of such antibody and antigen
¹com·plete \kəm-'plēt\ *adj* **com·plet·er; -est** [ME *complet*, fr. MF, fr. L *completus* fr. pp. of *complēre* to fill up, complete, fr. *com-* + *plēre* to fill — more at FULL] **1 a** : having all necessary parts, elements, or steps ⟨~ diet⟩ ⟨~ analysis of a problem⟩ **b** : having all four sets of floral organs : MONOCLINOUS **c** *of a subject or predicate* : including modifiers, complements, or objects **2** : brought to an end : CONCLUDED ⟨a ~ period of time⟩ **3** : highly proficient ⟨a ~ artist⟩ **4 a** : fully carried out : THOROUGH ⟨a ~ renovation⟩ **b** : TOTAL, ABSOLUTE ⟨~ silence⟩ ***syn*** see FULL ***ant*** incomplete — **com·plete·ly** *adv* — **com·plete·ness** *n* — **com·plet·ive** \-'plēt-iv\ *adj*
²complete *vt* **com·plet·ed; com·plet·ing** **1** : to bring to an end and esp. into a perfected state ⟨~ a painting⟩ **2 a** : to make whole or perfect ⟨its song ~*s* the charm of this bird⟩ **b** : to mark the end of ⟨a rousing chorus ~*s* the show⟩ **c** : EXECUTE, FULFILL ⟨~ a contract⟩ **3** : to carry out (a forward pass) successfully
complete fertilizer *n* : a fertilizer that contains the three chief plant nutrients nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash
com·ple·tion \kəm-'plē-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of completing **2** : the quality or state of being complete
¹com·plex \käm-'pleks, kəm-, 'käm-ˌ\ *adj* [L *complexus*, pp. of *complecti* to embrace, comprise (a multitude of objects), fr. *com-* + *plectere* to braid — more at PLY] **1 a** : composed of two or more parts : COMPOSITE **b** (1) *of a word* : having a bound form as one or both of its immediate constituents ⟨*unmanly* is a ~ word⟩ (2) *of a sentence* : consisting of a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses **2** : hard to separate, analyze, or solve — **com·plex·ly** *adv* — **com·plex·ness** *n*
syn COMPLEX, COMPLICATED, INTRICATE, INVOLVED, KNOTTY *shared meaning element* : having confusingly interrelated parts ***ant*** simple
²com·plex \'käm-ˌpleks\ *n* **1** : a whole made up of complicated or interrelated parts ⟨a ~ of university buildings⟩ ⟨a ~ of welfare programs⟩ ⟨the military-industrial ~⟩ **2 a** : a group of culture traits relating to a single activity (as hunting), process (as use of flint), or culture unit **b** (1) : a group of repressed desires and memories that exerts a dominating influence upon the personality (2) : an exaggerated reaction to a subject or situation **c** : a group of obviously related units of which the degree and nature of the relationship is imperfectly known **3** : a complex substance (as a coordination complex) in which the constituents are more intimately associated than in a simple mixture
³com·plex *like* ¹\ *vt* **1** : to make complex or into a complex **2** : CHELATE — **com·plex·ation** \ˌkäm-ˌplek-'sā-shən, kəm-\ *n*
complex fraction *n* : a fraction with a fraction or mixed number in the numerator or denominator or both — compare SIMPLE FRACTION
com·plex·ion \kəm-'plek-shən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. ML *complexion-, complexio*, fr. L, combination, fr. *complexus*, pp] **1** : the combination of the hot, cold, moist, and dry qualities held in medieval physiology to determine the quality of a body **2 a** : an individual complex of ways of thinking or feeling **b** : a complex of attitudes and inclinations **3** : the hue or appearance of the skin and esp. of the face ⟨a dark ~⟩ **4** : overall aspect or impression ⟨by changing the ~ of the legislative branch —Trevor Armbrister⟩ — **com·plex·ion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **com·plex·ioned** \-shənd\ *adj*
com·plex·i·ty \kəm-'plek-sət-ē, käm-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being complex **2** : something complex ⟨the *complexities* of today's society —John J. Gallagher⟩
complex number *n* : a number of the form $a + b\sqrt{-1}$ where *a* and *b* are real numbers
com·plex·om·e·try \ˌkäm-ˌplek-'säm-ə-trē, kəm-\ *n* : a titrimetric technique involving the use of a complexing agent (as EDTA) as the titrant — **com·plex·o·met·ric** \(ˌ)käm-ˌplek-sə-'me-trik, kəm-\ *adj*
complex plane *n* : a plane whose points are identified by means of complex numbers
com·pli·ance \kəm-'plī-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act or process of complying to a desire, demand, or proposal or to coercion **2** : a disposition to yield to others **3 a** : the ability of an object to yield elastically when a force is applied : FLEXIBILITY **b** : the force required to move a phonograph stylus a given distance
com·pli·an·cy \-ən-sē\ *n* : COMPLIANCE
com·pli·ant \-ənt\ *adj* : ready or disposed to comply : SUBMISSIVE — **com·pli·ant·ly** *adv*
com·pli·ca·cy \'käm-pli-kə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** [²*complicate*] **1** : the quality or state of being complicated **2** : something that is complicated
¹com·pli·cate \'käm-plə-ˌkāt\ *vb* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** *vt* **1** : to combine esp. in an involved or inextricable manner **2** : to make complex or difficult **3** : INVOLVE; *esp* : to cause to be more complex or severe ⟨a virus disease *complicated* by bacterial infection ~ *vi* : to become complicated
²com·pli·cate \-pli-kət\ *adj* [L *complicatus*, pp. of *complicare* to fold together, fr. *com-* + *plicare* to fold — more at PLY] **1** : COMPLEX, INTRICATE **2** : CONDUPLICATE
com·pli·cat·ed \'käm-plə-ˌkāt-əd\ *adj* **1** : consisting of parts intricately combined **2** : difficult to analyze, understand, or explain ***syn*** see COMPLEX ***ant*** simple — **com·pli·cat·ed·ly** *adv* — **com·pli·cat·ed·ness** *n*
com·pli·ca·tion \ˌkäm-plə-'kā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : COMPLEXITY, INTRICACY; *specif* : a situation or a detail of character complicating the main thread of a plot **b** : a making difficult, involved, or intricate **c** : a complex or intricate feature or element **d** : a difficult factor or issue often appearing unexpectedly and changing existing plans, methods, or attitudes **2** : a secondary disease or condition developing in the course of a primary disease
com·plice \'käm-pləs, 'kəm-\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. LL *complic-, complex*, fr. L *com-* + *plicare* to fold] *archaic* : ASSOCIATE
com·plic·i·ty \kəm-'plis-ət-ē, -'plis-tē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : association or participation in or as if in a wrongful act **2** : an instance of complicity
com·pli·er \-'plī(-ə)r\ *n* : one that complies
¹com·pli·ment \'käm-plə-mənt\ *n* [F, fr. It *complimento*, fr. Sp *cumplimiento*, fr. *cumplir* to be courteous — more at COMPLY] **1 a** : an expression of esteem, respect, affection, or admiration; *esp* : a flattering remark **b** : formal and respectful recognition

: HONOR ⟨a party in ~ of house guests⟩ **2** *pl* : best wishes : REGARDS ⟨accept my ~*s*⟩ ⟨~*s* of the season⟩

²com·pli·ment \-ˌment\ *vt* **1** : to pay a compliment to **2** : to present with a token of esteem

com·pli·men·ta·ry \ˌkäm-plə-ˈment-ə-rē, -ˈmen-trē\ *adj* **1 a** : expressing or containing a compliment **b** : FAVORABLE ⟨the novel received ~ reviews⟩ **2** : given free as a courtesy or favor ⟨~ tickets⟩ — **com·pli·men·ta·ri·ly** \-ˈmen-trə-lē, -(ˌ)men-ˈter-ə-lē, -ˈment-ə-rə-lē\ *adv*

complimentary close *n* : the words (as *sincerely yours*) that conventionally come immediately before the signature of a letter and express the sender's regard for the receiver — called also *complimentary closing*

com·pline \ˈkäm-plən, -ˌplīn\ *n, often cap* [ME *complie, compline,* fr. OF *complie,* modif. of LL *completa,* fr. L, fem. of *completus* complete] : the seventh and last of the canonical hours

¹com·plot \ˈkäm-ˌplät\ *n* [MF *complot* crowd, plot] *archaic* : PLOT, CONSPIRACY

²com·plot \kəm-ˈplät, käm-\ *vb, archaic* : PLOT

com·ply \kəm-ˈplī\ *vi* **com·plied; com·ply·ing** [It *complire,* fr. Sp *cumplir* to complete, perform what is due, be courteous, fr. L *complēre* to complete] **1** *obs* : to be ceremoniously courteous **2** : to conform or adapt one's actions to another's wishes, to a rule, or to necessity ***syn*** see OBEY

com·po \ˈkäm-(ˌ)pō\ *n, pl* **compos** [short for *composition*] : any of various composition materials

¹com·po·nent \kəm-ˈpō-nənt, ˈkäm-ˌ, käm-ˈ\ *n* [L *component-, componens,* prp. of *componere* to put together — more at COMPOUND] **1** : a constituent part : INGREDIENT **2 a** : any one of the vector terms added to form a vector sum or resultant **b** : a coordinate of a vector ***syn*** see ELEMENT ***ant*** composite, complex — **com·po·nen·tial** \ˌkäm-pə-ˈnen-chəl\ *adj*

²component *adj* : serving or helping to constitute : CONSTITUENT

¹com·port \kəm-ˈpō(ə)rt, -ˈpȯ(ə)rt\ *vb* [MF *comporter* to bear, conduct, fr. L *comportare* to bring together, fr. *com-* + *portare* to carry — more at PORT] *vi* : to be fitting : ACCORD ⟨acts that ~ with ideals⟩ ~ *vt* : BEHAVE; *esp* : to behave in a manner conformable to what is right, proper, or expected ⟨~*ed* himself well in the emergency⟩ ***syn*** see AGREE, BEHAVE

²com·port \ˈkäm-ˌpō(ə)rt, -ˌpȯ(ə)rt\ *n* : COMPOTE 2

com·port·ment \kəm-ˈpōrt-mənt, -ˈpȯrt-\ *n* : BEARING, DEMEANOR

com·pose \kəm-ˈpōz\ *vb* **com·posed; com·pos·ing** [MF *composer,* fr. L *componere* (perf. indic. *composui*) — more at COMPOUND] *vt* **1 a** : to form by putting together : FASHION ⟨a committee *composed* of three representatives—*Current Biog.*⟩ **b** : to form the substance of : CONSTITUTE ⟨*composed* of many ingredients⟩ **c** : ARRANGE, SET, PHOTOCOMPOSE **2 a** : to create by mental or artistic labor : PRODUCE ⟨~ a sonnet sequence⟩ **b** (1) : to formulate and write (a piece of music) (2) : to compose music for **3** : to deal with or act on so as to reduce to a minimum ⟨~ their differences⟩ **4** : to arrange in proper or orderly form ⟨~ her clothing⟩ **5** : to free from agitation : CALM, SETTLE ⟨~ a patient⟩ ~ *vi* : to practice composition

com·posed \-ˈpōzd\ *adj* : free from agitation : CALM; *esp* : SELF-POSSESSED ***syn*** see COOL ***ant*** discomposed, anxious — **com·posed·ly** \-ˈpō-zəd-lē\ *adv* — **com·posed·ness** \-ˈpō-zəd-nəs\ *n*

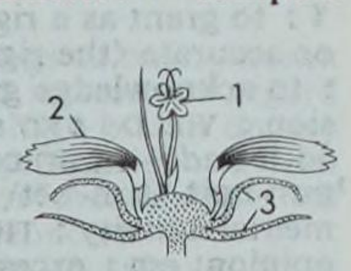
com·pos·er \kəm-ˈpō-zər\ *n* : one that composes; *esp* : a person who writes music

composing room *n* : the department in a printing office where typesetting and related operations are performed

composing stick *n* : a tray with an adjustable slide that is held in one hand by a compositor as he sets type into it with the other hand

¹com·pos·ite \käm-ˈpäz-ət, kəm-, *esp Brit* ˈkäm-pə-zit\ *adj* [L *compositus,* pp. of *componere*] **1** : made up of distinct parts: as **a** *cap* : relating to or being a modification of the Corinthian order combining angular Ionic volutes with the acanthus-circled bell of the Corinthian **b** : of or relating to a very large family (Compositae) of dicotyledonous herbs, shrubs, and trees often considered to be the most highly evolved plants and characterized by florets arranged in dense heads that resemble single flowers **c** : factorable into two or more prime factors other than 1 and itself ⟨8 is a positive ~ integer⟩ **2** : combining the typical or essential characteristics of individuals making up a group ⟨the ~ man called the Poet—Richard Poirier⟩ **3** *of a statistical hypothesis* : specifying a range of values for one or more statistical parameters — compare SIMPLE 10 — **com·pos·ite·ly** *adv*

²composite *n* **1** : something composite : COMPOUND **2** : a composite plant



composite 2: section of a composite flower head: *1* disk flower, *2* ray flower, *3* bracts

³composite *vt* **-it·ed; -it·ing** : to make composite or into something composite ⟨*composited* four soil samples⟩

com·po·si·tion \ˌkäm-pə-ˈzish-ən\ *n* [ME *composicioun,* fr. MF *composition,* fr. L *composition-, compositio,* fr. *compositus*] **1 a** : the act or process of composing; *specif* : arrangement into proper proportion or relation and esp. into artistic form **b** (1) : the arrangement of type for printing ⟨hand ~⟩ (2) : the production of type or typographic characters (as in photocomposition) arranged for printing **2 a** : the manner in which something is composed **b** : general makeup ⟨the changing ethnic ~ of the city —Leonard Buder⟩ **c** : the qualitative and quantitative makeup of a chemical compound **3** : mutual settlement or agreement **4** : a product of mixing or combining various elements or ingredients **5** : an intellectual creation: as **a** : a piece of writing; *esp* : a school exercise in the form of a brief essay **b** : a written piece of music esp. of considerable size and complexity **6** : the quality or state of being compound — **com·po·si·tion·al** \-ˈzish-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **com·po·si·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

com·pos·i·tor \kəm-ˈpäz-ət-ər\ *n* : one who sets type

com·pos men·tis \ˌkäm-pə-ˈsment-əs\ *adj* [L, lit., having mastery of one's mind] : of sound mind, memory, and understanding

¹com·post \ˈkäm-ˌpōst, *esp Brit* -ˌpäst\ *n* [MF, fr. ML *compostum,* fr. L, neut. of *compositus, compostus,* pp. of *componere* to put together] **1** : a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land **2** : MIXTURE, COMPOUND

²compost *vt* : to convert (as plant debris) to compost

com·po·sure \kəm-ˈpō-zhər\ *n* : a calmness or repose esp. of mind, bearing, or appearance : SELF-POSSESSION ***syn*** see EQUANIMITY ***ant*** discomposure, perturbation

com·pote \ˈkäm-ˌpōt\ *n* [F, fr. OF *composte,* fr. L *composta,* fem. of *compostus,* pp.] **1** : whole fruits cooked in syrup **2** : a bowl of glass, porcelain, or metal usu. with a base and stem from which compotes, fruits, nuts, or sweets are served

¹com·pound \käm-ˈpau̇nd, kəm-, ˈkäm-ˌ\ *vb* [ME *compounen,* fr. MF *compondre,* fr. L *componere,* fr. *com-* + *ponere* to put — more at POSITION] *vt* **1** : to put together (parts) so as to form a whole : COMBINE ⟨~ ingredients⟩ **2** : to form by combining parts ⟨~ a medicine⟩ **3** : to settle amicably : adjust by agreement ⟨~ a debt⟩ **4 a** : to pay (interest) on both the accrued interest and the principal **b** : to add to : AUGMENT ⟨we ~*ed* our error in later policy—Robert Lekachman⟩ **5** : to agree for a consideration not to prosecute (an offense) ⟨~ a felony⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to become joined in a compound **2** : to come to terms of agreement — **com·pound·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **com·pound·er** *n*

²com·pound \ˈkäm-ˌpau̇nd, käm-ˈ, kəm-ˈ\ *adj* [ME *compouned,* pp. of *compounen*] **1** : composed of or resulting from union of separate elements, ingredients, or parts; *specif* : composed of united similar elements esp. of a kind usu. independent ⟨a ~ plant ovary⟩ **2** : involving or used in a combination **3 a** *of a word* : constituting a compound **b** *of a sentence* : having two or more main clauses

³com·pound \ˈkäm-ˌpau̇nd\ *n* **1 a** : a word consisting of components that are words (as *rowboat, high school, devil-may-care*) **b** : a word consisting of any of various combinations of words, combining forms, or affixes (as *anthropology, kilocycle, builder*) **2** : something formed by a union of elements or parts; *specif* : a distinct substance formed by chemical union of two or more ingredients in definite proportion by weight

⁴com·pound \ˈkäm-ˌpau̇nd\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. Malay *kampong* group of buildings, village] : a fenced or walled-in area containing a group of buildings and esp. residences

compound–complex *adj, of a sentence* : having two or more main clauses and one or more subordinate clauses

compound eye *n* : an eye (as of an insect) made up of many separate visual units

compound fracture *n* : a bone fracture produced in such a way as to form an open wound through which bone fragments usu. protrude

compound interest *n* : interest computed on the sum of an original principal and accrued interest

compound leaf *n* : a leaf in which the blade is divided to the midrib forming two or more leaflets on a common axis

compound microscope *n* : a microscope consisting of an objective and an eyepiece mounted in a drawtube

compound number *n* : a number (as 2 ft. 5 in.) involving different denominations or more than one unit

com·pra·dor \ˌkäm-prə-ˈdȯ(ə)r\ *or* **com·pra·dore** \-ˈdō(ə)r, -ˈdȯ(ə)r\ *n* [Pg *comprador,* lit., buyer] : a Chinese agent engaged by a foreign establishment in China to have charge of its Chinese employees and to act as an intermediary in business affairs

com·pre·hend \ˌkäm-pri-ˈhend\ *vt* [ME *comprehenden,* fr. L *comprehendere,* fr. *com-* + *prehendere* to grasp — more at PREHENSILE] **1** : to grasp the nature, significance, or meaning of **2** : to include as an integral part ⟨philosophy's scope ~*s* the truth of everything which man may understand —H. O. Taylor⟩ **3** : to include by construction or implication : COMPRISE ***syn*** see UNDERSTAND, INCLUDE — **com·pre·hend·ible** \-ˈhen-də-bəl\ *adj*

com·pre·hen·si·ble \-ˈhen(t)-sə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being comprehended : INTELLIGIBLE — **com·pre·hen·si·bil·i·ty** \-ˌhen(t)-sə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n* — **com·pre·hen·si·ble·ness** \-ˈhen(t)-sə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **com·pre·hen·si·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

com·pre·hen·sion \ˌkäm-pri-ˈhen-chən\ *n* [MF & L; MF, fr. L *comprehension-, comprehensio,* fr. *comprehensus,* pp. of *comprehendere* to understand, comprise] **1 a** : the act or process of comprising **b** : the faculty or capability of including : COMPREHENSIVENESS **2 a** : the act or action of grasping with the intellect : UNDERSTANDING **b** : knowledge gained by comprehending **c** : the capacity for understanding fully **3** : CONNOTATION 3

com·pre·hen·sive \-ˈhen(t)-siv\ *adj* **1** : covering completely or broadly : INCLUSIVE ⟨~ examinations⟩ ⟨~ insurance⟩ **2** : having or exhibiting wide mental grasp ⟨~ knowledge⟩ — **com·pre·hen·sive·ly** *adv* — **com·pre·hen·sive·ness** *n*

¹com·press \kəm-ˈpres\ *vb* [ME *compressen,* fr. LL *compressare* to press hard, fr. L *compressus,* pp. of *comprimere* to compress, fr. *com-* + *premere* to press] *vt* **1** : to press or squeeze together **2** : to reduce in size or volume as if by squeezing ~ *vi* : to undergo compression ***syn*** see CONTRACT ***ant*** stretch, spread

²com·press \ˈkäm-ˌpres\ *n* [MF *compresse,* fr. *compresser* to compress, fr. LL *compressare*] **1** : a folded cloth or pad applied so as to press upon a body part **2** : a machine for compressing

com·pressed \kəm-ˈprest *also* ˈkäm-ˌ\ *adj* **1** : pressed together : reduced in size or volume (as by pressure) **2** : flattened as though subjected to compression: **a** : flattened laterally ⟨petioles ~⟩ **b** : narrow from side to side and deep in a dorsoventral direction — **com·pressed·ly** \kəm-ˈprest-lē, -ˈpres-əd-lē\ *adv*

compressed air *n* : air under pressure greater than that of the atmosphere
com·press·ible \kəm-'pres-ə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being compressed — **com·press·ibil·i·ty** \-ˌpres-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*
com·pres·sion \kəm-'presh-ən\ *n* **1 a** : the act, process, or result of compressing **b** : the state of being compressed **2** : the process of compressing the fuel mixture in a cylinder of an internal-combustion engine (as in an automobile) **3** : a much compressed fossil plant — **com·pres·sion·al** \-'presh-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj*
compressional wave *n* : a longitudinal wave (as a sound wave) propagated by the elastic compression of the medium — called also *compression wave*
com·pres·sive \kəm-'pres-iv\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to compression **2** : tending to compress — **com·pres·sive·ly** *adv*
com·pres·sor \-'pres-ər\ *n* : one that compresses: as **a** : a muscle that compresses a part **b** : a machine that compresses gases
com·prise \kəm-'prīz\ *vt* **com·prised; com·pris·ing** [ME *comprisen*, fr. MF *compris*, pp. of *comprendre*, fr. L *comprehendere*] **1** : INCLUDE, CONTAIN **2** : to be made up of **3** : to make up : CONSTITUTE
[1]com·pro·mise \'käm-prə-ˌmīz\ *n* [ME, mutual promise to abide by an arbiter's decision, fr. MF *compromis*, fr. L *compromissum*, fr. neut. of *compromissus*, pp. of *compromittere* to promise mutually, fr. *com-* + *promittere* to promise — more at PROMISE] **1 a** : settlement of differences by arbitration or by consent reached by mutual concessions **b** : something blending qualities of two different things **2** : a concession to something derogatory or prejudicial ⟨a ~ of principles⟩
[2]compromise *vb* **-mised; -mis·ing** *vt* **1** *obs* : to bind by mutual agreement **2** : to adjust or settle by mutual concessions **3** : to expose to discredit or mischief ~ *vi* **1** : to come to agreement by mutual concession **2** : to make a shameful or disreputable concession — **com·pro·mis·er** *n*
compt \'kau̇nt, 'käm(p)t\ *archaic var of* COUNT
comp·trol·ler \kən-'trō-lər, 'käm(p)-ˌ, käm(p)-'\ *n* [ME, alter. of *conterroller* controller] **1** : a royal-household official who examines and supervises expenditures **2** : a public official who audits government accounts and sometimes certifies expenditures **3** : CONTROLLER 1c — **comp·trol·ler·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
com·pul·sion \kəm-'pəl-shən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or LL; MF, fr. LL *compulsion-*, *compulsio*, fr. L *compulsus*, pp. of *compellere* to compel] **1 a** : an act of compelling : the state of being compelled **b** : a force or agency that compels **2** : an irresistible impulse to perform an irrational act
com·pul·sive \-'pəl-siv\ *adj* **1** : having power to compel ⟨a strangely ~, resonant voice—L. C. Douglas⟩ **2** : of, relating to, caused by, or suggestive of psychological compulsion or obsession ⟨~ actions⟩ — **com·pul·sive·ly** *adv* — **com·pul·sive·ness** *n* — **com·pul·siv·i·ty** \kəm-ˌpəl-'siv-ət-ē, ˌkäm-\ *n*
com·pul·so·ry \kəm-'pəls-(ə-)rē\ *adj* **1** : MANDATORY, ENFORCED ⟨~ arbitration⟩ **2** : COERCIVE, COMPELLING — **com·pul·so·ri·ly** \-(ə-)rə-lē\ *adv*
com·punc·tion \kəm-'pəŋ(k)-shən\ *n* [ME *compunccioun*, fr. MF *componction*, fr. LL *compunction-*, *compunctio*, fr. L *compunctus*, pp. of *compungere* to prick hard, sting, fr. *com-* + *pungere* to prick — more at PUNGENT] **1 a** : anxiety arising from awareness of guilt ⟨~s of conscience⟩ **b** : distress of mind over an anticipated action or result ⟨he showed no ~ in planning devilish engines of . . . destruction —Havelock Ellis⟩ **2** : a twinge of misgiving : SCRUPLE ⟨cheated without ~⟩ ***syn*** see PENITENCE, QUALM — **com·punc·tious** \-shəs\ *adj*
com·pur·ga·tion \ˌkäm(ˌ)pər-'gā-shən\ *n* [LL *compurgation-*, *compurgatio*, fr. L *compurgatus*, pp. of *compurgare* to clear completely, fr. *com-* + *purgare* to purge] : the clearing of an accused person by oaths of persons who swear to his veracity or innocence
com·pur·ga·tor \'käm-(ˌ)pər-ˌgāt-ər\ *n* : one that under oath vouches for the character or conduct of an accused person
com·put·able \kəm-'pyüt-ə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being computed — **com·put·abil·i·ty** \-ˌpyüt-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*
com·pu·ta·tion \ˌkäm-pyü-'tā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the act or action of computing : CALCULATION **b** : the use or operation of a computer **2** : a system or reckoning **3** : an amount computed — **com·pu·ta·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*
[1]com·pute \kəm-'pyüt\ *n* : COMPUTATION ⟨numbers beyond ~⟩
[2]compute *vb* **com·put·ed; com·put·ing** [L *computare* — more at COUNT] *vt* : to determine esp. by mathematical means ⟨~ your income tax⟩; *also* : to determine or calculate by means of a computer ~ *vi* **1** : to make calculation : RECKON **2** : to use a computer
com·put·er \kəm-'pyüt-ər\ *n* : one that computes; *specif* : a programmable electronic device that can store, retrieve, and process data — **com·put·er·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj*
com·put·er·ese \-ˌpyüt-ə-'rēz, -'rēs\ *n* **1** : MACHINE LANGUAGE **2** : jargon used by computer technologists
com·put·er·ise *chiefly Brit var of* COMPUTERIZE
com·put·er·ite \-'pyüt-ə-ˌrīt\ *n* : COMPUTERNIK
com·put·er·ize \kəm-'pyüt-ə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to carry out, control, or conduct by means of a computer **2** : to equip with computers — **com·put·er·iz·able** \-ˌrī-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **com·put·er·iza·tion** \-ˌpyüt-ə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n*
com·put·er·nik \kəm-'pyüt-ər-ˌnik\ *n* [*computer* + *-nik*] : a person who works with or has a deep interest in computers
comr *abbr* commissioner
com·rade \'käm-ˌrad, -rəd, *esp Brit* -ˌrād\ *n* [MF *camarade* group sleeping in one room, roommate, companion, fr. OSp *camarada*, fr. *cámara* room, fr. LL *camera, camara*] **1 a** : an intimate friend or associate : COMPANION **b** : a fellow soldier **2** [fr. its use as a form of address by communists] : COMMUNIST — **com·rade·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
com·rade·ly \-lē\ *adj* : of or resembling a comrade or partner — **com·rade·li·ness** *n*
com·rad·ery \'käm-ˌrad-(ə-)rē, -rəd-rē, -ˌrād-(ə-)rē\ *n* : CAMARADERIE
Comsat \'käm-ˌsat\ *service mark* — used for communications services involving an artificial satellite
Com·stock·ery \'käm-ˌstäk-ə-rē *also* 'kəm-\ *n* [Anthony *Comstock* + E *-ery*] **1** : strict censorship of materials (as books and plays) considered obscene **2** : censorious opposition to alleged immorality in art, literature, and the theater ⟨*Comstockery*, an idiotic and abominable thing —H.L. Mencken⟩
Com·stock·ian \käm-'stäk-ē-ən *also* ˌkəm-\ *adj* : of or relating to Comstockery
Comt·ian *or* **Comt·ean** \'käm(p)-tē-ən, 'kōⁿ(n)t-ē-\ *adj* : of or relating to Auguste Comte or his doctrines — **Comt·ism** \'käm(p)-ˌtiz-əm, 'kōⁿ(n)t-ˌiz-\ *n* — **Comt·ist** \'käm(p)-təst, 'kōⁿ(n)t-əst\ *adj or n*
[1]con \'kän\ *vt* **conned; con·ning** [ME *connen* to know, learn, study, alter. of *cunnen* to know, infin. of *can* — more at CAN] **1** : to study or examine closely : PERUSE **2** : to commit to memory
[2]con *var of* CONN
[3]con *adv* [ME, short for *contra*] : on the negative side : in opposition ⟨so much has been written pro and ~⟩
[4]con *n* **1** : an argument or evidence in opposition **2** : the negative position or one holding it ⟨an appraisal of the pros and ~s⟩
[5]con *adj* : CONFIDENCE
[6]con *vt* **conned; con·ning** [[5]*con*] **1** : SWINDLE **2** : PERSUADE, CAJOLE
[7]con *n* : CONVICT
[8]con *n* [short for *consumption*] *slang* : a destructive disease of the lungs; *esp* : TUBERCULOSIS
[9]con *abbr* **1** [L *conjunx*] consort **2** consolidated **3** consul **4** continued
con- — see COM-
con amore \ˌkän-ə-'mōr-ē, ˌkō-nə-'mōr-(ˌ)ā, -'mȯr-\ *adv* [It] **1** : with love, devotion, or zest **2** : in a tender manner — used as a direction in music
con anima \kä-'nan-ə-ˌmä, kō-'nän-i-\ *adv* [It, lit., with spirit] : in a spirited manner : with animation — used as a direction in music
co·na·tion \kō-'nā-shən\ *n* [L *conation-*, *conatio* act of attempting, fr. *conatus*, pp. of *conari* to attempt — more at DEACON] : an inclination (as an instinct, a drive, a wish, or a craving) to act purposefully : IMPULSE 3 — **co·na·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **co·na·tive** \'kō-nət-iv, -ˌnāt-; 'kän-ət-\ *adj*
co·na·tus \kō-'nāt-əs, -'nät-\ *n, pl* **co·na·tus** \-əs; -'nā-ˌtüs, -'nä-\ [NL, fr. L, attempt, effort, fr. *conatus*, pp.] : a natural tendency, impulse, or striving
con brio \kän-'brē-(ˌ)ō, kōn-\ *adv* [It, lit., with vigor] : in a vigorous or brisk manner — used as a direction in music
conc *abbr* **1** concentrate; concentrated; concentration **2** concrete
con·ca·nav·a·lin \ˌkän-kə-'nav-ə-lən\ *n* [*com-* + *canavalin* (a noncrystalline globulin found in the jack bean), fr. NL *Canavalia*, genus name of the jack bean] : either of two crystalline globulins occurring in the jack bean; *esp* : one that is a potent hemagglutinin
[1]con·cat·e·nate \kän-'kat-ə-nət, kən-\ *adj* [ME, fr. LL *concatenatus*, pp. of *concatenare* to link together, fr. L *com-* + *catena* chain — more at CHAIN] : linked together
[2]concatenate \-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** : to link together in a series or chain — **con·cat·e·na·tion** \(ˌ)kän-ˌkat-ə-'nā-shən, kən-\ *n*
[1]con·cave \kän-'kāv, 'kän-ˌ\ *adj* [MF, fr. L *concavus*, fr. *com-* + *cavus* hollow — more at CAVE] **1** : hollowed or rounded inward like the inside of a bowl **2** : arched in : curving in — used of the side of a curve or surface on which neighboring normals to the curve or surface converge and on which lies the chord joining two neighboring points of the curve or surface
[2]con·cave \'kän-ˌkāv\ *n* : a concave line or surface
con·cav·i·ty \kän-'kav-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : a concave line, surface, or space : HOLLOW **2** : the quality or state of being concave
con·ca·vo–con·cave \kän-ˌkā-(ˌ)vō-\ *adj* : concave on both sides
concavo–convex *adj* **1** : concave on one side and convex on the other **2** : having the concave side curved more than the convex
con·ceal \kən-'sē(ə)l\ *vt* [ME *concelen*, fr. MF *conceler*, fr. L *concelare*, fr. *com-* + *celare* to hide — more at HELL] **1** : to prevent disclosure or recognition of **2** : to place out of sight ***syn*** see HIDE — **con·ceal·able** \-'sē-lə-bəl\ *adj* — **con·ceal·er** \-'sē-lər\ *n* — **con·ceal·ing·ly** \-'sē-liŋ-lē\ *adv* — **con·ceal·ment** \-'sē(ə)l-mənt\ *n*
con·cede \kən-'sēd\ *vb* **con·ced·ed; con·ced·ing** [F or L; F *concéder*, fr. L *concedere*, fr. *com-* + *cedere* to yield — more at CEDE] *vt* **1** : to grant as a right or privilege **2 a** : to accept as true, valid, or accurate ⟨the right of the state to tax is generally *conceded*⟩ **b** : to acknowledge grudgingly or hesitantly ~ *vi* : to make concession : YIELD ***syn*** see GRANT ***ant*** deny — **con·ced·ed·ly** \-'sēd-əd-lē\ *adv* — **con·ced·er** *n*
[1]con·ceit \kən-'sēt\ *n* [ME, fr. *conceiven*] **1 a** (1) : a result of mental activity : THOUGHT (2) : individual opinion **b** : favorable opinion; *esp* : excessive appreciation of one's own worth or virtue **2 a** : a fanciful idea **b** : an elaborate or strained metaphor **c** : use or presence of such conceits in poetry **3** : a fancy article
[2]conceit *vt* **1** *obs* : CONCEIVE, UNDERSTAND **2** *dial* : IMAGINE **3** *dial Brit* : to take a fancy to
con·ceit·ed \-'sēt-əd\ *adj* [[1]*conceit*] **1** : ingeniously contrived : FANCIFUL **2** : having an excessively high opinion of oneself — **con·ceit·ed·ly** *adv* — **con·ceit·ed·ness** *n*
con·ceiv·able \kən-'sē-və-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being conceived : IMAGINABLE — **con·ceiv·abil·i·ty** \kən-ˌsē-və-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **con·ceiv·able·ness** \-'sē-və-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **con·ceiv·ably** \-blē\ *adv*
con·ceive \kən-'sēv\ *vb* **con·ceived; con·ceiv·ing** [ME *conceiven*, fr. OF *conceivre*, fr. L *concipere* to take in, conceive, fr. *com-* + *capere* to take — more at HEAVE] *vt* **1 a** : to become pregnant with (young) **b** : to cause to begin : ORIGINATE **2 a** : to take into one's mind ⟨~ a prejudice against him⟩ **b** : to form a conception of : IMAGINE, IMAGE **3** : to apprehend by reason or imagination : UNDERSTAND **4** : to be of the opinion ~ *vi* **1** : to become pregnant **2** : to have a conception — usu. used with *of* ⟨he ~s of death as emptiness⟩ ***syn*** see THINK — **con·ceiv·er** *n*

con·cel·e·brant \kən-'sel-ə-brənt, kän-\ *n* : one that concelebrates a Eucharist or Mass

con·cel·e·brate \kən-'sel-ə-ˌbrāt, kän-\ *vb* [L *concelebratus*, pp. of *concelebrare* to celebrate in great numbers, fr. *com-* + *celebrare* to celebrate] *vt* : to participate in (a Eucharist) as a joint celebrant who recites the canon in unison with other celebrants ~ *vi* : to participate as a celebrant in a concelebrated Eucharist — **con·cel·e·bra·tion** \(ˌ)kän-ˌsel-ə-'brā-shən, kən-\ *n*

con·cent \kən-'sent\ *n* [L *concentus*, fr. *concentus*, pp. of *concinere* to sing together, fr. *com-* + *canere* to sing] *archaic* : HARMONY

con·cen·ter \kən-'sent-ər, kän-\ *vb* [MF *concentrer*, fr. *com-* + *centre* center] *vt* : to draw or direct to a common center : CONCENTRATE ~ *vi* : to come to a common center

[1]con·cen·trate \'kän(t)-sən-ˌtrāt, -ˌsen-\ *vb* **-trat·ed; -trat·ing** [*com-* + L *centrum* center] *vt* **1 a** : to bring or direct toward a common center or objective : FOCUS **b** : to gather into one body, mass, or force ⟨power was *concentrated* in a few able hands⟩ **2 a** : to make less dilute ⟨~ syrup⟩ **b** : to separate a valuable material from ⟨~ an ore⟩ **c** : to express or exhibit in condensed form ~ *vi* **1** : to draw toward or meet in a common center **2** : GATHER, COLLECT **3** : to concentrate one's powers, efforts, or attention ⟨~ on a problem⟩ — **con·cen·tra·tive** \-ˌtrāt-iv\ *adj* — **con·cen·tra·tor** \-ˌtrāt-ər\ *n*

[2]concentrate *n* : something concentrated

con·cen·tra·tion \ˌkän(t)-sən-'trā-shən, -ˌsen-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of concentrating : the state of being concentrated; *specif* : direction of attention to a single object **2** : a concentrated mass or thing **3** : the relative content of a component : STRENGTH

concentration camp *n* : a camp where persons (as prisoners of war, political prisoners, or refugees) are detained or confined

con·cen·tric \kən-'sen-trik, (')kän-\ *adj* [ML *concentricus*, fr. L *com-* + *centrum* center] **1** : having a common center ⟨~ circles⟩ **2** : having a common axis : COAXIAL — **con·cen·tri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **con·cen·tric·i·ty** \ˌkän-ˌsen-'tris-ət-ē\ *n*

con·cept \'kän-ˌsept\ *n* [L *conceptum*, neut. of *conceptus*, pp. of *concipere* to conceive] **1** : something conceived in the mind : THOUGHT, NOTION **2** : an abstract or generic idea generalized from particular instances ***syn*** see IDEA

con·cep·ta·cle \kən-'sep-ti-kəl\ *n* [NL *conceptaculum*, fr. L, receptacle, fr. *conceptus*, pp. of *concipere* to take in] : an external cavity containing reproductive cells in algae (as of the genus *Fucus*)

con·cep·tion \kən-'sep-shən\ *n* [ME *concepcioun*, fr. OF *conception*, fr. L *conception-*, *conceptio*, fr. *conceptus*, pp. of *concipere* to take in, conceive] **1 a** (1) : the act of becoming pregnant : the state of being conceived (2) : EMBRYO, FETUS **b** *archaic* : BEGINNING ⟨joy had the like ~ in our eyes —Shak.⟩ **2 a** : the capacity, function, or process of forming or understanding ideas or abstractions or their symbols **b** : a general idea : CONCEPT **c** : a complex product of abstract or reflective thinking **d** : the sum of a person's ideas and beliefs concerning something **3** : the originating of something in the mind ***syn*** see IDEA — **con·cep·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·cep·tive** \-'sep-tiv\ *adj*

con·cep·tu·al \kən-'sep-chə(-wə)l, kän-, -'sepsh-wəl\ *adj* [ML *conceptualis* of thought, fr. LL *conceptus* act of conceiving, thought, fr. L *conceptus*, pp.] : of, relating to, or consisting of concepts — **con·cep·tu·al·i·ty** \-ˌsep-chə-'wal-ət-ē, -shə-\ *n* — **con·cep·tu·al·ly** *adv*

con·cep·tu·al·ism \-'sep-chə(-wə)-ˌliz-əm, -'sepsh-wə-\ *n* : a theory intermediate between realism and nominalism that universals exist in the mind as concepts of discourse or as predicates which may be properly affirmed of reality — **con·cep·tu·al·ist** \-ləst\ *n* — **con·cep·tu·al·is·tic** \-ˌsep-chə(-wə) -lis-tik, -ˌsepsh-wə-\ *adj* — **con·cep·tu·al·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

con·cep·tu·al·iza·tion \-ˌsep-chə(-wə)-lə-'zā-shən, -ˌsepsh-wə-\ *n* : the act or process of conceptualizing

con·cep·tu·al·ize \-'sep-chə(-wə)-ˌlīz, -'sepsh-wə-\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to form a concept of; *esp* : to interpret conceptually — **con·cep·tu·al·iz·er** *n*

con·cep·tus \kən-'sep-təs\ *n* [L, one conceived, fr. pp. of *concipere* to conceive] : FETUS

[1]con·cern \kən-'sərn\ *vb* [ME *concernen*, fr. MF & ML; MF *concerner*, fr. ML *concernere*, fr. LL, to sift together, mingle, fr. L *com-* + *cernere* to sift — more at CERTAIN] *vt* **1 a** : to relate to : be about ⟨the novel ~*s* three soldiers⟩ **b** : to bear on **2** : to have an influence on : INVOLVE; *also* : to be the business or affair of ⟨the problem ~*s* us all⟩ **3** : to be a care, trouble, or distress to ⟨his ill health ~*s* me⟩ **4** : ENGAGE, OCCUPY ⟨he ~*s* himself with trivia⟩ ~ *vi, obs* : to be of importance : MATTER

[2]concern *n* **1** : something that relates or belongs to one : AFFAIR **2** : matter for consideration **3 a** : marked interest or regard usu. arising through a personal tie or relationship **b** : an uneasy state of blended interest, uncertainty, and apprehension **4** : an organization or establishment for business or manufacture **5** : CONTRIVANCE, GADGET ***syn*** see CARE ***ant*** unconcern

con·cerned *adj* **1** : DISTURBED, ANXIOUS ⟨~ for his safety⟩ **2 a** : interestedly engaged ⟨~ with books and music⟩ **b** : culpably involved : IMPLICATED ⟨arrested all ~⟩

con·cern·ing *prep* : relating to : REGARDING

con·cern·ment \kən-'sərn-mənt\ *n* **1** : something in which one is concerned **2** : IMPORTANCE, CONSEQUENCE **3** *archaic* : INVOLVEMENT, PARTICIPATION **4** : SOLICITUDE, ANXIETY

[1]con·cert \kən-'sərt\ *vb* [MF *concerter*, fr. OIt *concertare*, fr. LL, fr. L, to contend, fr. *com-* + *certare* to strive, fr. *certus* decided, determined — more at CERTAIN] *vt* **1** : to settle or adjust by conferring and reaching an agreement ⟨got together to ~ their differences⟩ **2** : to make a plan for ⟨~ measures for aiding the poor⟩ ~ *vi* : to act in harmony or conjunction ***syn*** see NEGOTIATE

[2]con·cert \'kän(t)-sərt, 'kän-ˌsərt\ *n* [F, fr. It *concerto*, fr. *concertare*] **1 a** : agreement in design or plan : union formed by mutual communication of opinion and views **b** : a concerted action ⟨the sacrifice was hailed with a ~ of praise⟩ **2** : musical harmony : CONCORD **3** : a public performance of music or dancing; *esp* : a performance usu. by a group of musicians (as a chorus, band, or orchestra) that is made up of several individual compositions not joined in an integrated whole — compare BALLET, OPERA — **in concert** : TOGETHER ⟨he worked *in concert* with others⟩

con·cert·ed \kən-'sərt-əd\ *adj* **1 a** : mutually contrived or agreed on ⟨a ~ effort⟩ **b** : performed in unison ⟨~ artillery fire⟩ **2** : arranged in parts for several voices or instruments — **con·cert·ed·ly** *adv* — **con·cert·ed·ness** *n*

con·cert·go·er \'kän(t)-sərt-ˌgō(-ə)r, 'kän-ˌsərt-\ *n* : one who frequently attends concerts

con·cert grand \ˌkän(t)-sərt-, ˌkän-ˌsərt-\ *n* : a grand piano of the largest size adapted in volume, timbre, and brilliance of tone to concert use

con·cer·ti·na \ˌkän(t)-sər-'tē-nə\ *n* **1** : a musical instrument of the accordion family **2** : a coiled barbed wire for use as an obstacle



concertina 1

con·cer·ti·no \ˌkän-chər-'tē-(ˌ)nō\ *n, pl* **-nos** [It, dim. of *concerto*] **1** : the solo instruments in a concerto grosso **2** : a short concerto

con·cert·ize \'kän(t)-sər-ˌtīz\ *vi* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to perform professionally in concerts

con·cert·mas·ter \'kän(t)-sərt-ˌmas-tər\ *or* **con·cert·meis·ter** \-ˌmī-stər\ *n* [G *konzertmeister*, fr. *konzert* concert + *meister* master] : the leader of the first violins of an orchestra and by custom usu. the assistant to the conductor

con·cer·to \kən-'chert-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-ti** \-(ˌ)ē\ *or* **-tos** [It, fr. *concerto* concert] : a piece for one or more soloists and orchestra usu. in symphonic form with three contrasting movements

concerto gros·so \-'grō-(ˌ)sō\ *n, pl* **concerti gros·si** \-(ˌ)sē\ [It, lit., big concerto] : a baroque orchestral composition featuring a small group of solo instruments contrasting with the full orchestra

concert pitch *n* **1** *archaic* : a tuning standard for use in a concert **2** : a high state of fitness, tension, or readiness

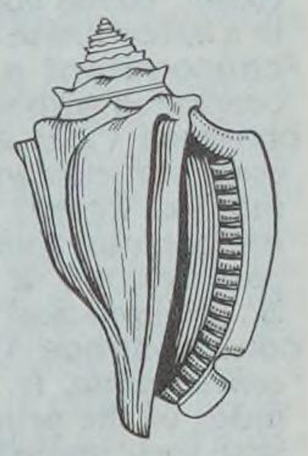
con·ces·sion \kən-'sesh-ən\ *n* [F or L; F, fr. L *concession-*, *concessio*, fr. *concessus*, pp. of *concedere* to concede] **1 a** : the act or an instance of conceding **b** : the admitting of a point claimed in argument **2** : something conceded: **a** : ACKNOWLEDGMENT, ADMISSION **b** : GRANT **c** (1) : a grant of land or property esp. by a government in return for services or for a particular use (2) : a right to undertake and profit by a specified activity (3) : a lease of a portion of premises for a particular purpose; *also* : the portion leased or the activities carried on — **con·ces·sion·al** \-'sesh-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·ces·sion·ary** \-'sesh-ə-ˌner-ē\ *adj*

con·ces·sion·aire \kən-ˌsesh-ə-'na(ə)r, -'ne(ə)r\ *n* [F *concessionnaire*, fr. *concession*] : the owner or operator of a concession; *esp* : one that operates a refreshment stand at a recreational center

con·ces·sion·er \kən-'sesh-(ə-)nər\ *n* : CONCESSIONAIRE

con·ces·sive \kən-'ses-iv\ *adj* **1** : making for or being a concession **2** : denoting concession ⟨a ~ clause⟩ — **con·ces·sive·ly** *adv*

[1]conch \'käŋk, 'känch, 'kȯŋk\ *n, pl* **conchs** \'käŋks, 'kȯŋks\ *or* **conch·es** \'kän-chəz\ [L *concha* mussel, mussel shell, fr. Gk *konchē*; akin to Skt *śaṅkha* conch shell] **1** : any of various large spiral-shelled marine gastropod mollusks (as of the genera *Strombus* and *Cassis*); *also* : its shell used esp. for cameos **2** : CONCHA 2



conch 1

[2]conch *or* **conchol** *abbr* conchology

conch- *or* **concho-** *comb form* [Gk *konch-*, *koncho-*, fr. *konchē*] : shell ⟨*conch*ology⟩ ⟨*conch*iolin⟩

con·cha \'käŋ-kə\ *n, pl* **con·chae** \-ˌkē, -ˌkī\ [It & L; It *conca* semidome, apse, fr. LL *concha*, fr. L, shell] **1 a** : the plain semidome of an apse **b** : APSE **2** : something shaped like a shell; *esp* : the largest and deepest concavity of the external ear — **con·chal** \-kəl\ *adj*

con·chi·o·lin \käŋ-'kī-ə-lən, kän-\ *n* [*conch-* + *-i-* + *-ol* + *-in*] : a scleroprotein forming the organic basis of mollusk shells

con·choi·dal \käŋ-'kȯid-ᵊl, kän-\ *adj* [Gk *konchoeidēs* like a mussel, fr. *konchē*] : having elevations or depressions shaped like the inside surface of a bivalve shell — **con·choi·dal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

con·chol·o·gy \käŋ-'käl-ə-jē\ *n* **1** : a branch of zoology that deals with shells **2** : a treatise on shells — **con·chol·o·gist** \-jəst\ *n*

con·cierge \kōⁿ-'syerzh\ *n, pl* **con·cierges** \-'syerzh(-əz)\ [F, modif. of L *conservus* fellow slave, fr. *com-* + *servus* slave] **1** : a resident in an apartment building esp. in France who serves as doorkeeper, landlord's representative, and janitor **2** : a usu. multilingual hotel staff member esp. in Europe who handles luggage and mail, makes reservations, and arranges tours for the guests

con·cil·i·ar \kən-'sil-ē-ər\ *adj* [L *concilium* council] : of, relating to, or issued by a council — **con·cil·i·ar·ly** *adv*

con·cil·i·ate \kən-'sil-ē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *conciliatus*, pp. of *conciliare* to assemble, unite, win over, fr. *concilium* assembly, council — more at COUNCIL] *vt* **1** : to gain (as goodwill) by pleasing acts **2** : to make compatible : RECONCILE **3** : APPEASE ~ *vi* : to become friendly or agreeable — **con·cil·i·a·tion** \-ˌsil-ē-'ā-shən\ *n* — **con·cil·i·a·tive** \-'sil-ē-ˌāt-iv\ *adj* — **con·cil·i·a·tor** \-ˌāt-ər\ *n* — **con·cil·ia·to·ry** \-'sil-yə-ˌtōr-ē, -'sil-ē-ə-, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

con·cin·ni·ty \kən-'sin-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [L *concinnitas*, fr. *concinnus* skillfully put together] : harmony and often elegance of design esp. of literary style in adaptation of parts to a whole or to each other

con·cise \kən-'sīs\ *adj* [L *concisus*, fr. pp. of *concidere* to cut up, fr. *com-* + *caedere* to cut, strike; akin to MHG *heie* mallet, Arm *xait'* to prick] **1** : marked by brevity of expression or statement : free

from all elaboration and superfluous detail **2** : cut short : BRIEF — **con·cise·ly** *adv* — **con·cise·ness** *n*
syn CONCISE, TERSE, SUCCINCT, LACONIC, SUMMARY, PITHY, COMPENDIOUS *shared meaning element* : very brief in statement or expression ***ant*** redundant

con·ci·sion \kən-'sizh-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. L *concision-, concisio,* fr. *concisus,* pp.] **1** *archaic* : a cutting up or off **2** : the quality or state of being concise ⟨the commentary is exemplary in its ~ and lucidity⟩

con·clave \'kän-,klāv\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or ML; MF, fr. ML, fr. L, room that can be locked up, fr. *com-* + *clavis* key — more at CLAVICLE] **1** : a private meeting or secret assembly; *esp* : a meeting of Roman Catholic cardinals secluded continuously while choosing a pope **2** : a gathering of a group or association : CONVENTION

con·clude \kən-'klüd\ *vb* **con·clud·ed; con·clud·ing** [ME *concluden,* fr. L *concludere* to shut up, end, infer, fr. *com-* + *claudere* to shut — more at CLOSE] *vt* **1** *obs* : to shut up : ENCLOSE **2** : to bring to an end esp. in a particular way or with a particular action ⟨~ a meeting with a prayer⟩ **3 a** : to reach as a logically necessary end by reasoning : infer on the basis of evidence ⟨*concluded* that her argument was sound⟩ **b** : to make a decision about : DECIDE ⟨*concluded* he would wait a little longer⟩ **c** : to come to an agreement on : EFFECT ⟨~ a sale⟩ **4** : to bring about as a result : COMPLETE ~ *vi* **1** : END **2 a** : to form a final judgment **b** : to reach a decision or agreement ***syn*** **1** see CLOSE ***ant*** open **2** see INFER — **con·clud·er** *n*

con·clu·sion \kən-'klü-zhən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *conclusion-, conclusio,* fr. *conclusus,* pp. of *concludere*] **1 a** : a reasoned judgment : INFERENCE **b** : the necessary consequence of two or more propositions taken as premises; *esp* : the inferred proposition of a syllogism **2** : the last part of something: as **a** : RESULT, OUTCOME **b** *pl* : trial of strength or skill — used in the phrase *try conclusions* **c** : a final summation **d** : the final decision in a law case **e** : the final part of a pleading in law **3** : an act or instance of concluding

con·clu·sive \-'klü-siv, -ziv\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a conclusion **2** : putting an end to debate or question esp. by reason of irrefutability — **con·clu·sive·ly** *adv* — **con·clu·sive·ness** *n*
syn CONCLUSIVE, DECISIVE, DETERMINATIVE, DEFINITIVE *shared meaning element* : bringing to an end ***ant*** inconclusive

concn *abbr* concentration

con·coct \kən-'käkt, kän-\ *vt* [L *concoctus,* pp. of *concoquere* to cook together, fr. *com-* + *coquere* to cook] **1** : to prepare by combining crude materials **2** : DEVISE, FABRICATE — **con·coct·er** *n* — **con·coc·tion** \-'käk-shən\ *n* — **con·coc·tive** \-'käk-tiv\ *adj*

con·com·i·tance \kən-'käm-ət-ən(t)s, kän-\ *n* **1** : ACCOMPANIMENT; *esp* : a conjunction that is regular and is marked by correlative variation of accompanying elements ⟨there is a parallelism, or ~, between the mental and physical states: in this sense the body is the material expression of the soul —Frank Thilly⟩ **2** : CONCOMITANT

[1]con·com·i·tant \-ət-ənt\ *adj* [L *concomitant-, concomitans,* prp. of *concomitari* to accompany, fr. *com-* + *comitari* to accompany, fr. *comit-, comes* companion — more at COUNT] : accompanying esp. in a subordinate or incidental way — **con·com·i·tant·ly** *adv*

[2]concomitant *n* : something that accompanies or is collaterally connected with something else : ACCOMPANIMENT

con·cord \'kän-,kȯ(ə)rd, 'käŋ-\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *concorde,* fr. L *concordia,* fr. *concord-, concors* agreeing, fr. *com-* + *cord-, cor* heart — more at HEART] **1 a** : a state of agreement : HARMONY **b** : a harmonious combination of simultaneously heard tones — compare DISCORD **2** : agreement by stipulation, compact, or covenant **3** : grammatical agreement

con·cor·dance \kən-'kȯrd-ᵊn(t)s, kän-\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. ML *concordantia,* fr. L *concordant-, concordans*] **1** : an alphabetical index of the principal words in a book or the works of an author with their immediate contexts **2** : CONCORD, AGREEMENT

con·cor·dant \-ᵊnt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *concordant-, concordans,* prp. of *concordare* to agree, fr. *concord-, concors*] : CONSONANT, AGREEING — **con·cor·dant·ly** *adv*

con·cor·dat \kən-'kȯr-,dat\ *n* [F, fr. ML *concordatum,* fr. L, neut. of *concordatus,* pp. of *concordare*] : COMPACT, COVENANT; *specif* : an agreement between a pope and a sovereign or government for the regulation of ecclesiastical matters

con·cours d'e·le·gance \(,)kōⁿ-,kù(ə)r-,dā-lā-'gäⁿs\ *n* [F *concours d'élégance,* lit., competition of elegance] : a show or contest of vehicles and accessories in which the entries are judged chiefly on excellence of appearance and turnout

con·course \'kän-,kō(ə)rs, 'käŋ-, -,kȯ(ə)rs\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF *concours,* fr. L *concursus,* fr. *concursus,* pp. of *concurrere* to run together — more at CONCUR] **1** : an act or process of coming together and merging **2** : a meeting produced by voluntary or spontaneous coming together **3 a** : an open space where roads or paths meet **b** : an open space or hall (as in a railroad terminal) where crowds gather ***syn*** see JUNCTION

con·cres·cence \kən-'kres-ᵊn(t)s, kän-\ *n* [L *concrescentia,* fr. *concrescent-, concrescens,* prp. of *concrescere*] **1** : increase by the addition of particles **2** : a growing together : COALESCENCE; *esp* : convergence and fusion of the lateral lips of the blastopore to form the primordium of an embryo — **con·cres·cent** \-ᵊnt\ *adj*

[1]con·crete \kän-'krēt, 'kän-,\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *concretus,* fr. pp. of *concrescere* to grow together, fr. *com-* + *crescere* to grow — more at CRESCENT] **1** : formed by coalition of particles into one solid mass **2** : naming a real thing or class of things ⟨the word *poem* is ~, *poetry* is abstract⟩ **3 a** : characterized by or belonging to immediate experience of actual things or events **b** : SPECIFIC, PARTICULAR **c** : REAL, TANGIBLE **4** : relating to or made of concrete — **con·crete·ly** *adv* — **con·crete·ness** *n*

[2]con·crete \'kän-,krēt, kän-'\ *n* **1** : a mass formed by concretion or coalescence of separate particles of matter in one body **2** : a hard strong building material made by mixing a cementing material (as portland cement) and a mineral aggregate (as sand and gravel) with sufficient water to cause the cement to set and bind the entire mass **3** : a waxy essence of flowers prepared by extraction and evaporation and used in perfumery

[3]con·crete \'kän-,krēt, kän-'\ *vb* **con·cret·ed; con·cret·ing** *vt* **1 a** : to form into a solid mass : SOLIDIFY **b** : COMBINE, BLEND ⟨art *concreted* with nature to produce a gracious whole⟩ **2** : to make actual or real : cause to take on the qualities of reality **3** : to cover with, form of, or set in concrete ~ *vi* : to become concreted

concrete music *n* : MUSIQUE CONCRÈTE

concrete poetry *n* : poetry in which the poet's intent is conveyed by the graphic patterns of letters, words, or symbols rather than by the conventional arrangement of words

con·cre·tion \kän-'krē-shən, kən-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of concreting : the state of being concreted ⟨~ of ideas in an hypothesis⟩ **2** : something concreted: as **a** : a hard usu. inorganic mass (as a bezoar or tophus) formed in a living body **b** : a mass of mineral matter found generally in rock of a composition different from its own and produced by deposition from aqueous solution in the rock — **con·cre·tion·ary** \-shə-,ner-ē\ *adj*

con·cret·ism \kän-'krēt-,iz-əm, 'kän-,\ *n* : representation of abstract things as concrete; *esp* : the theory or practice of emphasizing graphic rather than linguistic effects in poetry — **con·cret·ist** \-'krēt-əst, -,krēt-\ *n*

con·cret·ize \-,īz\ *vb* **-ized; -iz·ing** *vt* : to make concrete, specific, or definite ⟨tried to ~ his ideas⟩ ~ *vi* : to become concrete — **con·cret·i·za·tion** \(,)kän-,krēt-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*

con·cu·bi·nage \kän-'kyü-bə-nij, kən-\ *n* **1** : cohabitation of persons not legally married **2** : the state of being a concubine

con·cu·bine \'käŋ-kyü-,bīn, 'kän-\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *concubina,* fr. *com-* + *cubare* to lie — more at HIP] **1** : a woman living in a socially recognized state of concubinage **2** : MISTRESS

con·cu·pis·cence \kän-'kyü-pə-sən(t)s, kən-\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. LL *concupiscentia,* fr. L *concupiscent-, concupiscens,* prp. of *concupiscere* to desire ardently, fr. *com-* + *cupere* to desire — more at COVET] : strong desire; *esp* : sexual desire — **con·cu·pis·cent** \-sənt\ *adj*

con·cu·pis·ci·ble \-'kyü-pə-sə-bəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or LL; MF, fr. LL *concupiscibilis,* fr. L *concupiscere*] : motivated by concupiscence : LUSTFUL

con·cur \kən-'kər, kän-\ *vi* **con·curred; con·cur·ring** [ME *concurren,* fr. L *concurrere,* fr. *com-* + *currere* to run] **1** *obs* : to come together : MEET **2** : to happen together : COINCIDE **3** : to act together to a common end or single effect **4 a** : APPROVE ⟨~ in a statement⟩ **b** : to express agreement ⟨~ with an opinion⟩ ***syn*** see AGREE ***ant*** contend, altercate

con·cur·rence \-'kər-ən(t)s, -'kə-rən(t)s\ *n* **1 a** : agreement or union in action : COOPERATION **b** (1) : agreement in opinion or design (2) : CONSENT **2** : a coming together : CONJUNCTION **3** : a coincidence of equal powers in law

con·cur·rent \-'kər-ənt, -'kə-rənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *concurrent-, concurrens,* prp. of *concurrere*] **1 a** : CONVERGENT; *specif* : meeting or intersecting in a point **b** : running parallel **2** : operating or occurring at the same time **3** : acting in conjunction **4** : exercised over the same matter or area by two different authorities ⟨~ jurisdiction⟩ — **concurrent** *n* — **con·cur·rent·ly** *adv*

concurrent resolution *n* : a resolution passed by both houses of a legislative body that lacks the force of law

con·cuss \kən-'kəs\ *vt* [L *concussus,* pp.] : to affect with concussion

con·cus·sion \kən-'kəsh-ən\ *n* [MF or L; MF, fr. L *concussion-, concussio,* fr. *concussus,* pp. of *concutere* to shake violently, fr. *com-* + *quatere* to shake] **1** : AGITATION, SHAKING **2 a** : a hard blow or collision **b** : a stunning, damaging, or shattering effect from a hard blow; *esp* : a jarring injury of the brain resulting in disturbance of cerebral function — **con·cus·sive** \-'kəs-iv\ *adj* — **con·cus·sive·ly** *adv*

cond *abbr* conductivity

con·demn \kən-'dem\ *vt* [ME *condemnen,* fr. OF *condemner,* fr. L *condemnare,* fr. *com-* + *damnare* to condemn — more at DAMN] **1** : to declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil usu. after weighing evidence and without reservation **2 a** : to pronounce guilty : CONVICT **b** : SENTENCE, DOOM **3** : to adjudge unfit for use or consumption **4** : to declare convertible to public use under the right of eminent domain ***syn*** see CRITICIZE — **con·dem·nable** \-'dem-(n)ə-bəl\ *adj* — **con·dem·na·tory** \-nə-,tōr-ē, -,tȯr-\ *adj* — **con·demn·er** \-'dem-ər\ *or* **con·dem·nor** \kən-'dem-ər; kən-,dem-'nȯ(ə)r, ,kän-\ *n*

con·dem·na·tion \,kän-,dem-'nā-shən, -dəm-\ *n* **1** : CENSURE, BLAME **2** : the act of judicially condemning **3** : the state of being condemned **4** : a reason for condemning

con·den·sate \'kän-dən-,sāt, -,den-; kən-'den-\ *n* : a product of condensation; *esp* : a liquid obtained by condensation of a gas or vapor ⟨steam ~⟩

con·den·sa·tion \,kän-,den-'sā-shən, -dən-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of condensing: as **a** : a chemical reaction involving union between molecules often with elimination of a simple molecule (as water) to form a new more complex compound of often greater molecular weight **b** : a reduction to a denser form (as from steam to water) **c** : compression of a written or spoken work into more concise form **2** : the quality or state of being condensed **3** : a product of condensing; *specif* : an abridgment of a literary work — **con·den·sa·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

con·dense \kən-'den(t)s\ *vb* **con·densed; con·dens·ing** [ME *condensen,* fr. MF *condenser,* fr. L *condensare,* fr. *com-* + *densare* to make dense, fr. *densus* dense] *vt* : to make denser or more compact; *esp* : to subject to condensation ~ *vi* : to undergo condensation ***syn*** see CONTRACT ***ant*** amplify (*as a speech*) — **con·dens·able** *also* **con·dens·ible** \-'den(t)-sə-bəl\ *adj*

con·densed *adj* : reduced to a more compact form; *specif* : having a face that is narrower than that of a typeface not so characterized

condensed milk *n* : evaporated milk with sugar added

con·dens·er \kən-'den(t)-sər\ *n* **1** : one that condenses: as **a** : a lens or mirror used to concentrate light on an object **b** : an apparatus in which gas or vapor is condensed **2** : CAPACITOR

con·de·scend \,kän-di-'send\ *vi* [ME *condescenden,* fr. MF *condescendre,* fr. LL *condescendere,* fr. L *com-* + *descendere* to descend] **1 a** : to descend to a less formal or dignified level : UNBEND **b**

: to waive the privileges of rank **2** : to assume an air of superiority ***syn*** see STOOP

con·de·scen·dence \-'sen-dən(t)s\ *n* : CONDESCENSION

con·de·scend·ing *adj* : showing or characterized by condescension : PATRONIZING — **con·de·scend·ing·ly** \-'sen-diŋ-lē\ *adv*

con·de·scen·sion \ˌkän-di-'sen-chən\ *n* [LL *condescension-, condescensio,* fr. *condescensus,* pp. of *condescendere*] **1** : voluntary descent from one's rank or dignity in relations with an inferior **2** : a patronizing attitude

con·dign \kən-'dīn, 'kän-ˌ\ *adj* [ME *condigne,* fr. MF, fr. L *condignus* very worthy, fr. *com-* + *dignus* worthy — more at DECENT] : DESERVED, APPROPRIATE 〈~ punishment〉 — **con·dign·ly** *adv*

con·di·ment \'kän-də-mənt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *condimentum,* fr. *condire* to pickle, fr. *condere* to build, store up, fr. *com-* + *-dere* to put — more at DO] : something used to enhance the flavor of food; *esp* : a pungent seasoning — **con·di·men·tal** \ˌkän-də-'ment-ᵊl\ *adj*

¹con·di·tion \kən-'dish-ən\ *n* [ME *condicion,* fr. MF, fr. L *condicion-, condicio* terms of agreement, condition, fr. *condicere* to agree, fr. *com-* + *dicere* to say, determine — more at DICTION] **1 a** : a premise upon which the fulfillment of an agreement depends : STIPULATION **b** *obs* : COVENANT **c** : a provision making the effect of a legal instrument contingent upon an uncertain event; *also* : the event itself **2** : something essential to the appearance or occurrence of something else : PREREQUISITE: as **a** : an environmental requirement 〈available oxygen is an essential ~ for animal life〉 **b** : the subordinate clause of a conditional sentence **3 a** : a restricting or modifying factor : QUALIFICATION **b** : a state of affairs that hampers or impedes or requires correction 〈delayed by the ~ of the road〉 **c** : an unsatisfactory academic grade that may be raised by doing additional work **4 a** : a state of being **b** : social status : RANK **c** : a usu. defective state of health 〈a serious heart ~〉 **d** : a state of physical fitness or readiness for use 〈the car was in good ~〉 〈exercising to get into ~〉 **e** *pl* : attendant circumstances **5 a** *obs* : temper of mind **b** *obs* : TRAIT **c** *pl, archaic* : MANNERS, WAYS ***syn*** see STATE

²condition *vb* **con·di·tioned; con·di·tion·ing** \-'dish-(ə-)niŋ\ *vi, archaic* : to make stipulations ~ *vt* **1** : to agree by stipulating **2** : to make conditional **3 a** : to put into a proper state for work or use **b** : AIR-CONDITION **4** : to give a grade of condition to **5 a** : to adapt, modify, or mold so as to conform to an environing culture **b** : to modify so that an act or response previously associated with one stimulus becomes associated with another ***syn*** see PREPARE — **con·di·tion·able** \-(ə-)nə-bəl\ *adj* — **con·di·tion·er** \-(ə-)nər\ *n*

con·di·tion·al \kən-'dish-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : subject to, implying, or dependent upon a condition 〈a ~ promise〉 **2** : expressing, containing, or implying a supposition 〈the ~ clause *if he speaks*〉 **3 a** : true only for certain values of the variables or symbols involved 〈~ equations〉 **b** : stating the case when one or more random variables are fixed or one or more events are known 〈~ frequency distribution〉 **4 a** : CONDITIONED 3 〈~ reflex〉 〈~ response〉 **b** : established by conditioning as the stimulus eliciting a conditional response — **conditional** *n* — **con·di·tion·al·i·ty** \-ˌdish-ə-'nal-ət-ē\ *n* — **con·di·tion·al·ly** \-'dish-nə-lē, -ən-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

conditional probability *n* : the probability that a given event will occur if it is certain that another event has taken place or will take place

con·di·tioned *adj* **1** : CONDITIONAL **2** : brought or put into a specified state **3** : determined or established by conditioning

con·dole \kən-'dōl\ *vb* **con·doled; con·dol·ing** [LL *condolēre,* fr. L *com-* + *dolēre* to feel pain; akin to Gk *daidalos* ingeniously formed] *vi* **1** *obs* : GRIEVE **2** : to express sympathetic sorrow 〈we ~ with you in your misfortune〉 ~ *vt, archaic* : LAMENT, GRIEVE — **con·do·la·to·ry** \-'dō-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

con·do·lence \kən-'dō-lən(t)s, 'kän-də-\ *n* **1** : sympathy with another in sorrow **2** : an expression of sympathy

con·dom \'kən-dəm, 'kän-\ *n* [origin unknown] : a sheath commonly of rubber worn over the penis (as to prevent conception or venereal infection during coitus)

con·do·min·i·um \ˌkän-də-'min-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ums** [NL, fr. L *com-* + *dominium* domain] **1 a** : joint dominion; *esp* : joint sovereignty by two or more nations **b** : a government operating under joint rule **2** : a politically dependent territory under condominium **3 a** : individual ownership of a unit in a multi-unit structure (as an apartment building); *also* : a unit so owned **b** : a building containing condominiums — **con·do·min·i·al** \-ē-əl\ *adj*

con·do·na·tion \ˌkän-də-'nā-shən, -dō-\ *n* : implied pardon of an offense by treating the offender as if it had not been committed

con·done \kən-'dōn\ *vt* **con·doned; con·don·ing** [L *condonare* to forgive, fr. *com-* + *donare* to give — more at DONATE] : to pardon or overlook voluntarily; *esp* : to treat as if trivial, harmless, or of no importance 〈~ corruption in politics〉 ***syn*** see EXCUSE — **con·don·able** \-'dō-nə-bəl\ *adj* — **con·don·er** *n*

con·dor \'kän-dər, -ˌdȯ(ə)r\ *n* [Sp *cóndor,* fr. Quechua *kúntur*] **1** : a very large American vulture (*Vultur gryphus*) of the high Andes having the head and neck bare and the plumage dull black with a downy white neck ruff and white patches on the wings — compare CALIFORNIA CONDOR **2** *pl* **condors** *or* **con·do·res** \kən-'dōr-ˌās, -'dȯr-\ : a coin (as the centesimo of Chile) bearing the picture of a condor

con·dot·tie·re \ˌkän-də-'tye(ə)r-ē, ˌkän-ˌdät-ē-'e(ə)r-\ *n, pl* **-tie·ri** \-ē\ [It *condottiere*] **1** : a leader of a band of mercenaries common in Europe between the 14th and 16th centuries; *also* : a member of such a band **2** : a mercenary soldier

con·duce \kən-'d(y)üs\ *vi* **con·duced; con·duc·ing** [ME *conducen* to conduct, fr. L *conducere* to conduct, conduce, fr. *com-* + *ducere* to lead — more at TOW] : to lead or tend to a particular and usu. desirable result : CONTRIBUTE

syn CONDUCE, CONTRIBUTE, REDOUND *shared meaning element* : to lead to an end ***ant*** ward off

con·du·cive \-'d(y)ü-siv\ *adj* : tending to promote or assist : CONTRIBUTIVE 〈an atmosphere ~ to education〉 — **con·du·cive·ness** *n*

¹con·duct \'kän-(ˌ)dəkt\ *n* [alter. of ME *conduit,* fr. OF, act of leading, escort, fr. ML *conductus,* fr. L *conductus,* pp. of *conducere*] **1** *obs* : ESCORT, GUIDE **2** : the act, manner, or process of carrying on : MANAGEMENT **3** : a mode or standard of personal behavior esp. as based on moral principles

²con·duct \kən-'dəkt\ *vt* **1** : to bring by or as if by leading : GUIDE 〈~ tourists through a museum〉 **2** : to carry on or out usu. from a position of command or control 〈~ a siege〉 〈~ an experiment〉 **3 a** : to convey in a channel **b** : to act as a medium for conveying **4** : to act or behave in a particular and esp. in a controlled or directed manner ~ *vi* **1** *of a road or passage* : to show the way : LEAD **2 a** : to act as leader or director **b** : to have the quality of transmitting light, heat, sound, or electricity — **con·duct·ibil·i·ty** \kən-ˌdək-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **con·duct·ible** \-'dək-tə-bəl\ *adj*

syn **1** CONDUCT, MANAGE, CONTROL, DIRECT *shared meaning element* : to use one's powers to lead, guide, or dominate **2** see BEHAVE

con·duc·tance \kən-'dək-tən(t)s\ *n* **1** : conducting power **2 a** : the readiness with which a conductor transmits an electric current **b** : the reciprocal of electrical resistance

con·duc·tion \kən-'dək-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of conducting or conveying **2** : transmission through or by means of a conductor; *also* : CONDUCTIVITY **3** : the transmission of excitation through living tissue and esp. nervous tissue

con·duc·tive \kən-'dək-tiv\ *adj* : having conductivity : relating to conduction (as of electricity)

con·duc·tiv·i·ty \ˌkän-ˌdək-'tiv-ət-ē, kən-\ *n, pl* **-ties** : the quality or power of conducting or transmitting: as **a** : the reciprocal of electrical resistivity **b** : the quality of living matter responsible for the transmission of and progressive reaction to stimuli

con·duc·to·met·ric *or* **con·duc·ti·met·ric** \kən-ˌdək-tə-'me-trik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the measurement of conductivity **2** : being or relating to titration based on determination of changes in the electrical conductivity of the solution

con·duc·tor \kən-'dək-tər\ *n* : one that conducts: as **a** : GUIDE **b** : a collector of fares in a public conveyance **c** : the leader of a musical ensemble **d** : a substance or body capable of transmitting electricity, heat, or sound — **con·duc·to·ri·al** \ˌkän-ˌdək-'tōr-ē-əl, kən-, -'tȯr-\ *adj* — **con·duc·tress** \kən-'dək-trəs\ *n*

con·duit \'kän-ˌd(y)ü-ət *also* -d(w)ət\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, lit., act of leading] **1** : a natural or artificial channel through which something (as a fluid) is conveyed **2** *archaic* : FOUNTAIN **3** : a pipe, tube, or tile for protecting electric wires or cables

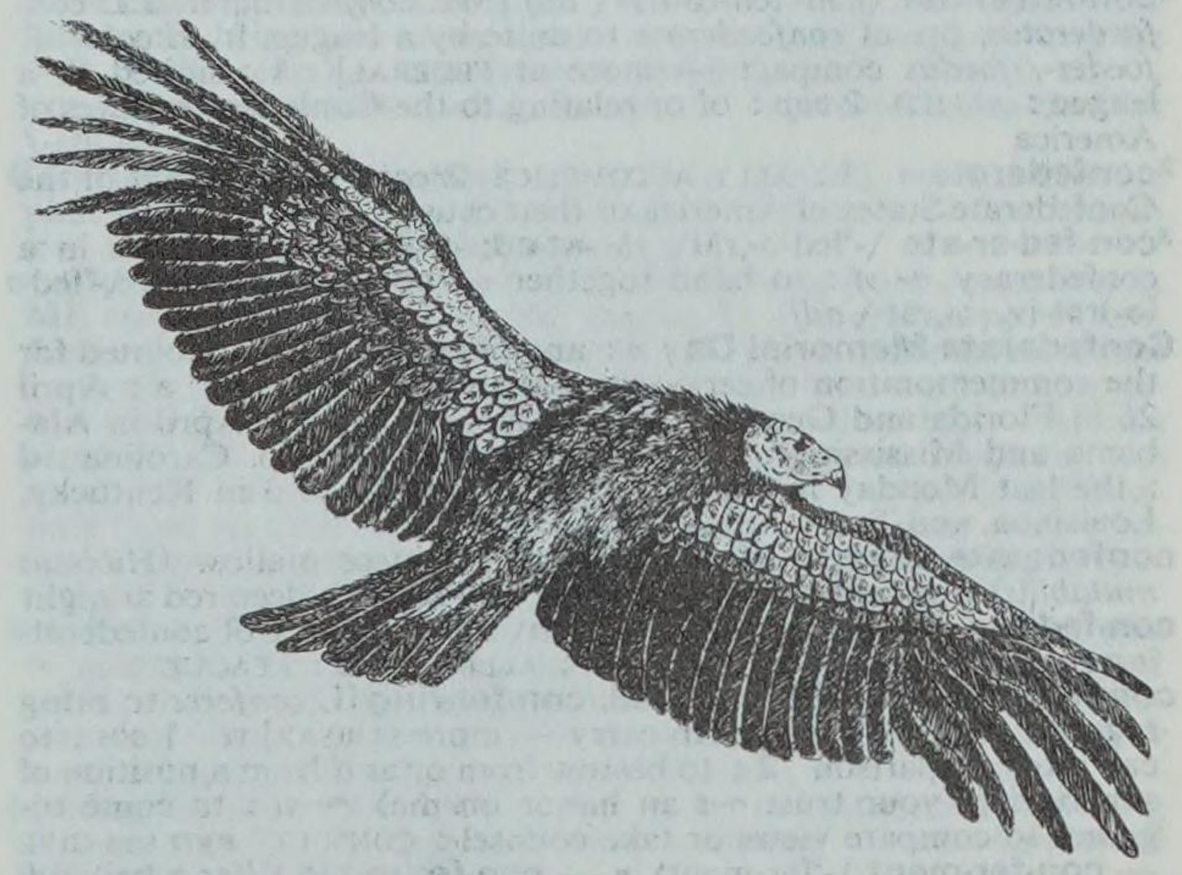
con·du·pli·cate \(')kän-'d(y)ü-pli-kət\ *adj* [L *conduplicatus,* pp. of *conduplicare* to double, fr. *com-* + *duplic-, duplex* double — more at DUPLEX] : folded lengthwise — used of leaves or petals in the bud — **con·du·pli·ca·tion** \ˌkän-ˌd(y)ü-pli-'kā-shən\ *n*

con·dy·lar \'kän-də-lər\ *adj* : of or relating to a condyle

con·dyle \'kän-ˌdīl *also* -dᵊl\ *n* [F & L; F, fr. L *condylus* knuckle, fr. Gk *kondylos*] : an articular prominence of a bone; *esp* : one of a pair that resembles knuckles — **con·dy·loid** \-də-ˌlȯid\ *adj*

con·dy·lo·ma \ˌkän-də-'lō-mə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *kondylōma,* fr. *kondylos*] : a warty growth on the skin or adjoining mucous membrane usu. near the anus and genital organs — **con·dy·lo·ma·tous** \-mət-əs\ *adj*

¹cone \'kōn\ *n* [MF or L; MF, fr. L *conus,* fr. Gk *kōnos* — more at HONE] **1 a** : a mass of ovule-bearing or pollen-bearing scales or bracts in trees of the pine family or in cycads that are arranged usu. on a somewhat elongated axis **b** : any of several flower or fruit clusters suggesting a cone **2 a** : a solid generated by rotating a right triangle about one of its legs — called also *right circular cone* **b** : a solid bounded by a circular or other closed plane base and the surface formed by line segments joining every point of the boundary of the base to a common vertex — see VOLUME table **c** : a surface traced by a moving straight line passing through a fixed vertex **3** : something that resembles a cone in shape: as **a** : one of the short sensory end organs of the vertebrate retina that func-



condor 1

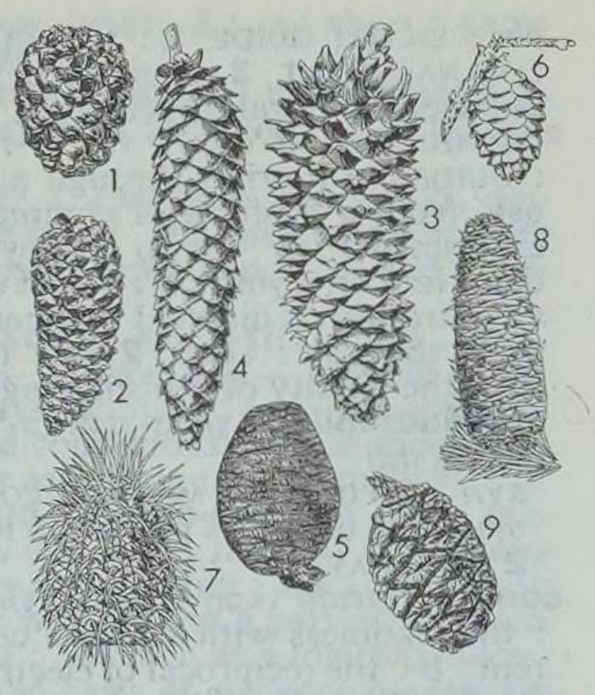
tion in color vision **b** : any of numerous somewhat conical tropical gastropod mollusks (family Conidae) **c** : the apex of a volcano **d** : a crisp cone-shaped wafer for holding ice cream

²cone *vt* **coned; con·ing** **1** : to make cone-shaped **2** : to bevel like the slanting surface of a cone ⟨~ a tire⟩

cone·flow·er \'kōn-ˌflau̇(-ə)r\ *n* : any of several composite plants having cone-shaped flower disks; *esp* : RUDBECKIA

cone·nose \'kōn-ˌnōz\ *n* : any of various large bloodsucking bugs (esp. genus *Triatoma*) including some capable of inflicting painful bites — called also *assassin bug, kissing bug*

con es·pres·sio·ne \ˌkän-ˌes-(ˌ)pres-ē-'ō-nē, ˌkōn-, -'ō-(ˌ)nā\ *adv* [It, lit., with expression] : with feeling — used as a direction in music



cones 1a: *1* stone pine, *2* cluster pine, *3* big-cone pine, *4* sugar pine, *5* deodar, *6* red spruce, *7* Santa Lucia fir, *8* Nordmann's fir, *9* giant sequoia

Con·es·to·ga \ˌkän-ə-'stō-gə\ *n* [*Conestoga*, Pa.] : a broad-wheeled covered wagon drawn usu. by six horses and used esp. for transporting freight across the prairies

co·ney \'kō-nē\ *n, pl* **coneys** [ME *conies*, pl., fr. OF *conis*, pl. of *conil*, fr. L *cuniculus*] **1 a** (1) : RABBIT; *esp* : the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) (2) : PIKA **b** : HYRAX **c** : rabbit fur **2** *obs* : DUPE **3** : any of several fishes; *esp* : a dusky black-spotted reddish-finned grouper (*Cephalopholis fulvus*) of the tropical Atlantic

conf *abbr* **1** conference **2** confidential

con·fab \kən-'fab, 'kän-ˌ\ *vi* **con·fabbed; con·fab·bing** : CONFABULATE — **con·fab** \'kän-ˌfab, kən-'\ *n*

con·fab·u·late \kən-'fab-yə-ˌlāt\ *vi* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *confabulatus*, pp. of *confabulari*, fr. *com-* + *fabulari* to talk, fr. *fabula* story — more at FABLE] **1** : CHAT **2** : to hold a discussion : CONFER — **con·fab·u·la·tion** \kən-ˌfab-yə-'lā-shən, ˌkän-\ *n* — **con·fab·u·la·tor** \kən-'fab-yə-ˌlāt-ər\ *n* — **con·fab·u·la·to·ry** \-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

con·fect \kən-'fekt\ *vt* [L *confectus*, pp. of *conficere* to prepare — more at COMFIT] **1** : to put together from varied material ⟨writers ~*ing* best sellers⟩ **2 a** : PREPARE **b** : PRESERVE — **con·fect** \'kän-ˌ\ *n*

con·fec·tion \kən-'fek-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of confecting **2** : something confected: as **a** : a fancy dish or sweetmeat : DELICACY; *esp* : a fruit or nut preserve **b** : a medicinal preparation usu. made with sugar, syrup, or honey **c** : a piece of fine craftsmanship

con·fec·tion·ary \-shə-ˌner-ē\ *n, pl* **-ar·ies** **1** *archaic* : CONFECTIONER **2** : CONFECTIONERY 3 **3** : SWEETS — **confectionary** *adj*

con·fec·tion·er \-sh(ə-)nər\ *n* : a manufacturer of or dealer in confections

con·fec·tion·ery \-shə-ˌner-ē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1** : sweet edibles (as candy or pastry) **2** : the confectioner's art or business **3** : a confectioner's shop

Confed *abbr* Confederate

con·fed·er·a·cy \kən-'fed-(ə-)rə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : a league or compact for mutual support or common action : ALLIANCE **2** : a combination of persons for unlawful purposes : CONSPIRACY **3** : the body formed by persons, states, or nations united by a league; *specif, cap* : the 11 southern states seceding from the U.S. in 1860 and 1861 — **con·fed·er·al** \-(ə-)rəl\ *adj* — **con·fed·er·al·ist** \-əst\ *n*

¹con·fed·er·ate \kən-'fed-(ə-)rət\ *adj* [ME *confederat*, fr. LL *confoederatus*, pp. of *confoederare* to unite by a league, fr. L *com-* + *foeder-, foedus* compact — more at FEDERAL] **1** : united in a league : ALLIED **2** *cap* : of or relating to the Confederate States of America

²confederate *n* **1** : ALLY, ACCOMPLICE **2** *cap* : an adherent of the Confederate States of America or their cause

³con·fed·er·ate \-'fed-ə-ˌrāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** *vt* : to unite in a confederacy ~ *vi* : to band together — **con·fed·er·a·tive** \-'fed-(ə-)rət-iv, -ə-ˌrāt-\ *adj*

Confederate Memorial Day *n* : any of several days appointed for the commemoration of servicemen of the Confederacy: **a** : April 26 in Florida and Georgia **b** : the last Monday in April in Alabama and Mississippi **c** : May 10 in No. and So. Carolina **d** : the last Monday in May in Virginia **e** : June 3 in Kentucky, Louisiana, and Texas

confederate rose *n, often cap C* : a Chinese mallow (*Hibiscus mutabilis*) with white or pink flowers that become deep red at night

con·fed·er·a·tion \kən-ˌfed-ə-'rā-shən\ n **1** : an act of confederating : a state of being confederated : ALLIANCE **2** : LEAGUE

con·fer \kən-'fər\ *vb* **con·ferred; con·fer·ring** [L *conferre* to bring together, fr. *com-* + *ferre* to carry — more at BEAR] *vi* **1** *obs* : to call into comparison **2** : to bestow from or as if from a position of superiority ⟨your trust ~*s* an honor on me⟩ ~ *vi* : to come together to compare views or take counsel : CONSULT ***syn*** see GIVE — **con·fer·ment** \-'fər-mənt\ *n* — **con·fer·ra·ble** \-'fər-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **con·fer·ral** \-'fər-əl\ *n* — **con·fer·rer** \-'fər-ər\ *n*

con·fer·ee \ˌkän-fə-'rē\ *n* **1** : one conferred with **2** : one on whom something (as a degree) is conferred

con·fer·ence \'kän-f(ə-)rən(t)s, -fərn(t)s, *for 2 usu* kən-'fər-ən(t)s\ *n* **1 a** : a usu. formal interchange of views : CONSULTATION **b** : a meeting of two or more persons for discussing matters of common concern **c** : a meeting of members of the two branches of a legislature to adjust differences **2** *also* **con·fer·rence** \kən-'fər-ən(t)s\ : BESTOWAL, CONFERMENT **3 a** : a representative assembly or administrative organization of a denomination **b** : a territorial division of a denomination **4** : an association of athletic teams — **con·fer·en·tial** \ˌkän-fə-'ren-chəl\ *adj*

con·fer·va \kən-'fər-və\ *n, pl* **-vae** \-(ˌ)vē, -ˌvī\ *also* **-vas** [L, a water plant, fr. *confervēre* to boil together, heal, fr. *com-* + *fervēre* to boil — more at BURN] : any of a genus (*Tribonema*) of filamentous freshwater yellow-green algae; *broadly* : any of various filamentous algae forming scums on still water — **con·fer·void** \-ˌvȯid\ *adj or n*

con·fess \kən-'fes\ *vb* [ME *confessen*, fr. MF *confesser*, fr. OF, fr. *confes* having confessed, fr. L *confessus*, pp. of *confitēri* to confess, fr. *com-* + *fatēri* to confess; akin to L *fari* to speak — more at BAN] *vt* **1** : to tell or make known (as something wrong or damaging to oneself) : ADMIT **2 a** : to acknowledge (sin) to God or to a priest **b** : to receive the confession of (a penitent) **3** : to declare faith in or adherence to : PROFESS **4** : to give evidence of ~ *vi* **1 a** : to disclose one's faults; *specif* : to unburden one's sins or the state of one's conscience to God or to a priest **b** : to hear a confession **2** : ADMIT, OWN ***syn*** see ACKNOWLEDGE — **con·fess·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj*

con·fessed·ly \-'fes-əd-lē, -'fest-lē\ *adv* : by confession : ADMITTEDLY

con·fes·sion \kən-'fesh-ən\ *n* **1** : an act of confessing; *specif* : a disclosure of one's sins in the sacrament of penance **2** : a statement of what is confessed: as **a** : a written acknowledgment of guilt by a party accused of an offense **b** : a formal statement of religious beliefs : CREED **3** : an organized religious body having a common creed — **con·fes·sion·al** \-'fesh-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·fes·sion·al·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* — **con·fes·sion·al·ist** \-əst\ *n* — **con·fes·sion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

confessional *n* **1** : a place where a priest hears confessions **2** : the practice of confessing to a priest

con·fes·sor \kən-'fes-ər *also (for 2 & 3)* 'kän-ˌfes-ər & *(for 3)* 'kän-fə-ˌsȯ(ə)r\ *n* **1** : one that confesses **2** : one who gives heroic evidence of faith but does not suffer martyrdom **3 a** : a priest who hears confessions **b** : a priest who is one's regular spiritual guide

con·fet·ti \kən-'fet-ē\ *n* [It, pl. of *confetto* sweetmeat, fr. ML *confectum*, fr. L, neut. of *confectus*, pp. of *conficere* to prepare] : small bits or streamers of brightly colored paper made for throwing (as at weddings)

con·fi·dant \'kän-fə-ˌdant, -ˌdänt, ˌkän-fə-'\ *n* [F *confident*, fr. It *confidente*, fr. *confidente* confident, trustworthy, fr. L *confident-, confidens*] : one to whom secrets are entrusted; *esp* : INTIMATE

con·fi·dante *like* CONFIDANT\ *n* [F *confidente*, fem. of *confident*] : a female confidant

con·fide \kən-'fīd\ *vb* **con·fid·ed; con·fid·ing** [ME *confiden*, fr. MF or L; MF *confider*, fr. L *confidere*, fr. *com-* + *fidere* to trust — more at BIDE] *vi* **1** : to have confidence : TRUST **2** : to show confidence by imparting secrets ~ *vt* **1** : to tell confidentially **2** : ENTRUST ***syn*** see COMMIT — **con·fid·er** *n*

¹con·fi·dence \'kän-fəd-ən(t)s, -fə-ˌden(t)s\ *n* **1** : FAITH, TRUST ⟨their ~ in God's mercy⟩ **2** : a feeling or consciousness of one's powers or of reliance on one's circumstances ⟨he had perfect ~ in his ability to succeed⟩ ⟨met the risk with brash ~⟩ **3** : the quality or state of being certain : CERTITUDE ⟨they had every ~ of success⟩ **4 a** : a relation of trust or intimacy ⟨took his friend into his ~⟩ **b** : reliance on another's discretion ⟨their story was told in strictest ~⟩ **c** : legislative support ⟨vote of ~⟩ **5** : a communication made in confidence : SECRET

syn CONFIDENCE, ASSURANCE, SELF-POSSESSION, APLOMB *shared meaning element* : a state of mind or a manner marked by easy coolness and freedom from uncertainty, diffidence, or embarrassment. CONFIDENCE stresses faith in oneself and one's powers without any suggestion of conceit or arrogance ⟨had the *confidence* that comes only from long experience⟩ ASSURANCE carries a stronger implication of certainty and may suggest arrogance or lack of objectivity in assessing one's own powers ⟨had a conceited *assurance* of his own worth⟩ SELF-POSSESSION implies an ease or coolness under stress that reflects perfect self-control and command of one's powers ⟨he answered the insolent question with complete *self-possession*⟩ APLOMB applies to the bearing or behavior under difficulties of a person with marked assurance or self-possession but usually carries none of the unpleasant connotations often felt in *assurance* ⟨meet a challenge with *aplomb*⟩ ***ant*** diffidence

²confidence *adj* : of or relating to swindling by false promises

confidence interval *n* : a group of continuous or discrete adjacent values that is used to estimate a statistical parameter (as a mean or variance) and that tends to include the true value of the parameter a predetermined proportion of the time if the process of finding the group of values is repeated a number of times

confidence limits *n pl* : the end points of a confidence interval

con·fi·dent \'kän-fəd-ənt, -fə-ˌdent\ *adj* [L *confident-, confidens*, fr. prp. of *confidere*] **1** *obs* : TRUSTFUL, CONFIDING **2** : characterized by assurance; *esp* : SELF-RELIANT **3 a** : full of conviction : CERTAIN **b** : COCKSURE — **con·fi·dent·ly** *adv*

con·fi·den·tial \ˌkän-fə-'den-chəl\ *adj* **1** : PRIVATE, SECRET **2** : marked by intimacy or willingness to confide ⟨a ~ tone⟩ **3** : entrusted with confidences ⟨~ clerk⟩ **4** : containing information whose unauthorized disclosure could be prejudicial to the national interest — compare SECRET, TOP SECRET — **con·fi·den·ti·al·i·ty** \-ˌden-chē-'al-ət-ē\ *n* — **con·fi·den·tial·ly** \-'dench-(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **con·fi·den·tial·ness** \-'den-chəl-nəs\ *n*

con·fid·ing \kən-'fīd-iŋ\ *adj* : tending to confide : TRUSTFUL — **con·fid·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv* — **con·fid·ing·ness** *n*

con·fig·u·rat·ed \kən-'fig-(y)ə-ˌrāt-əd\ *adj* : having a patterned surface — used of glass or metal

con·fig·u·ra·tion \kən-ˌfig-(y)ə-'rā-shən, ˌkän-\ *n* [LL *configuration-, configuratio*, similar formation, fr. L *configuratus*, pp. of *configurare* to form from or after, fr. *com-* + *figurare* to form, fr. *figura* figure] **1 a** : relative arrangement of parts **b** (1) : something (as a figure, contour, pattern, or apparatus) produced by such arrangement (2) : a set of interconnected equipment forming a computer system **c** : the stable structural makeup of a chemical compound esp. with reference to the space relations of the

constituent atoms **2** : GESTALT ⟨personality ~⟩ ***syn*** see FORM — **con·fig·u·ra·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·fig·u·ra·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv* — **con·fig·u·ra·tive** \-'fig-(y)ə-rət-iv\ *adj*

con·fig·ure \kən-'fig-yər, *esp Brit* -'fig-ər\ *vt* **-ured; -ur·ing** : to give a configuration to : SHAPE ⟨a society *configured* by reliance on a few commodities —H. M. McLuhan⟩

¹con·fine \kən-'fīn\ *vb* **con·fined; con·fin·ing** *vi, archaic* : BORDER ~ *vt* **1** : to keep within limits : RESTRICT **2 a** : to shut up : IMPRISON **b** : to keep indoors ***syn*** see LIMIT — **con·fin·er** *n*

²con·fine \'kän-ˌfīn *also* kən-'\ *n* [MF or L; MF *confines*, pl., fr. L *confine* border, fr. neut. of *confinis* adjacent, fr. *com-* + *finis* end] **1** *pl* **a** : BOUNDS, BORDERS ⟨in the ~s of the big city slums —J. B. Conant⟩ **b** : outlying parts : LIMITS ⟨feel more comfortable within the protective ~s of the system —Paul Potter⟩ **c** : TERRITORY ⟨the future of the city lies in the eastern corner of its ~s — *Springfield (Mass.) Daily News*⟩ **2 a** *archaic* : RESTRICTION **b** *obs* : PRISON

con·fined \kən-'fīnd\ *adj* **1** : kept within confines **2** : restricted to quarters; *esp* : undergoing childbirth

con·fine·ment \kən-'fīn-mənt\ *n* : an act of confining : the state of being confined; *esp* : LYING-IN

con·firm \kən-'fərm\ *vt* [ME *confirmen*, fr. OF *confirmer*, fr. L *confirmare*, fr. *com-* + *firmare* to make firm, fr. *firmus* firm] **1** : to make firm or firmer : STRENGTHEN **2** : to give approval to : RATIFY **3** : to administer the rite of confirmation to **4** : to give new assurance of the validity of : remove doubt about by authoritative act or indisputable fact **5** : ASSERT, MAINTAIN — **con·firm·abil·i·ty** \-ˌfər-mə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **con·firm·able** \-'fər-mə-bəl\ *adj*
syn CONFIRM, CORROBORATE, SUBSTANTIATE, VERIFY, AUTHENTICATE, VALIDATE *shared meaning element* : to attest the truth or validity of something ***ant*** deny, contradict

con·fir·ma·tion \ˌkän-fər-'mā-shən\ *n* **1** : an act or process of confirming: as **a** (1) : a Christian rite conferring the gift of the Holy Spirit and among Protestants full church membership (2) : a ceremony confirming Jewish youths in their ancestral faith **b** : the ratification of an executive act by a legislative body **2 a** : confirming proof : CORROBORATION **b** : the process of supporting a statement by evidence — **con·fir·ma·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

con·fir·ma·to·ry \kən-'fər-mə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : serving to confirm : CORROBORATIVE

con·firmed \kən-'fərmd\ *adj* **1 a** : made firm : STRENGTHENED **b** : being so fixed in habit as to be unlikely to change ⟨a ~ bachelor⟩ **c** : marked by long continuance and likely to persist ⟨a ~ habit⟩ **2** : having received the rite of confirmation ***syn*** see INVETERATE — **con·firm·ed·ly** \-'fər-məd-lē\ *adv* — **con·firmed·ness** \-'fər-məd-nəs, -'fərm(d)-nəs\ *n*

con·fis·ca·ble \kən-'fis-kə-bəl\ *adj* : liable to confiscation

con·fis·cat·able \'kän-fə-ˌskāt-ə-bəl\ *adj* : CONFISCABLE

¹con·fis·cate \'kän-fə-ˌskāt, kən-'fis-kət\ *adj* [L *confiscatus*, pp. of *confiscare* to confiscate, fr. *com-* + *fiscus* treasury — more at FISCAL] **1** : appropriated by the government : FORFEITED **2** : deprived of property by confiscation

²con·fis·cate \'kän-fə-ˌskāt\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** **1** : to seize as forfeited to the public treasury **2** : to seize by or as if by authority ***syn*** see APPROPRIATE — **con·fis·ca·tion** \ˌkän-fə-'skā-shən\ *n* — **con·fis·ca·tor** \'kän-fə-ˌskāt-ər\ *n* — **con·fis·ca·to·ry** \kən-'fis-kə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

con·fi·te·or \kən-'fēt-ē-ər, -ē-ˌȯ(ə)r\ *n* [ME, fr. L, I confess, fr. *confitēri* to confess — more at CONFESS] : a liturgical form in which sinfulness is acknowledged and intercession for God's mercy requested

con·fi·ture \'kän-fə-ˌchu̇(ə)r, -ˌt(y)u̇(ə)r\ *n* [F, fr. MF, fr. *confit* comfit] : preserved or candied fruit : JAM

con·fla·grant \kən-'flā-grənt\ *adj* [L *conflagrant-, conflagrans*, prp. of *conflagrare* to burn, fr. *com-* + *flagrare* to burn — more at BLACK] : BURNING, BLAZING

con·fla·gra·tion \ˌkän-flə-'grā-shən\ *n* [L *conflagration-, conflagratio*, fr. *conflagratus*, pp. of *conflagrare*] **1** : FIRE; *esp* : a large disastrous fire **2** : CONFLICT

con·flate \kən-'flāt\ *vt* **con·flat·ed; con·flat·ing** [L *conflare* to blow together, fuse, fr. *com-* + *flare* to blow — more at BLOW] **1 a** : to bring together : FUSE **b** : CONFUSE **2** : to combine (as two readings of a text) into a composite whole

con·fla·tion \-'flā-shən\ *n* : BLEND, FUSION; *esp* : a composite reading or text

¹con·flict \'kän-ˌflikt\ *n* [ME, fr. L *conflictus* act of striking together, fr. *conflictus* pp. of *confligere* to strike together, fr. *com-* + *fligere* to strike — more at PROFLIGATE] **1 a** : competitive or opposing action of incompatibles : antagonistic state or action (as of divergent ideas, interests, or persons) **b** : mental struggle resulting from incompatible or opposing needs, drives, wishes, or external or internal demands **2** : hostile encounter : FIGHT, BATTLE, WAR **3** : COLLISION **4** : the opposition of persons or forces that gives rise to the dramatic action in a drama or fiction ***syn*** see DISCORD ***ant*** harmony — **con·flict·ful** \'kän-ˌflikt-fəl\ *adj* — **con·flict·less** \-ˌflik-tləs\ *adj* — **con·flic·tu·al** \kän-'flik-ch(ə-w)əl, kən-\ *adj*

²con·flict \kən-'flikt, 'kän-ˌ\ *vi* **1** *archaic* : to contend in warfare **2** : to show antagonism or irreconcilability — **con·flic·tion** \kən-'flik-shən, kän-\ *n* — **con·flic·tive** \kən-'flik-tiv, 'kän-ˌ\ *adj*

con·flict·ing *adj* : being in conflict, collision, or opposition : INCOMPATIBLE — **con·flict·ing·ly** \-'flik-tiŋ-lē, -ˌflik-\ *adv*

conflict of interest : a conflict between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust (as a government official)

con·flu·ence \'kän-ˌflü-ən(t)s, kən-'\ *n* **1** : a coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point ⟨the ~ of scholarship that produced the atomic bomb⟩ **2 a** : the flowing together of two or more streams **b** : the place of meeting of two streams **c** : the combined stream formed by conjunction ***syn*** see JUNCTION

¹con·flu·ent \-ənt\ *adj* [L *confluent-, confluens*, prp. of *confluere* to flow together, fr. *com-* + *fluere* to flow — more at FLUID] **1** : flowing or coming together; *also* : run together ⟨~ pustules⟩ **2** : characterized by confluent lesions ⟨~ smallpox⟩

²con·fluent *n* : a confluent stream; *broadly* : TRIBUTARY

con·flux \'kän-ˌfləks\ *n* [ML *confluxus*, fr. L *confluxus*, pp. of *confluere*] : CONFLUENCE

con·fo·cal \(')kän-'fō-kəl\ *adj* : having the same foci ⟨~ ellipses⟩ ⟨~ lenses⟩ — **con·fo·cal·ly** \-kə-lē\ *adv*

¹con·form \kən-'fȯ(ə)rm\ *vb* [ME *conformen*, fr. MF *conformer*, fr. L *conformare*, fr. *com-* + *formare* to form, fr. *forma* form] *vt* : to give the same shape, outline, or contour to : bring into harmony or accord ⟨~ furrows to the slope of the land⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to be similar or identical **2** : to be obedient or compliant; *esp* : to adapt oneself to prevailing standards or customs ***syn*** **1** see ADAPT **2** see AGREE ***ant*** diverge — **con·form·er** *n* — **con·form·ism** \-'fȯr-ˌmiz-əm\ *n* — **con·form·ist** \-məst\ *n*

²conform *adj* : CONFORMABLE

con·form·able \kən-'fȯr-mə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : corresponding in form or character : SIMILAR — usu. used with *to* ⟨decisions ~ to the will and desire of the people —David Fromkin⟩ **2** : SUBMISSIVE, COMPLIANT **3** : following in unbroken sequence — used of geologic strata formed under uniform conditions — **con·form·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

con·for·mal \kən-'fȯr-məl, (')kän-\ *adj* [LL *conformalis* having the same shape, fr. L *com-* + *formalis* formal, fr. *forma*] : leaving the size of the angle between corresponding curves unchanged ⟨~ transformation⟩; *esp, of a map* : representing small areas in their true shape

con·for·mance \kən-'fȯr-mən(t)s\ *n* : CONFORMITY

con·for·ma·tion \ˌkän-(ˌ)fȯr-'mā-shən, -fər-\ *n* **1** : the act of conforming or producing conformity : ADAPTATION **2** : formation of something by appropriate arrangement of parts or elements : an assembling into a whole ⟨the gradual ~ of the embryo⟩ **3 a** : correspondence esp. to a model or plan **b** : STRUCTURE **c** : the proportionate shape or contour esp. of an animal **d** : any of the spatial arrangements of a molecule that can be obtained by rotation of the atoms about a single bond ***syn*** see FORM — **con·for·ma·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

con·for·mi·ty \kən-'fȯr-mət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : correspondence in form, manner, or character : AGREEMENT ⟨behaved in ~ with his beliefs⟩ **2** : an act or instance of conforming **3** : action in accordance with some specified standard or authority : OBEDIENCE ⟨~ to social custom⟩

con·found \kən-'faund, kän-\ *vt* [ME *confounden*, fr. OF *confondre*, fr. L *confundere* to pour together, confuse, fr. *com-* + *fundere* to pour — more at FOUND] **1** *archaic* : to bring to ruin : DESTROY **2** *obs* : CONSUME, WASTE **3 a** : to put to shame : DISCOMFIT ⟨a performance that ~*ed* his critics⟩ **b** : REFUTE ⟨sought to ~ his arguments⟩ **4** : DAMN **5** : to throw (a person) into confusion or perplexity **6 a** : to fail to discern differences between : mix up **b** : to increase the confusion of ***syn*** **1** see PUZZLE **2** see MISTAKE ***ant*** distinguish, discriminate — **con·found·er** *n*

con·found·ed \kən-'faun-dəd, (')kän-', 'kän-ˌ\ *adj* **1** : CONFUSED, PERPLEXED **2** : DAMNED — **con·found·ed·ly** *adv*

con·fra·ter·ni·ty \ˌkän-frə-'tər-nət-ē\ *n* [ME *confraternite*, fr. MF *confraternité*, fr. ML *confraternitat-, confraternitas*, fr. *confrater* fellow, brother, fr. L *com-* + *frater* brother — more at BROTHER] **1** : a society devoted to a religious or charitable cause **2** : fraternal union

con·frere \'kän-ˌfre(ə)r, kōⁿ-ˌ, kän-', kōⁿ-', kən-'\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, trans. of ML *confrater*] : COLLEAGUE, COMRADE

con·front \kən-'frənt\ *vt* [MF *confronter* to border on, confront, fr. ML *confrontare* to bound, fr. L *com-* + *front-, frons* forehead, front — more at BRINK] **1** : to face esp. in challenge : OPPOSE ⟨scholars must ~ society, often in conflict —Paul Goodman⟩ **2 a** : to cause to meet : bring face to face ⟨~ a reader with statistics⟩ **b** : ENCOUNTER ⟨the problems that one ~s are enormous⟩ — **con·front·al** \-'frənt-ᵊl\ *n* — **con·front·er** *n*

con·fron·ta·tion \ˌkän-(ˌ)frən-'tā-shən\ *n* : the act of confronting : the state of being confronted: as **a** : a face-to-face meeting **b** : the clashing of forces or ideas : CONFLICT **c** : COMPARISON ⟨the flashbacks bring into meaningful ~ present and past, near and far —R. J. Clements⟩ — **con·fron·ta·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·fron·ta·tion·ism** \-shə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* — **con·fron·ta·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n*

Con·fu·cian \kən-'fyü-shən\ *adj* : of or relating to the Chinese philosopher Confucius or his teachings or followers — **Confucian** *n* — **Con·fu·cian·ism** \-shə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*

con·fuse \kən-'fyüz\ *vt* **con·fused; con·fus·ing** [back-formation fr. ME *confused* perplexed, fr. MF *confus*, fr. L *confusus*, pp. of *confundere*] **1** *archaic* : to bring to ruin **2 a** : to make embarrassed : ABASH **b** : to disturb in mind or purpose : throw off ⟨interrogators who do their best to frighten, ~ and bewilder him —Aldous Huxley⟩ **3 a** : to make indistinct : BLUR ⟨stop *confusing* the issue⟩ **b** : to mix indiscriminately : JUMBLE **c** : to fail to differentiate from an often similar or related other ⟨~ money with comfort⟩ ***syn*** see MISTAKE ***ant*** differentiate — **con·fus·ing** \-'fyü-ziŋ\ *adj* — **con·fus·ing·ly** \-ziŋ-lē\ *adv*

con·fused \-'fyüzd\ *adj* **1** : being perplexed or disconcerted ⟨the ~ students⟩ **2** : INDISTINGUISHABLE ⟨a zigzag, crisscross, ~ trail —Harry Hervey⟩ **3** : being disordered or mixed up ⟨a contradictory and often ~ philosophy⟩ — **con·fused·ly** \-'fyüz(-ə)d-lē\ *adv* — **con·fused·ness** \-'fyü-zəd-nəs, -'fyüz(d)-\ *n*

con·fu·sion \kən-'fyü-zhən\ *n* **1** : an act or instance of confusing **2** : the quality or state of being confused — **con·fu·sion·al** \-'fyüzh-nəl, -'fyü-zhən-ᵊl\ *adj*

con·fu·ta·tion \ˌkän-fyu̇-'tā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of confuting : REFUTATION **2** : something (as an argument or statement) that confutes — **con·fu·ta·tive** \kən-'fyüt-ət-iv\ *adj*

ə abut ᵊ kitten ər further a back ā bake ä cot, cart
au̇ out ch chin e less ē easy g gift i trip ī life
j joke ŋ sing ō flow ȯ flaw ȯi coin th thin t͟h this
ü loot u̇ foot y yet yü few yu̇ furious zh vision

con·fute \kən-'fyüt\ *vt* **con·fut·ed; con·fut·ing** [L *confutare,* fr. *com-* + *-futare* to beat — more at BEAT] **1** : to overwhelm in argument : refute conclusively ⟨Elijah . . . *confuted* the prophets of Baal . . . with . . . bitter mockery —G. B. Shaw⟩ **2** *obs* : CONFOUND ***syn*** see DISPROVE — **con·fut·er** *n*

cong *abbr* congress; congressional

con·ga \'käŋ-gə\ *n* [AmerSp, fr. Sp, fem. of *congo* of the Congo, fr. *Congo,* region in Africa] **1** : a Cuban dance of African origin involving three steps followed by a kick and performed by a group usu. in single file **2** : a tall narrow bass drum beaten with the hands

con·gé \kōⁿ-'zhā, 'kän-ˌjā\ *n* [F, fr. L *commeatus* going back and forth, leave, fr. *commeatus,* pp. of *commeare* to go back and forth, fr. *com-* + *meare* to go — more at PERMEATE] **1 a** : a formal permission to depart **b** : DISMISSAL **2** : a ceremonious bow **3** : FAREWELL **4** : an architectural molding of concave profile — see MOLDING illustration

con·geal \kən-'jē(ə)l\ *vb* [ME *congelen,* fr. MF *congeler,* fr. L *congelare,* fr. *com-* + *gelare* to freeze — more at COLD] *vt* **1** : to change from a fluid to a solid state by or as if by cold **2** : to make viscid or curdled : COAGULATE **3** : to make rigid, inflexible, or immobile ~ *vi* : to become congealed — **con·geal·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

con·gee \'kän-(ˌ)jē\ *n* : CONGÉ

con·ge·la·tion \ˌkän-jə-'lā-shən\ *n* : the process or result of congealing

con·ge·ner \'kän-jə-nər, kən-'jē-\ *n* [L, of the same kind, fr. *com-* + *gener-, genus* kind — more at KIN] **1** : a member of the same taxonomic genus as another plant or animal **2** : a person or thing resembling another in nature or action ⟨the New England private schools and their ~*s* west of the Alleghenies —Oliver La Farge⟩ — **con·ge·ner·ic** \ˌkän-jə-'ner-ik\ *adj* — **con·ge·ner·ous** \kən-'jē-nə-rəs, -'jen-ə-, (ˌ)kän-\ *adj*

con·ge·nial \kən-'jē-nyəl\ *adj* [*com-* + *genius*] **1** : having the same nature, disposition, or tastes : KINDRED **2 a** : existing or associated together harmoniously **b** : PLEASANT; *esp* : agreeably suited to one's nature, tastes, or outlook **c** : SOCIABLE, GENIAL ***syn*** see CONSONANT ***ant*** uncongenial, antipathetic (*of persons*), abhorrent (*of tasks, duties*) — **con·ge·nial·i·ty** \-ˌjē-nē-'al-ət-ē, -ˌjēn-'yal-\ *n* — **con·ge·nial·ly** \-'jē-nyə-lē\ *adv*

con·gen·i·tal \kän-'jen-ə-tᵊl\ *adj* [L *congenitus,* fr. *com-* + *genitus* pp. of *gignere* to bring forth — more at KIN] **1 a** : existing at or dating from birth ⟨~ idiocy⟩ **b** : constituting an essential characteristic : INHERENT ⟨~ fear of snakes⟩ **c** : acquired during development in the uterus and not through heredity ⟨~ syphilis⟩ **2** : being such by nature ⟨~ liar⟩ ***syn*** see INNATE — **con·gen·i·tal·ly** \-tᵊl-ē\ *adv*

con·ger eel \ˌkäŋ-gər-\ *n* [ME *congre,* fr. OF, fr. L *congr-, conger,* fr. Gk *gongros;* akin to ON *kökkr* ball, L *gingiva* gum] : a large strictly marine scaleless eel (*Conger oceanicus*) important as a food fish; *broadly* : any of various related eels (family Congridae)

con·ge·ries \'kän-jə-(ˌ)rēz\ *n, pl* **congeries** *same*\ [L, fr. *congerere*] : AGGREGATION, COLLECTION ⟨the alternative was to turn linguistics into a ~ of meaningless guesses —C. A. Ladd⟩

con·gest \kən-'jest\ *vb* [L *congestus,* pp. of *congerere* to bring together, fr. *com-* + *gerere* to bear — more at CAST] *vt* **1** : to cause an excessive fullness of the blood vessels of (as an organ) **2** : CLOG ⟨traffic ~*ed* the highways⟩ **3** : to concentrate in a small or narrow space ~ *vi* : to become congested — **con·ges·tion** \-'jes(h)-chən\ *n* — **con·ges·tive** \-'jes-tiv\ *adj*

con·glo·bate \kän-'glō-ˌbāt, kən-\ *vt* **-bat·ed; -bat·ing** [L *conglobatus,* pp. of *conglobare,* fr. *com-* + *globus* globe] : to form into a round compact mass — **con·glo·bate** \-bət, -ˌbāt\ *adj* — **con·glo·ba·tion** \ˌkän-(ˌ)glō-'bā-shən\ *n*

con·globe \kän-'glōb, kən-\ *vt* **con·globed; con·glob·ing** : CONGLOBATE

¹con·glom·er·ate \kən-'gläm-(ə-)rət\ *adj* [L *conglomeratus,* pp. of *conglomerare* to roll together, fr. *com-* + *glomerare* to wind into a ball, fr. *glomer-, glomus* ball — more at CLAM] : made up of parts from various sources or of various kinds ⟨an ethnically ~ culture⟩

²con·glom·er·ate \-ə-ˌrāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** *vt* : ACCUMULATE ~ *vi* : to gather into a mass or coherent whole ⟨numbers of dull people *conglomerated* round her —Virginia Woolf⟩ — **con·glom·er·a·tive** \-'gläm-(ə-)rət-iv, -ə-ˌrāt-\ *adj* — **con·glom·er·a·tor** \-'gläm-ə-ˌrāt-ər\ *n*

³con·glom·er·ate \-(ə-)rət\ *n* **1** : a composite mass or mixture; *specif* : rock composed of rounded fragments varying from small pebbles to large boulders in a cement (as of hardened clay) **2** : a widely diversified corporation — **con·glom·er·at·ic** \kən-ˌgläm-ə-'rat-ik, ˌkän-\ *adj*

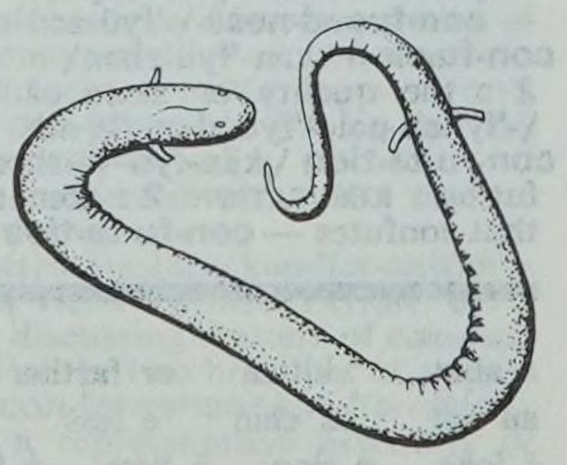
con·glom·er·a·tion \kən-ˌgläm-ə-'rā-shən, ˌkän-\ *n* **1** : the act of conglomerating : the state of being conglomerated **2** : something conglomerated : a mixed coherent mass

con·glu·ti·nate \kən-'glüt-ᵊn-ˌāt, kän-\ *vb* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [L *conglutinatus,* pp. of *conglutinare* to glue together, fr. *com-* + *glutin-, gluten* glue] *vt* : to unite by or as if by a glutinous substance ~ *vi* : to become conglutinated ⟨blood platelets ~ in blood clotting⟩ — **con·glu·ti·na·tion** \kən-ˌglüt-ᵊn-'ā-shən, kän-\ *n*

Con·go dye \ˌkäŋ-(ˌ)gō-\ *n* [*Congo,* territory in Africa] : any of various direct azo dyes mostly derived from benzidine

Congo red *n* : an azo dye $C_{32}H_{22}N_6Na_2O_6S_2$ that is red in alkaline and blue in acid solution and that is used esp. as an indicator and as a biological stain

congo snake *n* : an elongated bluish black amphibian (*Amphiuma means*) of the southeastern U.S. that has two pairs of very short limbs each with two or three toes — called also *congo eel*



congo snake

con·gou \'käŋ-(ˌ)gō, -(ˌ)gü\ *n* [prob. fr. Chin (Amoy) *kong-hu* pains taken] : a black tea from China

con·grat·u·late \kən-'grach-ə-ˌlāt, *nonstand* -'graj-\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *congratulatus,* pp. of *congratulari* to wish joy, fr. *com-* + *gratulari* to wish joy, fr. *gratus* pleasing — more at GRACE] **1** : to express pleasure to (a person) on account of success or good fortune **2** *archaic* : to express sympathetic pleasure at (an event) **3** *obs* : SALUTE, GREET — **con·grat·u·la·tor** \-ə-lāt-ər\ *n* — **con·grat·u·la·to·ry** \-(ə-)lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

con·grat·u·la·tion \kən-ˌgrach-ə-'lā-shən, *nonstand* -ˌgraj-\ *n* **1** : the act of congratulating **2** : a congratulatory expression — usu. used in pl.

con·gre·gant \-gənt\ *n* : one that congregates; *specif* : a member of a congregation

con·gre·gate \'käŋ-gri-ˌgāt\ *vb* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** [ME *congregaten,* fr. L *congregatus,* pp. of *congregare,* fr. *com-* + *greg-, grex* flock — more at GREGARIOUS] *vt* : to collect into a group or crowd : ASSEMBLE ~ *vi* : to come together into a group, crowd, or assembly ***syn*** see GATHER — **con·gre·ga·tor** \-ˌgāt-ər\ *n*

con·gre·ga·tion \ˌkäŋ-gri-'gā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : an assembly of persons : GATHERING; *esp* : an assembly of persons met for worship and religious instruction **b** : a religious community: as (1) : an organized body of believers in a particular locality (2) : a Roman Catholic religious institute with only simple vows (3) : a group of monasteries forming an independent subdivision of an order **2** : the act or an instance of congregating or bringing together : the state of being congregated **3** : a body of cardinals and officials forming an administrative division of the papal curia

con·gre·ga·tion·al \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a congregation **2** *cap* : of or relating to a body of Protestant churches deriving from the English Independents of the 17th century and affirming the essential importance and the autonomy of the local congregation **3** : of or relating to church government placing final authority in the assembly of the local congregation — **con·gre·ga·tion·al·ism** \-shnə-ˌliz-əm, -shən-ᵊl-ˌiz-\ *n, often cap* — **con·gre·ga·tion·al·ist** \-shnə-ləst, -shən-ᵊl-əst\ *n or adj, often cap*

con·gress \'käŋ-grəs\ *n* [L *congressus,* fr. *congressus,* pp. of *congredi* to come together, fr. *com-* + *gradi* to go — more at GRADE] **1 a** : the act or action of coming together and meeting **b** : COITUS **2** : a formal meeting of delegates for discussion and usu. action on some question **3** : the supreme legislative body of a nation and esp. of a republic **4** : an association usu. made up of delegates from constituent organizations **5** : a single meeting or session of a group — **con·gres·sio·nal** \kän-'gresh-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·gres·sio·nal·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

congress gaiter *n, often cap C* [fr. its former popularity with U.S. congressmen] : an ankle-high shoe with elastic gussets in the sides

congressional district *n* : a territorial division of a state from which a member of the U.S. House of Representatives is elected

Congressional Medal *n* : MEDAL OF HONOR

con·gress·man \'käŋ-grə-smən\ *n* : a member of a congress; *esp* : a member of the U.S. House of Representatives

con·gress·wom·an \-grə-ˌswu̇m-ən\ *n* : a female member of a congress; *esp* : a female member of the U.S. House of Representatives

con·gru·ence \kən-'grü-ən(t)s, 'käŋ-grə-wən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of agreeing or coinciding **2** : a statement that two numbers are congruent with respect to a modulus

con·gru·en·cy \-ən-sē, -wən-\ *n, pl* **-cies** : CONGRUENCE

con·gru·ent \kən-'grü-ənt, 'käŋ-grə-wənt\ *adj* [L *congruent-, congruens,* prp. of *congruere*] **1** : CONGRUOUS **2** : superposable so as to be coincident throughout **3** : having the difference divisible by a given modulus ⟨12 is ~ to 2 (modulo 5) since 12−2=2·5⟩ **4** : relating to the melting point at which there coexist for a compound both liquid and solid phases having the same composition — **con·gru·ent·ly** *adv*

con·gru·ity \kən-'grü-ət-ē, kän-\ *n, pl* **-ities** **1** : the quality or state of being congruent or congruous **2** : a point of agreement

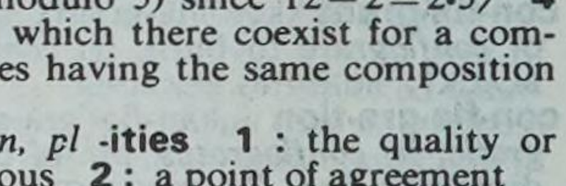
con·gru·ous \'käŋ-grə-wəs\ *adj* [L *congruus,* fr. *congruere* to come together, agree, fr. *com-* + *-gruere* (akin to Gk *zachrēēs* attacking violently)] **1 a** : being in agreement, harmony, or correspondence **b** : conforming to the circumstances or requirements of a situation : APPROPRIATE ⟨a ~ room to work in —G. B. Shaw⟩ **2** : marked or enhanced by harmonious agreement among constituent elements ⟨a ~ theme in music⟩ ***syn*** see CONSONANT ***ant*** incongruous — **con·gru·ous·ly** *adv* — **con·gru·ous·ness** *n*

¹con·ic \'kän-ik\ *adj* **1** : CONICAL **2** : of or relating to a cone — **co·nic·i·ty** \kō-'nis-ət-ē\ *n*

²conic *n* : CONIC SECTION

con·i·cal \'kän-i-kəl\ *adj* : resembling a cone esp. in shape — **con·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **con·i·cal·ness** \-kəl-nəs\ *n*

conic section *n* **1** : a plane curve, line, or point that is the intersection of or bounds the intersection of a plane and a cone with two nappes **2** : a curve generated by a point which always moves so that the ratio of its distance from a fixed point to its distance from a fixed line is constant



conic sections: *1* straight lines, *2* circle, *3* ellipse, *4* parabola, *5* hyperbola

co·nid·io·phore \kə-'nid-ē-ə-ˌfō(ə)r, -ˌfȯ(ə)r\ *n* [NL *conidium* + ISV *-phore*] : a structure that bears conidia; *specif* : a specialized hyphal branch that produces successive conidia usu. by abstriction — **co·nid·i·oph·o·rous** \-ˌnid-ē-'äf-(ə-)rəs\ *adj*

co·nid·i·um \kə-'nid-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ia** \-ē-ə\ [NL, fr. Gk *konis* dust — more at INCINERATE] : an asexual spore produced on a conidiophore — **co·nid·i·al** \-ē-əl\ *adj*

co·ni·fer \'kän-ə-fər *also* 'kō-nə-\ *n* [deriv. of L *conifer* cone-bearing, fr. *conus* cone + *-fer*] : any of an order (Coniferales) of mostly evergreen trees and shrubs including forms (as pines) with true

cones and others (as yews) with an arillate fruit — **co·nif·er·ous** \kō-'nif-(ə-)rəs, kə-\ *adj*

co·ni·ine \'kō-nē-ˌēn\ *n* [G *koniin*, fr. LL *conium*] : a poisonous alkaloid $C_8H_{17}N$ found in poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

co·ni·um \kō-'nī-əm, 'kō-nē-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. LL, hemlock, fr. Gk *kōneion*] : any of a genus (*Conium*) of poisonous herbs of the carrot family

conj *abbr* conjunction; conjunctive

con·jec·tur·al \kən-'jek-chə-rəl, -'jeksh-rəl\ *adj* **1** : of the nature of or involving or based on conjecture **2** : given to conjectures — **con·jec·tur·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

1con·jec·ture \kən-'jek-chər\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *conjectura*, fr. *conjectus*, pp. of *conicere*, lit., to throw together, fr. *com-* + *jacere* to throw — more at JET] **1** *obs* **a** : interpretation of omens **b** : SUPPOSITION **2 a** : inference from defective or presumptive evidence **b** : a conclusion deduced by surmise or guesswork

2conjecture *vb* **-tured; -tur·ing** \-'jek-chə-riŋ, -'jek-shriŋ\ *vt* **1** : to arrive at by conjecture **2** : to make conjectures as to ~ *vi* : to form conjectures — **con·jec·tur·er** \-'jek-chər-ər\ *n*

syn CONJECTURE, SURMISE, GUESS *shared meaning element* : to draw an inference from slight evidence

con·join \kən-'jȯin, kän-\ *vb* [ME *conjoinen*, fr. MF *conjoindre*, fr. L *conjungere*, fr. *com-* + *jungere* to join — more at YOKE] *vt* : to join together (as separate entities) for a common purpose ~ *vi* : to join together for a common purpose

con·joined \-'jȯind\ *adj* : being, coming, or brought together so as to meet, touch, or overlap ⟨~ heads on a coin⟩

con·joint \-'jȯint\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, pp. of *conjoindre*] **1** : UNITED, CONJOINED **2** : related to, made up of, or carried on by two or more in combination : JOINT — **con·joint·ly** *adv*

con·ju·gal \'kän-ji-gəl, kən-'jü-\ *adj* [MF or L; MF, fr. L *conjugalis*, fr. *conjug-*, *conjux* husband, wife, fr. *conjungere* to join, unite in marriage] : of or relating to the married state or to married persons and their relations : CONNUBIAL ***syn*** see MATRIMONIAL — **con·ju·gal·i·ty** \ˌkän-ji-'gal-ət-ē, -jü-\ *n* — **con·ju·gal·ly** \'kän-ji-gə-lē, kən-'jü-\ *adv*

conjugal rights *n pl* : the sexual rights or privileges implied by and involved in the marriage relationship : the right of sexual intercourse between husband and wife

con·ju·gant \'kän-ji-gənt\ *n* : either of a pair of conjugating gametes or organisms

1con·ju·gate \'kän-ji-gət, -jə-ˌgāt\ *adj* [ME *conjugat*, fr. L *conjugatus*, pp. of *conjugare* to unite, fr. *com-* + *jugare* to join, fr. *jugum* yoke — more at YOKE] **1 a** : joined together esp. in pairs : COUPLED **b** : acting or operating as if joined **2** : having features in common but opposite or inverse in some particular **3** *of an acid or base* : related by the difference of a proton ⟨the acid NH_4 and the base NH_3 are ~ to each other⟩ **4** : having the same derivation and therefore usu. some likeness in meaning ⟨~ words⟩ **5** *of two leaves of a book* : forming a single piece — **con·ju·gate·ly** *adv* — **con·ju·gate·ness** *n*

2con·ju·gate \-jə-ˌgāt\ *vb* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** *vt* **1** : to give in prescribed order the various inflectional forms of — used esp. of a verb **2** : to join together ~ *vi* **1** : to become joined together **2 a** : to pair and fuse in conjugation **b** : to pair in synapsis

3conjugate *like* 1CONJUGATE\ *n* **1** : something conjugate : a product of conjugating **2** : CONJUGATE COMPLEX NUMBER **3** : an element of a mathematical group that is equal to a given element of the group multiplied on the right by another element and on the left by the inverse of the latter element

conjugate complex number *n* : one of two complex numbers (as $a + bi$ and $a - bi$) differing only in the sign of the imaginary part

con·ju·gat·ed *adj* **1** : formed by the union of two compounds or united with another compound ⟨~ bile acids⟩ **2** : relating to or containing a system of two double bonds separated by a single bond ⟨~ fatty acids⟩

conjugated protein *n* : a compound of a protein with a nonprotein ⟨hemoglobin is a *conjugated protein* of heme and globin⟩

con·ju·ga·tion \ˌkän-jə-'gā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of conjugating : the state of being conjugated **2 a** : a schematic arrangement of the inflectional forms of a verb **b** : verb inflection **c** : a class of verbs having the same type of inflectional forms ⟨the weak ~⟩ **d** : a set of the simple or derivative inflectional forms of a verb esp. in Sanskrit or the Semitic languages ⟨the causative ~⟩ **3 a** : fusion of usu. similar gametes with ultimate union of their nuclei that among lower thallophytes replaces the typical fertilization of higher forms **b** : temporary cytoplasmic union with exchange of nuclear material that is the usual sexual process in ciliated protozoans **c** : the one-way transfer of DNA between bacteria in cellular contact — **con·ju·ga·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·ju·ga·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv* — **con·ju·ga·tive** \'kän-jə-ˌgāt-iv\ *adj*

1con·junct \kən-'jəŋ(k)t, kän-\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *conjunctus*, pp. of *conjungere*] **1** : JOINED, UNITED **2** : JOINT **3** : relating to melodic progression by diatonic degrees — compare DISJUNCT

2con·junct \'kän-ˌjəŋ(k)t\ *n* : something joined or associated with another; *specif* : one of the components of a conjunction

con·junc·tion \kən-'jəŋ(k)-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or an instance of conjoining : the state of being conjoined **2** : occurrence together in time or space : CONCURRENCE **3 a** : the apparent meeting or passing of two or more celestial bodies in the same degree of the zodiac **b** : a configuration in which two celestial bodies have their least apparent separation **4** : an uninflected linguistic form that joins together sentences, clauses, phrases, or words : CONNECTIVE **5** : a complex sentence in logic true if and only if each of its components is true — **con·junc·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·junc·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

con·junc·ti·va \ˌkän-jəŋ(k)-'tī-və, kən-\ *n, pl* **-vas** *or* **-vae** \-(ˌ)vē\ [NL, fr. LL, fem. of *conjunctivus* conjoining, fr. L *conjunctus*] : the mucous membrane that lines the inner surface of the eyelids and is continued over the forepart of the eyeball — see EYE illustration — **con·junc·ti·val** \-vəl\ *adj*

con·junc·tive \kən-'jəŋ(k)-tiv\ *adj* **1** : CONNECTIVE **2** : CONJUNCT, CONJOINED **3** : being or functioning like a conjunction **4** : COPULATIVE 1a — **conjunctive** *n* — **con·junc·tive·ly** *adv*

con·junc·ti·vi·tis \kən-ˌjəŋ(k)-ti-'vīt-əs\ *n* : inflammation of the conjunctiva

con·junc·ture \kən-'jəŋ(k)-chər\ *n* **1** : CONJUNCTION, UNION **2** : a combination of circumstances or events usu. producing a crisis : JUNCTURE

con·ju·ra·tion \ˌkän-jù-'rā-shən, ˌkən-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of conjuring : INCANTATION **2** : an expression or trick used in conjuring **3** : a solemn appeal : ADJURATION

con·jure *in vt 2 & vi senses* 'kän-jər *also* 'kən-; *in vt 1 sense* kən-'jù(ə)r\ *vb* **con·jured; con·jur·ing** \'känj-(ə-)riŋ, 'kənj-; kən-'jù(ə)r-iŋ\ [ME *conjuren*, fr. OF *conjurer*, fr. L *conjurare* to swear together, fr. *com-* + *jurare* to swear — more at JURY] *vt* **1** : to charge or entreat earnestly or solemnly **2 a** : to summon by invocation or incantation **b** (1) : to affect or effect by or as if by magic (2) : IMAGINE, CONTRIVE — often used with *up* ⟨we ~ up our own metaphors for our own needs —R. J. Kaufmann⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to summon a devil or spirit by invocation or incantation **b** : to practice magical arts **2** : to use a conjurer's tricks : JUGGLE

con·jur·er *or* **con·ju·ror** \'kän-jər-ər, 'kən-\ *n* **1** : one that practices magic arts : WIZARD **2** : one that performs feats of sleight of hand and illusion : MAGICIAN, JUGGLER

1conk \'käŋk, 'kȯŋk\ *vt* [slang *conk* (head); prob. alter. of *conch*] : to hit esp. on the head : knock out

2conk *n* [prob. alter. of *conch*] : the visible fruiting body of a tree fungus; *also* : decay caused by such a fungus — **conky** \-ē\ *adj*

3conk *vi* [prob. imit.] **1** : to break down; *esp* : STALL — usu. used with *out* ⟨the motor suddenly ~*ed* out⟩ **2 a** : FAINT **b** : to go to sleep — usu. used with *off* or *out* ⟨~*ed* out for a while after lunch⟩ **c** : DIE ⟨I caught pneumonia. I almost ~*ed* —Truman Capote⟩

4conk *vt* [prob. by shortening & alter. fr. *congolene* (a hydrocarbon produced from Congo copal and used for straightening hair), fr. *Congolese* + *-ene*] : to straighten out (hair) usu. by the use of chemicals

5conk *n* : a hairstyle in which the hair is straightened out and flattened down or lightly waved — called also *process*

conk·er \'käŋ-kər\ *n* [*conch* + *-er*; fr. the original use of a snail shell on a string in the game] **1** *pl* : a game popular in England in which each player swings a horse chestnut on a string to try to break one held by his opponent **2** : a horse chestnut esp. when used in conkers

con mo·to \kän-'mō-(ˌ)tō, kōn-\ *adv* [It] : with movement : in a spirited manner — used as a direction in music

1conn \'kän\ *vt* [alter. of ME *condien* to conduct, fr. MF *conduire*, fr. L *conducere*] : to conduct or direct the steering of (as a ship)

2conn *n* : the control exercised by one who conns a ship

Conn *abbr* Connecticut

con·nate \kä-'nāt, 'kän-ˌāt\ *adj* [LL *connatus*, pp. of *connasci* to be born together, fr. L *com-* + *nasci* to be born — more at NATION] **1** : INNATE, INBORN **2** : AKIN, CONGENIAL **3** : born or originated together **4** : congenitally or firmly united ⟨~ leaves⟩ **5** : entrapped in sediments at the time of their deposition ⟨~ water⟩ — **con·nate·ly** *adv*

con·nat·u·ral \kä-'nach-(ə-)rəl, kə-\ *adj* [ML *connaturalis*, fr. L *com-* + *naturalis* natural] **1** : connected by nature : INBORN **2** : of the same nature — **con·nat·u·ral·i·ty** \-ˌnach-ə-'ral-ət-ē\ *n* — **con·nat·u·ral·ly** \-'nach-(ə-)rə-lē\ *adv*

con·nect \kə-'nekt\ *vb* [L *conectere*, *connectere*, fr. *com-* + *nectere* to bind] *vt* **1** : to join or fasten together usu. by something intervening **2** : to place or establish in relationship ~ *vi* **1** : to become joined ⟨the two rooms ~ by a hallway⟩ ⟨ideas that ~ easily to form a theory⟩ **2** : to make a successful hit, shot, or throw ⟨~*ed* for a home run⟩ ⟨~*ed* on 60 percent of his shots and on 10 of 11 free throws —*N.Y. Times*⟩ ⟨~*ed* with a right to the jaw⟩ ***syn*** see JOIN ***ant*** disconnect — **con·nect·able** *also* **con·nect·ible** \-'nek-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **con·nec·tor** *also* **con·nect·er** \-'nek-tər\ *n*

con·nect·ed *adj* **1** : joined or linked together **2** : having the parts or elements logically linked together ⟨presented a thoroughly ~ view of the problem⟩ **3** : related by blood or marriage **4** : having a social, professional, or commercial relationship ⟨for the well ~, there are elegantly overdone parties —John Griffin⟩ — **con·nect·ed·ly** *adv* — **con·nect·ed·ness** *n*

connecting rod *n* : a rod that transmits power from one rotating part of a machine to another in reciprocating motion

con·nec·tion \kə-'nek-shən\ *n* [L *connexion-*, *connexio*, fr. *conexus*, pp. of *conectere*] **1** : the act of connecting : the state of being connected: as **a** : causal or logical relation or sequence ⟨the ~ between two ideas⟩ **b** : contextual relations or associations ⟨in this ~ the word has a different meaning⟩ **c** : a relation of personal intimacy (as of family ties) **d** : COHERENCE, CONTINUITY **2 a** : something that connects : LINK ⟨a loose ~ in the wiring⟩ **b** : a means of communication or transport **3** : a person connected with others esp. by marriage, kinship, or common interest ⟨has powerful ~*s* in high places⟩ **4** : a social, professional, or commercial relationship: as **a** : POSITION, JOB **b** : an arrangement to execute orders or advance interests of another ⟨a firm's foreign ~*s*⟩ **c** : a source of contraband (as illegal drugs) **5** : a set of persons associated together: as **a** : DENOMINATION **b** : CLAN — **con·nection·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

1con·nec·tive \kə-'nek-tiv\ *adj* : tending to connect — **con·nective·ly** *adv* — **con·nec·tiv·i·ty** \(ˌ)kä-ˌnek-'tiv-ət-ē, kə-\ *n*

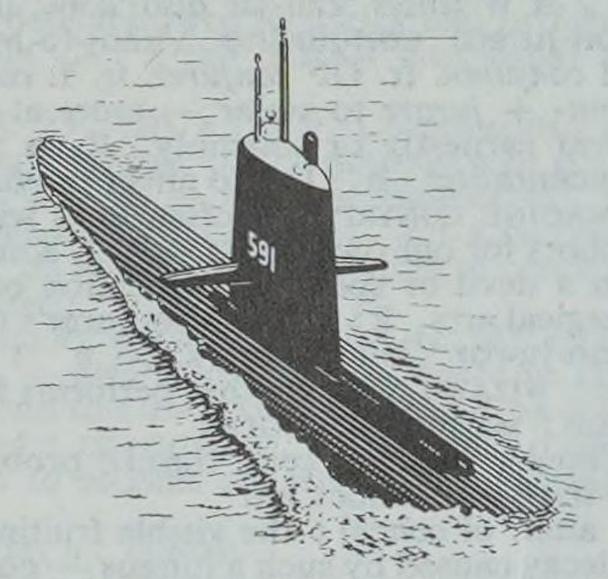
2connective *n* : something that connects: as **a** : the tissue connecting the pollen sacs of an anther **b** : a linguistic form that connects words or word groups

connective tissue *n* : a tissue of mesodermal origin rich in intercellular substance or interlacing processes with little tendency for the cells to come together in sheets or masses; *specif* : connective

tissue of stellate or spindle-shaped cells with interlacing processes that pervades, supports, and binds together other tissues and forms ligaments, tendons, and aponeuroses

con·nex·ion \kə-'nek-shən\ *chiefly Brit var of* CONNECTION

conning tower *n* **1** : an armored pilothouse (as on a battleship) **2** : a raised structure on the deck of a submarine used as an observation post and often as an entrance to the vessel



conning tower 2

con·nip·tion \kə-'nip-shən\ *n* [origin unknown] : a fit of rage, hysteria, or alarm

con·niv·ance \kə-'nī-vən(t)s\ *n* : the act of conniving; *esp* : knowledge of and active or passive consent to wrongdoing

con·nive \kə-'nīv\ *vi* **con·nived; con·niv·ing** [F or L; F *conniver*, fr. L *conivēre, connivēre* to close the eyes, connive, fr. *com-* + *-nivēre* (akin to *nictare* to wink); akin to OE & OHG *hnīgan* to bow, L *nicere* to beckon] **1** : to pretend ignorance of or fail to take action against something one ought to oppose **2 a** : to be indulgent or in secret sympathy : WINK **b** : to cooperate secretly or have a secret understanding **3** : CONSPIRE, INTRIGUE — **con·niv·er** *n*

con·ni·vent \-'nī-vənt\ *adj* [L *convivent-, convivens*, prp. of *conivēre*] : converging but not fused ⟨~ stamens⟩

con·niv·ery \-'nīv-(ə-)rē\ *n* : the practice of conniving

con·nois·seur \ˌkän-ə-'sər *also* -'sù(ə)r\ *n* [obs. F (now *connaisseur*), fr. OF *connoisseor*, fr. *connoistre* to know, fr. L *cognoscere* — more at COGNITION] **1** : EXPERT; *esp* : one who understands the details, technique, or principles of an art and is competent to act as a critical judge **2** : one who enjoys with discrimination and appreciation of subtleties ⟨a ~ of fine wines⟩ — **con·nois·seur·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

con·no·ta·tion \ˌkän-ə-'tā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the suggesting of a meaning by a word apart from the thing it explicitly names or describes **b** : something suggested by a word or thing : IMPLICATION ⟨the ~*s* of comfort that surrounded that old chair⟩ **2** : the signification of something ⟨that abuse of logic which consists in moving counters about as if they were known entities with a fixed ~ —W. R. Inge⟩ **3** : the property or properties connoted by a term in logic — **con·no·ta·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

con·no·ta·tive \'kän-ə-ˌtāt-iv, kə-'nōt-ət-iv\ *adj* **1** : connoting or tending to connote **2** : relating to connotation — **con·no·ta·tive·ly** *adv*

con·note \kə-'nōt, kä-\ *vt* **con·noted; con·not·ing** [ML *connotare*, fr. L *com-* + *notare* to note] **1** : to convey in addition to exact explicit meaning ⟨all the misery that poverty ~*s*⟩ **2** : to be associated with or inseparable from as a consequence or concomitant ⟨the remorse so often *connoted* by guilt⟩ **3** : to imply or indicate as a logically essential attribute of something denoted ***syn*** see DENOTE

con·nu·bi·al \kə-'n(y)ü-bē-əl\ *adj* [L *conubialis*, fr. *conubium, connubium* marriage, fr. *com-* + *nubere* to marry — more at NUPTIAL] : of or relating to the married state : CONJUGAL ***syn*** see MATRIMONIAL — **con·nu·bi·al·ism** \-bē-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* — **con·nu·bi·al·i·ty** \-ˌn(y)ü-bē-'al-ət-ē\ *n* — **con·nu·bi·al·ly** \-'n(y)ü-bē-ə-lē\ *adv*

con·odont \'kō-nə-ˌdänt\ *n* [ISV *con-* (fr. Gk *kōnos* cone) + *-odont*] : a Paleozoic fossil that may consist of the teeth of an extinct cyclostome or more probably the remains of an invertebrate

co·noid \'kō-ˌnȯid\ *or* **co·noi·dal** \kō-'nȯid-ᵊl\ *adj* : shaped like or nearly like a cone — **conoid** *n*

con·quer \'käŋ-kər\ *vb* **con·quered; con·quer·ing** \-k(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *conqueren* to acquire, conquer, fr. OF *conquerre*, fr. (assumed) VL *conquaerere*, fr. L *conquirere* to search for, collect, fr. *com-* + *quaerere* to ask, search] *vt* **1** : to gain or acquire by force of arms : SUBJUGATE **2** : to overcome by force of arms : VANQUISH **3** : to gain mastery over or win by overcoming obstacles or opposition ⟨~*ed* the mountain⟩ ⟨after ~*ing* movies and television, he decided to write for the stage⟩ **4** : to overcome by mental or moral power : SURMOUNT ⟨~*ed* her fear⟩ ~ *vi* : to be victorious — **con·quer·or** \-kər-ər\ *n*

con·quest \'kän-ˌkwest, 'käŋ-; 'käŋ-kwəst\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *conquaesitus*, alter. of L *conquisitus*, pp. of *conquirere*] **1** : the act or process of conquering **2 a** : something conquered; *esp* : territory appropriated in war **b** : a person whose favor or hand has been won ***syn*** see VICTORY

con·qui·an \'käŋ-kē-ən\ *n* [MexSp *con quien* — more at COONCAN] : a card game for two played with 40 cards from which all games of rummy developed

con·quis·ta·dor \kȯŋ-'kēs-tə-ˌdȯ(ə)r, kän-'k(w)is-, kən-\ *n, pl* **con·quis·ta·do·res** \(ˌ)kȯŋ-ˌkēs-tə-'dȯr-ēz, -'dȯr-ˌās, -'dōr-, (ˌ)kän-ˌk(w)is-, kən-\ *or* **con·quis·ta·dors** [Sp, deriv. of L *conquirere*] : one that conquers; *specif* : a leader in the Spanish conquest of America and esp. of Mexico and Peru in the 16th century

cons *abbr* **1** consecrated **2** conservative **3** consigned; consignment **4** consol; consolidated **5** consonant **6** constable **7** constitution **8** construction **9** consul **10** consulting

con·san·guine \kän-'saŋ-gwən, kən-\ *adj* : CONSANGUINEOUS

con·san·guin·e·ous \ˌkän-ˌsan-'gwin-ē-əs, -ˌsaŋ-\ *adj* [L *consanguineus*, fr. *com-* + *sanguin-, sanguis* blood — more at SANGUINE] : of the same blood or origin; *specif* : descended from the same ancestor — **con·san·guin·e·ous·ly** *adv*

con·san·guin·i·ty \-'gwin-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being consanguineous **2** : a close relation or connection : AFFINITY

con·science \'kän-chən(t)s\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *conscientia*, fr. *conscient-, consciens*, prp. of *conscire* to be conscious, be conscious of guilt, fr. *com-* + *scire* to know — more at SCIENCE] **1 a** : the sense or consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one's own conduct, intentions, or character together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good **b** : a faculty, power, or principle enjoining good acts **c** : the part of the superego in psychoanalysis that transmits commands and admonitions to the ego **2** *archaic* : CONSCIOUSNESS **3** : conformity to the dictates of conscience : CONSCIENTIOUSNESS **4** : sensitive regard for fairness or justice : SCRUPLE — **con·science·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **in all conscience** *or* **in conscience** : in all fairness

conscience money *n* : money paid usu. anonymously to relieve the conscience by restoring what has been wrongfully acquired

con·sci·en·tious \ˌkän-chē-'en-chəs\ *adj* **1** : governed by or conforming to the dictates of conscience : SCRUPULOUS ⟨a ~ public servant⟩ **2** : METICULOUS, CAREFUL ⟨a ~ listener⟩ ***syn*** see UPRIGHT ***ant*** unconscientious, unscrupulous — **con·sci·en·tious·ly** *adv* — **con·sci·en·tious·ness** *n*

conscientious objection *n* : objection on moral or religious grounds (as to service in the armed forces or to bearing arms)

conscientious objector *n* : one who refuses to serve in the armed forces or bear arms on the grounds of moral or religious principles

con·scio·na·ble \'känch-(ə-)nə-bəl\ *adj* [irreg. fr. *conscience*] : CONSCIENTIOUS

¹con·scious \'kän-chəs\ *adj* [L *conscius*, fr. *com-* + *scire* to know] **1** *archaic* : sharing another's knowledge or awareness of an inward state or outward fact **2** : perceiving, apprehending, or noticing with a degree of controlled thought or observation **3** : personally felt ⟨~ guilt⟩ **4** : capable of or marked by thought, will, design, or perception **5** : SELF-CONSCIOUS **6** : having mental faculties undulled by sleep, faintness, or stupor : AWAKE ⟨became ~ after the anesthesia wore off⟩ **7** : done or acting with critical awareness ⟨made a ~ effort to avoid the same mistakes⟩ **8 a** : likely to notice, consider, or appraise ⟨a bargain-*conscious* shopper⟩ **b** : being concerned or interested ⟨a budget-*conscious* businessman⟩ **c** : marked by strong feelings or notions ⟨a race-*conscious* society⟩ ***syn*** see AWARE ***ant*** unconscious — **con·scious·ly** *adv*

²conscious *n* : CONSCIOUSNESS 5

con·scious·ness \'kän-chə-snəs\ *n* **1 a** : the quality or state of being aware esp. of something within oneself **b** : the state or fact of being conscious of an external object, state, or fact **c** : CONCERN, AWARENESS ⟨race ~⟩ **2** : the state of being characterized by sensation, emotion, volition, and thought : MIND **3** : the totality of conscious states of an individual **4** : the normal state of conscious life **5** : the upper level of mental life of which the person is aware as contrasted with unconscious processes

con·scribe \kən-'skrīb\ *vt* **con·scribed; con·scrib·ing** [L *conscribere* to enroll] **1** : LIMIT, CIRCUMSCRIBE ⟨ill-health . . . *conscribed* the force of his intentions —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ **2** : to enlist forcibly : CONSCRIPT

¹con·script \'kän-ˌskript\ *adj* [MF, fr. L *conscriptus*, pp. of *conscribere* to enroll, fr. *com-* + *scribere* to write — more at SCRIBE] **1** : enrolled into service by compulsion : DRAFTED **2** : made up of conscripted persons

²conscript *n* : a conscripted person (as a military recruit)

³con·script \kən-'skript\ *vt* : to enroll into service by compulsion : DRAFT ⟨was ~*ed* into the army⟩

con·scrip·tion \kən-'skrip-shən\ *n* **1** : compulsory enrollment of persons esp. for military service : DRAFT **2** : a forced contribution (as of money) imposed by a government in time of emergency (as war)

¹con·se·crate \'kän(t)-sə-ˌkrāt\ *adj* : dedicated to a sacred purpose : HALLOWED

²consecrate *vt* **-crat·ed; -crat·ing** [ME *consecraten*, fr. L *consecratus*, pp. of *consecrare*, fr. *com-* + *sacrare* to consecrate — more at SACRED] **1** : to induct (a person) into a permanent office with a religious rite; *specif* : to ordain to the office of bishop **2 a** : to make or declare sacred; *specif* : to devote irrevocably to the worship of God by a solemn ceremony **b** : to effect the liturgical transubstantiation of (eucharistic bread and wine) **c** : to devote to a purpose with deep solemnity or dedication **3** : to make inviolable or venerable ⟨principles *consecrated* by the weight of history⟩ ***syn*** see DEVOTE — **con·se·cra·tive** \-ˌkrāt-iv\ *adj* — **con·se·cra·tor** \-ˌkrāt-ər\ *n* — **con·se·cra·to·ry** \'kän(t)-si-krə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

con·se·cra·tion \ˌkän(t)-sə-'krā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or ceremony of consecrating **2** : the state of being consecrated **3** *cap* : the part of a Communion rite in which the bread and wine are consecrated

con·se·cu·tion \ˌkän(t)-si-'kyü-shən\ *n* [L *consecution-, consecutio*, fr. *consecutus*, pp. of *consequi* to follow along — more at CONSEQUENT] : SEQUENCE

con·sec·u·tive \kən-'sek-(y)ət-iv\ *adj* : following one after the other in order without gaps : CONTINUOUS — **con·sec·u·tive·ly** *adv* — **con·sec·u·tive·ness** *n*

syn CONSECUTIVE, SUCCESSIVE *shared meaning element* : following one after the other ***ant*** inconsecutive

con·sen·su·al \kən-'sench-(ə-)wəl, -'sen-chəl\ *adj* [L *consensus* + E *-al*] **1** : existing or made by mutual consent without an act of writing ⟨a ~ contract⟩ **2** : relating to or being the constrictive pupillary response of an eye that is covered when the other eye is exposed to light — **con·sen·su·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

con·sen·sus \kən-'sen(t)-səs\ *n* [L, fr. *consensus*, pp. of *consentire*] **1** : group solidarity in sentiment and belief **2 a** : general agreement : UNANIMITY ⟨the ~ of their opinion, based on reports that had drifted back from the border —John Hersey⟩ **b** : the judg-

ment arrived at by most of those concerned ⟨the ~ was to abandon the project⟩

¹con·sent \kən-'sent\ *vi* [ME *consenten*, fr. L *consentire*, fr. *com-* + *sentire* to feel — more at SENSE] **1** *archaic* : to be in concord in opinion or sentiment **2** : to give assent or approval : AGREE ***syn*** see ASSENT ***ant*** dissent — **con·sent·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

²consent *n* **1** : compliance in or approval of what is done or proposed by another : ACQUIESCENCE ⟨he shall have power, by and with the advice and ~ of the Senate, to make treaties —*U.S. Constitution*⟩ **2** : agreement as to action or opinion; *specif* : voluntary agreement by a people to organize a civil society and give authority to the government — **con·sent·er** *n*

con·sen·ta·ne·ous \ˌkän(t)-sən-'tā-nē-əs, ˌkän-ˌsen-\ *adj* [L *consentaneus*, fr. *consentire* to agree] **1** : expressing agreement : SUITED **2** : done or made by the consent of all — **con·sen·ta·ne·ous·ly** *adv*

con·se·quence \'kän(t)-sə-ˌkwen(t)s, -si-kwən(t)s\ *n* **1** : something produced by a cause or necessarily following from a set of conditions **2** : a conclusion that results from reason or argument **3 a** : importance with respect to power to produce an effect : MOMENT **b** : social importance **4** : the appearance of importance; *esp* : SELF-IMPORTANCE ***syn*** **1** see EFFECT ***ant*** antecedent **2** see IMPORTANCE — **in consequence** : as a result : CONSEQUENTLY

¹con·se·quent \-kwənt, -ˌkwent\ *n* **1 a** : DEDUCTION 2b **b** : the conclusion of a conditional sentence **2** : the second term of a ratio

²consequent *adj* [MF, fr. L *consequent-, consequens*, prp. of *consequi* to follow along, fr. *com-* + *sequi* to follow — more at SUE] **1** : following as a result or effect ⟨removal of the trees and ~ exposure to sun, rain and wind . . . may cause serious degradation of the soil —C. J. Taylor⟩ **2** : observing logical sequence : RATIONAL

con·se·quen·tial \ˌkän(t)-sə-'kwen-chəl\ *adj* **1** : CONSEQUENT **2** : of the nature of a secondary result.: INDIRECT **3** : having significant consequences : IMPORTANT ⟨a grave and ~ event⟩ **4** : SELF-IMPORTANT — **con·se·quen·ti·al·i·ty** \-ˌkwen-chē-'al-ət-ē\ *n* — **con·se·quen·tial·ly** \-'kwench-(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **con·se·quen·tial·ness** \-'kwen-chəl-nəs\ *n*

con·se·quent·ly \-ˌkwent-lē, -kwənt-\ *adv* : as a result : in view of the foregoing : ACCORDINGLY

con·ser·van·cy \kən-'sər-vən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** [alter. of obs. *conservacy* conservation, fr. AF *conservacie*, fr. ML *conservatia*, fr. L *conservatus*, pp.] **1** *Brit* : a board regulating fisheries and navigation in a river or port **2 a** : CONSERVATION **b** : an organization or area designated to conserve and protect natural resources

con·ser·va·tion \ˌkän(t)-sər-'vā-shən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *conservation-, conservatio*, fr. *conservatus*, pp. of *conservare*] **1** : a careful preservation and protection of something; *esp* : planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect **2** : the process of conserving a quantity — **con·ser·va·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

con·ser·va·tion·ist \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n* : one who advocates conservation esp. of natural resources

conservation of charge : a principle in physics: the total electric charge of an isolated system remains constant irrespective of whatever internal changes may take place

conservation of energy : a principle in physics: the total energy of an isolated system remains constant irrespective of whatever internal changes may take place with energy disappearing in one form reappearing in another

conservation of mass : a principle in classical physics: the total mass of any material system is neither increased nor diminished by reactions between the parts — called also *conservation of matter*

con·ser·va·tism \kən-'sər-və-ˌtiz-əm\ *n* **1 a** : disposition in politics to preserve what is established **b** : a political philosophy based on tradition and social stability, stressing established institutions, and preferring gradual development to abrupt change **2** *cap* **a** : the principles and policies of a Conservative party **b** : the Conservative party **3** : the tendency to prefer an existing situation to change

¹con·ser·va·tive \kən-'sər-vət-iv\ *adj* **1** : PRESERVATIVE **2 a** : of or relating to a philosophy of conservatism **b** *cap* : of or constituting a political party professing the principles of conservatism: as (1) : of or constituting a party of the United Kingdom advocating support of established institutions (2) : Progressive Conservative **3 a** : tending or disposed to maintain existing views, conditions, or institutions : TRADITIONAL **b** : MODERATE, CAUTIOUS **c** : marked by or relating to traditional norms of taste, elegance, style, or manners ⟨a ~ suit⟩ **4** : of or relating to Conservative Judaism — **con·ser·va·tive·ly** *adv* — **con·ser·va·tive·ness** *n*

²conservative *n* **1 a** : an adherent or advocate of political conservatism **b** *cap* : a member or supporter of a conservative political party **2 a** : one who adheres to traditional methods or views **b** : a cautious or discreet person

Conservative Judaism *n* : Judaism as practiced esp. among some U.S. Jews with adherence to the Torah and Talmud but with allowance for some departures in keeping with differing times and circumstances — compare ORTHODOX JUDAISM

con·ser·va·tize \-ˌtīz\ *vb* **-tized; -tiz·ing** *vi* : to grow conservative ~ *vt* : to make conservative ⟨unions are being *conservatized* — Theodore Levitt⟩

con·ser·va·toire \kən-'sər-və-ˌtwär\ *n* [F, fr. It *conservatorio*] : CONSERVATORY 2

con·ser·va·tor \kən-'sər-vət-ər, -və-ˌtȯ(ə)r; 'kän(t)-sər-ˌvāt-ər\ *n* **1 a** : one that preserves from injury or violation : PROTECTOR **b** : one that is responsible for the care, restoration, and repair of museum articles **2** : a person, official, or institution designated to take over and protect the interests of an incompetent **3** : an official charged with the protection of something affecting public welfare and interests — **con·ser·va·to·ri·al** \kən-ˌsər-və-'tōr-ē-əl, (ˌ)kän-, -'tȯr-\ *adj*

con·ser·va·to·ry \kən-'sər-və-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1** : a greenhouse for growing or displaying plants **2** [It *conservatorio* home for foundlings, music school, fr. L *conservatus*, pp.] : a school specializing in one of the fine arts ⟨a music ~⟩

¹con·serve \kən-'sərv\ *vt* **con·served; con·serv·ing** [ME *conserven*, fr. MF *conserver*, fr. L *conservare*, fr. *com-* + *servare* to keep, guard, observe; akin to OE *searu* armor, Av *haurvaiti* he guards] **1** : to keep in a safe or sound state ⟨he *conserved* and enlarged the estate he inherited⟩; *esp* : to avoid wasteful or destructive use of ⟨~ natural resources⟩ **2** : to preserve with sugar **3** : to maintain (a quantity) constant during a process of chemical or physical change ***syn*** see SAVE — **con·serv·er** *n*

²con·serve \'kän-ˌsərv\ *n* **1** : SWEETMEAT; *esp* : a candied fruit **2** : PRESERVE; *specif* : one prepared from a mixture of fruits

con·sid·er \kən-'sid-ər\ *vb* **con·sid·ered; con·sid·er·ing** \-(ə-)rliŋ\ [ME *consideren*, fr. MF *considerer*, fr. L *considerare*, lit., to observe the stars, fr. *com-* + *sider-, sidus* star — more at SIDEREAL] *vt* **1** : to think about with care or caution **2** : to regard or treat in an attentive, solicitous, or kindly way ⟨he ~*ed* her every wish⟩ **3** : to gaze on steadily or reflectively **4** : to come to judge or classify ⟨~ thrift essential⟩ **5** : REGARD ⟨his works are well ~*ed* abroad⟩ **6** : SUPPOSE ~ *vi* : REFLECT, DELIBERATE ⟨paused a moment to ~⟩

syn CONSIDER, STUDY, CONTEMPLATE, WEIGH *shared meaning element* : to apply one's mind to something in order to increase one's knowledge or understanding of it or to reach a decision about it

¹con·sid·er·able \-'sid-ər(-ə)-bəl, -'sid-rə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : worth consideration : SIGNIFICANT **2** : large in extent or degree ⟨a ~ number⟩ — **con·sid·er·a·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

²considerable *n* : a considerable amount, degree, or extent

con·sid·er·ate \kən-'sid-(ə-)rət\ *adj* **1** : marked by or given to careful consideration : CIRCUMSPECT **2** : thoughtful of the rights and feelings of others ***syn*** see THOUGHTFUL ***ant*** inconsiderate — **con·sid·er·ate·ly** *adv* — **con·sid·er·ate·ness** *n*

con·sid·er·ation \kən-ˌsid-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : continuous and careful thought ⟨after long ~ he agreed to their requests⟩ **2 a** : something considered as a ground : REASON **b** : a taking into account **3** : thoughtful and sympathetic regard **4** : an opinion obtained by reflection **5** : ESTEEM, REGARD ⟨the family built themselves a large, ugly villa . . . and became people of ~ —V. S. Pritchett⟩ **6 a** : RECOMPENSE, PAYMENT **b** : the inducement to a contract or other legal transaction; *specif* : an act or forbearance or the promise thereof done or given by one party in return for the act or promise of another — **in consideration of** : as payment or recompense for ⟨a small fee *in consideration of* many kind services⟩

con·sid·ered \kən-'sid-ərd\ *adj* **1** : matured by extended deliberative thought ⟨his ~ opinion⟩ **2** : regarded with respect or esteem

¹con·sid·er·ing \-(ə-)riŋ\ *prep* : in view of : taking into account ⟨he did well ~ his limitations⟩

²considering *conj* : inasmuch as ⟨~ he was new at the job, he did quite well⟩

con·sign \kən-'sīn\ *vb* [MF *consigner*, fr. L *consignare*, fr. *com-* + *signum* sign, mark, seal] *vt* **1** : to give over to another's care **2** : to give, transfer, or deliver into the hands or control of another; *also* : to assign as a destination or end ⟨~*ed* his books to the devil⟩ **3** : to send or address to an agent to be cared for or sold ~ *vi, obs* : AGREE, SUBMIT ***syn*** see COMMIT — **con·sign·able** \-'sī-nə-bəl\ *adj* — **con·sig·na·tion** \ˌkän-ˌsī-'nā-shən, ˌkän(t)-sig-\ *n* — **con·sign·or** \ˌkän(t)-sə-'nȯ(ə)r, ˌkän-ˌsī-, kən-ˌsī-\ *n*

con·sign·ee \ˌkän(t)-sə-'nē, ˌkän-ˌsī-, kən-ˌsī-\ *n* : one to whom something is consigned or shipped

¹con·sign·ment \kən-'sīn-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act or process of consigning **2** : something consigned esp. in a single shipment — **on consignment** : shipped to a dealer who pays only for what he sells and who may return what is unsold ⟨goods shipped *on consignment*⟩

²consignment *adj* : of, relating to, or received as goods on consignment ⟨a ~ sale⟩

¹con·sist \kən-'sist\ *vi* [MF & L; MF *consister*, fr. L *consistere*, lit., to stand together, fr. *com-* + *sistere* to take a stand; akin to L *stare* to stand — more at STAND] **1** : LIE, RESIDE — used with *in* ⟨liberty ~*s* in the absence of obstructions —A. E. Housman⟩ **2** *archaic* **a** : EXIST, BE **b** : to be capable of existing **3** : to become made up — used with *of* ⟨breakfast ~*ed* of cereal, milk, and fruit⟩ **4** : to be consistent ⟨it ~*s* with the facts⟩

²con·sist \'kän-ˌsist\ *n* : makeup or composition (as of coal sizes or a railroad train) by classes, types, or grades and arrangement

con·sis·tence \kən-'sis-tən(t)s\ *n* : CONSISTENCY

con·sis·ten·cy \kən-'sis-tən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1 a** *archaic* : condition of adhering together : firmness of material substance **b** : firmness of constitution or character : PERSISTENCY **2** : degree of firmness, density, viscosity, or resistance to movement or separation of constituent particles ⟨boil the juice to the ~ of a thick syrup⟩ **3 a** : agreement or harmony of parts or features to one another or a whole : CORRESPONDENCE; *specif* : ability to be asserted together without contradiction **b** : harmony of conduct or practice with profession ⟨followed his own advice with ~⟩

con·sis·tent \kən-'sis-tənt\ *adj* [L *consistent-, consistens*, prp. of *consistere*] **1** *archaic* : possessing firmness or coherence **2 a** : marked by harmonious regularity or steady continuity : free from irregularity, variation, or contradiction ⟨a ~ style in painting⟩ **b** : showing steady conformity to character, profession, belief, or custom ⟨a very ~ man, consistently bad-tempered⟩ **3** : tending to be arbitrarily close to the true value of the parameter estimated as the sample becomes large ⟨a ~ statistical estimator⟩ ***syn*** see CONSONANT ***ant*** inconsistent — **con·sis·tent·ly** *adv*

con·sis·to·ri·al \ˌkän-ˌsis-'tōr-ē-əl, -'tȯr-, kən-\ *adj* : of or relating to a consistory

con·sis·to·ry \kən-'sis-t(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [ME *consistorie*, fr. MF, fr. ML & LL; ML *consistorium* church tribunal, fr. LL, imperial coun-

cil, fr. L *consistere* to stand together] **1** : a solemn assembly : COUNCIL **2** : a church tribunal or governing body: as **a** : a solemn meeting of Roman Catholic cardinals convoked and presided over by the pope **b** : a church session in some Reformed churches **3** : the organization that confers the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry usu. from the 19th to the 32d inclusive; *also* : a meeting of such an organization

con·so·ci·ate \kən-'sō-s(h)ē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *consociatus*, pp. of *consociare*, fr. *com-* + *socius* companion — more at SOCIAL] *vt* : to bring into association ~ *vi* : to associate esp. in fellowship or partnership

con·so·ci·a·tion \-ˌsō-sē-'ā-shən, -shē-\ *n* **1** : association in fellowship or alliance **2** : an association of churches or religious societies **3** : an ecological community with a single dominant — **con·so·ci·a·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

¹con·sol \kən-'säl, 'kän-ˌ\ *n* [short for *Consolidated Annuities*, British government securities] : an interest-bearing government bond having no maturity date but redeemable on call; *specif* : one first issued by the British government in 1751 — usu. used in pl.

²consol *abbr* consolidated

con·so·la·tion \ˌkän(t)-sə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or an instance of consoling : the state of being consoled : COMFORT **2** : something that consoles; *specif* : a contest held for those who have lost early in a tournament ⟨the losers met in a ~ game⟩ — **con·so·la·to·ry** \kən-'sō-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -'säl-ə-, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

consolation prize *n* : a prize given to a runner-up or a loser in a contest

¹con·sole \kən-'sōl\ *vt* **con·soled; con·sol·ing** [F *consoler*, fr. L *consolari*, fr. *com-* + *solari* to console — more at SILLY] : to alleviate the grief or sense of loss of ⟨~ a widow⟩ ***syn*** see COMFORT — **con·sol·ing·ly** \-'sō-liŋ-lē\ *adv*

²con·sole \'kän-ˌsōl\ *n* [F, fr. MF, short for *consolateur* bracket in human shape, lit., consoler, fr. L *consolator*, fr. *consolatus*, pp. of *consolari*] **1** : an architectural member projecting from a wall to form a bracket or from a keystone for ornament **2 a** : the desk from which an organ is played and which contains the keyboards, pedal board, and other controlling mechanisms **b** : a panel or cabinet on which are mounted dials, switches, and other apparatus used in centrally monitoring and controlling electrical or mechanical devices; *specif* : the part of a computer used for communication between the operator and the computer **3 a** : a cabinet (as for a radio or television set) designed to rest directly on the floor **b** : a small storage cabinet between bucket seats in an automobile



console 1

console table *n* : a table fixed to a wall with its top supported by consoles or front legs; *broadly* : a table designed to fit against a wall

con·so·lette \ˌkän(t)-sə-'let\ *n* [²*console* + *-ette*] : a small cabinet containing a radio, television, or record player

con·sol·i·date \kən-'säl-ə-ˌdāt\ *vb* **-dat·ed; -dat·ing** [L *consolidatus*, pp. of *consolidare* to make solid, fr. *com-* + *solidus* solid] *vt* **1** : to join together into one whole : UNITE ⟨~ several small school districts⟩ **2** : to make firm or secure : STRENGTHEN ⟨~ their hold on first place⟩ **3** : to form into a compact mass ~ *vi* : to become consolidated; *specif* : MERGE ⟨the two companies *consolidated*⟩ — **con·sol·i·da·tor** \-ˌdāt-ər\ *n*

consolidated school *n* : a public school formed by merging other schools

con·sol·i·da·tion \kən-ˌsäl-ə-'dā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of consolidating : the state of being consolidated **2** : the process of uniting : the quality or state of being united; *specif* : the unification of two or more corporations by dissolution of existing ones and creation of a single new corporation — compare MERGER **3** : alteration of lung tissue from an aerated condition to one of solid consistency

con·som·mé \ˌkän(t)-sə-'mā\ *n* [F, fr. pp. of *consommer* to complete, boil down, fr. L *consummare* to complete — more at CONSUMMATE] : a clear soup made from well-seasoned meat broth

con·so·nance \'kän(t)-s(ə-)nən(t)s\ *n* **1** : harmony or agreement among components **2 a** : correspondence or recurrence of sounds esp. in words; *specif* : recurrence or repetition of consonants esp. at the end of stressed syllables without the similar correspondence of vowels ⟨the final sounds of "stroke" and "luck" exhibit ~⟩ **b** : an agreeable combination of musical tones **c** : SYMPATHETIC VIBRATION, RESONANCE

con·so·nan·cy \-s(ə-)nən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** : CONSONANCE 1

¹con·so·nant \'kän(t)-s(ə-)nənt\ *n* [ME, fr. L *consonant-, consonans*, fr. prp. of *consonare*] **1** : one of a class of speech sounds (as \p\, \g\, \n\, \l\, \s\, \r\) characterized by constriction or closure at one or more points in the breath channel **2** : a letter representing a consonant; *esp* : any letter of the English alphabet except *a, e, i, o,* and *u*

²consonant *adj* [MF, fr. L *consonant-, consonans* prp. of *consonare* to sound together, agree, fr. *com-* + *sonare* to sound] **1** : being in agreement or harmony : free from elements making for discord **2** : marked by musical consonances **3** : having similar sounds ⟨~ words⟩ **4** : relating to or exhibiting consonance : RESONANT — **con·so·nant·ly** *adv*

syn CONSONANT, CONSISTENT, COMPATIBLE, CONGRUOUS, CONGENIAL, SYMPATHETIC *shared meaning element* : being in agreement one with another or agreeable one to another ***ant*** inconsonant

con·so·nan·tal \ˌkän(t)-sə-'nant-ᵊl\ *adj* : relating to, being, or marked by a consonant or group of consonants

consonant shift *n* : a set of regular changes in consonant articulation in the history of a language or dialect: **a** : such a set affecting the Indo-European stops and distinguishing the Germanic languages from the other Indo-European languages — called also *first consonant shift* **b** : such a set affecting the Germanic stops and distinguishing High German from the other Germanic languages — called also *second consonant shift*

¹con·sort \'kän-ˌsȯ(ə)rt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *consort-, consors*, lit., one who shares a common lot, fr. *com-* + *sort-, sors* lot, share] **1** : ASSOCIATE **2** : a ship accompanying another **3** : SPOUSE — compare PRINCE CONSORT

²consort *n* [MF *consorte*, fr. *consort*] **1** : GROUP, ASSEMBLY ⟨a ~ of specialists⟩ **2** : CONJUNCTION, ASSOCIATION ⟨he ruled in ~ with his father⟩ **3 a** : a group of musicians entertaining by voice or instrument **b** : a set of musical instruments of the same family

³con·sort \kən-'sȯ(ə)rt, kän-', 'kän-ˌ\ *vt* **1** : UNITE, ASSOCIATE **2** *obs* : ESCORT ~ *vi* **1** : to keep company ⟨~*ing* with criminals⟩ **2** *obs* : to make harmony : PLAY **3** : ACCORD, HARMONIZE ⟨the illustrations ~ admirably with the text — *Times Lit. Supp.*⟩

con·sor·tium \kən-'sȯrt-ē-əm, -'sȯr-sh(ē-)əm\ *n, pl* **-sor·tia** \-'sȯrt-ē-ə, -'sȯr-sh(ē-)ə\ *also* **-sortiums** [L, fellowship, fr. *consort-, consors*] **1** : an international business or banking agreement or combination **2** : ASSOCIATION, SOCIETY **3** : the legal right of one spouse to the company, affection, and service of the other

con·spe·cif·ic \ˌkän(t)-spi-'sif-ik\ *adj* : of the same species

con·spec·tus \kən-'spek-təs\ *n* [L, fr. *conspectus*, pp. of *conspicere*] **1** : a usu. brief survey or summary often providing an overall view **2** : OUTLINE, SYNOPSIS ***syn*** see ABRIDGMENT

con·spi·cu·ity \ˌkän(t)-spə-'kyü-ət-ē\ *n* : CONSPICUOUSNESS

con·spic·u·ous \kən-'spik-yə-wəs\ *adj* [L *conspicuus*, fr. *conspicere* to get sight of, fr. *com-* + *specere* to look — more at SPY] **1** : obvious to the eye or mind **2** : attracting attention : STRIKING **3** : marked by a noticeable violation of good taste ***syn*** see NOTICEABLE ***ant*** inconspicuous — **con·spic·u·ous·ly** *adv*

conspicuous consumption *n* : lavish or wasteful spending thought to enhance social prestige

con·spic·u·ous·ness *n* : the quality or state of being conspicuous

con·spir·a·cy \kən-'spir-ə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** [ME *conspiracie*, fr. L *conspiratus*, pp. of *conspirare*] **1** : the act of conspiring together **2 a** : an agreement among conspirators **b** : a group of conspirators

conspiracy of silence : a secret agreement to keep silent about an occurrence, situation, or subject esp. in order to promote or protect selfish interests

con·spi·ra·tion \ˌkän(t)-spə-'rā-shən, -(ˌ)spir-'ā-\ *n* **1** : the act or action of plotting or secretly combining **2** : a joint effort toward a particular end — **con·spi·ra·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

con·spir·a·tor \kən-'spir-ət-ər\ *n* : one that conspires : PLOTTER

con·spir·a·to·ri·al \kən-ˌspir-ə-'tōr-ē-əl, -'tȯr-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or suggestive of a conspiracy — **con·spir·a·to·ri·al·ly** \-ē-ə-lē\ *adv*

con·spire \kən-'spī(ə)r\ *vb* **con·spired; con·spir·ing** [ME *conspiren*, fr. MF *conspirer*, fr. L *conspirare* to breathe together, agree, conspire, fr. *com-* + *spirare* to breathe — more at SPIRIT] *vt* : PLOT, CONTRIVE ~ *vi* **1 a** : to join in a secret agreement to do an unlawful or wrongful act or to use such means to accomplish a lawful end **b** : SCHEME **2** : to act in harmony ⟨circumstances *conspired* to defeat his efforts⟩

con spi·ri·to \kän-'spir-ə-ˌtō, kōn-\ *adv* [It] : with spirit or animation — used as a direction in music

const *abbr* **1** constant **2** constitution; constitutional **3** construction

con·sta·ble \'kän(t)-stə-bəl, 'kən(t)-\ *n* [ME *conestable*, fr. OF, fr. LL *comes stabuli*, lit., officer of the stable] **1** : a high officer of a medieval royal or noble household **2** : the warden or governor of a royal castle or a fortified town **3 a** : a public officer usually of a town or township responsible for keeping the peace and for minor judicial duties **b** *Brit* : POLICEMAN; *esp* : one ranking below sergeant

¹con·stab·u·lary \kən-'stab-yə-ˌler-ē\ *n, pl* **-lar·ies** **1** : the organized body of constables of a particular district or country **2** : an armed police force organized on military lines but distinct from the regular army

²constabulary *adj* : of or relating to a constable or constabulary

con·stan·cy \'kän(t)-stən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1 a** : steadfastness of mind under duress : FORTITUDE **b** : FIDELITY, LOYALTY **2** : freedom from change

¹con·stant \'kän(t)-stənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *constant-, constans*, fr. prp. of *constare* to stand firm, be consistent, fr. *com-* + *stare* to stand — more at STAND] **1** : marked by firm steadfast revolution or faithfulness : exhibiting constancy of mind or attachment **2** : INVARIABLE, UNIFORM **3** : continually occurring or recurring : REGULAR ***syn*** **1** see FAITHFUL ***ant*** inconstant, fickle **2** see CONTINUOUS ***ant*** fitful — **con·stant·ly** *adv*

²constant *n* : something invariable or unchanging: as **a** : a number that has a fixed value in a given situation or universally or that is characteristic of some substance or instrument **b** : a number that is assumed not to change value in a given mathematical discussion **c** : a term in logic with a fixed designation

con·stan·tan \'kän(t)-stən-ˌtan\ *n* [fr. the fact that its resistance remains constant under change of temperature] : an alloy of copper and nickel used for electrical resistors and in thermocouples

con·stel·late \'kän(t)-stə-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** *vt* **1** : to unite in a cluster **2** : to set or adorn with or as if with constellations ~ *vi* : CLUSTER

con·stel·la·tion \ˌkän(t)-stə-'lā-shən\ *n* [ME *constellacioun*, fr. MF *constellation*, fr. LL *constellation-, constellatio*, fr. *constellatus* studded with stars, fr. L *com-* + *stella* star — more at STAR] **1 a** : the configuration of stars esp. at one's birth **b** *obs* : character or constitution as determined by the stars **2** : any of 88 arbitrary configurations of stars or an area of the celestial sphere covering one of these configurations **3** : an assemblage, collection, or gathering of usu. related persons, qualities, or things ⟨a ~ of . . . relatives, friends, and hangers-on —Brendan Gill⟩ **4** : PATTERN, ARRANGEMENT ⟨taking advantage of the shifting ~ of power throughout the known world —H. D. Lasswell⟩ — **con·stel·la·to·ry** \kən-'stel-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

con·ster·nate \'kän(t)-stər-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** : to fill with consternation

con·ster·na·tion \ˌkän(t)-stər-'nā-shən\ *n* [F or L; F, fr. L *consternation-, consternatio*, fr. *consternatus*, pp. of *consternare* to bewilder, alarm, fr. *com-* + *-sternare* (akin to OE *starian* to stare)] : amazement or dismay that hinders or throws into confusion ⟨the two . . .

stared at each other in ~, and neither knew what to do —Pearl Buck〉

con·sti·pate \'kän(t)-stə-ˌpāt\ *vt* **-pat·ed; -pat·ing** [ML *constipatus*, pp. of *constipare*, fr. L, to crowd together, fr. *com-* + *stipare* to press together — more at STIFF] **1** : to make costive : cause constipation in **2** : to make immobile, inactive, or dull : STULTIFY 〈so much clutter . . . will tend to ~ the novel's working order —*Times Lit. Supp.*〉

con·sti·pa·tion \ˌkän(t)-stə-'pā-shən\ *n* **1** : abnormally delayed or infrequent passage of dry hardened feces **2** : STULTIFICATION

con·stit·u·en·cy \kən-'stich-(ə-)wən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1 a** : a body of citizens entitled to elect a representative to a legislative or other public body **b** : the residents in an electoral district **c** : an electoral district **2 a** : a group or body that patronizes, supports, or offers representation 〈there was no ~ of millionaires to back him〉 **b** : the people involved in or served by an organization (as a business or institution) 〈the big dailies and urban TV stations are not in touch with the special problems of their own *constituencies* —J. P. Lyford〉

1con·stit·u·ent \kən-'stich-(ə-)wənt\ *n* [F *constituant*, fr. MF, fr. prp. of *constituer* to constitute, fr. L *constituere*] **1** : one who authorizes another to act for him : PRINCIPAL **2** : an essential part : COMPONENT, ELEMENT **3** : one of two or more linguistic forms that enter into a construction or a compound and are either immediate (as *he* and *writes reviews* in the construction "he writes reviews") or ultimate (as *he, write, -s, review,* and *-s* in the same construction) **4 a** : one of a group who elects another to represent him in a public office **b** : a resident in a constituency ***syn*** see ELEMENT ***ant*** whole, aggregate

2constituent *adj* [L *constituent-, constituens*, prp. of *constituere*] **1** : serving to form, compose, or make up a unit or whole : COMPONENT **2** : having the power to create a government or frame or amend a constitution 〈a ~ assembly〉 — **con·stit·u·ent·ly** *adv*

con·sti·tute \'kän(t)-stə-ˌt(y)üt\ *vt* **-tut·ed; -tut·ing** [L *constitutus*, pp. of *constituere* to set up, constitute, fr. *com-* + *statuere* to set — more at STATUTE] **1** : to appoint to an office, function, or dignity **2** : to set up : ESTABLISH: as **a** : ENACT **b** : FOUND **c** (1) : to give due or lawful form to (2) : to legally process **3** : to make up : FORM, COMPOSE 〈twelve months ~ a year〉 〈high school dropouts who ~ a major problem in large city slums —J. B. Conant〉

con·sti·tu·tion \ˌkän(t)-stə-'t(y)ü-shən\ *n* **1** : an established law or custom : ORDINANCE **2** : the act of establishing, making, or setting up **3 a** : the physical makeup of the individual comprising inherited qualities modified by environment **b** : the structure, composition, physical makeup, or nature of something **4** : the mode in which a state or society is organized; *esp* : the manner in which sovereign power is distributed **5 a** : the basic principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it **b** : a written instrument embodying the rules of a political or social organization ***syn*** see PHYSIQUE — **con·sti·tu·tion·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

1con·sti·tu·tion·al \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : relating to, inherent in, or affecting the constitution of body or mind **2** : of, relating to, or entering into the fundamental makeup of something : ESSENTIAL **3** : being in accordance with or authorized by the constitution of a state or society 〈a ~ government〉 **4** : regulated by or ruling according to a constitution 〈a ~ monarchy〉 **5** : of or relating to a constitution **6** : loyal to or supporting an established constitution or form of government

2constitutional *n* : a walk taken for one's health

con·sti·tu·tion·al·ism \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : adherence to or government according to constitutional principles; *also* : a constitutional system of government — **con·sti·tu·tion·al·ist** \-əst\ *n*

con·sti·tu·tion·al·i·ty \-ˌt(y)ü-shə-'nal-ət-ē\ *n* : the quality or state of being constitutional; *esp* : accordance with the provisions of a constitution 〈questioned the ~ of the law〉

con·sti·tu·tion·al·ize \-'t(y)ü-shnəl-ˌīz, -shən-ᵊl-\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to provide with a constitution : organize along constitutional principles — **con·sti·tu·tion·al·iza·tion** \-ˌt(y)ü-shnəl-ə-'zā-shən, -shən-ᵊl-\ *n*

con·sti·tu·tion·al·ly \-'t(y)ü-shnə-lē, -shən-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* **1 a** : in accordance with one's constitution 〈~ unable to grasp subtleties〉 **b** : in structure, composition, or constitution 〈despite repeated heatings the material remained ~ the same〉 **2** : in accordance with a political constitution 〈was not ~ eligible to fill the office〉

con·sti·tu·tive \'kän(t)-stə-ˌt(y)üt-iv, kən-'stich-ət-iv\ *adj* **1** : having the power to enact or establish : CONSTRUCTIVE **2** : CONSTITUENT, ESSENTIAL **3** : relating to or dependent on constitution 〈a ~ property of all electrolytes〉 — **con·sti·tu·tive·ly** *adv*

constr *abbr* construction

con·strain \kən-'strān\ *vt* [ME *constrainen*, fr. MF *constraindre*, fr. L *constringere* to constrict, constrain, fr. *com-* + *stringere* to draw tight — more at STRAIN] **1 a** : to force by imposed stricture, restriction, or limitation **b** : to restrict the motion of (a mechanical body) to a particular mode **2** : to force or produce in an unnatural or strained manner 〈a ~*ed* smile〉 **3** : to secure by or as if by bonds : CONFINE 〈when winter frosts ~ the field with cold — John Dryden〉 **4** : to bring into narrow compass; *also* : to clasp tightly **5** : to hold back by or as if by force 〈~*ing* my mind not to wander from the task —Charles Dickens〉 ***syn*** see FORCE — **con·strained·ly** \-'strā-nəd-lē, -'strān-dlē\ *adv*

con·straint \kən-'strānt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *constrainte*, fr. *constraindre*] **1 a** : the act of constraining **b** : the state of being checked, restricted, or compelled to avoid or perform some action 〈the ~ and monotony of a monastic life —Matthew Arnold〉 **c** : a constraining agency or force : CHECK 〈put legal ~*s* on the board's activities〉 **2 a** : repression of one's own feelings, behavior, or actions **b** : a sense of being constrained : EMBARRASSMENT

con·strict \kən-'strikt\ *vb* [L *constrictus*, pp. of *constringere*] *vt* **1 a** : to make narrow by drawing together or squeezing **b** : COMPRESS, SQUEEZE 〈~ a nerve〉 **2** : to stultify, stop, or cause to falter : INHIBIT ~ *vi* : to become constricted ***syn*** see CONTRACT — **con·stric·tive** \-'strik-tiv\ *adj*

con·stric·tion \-'strik-shən\ *n* **1** : an act or product of constricting **2** : the quality or state of being constricted **3** : something that constricts

con·stric·tor \-'strik-tər\ *n* **1** : one that constricts **2** : a muscle that contracts a cavity or orifice or compresses an organ **3** : a snake (as a boa constrictor) that kills prey by compression in its coils

con·stringe \kən-'strinj\ *vt* **con·stringed; con·string·ing** [L *constringere*] **1** : CONSTRICT **2** : to cause to shrink 〈cold ~*s* the pores〉 — **con·strin·gent** \-'strin-jənt\ *adj*

con·stru·able \kən-'strü-ə-bəl\ *adj* : that may be construed

1con·struct \kən-'strəkt\ *vt* [L *constructus*, pp. of *construere*, fr. *com-* + *struere* to build — more at STRUCTURE] **1** : to make or form by combining parts : BUILD **2** : to set in logical order **3** : to draw (a geometrical figure) with suitable instruments and under specified conditions — **con·struct·ible** \-'strək-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **con·struc·tor** \-tər\ *n*

2con·struct \'kän-ˌstrəkt\ *n* : something constructed esp. by mental synthesis 〈form a ~ of a physical object by mentally assembling and integrating sense-data〉

con·struc·tion \kən-'strək-shən\ *n* **1** : the arrangement and connection of words or groups of words in a sentence : syntactical arrangement **2** : the process, art, or manner of constructing; *also* : a thing constructed **3** : the act or result of construing, interpreting, or explaining **4** : a sculptural creation that is put together out of separate pieces of often disparate materials — **con·struc·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·struc·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

con·struc·tion·ist \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n* : one who construes a legal document (as the U.S. Constitution) in a specific way 〈a strict ~〉

construction paper *n* : colored paper suitable for crayon or ink drawings and watercolors and for making cutouts

con·struc·tive \kən-'strək-tiv\ *adj* **1** : declared such by judicial construction or interpretation 〈~ fraud〉 **2** : of or relating to construction **3** : promoting improvement or development 〈~ criticism〉 — **con·struc·tive·ly** *adv* — **con·struc·tive·ness** *n*

con·struc·tiv·ism \kən-'strək-ti-ˌviz-əm\ *n* **1** : a nonobjective art movement originating in Russia and concerned with formal organization of planes and expression of volume in terms of modern industrial materials (as glass and plastic) **2** : an abstract style of stage setting that employs skeletal structures instead of realistic props — **con·struc·tiv·ist** \-ti-vəst\ *adj or n*

1con·strue \kən-'strü\ *vb* **con·strued; con·stru·ing** [ME *construen*, fr. LL *construere*, fr. L, to construct] *vt* **1** : to analyze the arrangement and connection of words in (a sentence or sentence part) **2** : to understand or explain the sense or intention of usu. in a particular way or with respect to a given set of circumstances 〈*construed* my actions as hostile〉 ~ *vi* : to construe a sentence or sentence part esp. in connection with translating

2con·strue \'kän-ˌstrü\ *n* : an act of construing esp. by piecemeal translation; *also* : the translated version resulting from such an act

con·sub·stan·tial \ˌkän(t)-səb-'stan-chəl\ *adj* [LL *consubstantialis*, fr. L *com-* + *substantia* substance] : of the same substance

con·sub·stan·ti·a·tion \ˌkän(t)-səb-ˌstan-chē-'ā-shən\ *n* : the actual substantial presence and combination of the body of Christ with the eucharistic bread and wine according to a teaching associated with Martin Luther

con·sue·tude \'kän(t)-swi-ˌt(y)üd, kən-'sü-ə-\ *n* [ME, fr. L *consuetudo* — more at CUSTOM] : social usage : CUSTOM — **con·sue·tu·di·nary** \ˌkän(t)-swi-'t(y)üd-ᵊn-ˌer-ē, kən-ˌsü-ə-\ *adj*

con·sul \'kän(t)-səl\ *n* [ME, fr. L, fr. *consulere* to consult] **1 a** : either of two annually elected chief magistrates of the Roman republic **b** : one of three chief magistrates of the French republic from 1799 to 1804 **2** : an official appointed by a government to reside in a foreign country to represent the commercial interests of citizens of the appointing country — **con·sul·ar** \-s(ə-)lər\ *adj* — **con·sul·ship** \-səl-ˌship\ *n*

con·sul·ate \-s(ə-)lət\ *n* **1** : a government by consuls **2** : the office, term of office, or jurisdiction of a consul **3** : the residence or official premises of a consul

consulate general *n, pl* **consulates general** : the residence, office, or jurisdiction of a consul general

consul general *n, pl* **consuls general** : a consul of the first rank stationed in an important place or having jurisdiction in several places or over several consuls

1con·sult \kən-'səlt\ *vb* [MF or L; MF *consulter*, fr. L *consultare*, fr. *consultus*, pp. of *consulere* to deliberate, counsel, consult] *vt* **1 a** : to ask the advice or opinion of 〈~ a doctor〉 **b** : to refer to 〈~ a dictionary〉 **2** : to have regard to : CONSIDER ~ *vi* **1** : to consult an individual **2** : to deliberate together : CONFER **3** : to serve as a consultant — **con·sult·er** *n*

2con·sult \kən-'səlt, 'kän-ˌ\ *n* : CONSULTATION

con·sul·tan·cy \kən-'səlt-ᵊn-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : an agency that provides consulting services **2** : CONSULTATION

con·sul·tant \kən-'səlt-ᵊnt\ *n* **1** : one who consults another **2** : one who gives professional advice or services : EXPERT — **con·sul·tant·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

con·sul·ta·tion \ˌkän(t)-səl-'tā-shən\ *n* **1** : COUNCIL, CONFERENCE; *specif* : a deliberation between physicians on a case or its treatment **2** : the act of consulting or conferring

con·sul·ta·tive \kən-'səl-tət-iv, 'kän(t)-səl-ˌtāt-iv\ *adj* : of, relating to, or intended for consultation : ADVISORY 〈~ committee〉

con·sult·ing \kən-'səl-tiŋ\ *adj* **1** : providing professional or expert advice 〈a ~ architect〉 **2** : of or relating to consultation or a consultant 〈the ~ room of a psychiatrist〉

con·sul·tive \kən-'səl-tiv\ *adj* : CONSULTATIVE

con·sul·tor \kən-'səl-tər\ *n* : one that consults or advises; *esp* : an adviser to a Roman Catholic bishop, provincial, or sacred congregation
[1]con·sum·able \kən-'sü-mə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being consumed
[2]consumable *n* : something that is consumable — usu. used in pl. ⟨the ~s on board their ship are adequate for the 14-day mission — R. C. Cowen⟩
con·sume \kən-'süm\ *vb* **con·sumed; con·sum·ing** [ME *consumen*, fr. MF or L; MF *consumer*, fr. L *consumere*, fr. *com-* + *sumere* to take up, take, fr. *sub-* up + *emere* to take — more at SUB-, REDEEM] *vt* **1** : to do away with completely : DESTROY ⟨fire *consumed* several buildings⟩ **2 a** : to spend wastefully : SQUANDER **b** : to use up ⟨his correspondence *consumed* much of his time⟩ **3** : to eat or drink esp. in great quantity ⟨*consumed* several kegs of beer⟩ **4** : to engage fully : ENGROSS ⟨she was *consumed* with curiosity⟩ ~ *vi* : to waste or burn away : PERISH ***syn*** see WASTE, MONOPOLIZE — **con·sum·ing·ly** \-'sü-miŋ-lē\ *adv*
con·sum·ed·ly \-'sü-məd-lē\ *adv* : as if consumed : EXCESSIVELY
con·sum·er \kən-'sü-mər\ *n, often attrib* : one that consumes: as **a** : one that utilizes economic goods **b** : an organism requiring complex organic compounds for food which it obtains by preying on other organisms or by eating particles of organic matter — compare PRODUCER 4 — **con·sum·er·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
consumer credit *n* : credit granted to an individual esp. to finance the purchase of consumer goods or to defray personal or family expenses
consumer goods *n pl* : goods that directly satisfy human wants
con·sum·er·ism \kən-'sü-mə-ˌriz-əm\ *n* **1** : the promotion of the consumer's interests **2** : the theory that an increasing consumption of goods is economically desirable — **con·sum·er·ist** \-rəst\ *n*
consumer price index *n* : an index measuring the change in the cost of typical wage-earner purchases of goods and services expressed as a percentage of the cost of these same goods and services in some base period — called also *cost-of-living index*
[1]con·sum·mate \kən-'səm-ət, 'kän(t)-sə-mət\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *consummatus*, pp. of *consummare* to sum up, finish, fr. *com-* + *summa* sum] **1** : complete in every detail : PERFECT **2** : extremely skilled and accomplished ⟨a ~ liar⟩ **3** : of the highest degree ⟨~ skill⟩ ⟨~ cruelty⟩ — **con·sum·mate·ly** *adv*
[2]con·sum·mate \'kän(t)-sə-ˌmāt\ *vb* **-mat·ed; -mat·ing** *vt* **1 a** : FINISH, COMPLETE ⟨~ a business deal⟩ **b** : to make perfect : ACHIEVE **2** : to make (marital union) complete by sexual intercourse ⟨~ a marriage⟩ ~ *vi* : to become perfected — **con·sum·ma·tive** \'kän(t)-sə-ˌmāt-iv, kən-'səm-ət-iv\ *adj* — **con·sum·ma·tor** \'kän(t)-sə-ˌmāt-ər\ *n*
con·sum·ma·tion \ˌkän-sə-'mā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of consummating ⟨the ~ of a contract by mutual signature⟩; *specif* : the consummating of a marriage **2** : the ultimate end : FINISH
con·sum·ma·to·ry \kən-'səm-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to consummation : CONCLUDING **2** : of, relating to, or being a response or act (as eating or copulating) that terminates a period of usu. goal-directed behavior
con·sump·tion \kən-'səm(p)-shən\ *n* [ME *consumpcioun*, fr. L *consumption-*, *consumptio*, fr. *consumptus*, pp. of *consumere*] **1** : the act or process of consuming **2** : the utilization of economic goods in the satisfaction of wants or in the process of production resulting chiefly in their destruction, deterioration, or transformation **3 a** : a progressive wasting away of the body esp. from pulmonary tuberculosis **b** : TUBERCULOSIS
[1]con·sump·tive \-'səm(p)-tiv\ *adj* **1** : tending to consume **2** : of, relating to, or affected with consumption — **con·sump·tive·ly** *adv*
[2]consumptive *n* : a person affected with consumption
cont *abbr* **1** containing **2** contents **3** continent; continental **4** continued **5** control
[1]con·tact \'kän-ˌtakt\ *n* [F or L; F, fr. L *contactus*, fr. *contactus*, pp. of *contingere* to have contact with — more at CONTINGENT] **1 a** : union or junction of surfaces **b** : the apparent touching or mutual tangency of the limbs of two celestial bodies or of the disk of one body with the shadow of another during an eclipse, transit, or occultation **c** (1) : the junction of two electrical conductors through which a current passes (2) : a special part made for such a junction **2 a** : ASSOCIATION, RELATIONSHIP **b** : CONNECTION, COMMUNICATION **c** : direct visual observation of the earth's surface made from an airplane esp. as an aid to navigation **d** : an establishing of communication with someone or an observing or receiving of a significant signal from a person or object ⟨radar ~ with Mars⟩ **3** : one serving as a carrier or source **4** : CONTACT LENS
[2]con·tact \'kän-ˌtakt, kən-'\ *vt* **1** : to bring into contact **2 a** : to enter or be in contact with : JOIN **b** : to get in communication with ⟨~ your local dealer⟩ ~ *vi* : to make contact
[3]con·tact \'kän-ˌtakt\ *adj* : maintaining, involving, or activated or caused by contact ⟨~ poisons⟩
[4]con·tact \'kän-ˌtakt\ *adv* : by contact flying ⟨the ceiling was so low that the patrol was flown ~ —J. L. Foley⟩
contact flying \'kän-ˌtakt-\ *n* : navigation of an airplane by means of direct observation of landmarks
contact inhibition \'kän-ˌtakt\ *n* : cessation of cellular undulating movements upon contact with other cells with accompanying cessation of cell growth and division
contact lens \ˌkän-ˌtakt\ *n* : a thin lens designed to fit over the cornea
contact print \ˌkän-ˌtak(t)-\ *n* : a photographic print made with the negative in contact with the sensitized paper, plate, or film
con·ta·gion \kən-'tā-jən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *contagion-*, *contagio*, fr. *contingere* to have contact with, pollute] **1 a** : the transmission of a disease by direct or indirect contact **b** : a contagious disease **c** : a disease-producing agent (as a virus) **2 a** : POISON **b** : contagious influence, quality, or nature **c** : corrupting influence or contact **3 a** : rapid communication of an influence (as a doctrine or emotional state) **b** : an influence that spreads rapidly
con·ta·gious \-jəs\ *adj* **1** : communicable by contact : CATCHING **2** : bearing contagion **3** : used for contagious diseases ⟨a ~ ward⟩ **4** : exciting similar emotions or conduct in others ⟨~ enthusiasm⟩ — **con·ta·gious·ly** *adv* — **con·ta·gious·ness** *n*
contagious abortion *n* : a contagious or infectious disease (as a brucellosis) of domestic animals characterized by abortion
con·ta·gium \kən-'tā-j(ē-)əm\ *n, pl* **-gia** \-j(ē-)ə\ [L, contagion, fr. *contingere*] : a virus or living organism capable of causing a communicable disease
con·tain \kən-'tān\ *vb* [ME *conteinen*, fr. OF *contenir*, fr. L *continēre* to hold together, hold in, contain, fr. *com-* + *tenēre* to hold — more at THIN] *vt* **1** : to keep within limits : hold back or hold down: as **a** : RESTRAIN, CONTROL **b** : CHECK, HALT **c** : to follow successfully a policy of containment toward **d** : to prevent (as an enemy or opponent) from advancing or from making a successful attack **2 a** : to have within : HOLD **b** : COMPRISE, INCLUDE **3 a** : to be divisible by usu. without a remainder **b** : ENCLOSE, BOUND ~ *vi* : to restrain oneself — **con·tain·able** \-'tā-nə-bəl\ *adj*
contained *adj* **1** : RESTRAINED, CONTROLLED **2** : COMPOSED, CALM
con·tain·er \kən-'tā-nər\ *n* : one that contains; *esp* : a receptacle or a flexible covering for the shipment of goods
con·tain·er·board \-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a paperboard (as corrugated board or fiberboard) from which containers are made
con·tain·er·iza·tion \kən-ˌtā-nə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n* : a shipping method in which a large amount of material (as merchandise) is packaged together in one large container
con·tain·er·ize \kən-'tā-nə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to ship by containerization
con·tain·er·ship \-nər-ˌship\ *n* : a ship esp. designed or equipped for carrying containerized cargo
con·tain·ment \kən-'tān-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act or process of containing **2** : the policy, process, or result of preventing the expansion of a hostile power or ideology
con·tam·i·nant \kən-'tam-ə-nənt\ *n* : something that contaminates
con·tam·i·nate \kən-'tam-ə-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [L *contaminatus*, pp. of *contaminare*; akin to L *contagio* contagion] **1 a** : to soil, stain, or infect by contact or association ⟨bacteria *contaminated* the wound⟩ **b** : to make inferior or impure by admixture ⟨iron *contaminated* with phosphorus⟩ **2** : to make unfit for use by the introduction of unwholesome or undesirable elements — **con·tam·i·na·tive** \-ˌnāt-iv\ *adj* — **con·tam·i·na·tor** \-ˌnāt-ər\ *n*
syn CONTAMINATE, TAINT, POLLUTE, DEFILE *shared meaning element* : to make impure or unclean. CONTAMINATE implies intrusion of or contact with dirt or foulness from an outside source ⟨water *contaminated* by industrial wastes⟩ ⟨filthy books that *contaminate* young minds⟩ TAINT stresses the loss of purity or cleanliness that follows contamination ⟨*tainted* meat⟩ ⟨his unkindness may defeat my life, but never *taint* my love —Shak.⟩ POLLUTE, sometimes interchangeable with *contaminate*, distinctively may imply that the process which begins with contamination is complete and that what was pure or clean has been made foul, poisoned, or filthy ⟨the *polluted* waters of Lake Erie, in parts no better than an open cesspool⟩ DEFILE implies befouling of what could or should have been kept clean and pure or held sacred and commonly suggests violation or desecration ⟨*defile* a hero's memory with slanderous innuendo⟩
con·tam·i·na·tion \kən-ˌtam-ə-'nā-shən\ *n* **1** : a process of contaminating : a state of being contaminated **2** : something that contaminates
contd *abbr* continued
conte \kōⁿt\ *n* [F] : a usu. short tale of adventure
con·temn \kən-'tem\ *vt* [ME *contempnen*, fr. MF *contempner*, fr. L *contemnere*, fr. *com-* + *temnere* to despise — more at STAMP] : to view or treat with contempt : SCORN ***syn*** see DESPISE — **con·temner** *also* **con·tem·nor** \-'tem-(n)ər\ *n*
con·tem·plate \'känt-əm-ˌplāt, 'kän-ˌtem-\ *vb* **-plat·ed, -plat·ing** [L *contemplatus*, pp. of *contemplari*, fr. *com-* + *templum* space marked out for observation of auguries — more at TEMPLE] *vt* **1** : to view or consider with continued attention : meditate on **2** : to have in view as contingent or probable or as an end or intention ~ *vi* : PONDER, MEDITATE ***syn*** see CONSIDER — **con·tem·pla·tor** \-ˌplāt-ər\ *n*
con·tem·pla·tion \ˌkänt-əm-'plā-shən, ˌkän-ˌtem-\ *n* **1 a** : concentration on spiritual things as a form of private devotion **b** : a state of mystical awareness of God's being **2** : an act of considering with attention : STUDY **3** : the act of regarding steadily **4** : INTENTION, EXPECTATION
[1]con·tem·pla·tive \kən-'tem-plət-iv; 'känt-əm-ˌplāt-, 'kän-ˌtem-\ *adj* : marked by or given to contemplation; *specif* : of or relating to a religious order devoted to prayer and penance — **con·tem·pla·tive·ly** *adv* — **con·tem·pla·tive·ness** *n*
[2]contemplative *n* : one who practices contemplation
con·tem·po·ra·ne·ity \kən-ˌtem-p(ə-)rə-'nē-ət-ē, -'nā-\ *n* : the quality or state of being contemporaneous
con·tem·po·ra·ne·ous \kən-ˌtem-pə-'rā-nē-əs\ *adj* [L *contemporaneus*, fr. *com-* + *tempor-*, *tempus* time — more at TEMPORAL] : existing, occurring, or originating during the same time ***syn*** see CONTEMPORARY — **con·tem·po·ra·ne·ous·ly** *adv* — **con·tem·po·ra·ne·ous·ness** *n*
[1]con·tem·po·rary \kən-'tem-pə-ˌrer-ē\ *adj* [*com-* + L *tempor-*, *tempus*] **1** : happening, existing, living, or coming into being during the same period of time **2 a** : SIMULTANEOUS **b** : marked by characteristics of the present period : MODERN — **con·tem·po·rar·i·ly** \-ˌtem-pə-'rer-ə-lē\ *adv*
syn CONTEMPORARY, CONTEMPORANEOUS, COEVAL, SYNCHRONOUS, SIMULTANEOUS, COINCIDENT *shared meaning element* : existing or occurring at the same time
[2]contemporary *n, pl* **-rar·ies** **1** : one that is contemporary with another **2** : one of the same or nearly the same age as another
con·tempt \kən-'tem(p)t\ *n* [ME, fr. L *contemptus*, fr. *contemptus*, pp. of *contemnere*] **1 a** : the act of despising : the state of mind of one who despises : DISDAIN ⟨had nothing but ~ for his weakness⟩ **b** : lack of respect or reverence for something **2** : the state of being despised **3** : willful disobedience to or open disrespect of a court, judge, or legislative body ⟨~ of court⟩

con·tempt·ible \kən-'tem(p)-tə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : worthy of contempt **2** *obs* : SCORNFUL, CONTEMPTUOUS — **con·tempt·ible·ness** *n* — **con·tempt·ibly** \-blē\ *adv*
syn CONTEMPTIBLE, DESPICABLE, PITIABLE, SORRY, SCURVY, CHEAP, BEGGARLY *shared meaning element* : arousing or deserving scorn or contempt ***ant*** admirable, estimable, formidable
con·temp·tu·ous \-'tem(p)-chə(-wə)s, -'tem(p)sh-wəs\ *adj* [L *contemptus* contempt] : manifesting, feeling, or expressing contempt — **con·temp·tu·ous·ly** *adv* — **con·temp·tu·ous·ness** *n*
con·tend \kən-'tend\ *vb* [MF or L; MF *contendre*, fr. L *contendere*, fr. *com-* + *tendere* to stretch — more at TEND] *vi* **1** : to strive or vie in contest or rivalry or against difficulties **2** : to strive in debate : ARGUE ~ *vt* **1** : MAINTAIN, ASSERT ⟨~*ed* that he was right⟩ **2** : to struggle for — **con·tend·er** *n*
[1]con·tent \kən-'tent\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *contentus*, fr. pp. of *continēre* to hold in, contain] : CONTENTED, SATISFIED ⟨~ to wait quietly⟩
[2]content *vt* **1** : to appease the desires of **2** : to limit (oneself) in requirements, desires, or actions
[3]content *n* : CONTENTMENT; *esp* : freedom from care or discomfort
[4]con·tent \'kän-ˌtent\ *n* [ME, fr. L *contentus*, pp. of *continēre* to contain] **1 a** : something contained — usu. used in pl. ⟨the jar's ~*s*⟩ ⟨the drawer's ~*s* ⟩ ⟨the bag's ~*s*⟩ **b** : the topics or matter treated in a written work ⟨table of ~*s*⟩ **2 a** : SUBSTANCE, GIST **b** : essential meaning : SIGNIFICANCE **c** : the events, physical detail, and information in a work of art — compare FORM 10c **3 a** : the matter dealt with in a field of study **b** : a part, element, or complex of parts **4** : the amount of specified material contained : PROPORTION
content analysis *n* : analysis of the manifest and latent content of a body of communicated material (as a book or film) through a classification, tabulation, and evaluation of its key symbols and themes in order to ascertain its meaning and probable effect
con·tent·ed \kən-'tent-əd\ *adj* : manifesting satisfaction with one's possessions, status, or situation ⟨a ~ smile⟩ — **con·tent·ed·ly** *adv* — **con·tent·ed·ness** *n*
con·ten·tion \kən-'ten-chən\ *n* [ME *contencioun*, fr. MF, fr. L *contention-*, *contentio*, fr. *contentus*, pp. of *contendere* to contend] **1** : an act or instance of contending **2** : a point advanced or maintained in a debate or argument **3** : RIVALRY, COMPETITION ***syn*** see DISCORD
con·ten·tious \kən-'ten-chəs\ *adj* **1** : exhibiting an often perverse and wearisome tendency to quarrels and disputes ⟨a man of a most ~ nature⟩ **2** : likely to cause contention ⟨a ~ argument⟩ ***syn*** see BELLIGERENT ***ant*** peaceable — **con·ten·tious·ly** *adv* — **con·ten·tious·ness** *n*
con·tent·ment \kən-'tent-mənt\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of being contented **2** : something that contents
con·tent word \'kän-ˌtent-\ *n* : a word that primarily expresses lexical meaning — compare FUNCTION WORD
con·ter·mi·nous \kən-'tər-mə-nəs, kän-\ *adj* [L *conterminus*, fr. *com-* + *terminus* boundary — more at TERM] **1** : having a common boundary **2** : COTERMINOUS **3** : enclosed within one common boundary ⟨the 48 ~ states of the United States⟩ ***syn*** see ADJACENT — **con·ter·mi·nous·ly** *adv*
[1]con·test \kən-'test, 'kän-\ *vb* [MF *contester*, fr. L *contestari* (*litem*) to bring an action at law, fr. *contestari* to call to witness, fr. *com-* + *testis* witness — more at TESTAMENT] *vt* : to make the subject of dispute, contention, or litigation; *esp* : DISPUTE, CHALLENGE ~ *vi* : STRIVE, VIE — **con·test·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **con·test·er** *n*
[2]con·test \'kän-ˌtest\ *n* **1** : a struggle for superiority or victory **2** : a competition in which each contestant performs without direct contact with or interference from his competitors
con·tes·tant \kən-'tes-tənt, *also* 'kän-ˌ\ *n* **1** : one that participates in a contest **2** : one that contests an award or decision
con·tes·ta·tion \ˌkän-ˌtes-'tā-shən\ *n* : CONTROVERSY
con·text \'kän-ˌtekst\ *n* [ME, weaving together of words, fr. L *contextus* connection of words, coherence, fr. *contextus*, pp. of *contexere* to weave together, fr. *com-* + *texere* to weave — more at TECHNICAL] **1** : the parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage and can throw light on its meaning **2** : the interrelated conditions in which something exists or occurs : ENVIRONMENT — **con·tex·tu·al** \kän-'teks-chə(-wə)l, kən-\ *adj* — **con·tex·tu·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
con·tex·ture \kən-'teks-chər, 'kän-ˌ, kän-'\ *n* [F, fr. L *contextus*, pp.] **1** : the act, process, or manner of weaving parts into a whole; *also* : a structure so formed ⟨a ~ of lies⟩ **2** : CONTEXT
contg *abbr* containing
con·ti·gu·ity \ˌkänt-ə-'gyü-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ities** : the quality or state of being contiguous : PROXIMITY
con·tig·u·ous \kən-'tig-yə-wəs\ *adj* [L *contiguus*, fr. *contingere* to have contact with — more at CONTINGENT] **1** : being in actual contact : touching along a boundary or at a point **2** *of angles* : ADJACENT **3** : next or near in time or sequence **4** : CONTERMINOUS 3 ***syn*** see ADJACENT — **con·tig·u·ous·ly** *adv* — **con·tig·u·ous·ness** *n*
con·ti·nence \'känt-ᵊn-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : self-restraint from yielding to impulse or desire **2** : ability to refrain from a bodily activity
[1]con·ti·nent \'känt-ᵊn-ənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *continent-*, *continens*, fr. prp. of *continēre* to hold in — more at CONTAIN] **1** : exercising continence **2** *obs* : RESTRICTIVE ***syn*** see SOBER ***ant*** incontinent — **con·ti·nent·ly** *adv*
[2]con·ti·nent \'känt-ᵊn-ənt, 'känt-nənt\ *n* [in senses 1 & 2, fr. L *continent-*, *continens*, prp. of *continēre*, to hold together, contain; in senses 3 & 4, fr. L *continent-*, *continens* continuous mass of land, mainland, fr. *continent-*, *continens*, prp.] **1** *archaic* : CONTAINER, RECEPTACLE **2** *archaic* : a summary example : EPITOME **3** : MAINLAND **4 a** : one of the usu. seven great divisions of land on the globe **b** *cap* : the continent of Europe — used with *the*
[1]con·ti·nen·tal \ˌkänt-ᵊn-'ent-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of a continent ⟨~ waters⟩; *specif* : of or relating to the continent of Europe as distinguished from the British Isles **2** *often cap* : of or relating to the colonies later forming the U.S. ⟨*Continental* Congress⟩ — **con·ti·nen·tal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*
[2]continental *n* **1 a** *often cap* : an American soldier of the Revolution in the Continental army **b** : a piece of Continental paper currency **c** : an inhabitant of a continent and esp. the continent of Europe **2** : the least bit ⟨not worth a ~⟩
continental code *n* : the international Morse code
continental divide *n* : a divide separating streams that flow to opposite sides of a continent
continental drift *n* : a hypothetical slow movement of the continents on a deep-seated viscous zone within the earth
continental shelf *n* : a shallow submarine plain of varying width forming a border to a continent and typically ending in a steep slope to the oceanic abyss
con·tin·gence \kən-'tin-jən(t)s\ *n* **1** : TANGENCY **2** : CONTINGENCY
con·tin·gen·cy \kən-'tin-jən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the quality or state of being contingent **2** : a contingent event or condition: as **a** : an event (as an emergency) that is of possible but uncertain occurrence ⟨trying to provide for every ~⟩ **b** : something liable to happen as an adjunct to something else ***syn*** see JUNCTURE
contingency table *n* : a table that tabulates the frequency distribution of one variable in the rows and that of another variable in the columns and that is used esp. in the study of correlation between the variables
[1]con·tin·gent \kən-'tin-jənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *contingent-*, *contingens*, prp. of *contingere* to have contact with, befall, fr. *com-* + *tangere* to touch — more at TANGENT] **1** : likely but not certain to happen : POSSIBLE **2 a** : happening by chance or unforeseen causes **b** : intended for use in circumstances not completely foreseen **c** : UNPREDICTABLE **3** : dependent on or conditioned by something else **4** : not logically necessary; *esp* : EMPIRICAL, FACTUAL **5** : not necessitated : FREE ***syn*** see ACCIDENTAL — **con·tingent·ly** *adv*
[2]contingent *n* **1** : something contingent : CONTINGENCY **2** : a quota or share esp. of persons supplied from or representative of an area or group
con·tin·u·al \kən-'tin-yə(-wə)l\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *continuus* continuous] **1** : continuing indefinitely in time without interruption ⟨~ fear⟩ **2** : recurring in steady rapid succession **3** : forming a continuous series ***syn*** see CONTINUOUS ***ant*** intermittent — **con·tin·u·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
con·tin·u·ance \kən-'tin-yə-wən(t)s\ *n* **1 a** : the act or process of continuing in a state, condition, or course of action **b** : PROLONGATION, DURATION **2** : CONTINUITY **3** : SEQUEL **4** : adjournment of court proceedings to a future day ***syn*** see CONTINUATION
con·tin·u·ant \-yə-wənt\ *n* : something that continues or serves as a continuation (as a consonant that may be prolonged without alteration during one emission of breath) — **continuant** *adj*
continuate *adj, obs* : CONTINUOUS
con·tin·u·a·tion \kən-ˌtin-yə-'wā-shən\ *n* **1** : continuance in or prolongation of a state or activity **2** : resumption after an interruption **3** : something that continues, increases, or adds
syn CONTINUATION, CONTINUANCE, CONTINUITY *shared meaning element* : a persisting in being or continuing or an instance revealing such persistence
con·tin·u·a·tive \kən-'tin-yə-ˌwāt-iv, -wət-iv\ *adj* : relating to, causing, or being in the process of continuation
con·tin·u·a·tor \-ˌwāt-ər\ *n* : one that continues
con·tin·ue \kən-'tin-(ˌ)yü, -yə(-w)\ *vb* **-tin·ued; -tin·u·ing** [ME *continuen*, fr. MF *continuer*, fr. L *continuare*, fr. *continuus*] *vi* **1** : to maintain without interruption a condition, course, or action **2** : to remain in existence : ENDURE **3** : to remain in a place or condition : STAY **4** : to resume an activity after interruption ~ *vt* **1 a** : to carry on or keep up : MAINTAIN ⟨~*s* walking⟩ **b** : PROLONG; *specif* : to resume after intermission **2** : to cause to continue **3** : to allow to remain in a place or condition : RETAIN **4** : to postpone (a legal proceeding) by a continuance — **con·tinu·er** \-yə-wər\ *n*
syn CONTINUE, LAST, ENDURE, ABIDE, PERSIST *shared meaning element* : to exist over a period of time or indefinitely
con·tin·ued *adj* **1** : lasting or extending without interruption : CONTINUOUS **2** : resumed after interruption ⟨a ~ story⟩
continued fraction *n* : a fraction whose numerator is an integer and whose denominator is an integer plus a fraction whose numerator is an integer and whose denominator is an integer plus a fraction and so on
con·tinu·ing \kən-'tin-yə-wiŋ\ *adj* **1** : CONTINUOUS, CONSTANT **2** : needing no renewal : LASTING
continuing education *n* : an educational program designed to update the knowledge and skills of its participants
con·ti·nu·ity \ˌkänt-ᵊn-'(y)ü-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ities** **1 a** : uninterrupted connection, succession, or union **b** : persistence without essential change **c** : uninterrupted duration in time **2** : something that has, exhibits, or provides continuity: as **a** : a script or scenario in the performing arts **b** : transitional spoken or musical matter esp. for a radio or television program **c** : the story and dialogue of a comic strip **3** : the property characteristic of a continuous function; *also* : an example of this property ***syn*** see CONTINUATION
con·tin·uo \kən-'tin-(y)ə-ˌwō\ *n, pl* **-u·os** [It, fr. *continuo* continuous, fr. L *continuus*] : a bass part (as for a keyboard or stringed instrument) used esp. in baroque ensemble music and consisting of a succession of bass notes with figures that indicate the required chords — called also *figured bass, thoroughbass*
con·tin·u·ous \kən-'tin-yə-wəs\ *adj* [L *continuus*, fr. *continēre* to hold together — more at CONTAIN] **1** : marked by uninterrupted extension in space, time, or sequence **2** *of a function* : having the numerical difference between the value at a point and the value at

any point in a sufficiently small neighborhood of the point arbitrarily small — **con·tin·u·ous·ly** *adv* — **con·tin·u·ous·ness** *n*
syn CONTINUOUS, CONTINUAL, CONSTANT, INCESSANT, PERPETUAL, PERENNIAL *shared meaning element* : characterized by continued occurrence or recurrence ***ant*** interrupted

continuous waves *n pl* **1** : radio waves that continue with unchanging intensity or amplitude without modulation **2** : radio waves whose intensity continues unchanged except for modulation — abbr. *CW*

con·tin·u·um \kən-'tin-yə-wəm\ *n, pl* **-ua** \-yə-wə\ *also* **-ums** [L, neut. of *continuus*] **1** : something (as duration or extension) absolutely continuous and homogeneous of which no distinction of content can be affirmed except by reference to something else (as numbers) **2 a** : something in which a basic common character can be detected in a series of imperceptible variations ⟨the ~ of consciousness⟩ **b** (1) : an uninterrupted ordered sequence (2) : a series of ecological communities whose vegetation gradually changes along an environmental gradient **c** : an identity of substance uniting discrete parts; *broadly* : CONTINUITY **3** : a set with the same transfinite cardinal number as the set of real numbers

con·tort \kən-'tȯ(ə)rt\ *vb* [L *contortus*, pp. of *contorquēre*, fr. *com-* + *torquēre* to twist — more at TORTURE] *vt* : to twist in a violent manner ⟨features ~*ed* with fury⟩ ~ *vi* : to twist into a strained shape or expression ***syn*** see DEFORM — **con·tor·tion** \-'tȯr-shən\ *n* — **con·tor·tive** \-'tȯrt-iv\ *adj*

con·tor·tion·ist \kən-'tȯr-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n* : one who contorts; *specif* : an acrobat who specializes in unnatural body postures — **con·tor·tion·is·tic** \-ˌtȯr-shə-'nis-tik\ *adj*

[1]con·tour \'kän-ˌtu̇(ə)r\ *n* [F, fr. It *contorno*, fr. *contornare* to round off, sketch in outline, fr. L *com-* + *tornare* to turn in a lathe, fr. *tornus* lathe] : an outline esp. of a curving or irregular figure : SHAPE; *also* : the line representing this outline ***syn*** see OUTLINE

[2]contour *vt* **1 a** : to shape the contour of **b** : to shape so as to fit contours **2** : to construct (as a road) in conformity to a contour

[3]contour *adj* **1** : following contour lines or forming furrows or ridges along them ⟨~ flooding⟩ ⟨~ farming⟩ **2** : made to fit the contour of something ⟨a ~ couch⟩

contour feather *n* : one of the medium-sized feathers that form the general covering of a bird and determine the external contour

contour line *n* : a line (as on a map) connecting the points on a land surface that have the same elevation

contour map *n* : a map having contour lines

contr *abbr* **1** contract; contraction **2** contralto **3** contrary **4** control; controller

contra- *prefix* [ME, fr. L, fr. *contra* against, opposite — more at COUNTER] **1** : against : contrary : contrasting ⟨*contra*distinction⟩ **2** : pitched below normal bass ⟨*contra*octave⟩

con·tra·band \'kän-trə-ˌband\ *n* [It *contrabbando*, fr. ML *contrabannum*, fr. *contra-* + *bannus, bannum* decree, of Gmc origin — more at BAN] **1** : illegal or prohibited traffic **2** : goods or merchandise whose importation, exportation, or possession is forbidden; *also* : smuggled goods **3** : a Negro slave who during the Civil War escaped to or was brought within the Union lines — **contraband** *adj*

con·tra·band·ist \-ˌban-dəst\ *n* : SMUGGLER

con·tra·bass \'kän-trə-ˌbās\ *n* [It *contrabbasso*, fr. *contra-* + *basso* bass] : DOUBLE BASS — **con·tra·bass·ist** \-ˌbā-səst\ *n*

con·tra·bas·soon \ˌkän-trə-bə-'sün, -ba-\ *n* : a double-reed woodwind instrument having a range an octave lower than that of the bassoon


contrabassoon

con·tra·cep·tion \ˌkän-trə-'sep-shən\ *n* [*contra-* + *conception*] : voluntary prevention of conception or impregnation — **con·tra·cep·tive** \-'sep-tiv\ *adj or n*

[1]con·tract \'kän-ˌtrakt\ *n* [ME, fr. L *contractus*, fr. *contrahere* to draw together, make a contract, reduce in size, fr. *com-* + *trahere* to draw — more at DRAW] **1 a** : a binding agreement between two or more persons or parties : COVENANT **b** : BETROTHAL **2** : a writing made by the parties to evidence the terms and conditions of a contract **3** : the department or principles of law having to do with contracts **4** : an undertaking to win a specified number of tricks or points in bridge

[2]con·tract *vt 1a & vi 1 usu* 'kän-ˌtrakt, *others usu* kən-'\ *vb* [partly fr. MF *contracter* to agree upon, fr. L *contractus* n.; partly fr. L *contractus*, pp. of *contrahere* to draw together] *vt* **1 a** : to establish or undertake by contract **b** : BETROTH **2 a** : to acquire usu. involuntarily ⟨~ pneumonia⟩ **b** : to bring on oneself as an obligation : INCUR ⟨~ a debt⟩ **3 a** : LIMIT, RESTRICT **b** : KNIT, WRINKLE ⟨frown ~*ed* his brow⟩ **c** : to draw together : CONCENTRATE **4** : to reduce to smaller size by or as if by squeezing or forcing together **5** : to shorten (as a word) by omitting one or more sounds or letters ~ *vi* **1** : to make a contract **2** : to draw together so as to become diminished in size ⟨metal ~*s* on cooling⟩; *also* : to become less in compass, duration, or length ⟨muscle ~*s* in tetanus⟩ — **con·tract·ibil·i·ty** \kən-ˌtrak-tə-'bil-ət-ē, ˌkän-\ *n* — **con·tract·ible** \kən-'trak-tə-bəl, 'kän-ˌ\ *adj*
syn **1** see INCUR
2 CONTRACT, SHRINK, CONDENSE, COMPRESS, CONSTRICT, DEFLATE *shared meaning element* : to decrease in bulk or volume ***ant*** expand

contract bridge \ˌkän-ˌtrakt-\ *n* : a bridge game distinguished by the fact that overtricks do not count toward game or slam bonuses

con·trac·tile \kən-'trak-tᵊl, -ˌtīl\ *adj* : having the power or property of contracting ⟨~ proteins of muscle fibrils⟩ — **con·trac·til·i·ty** \ˌkän-ˌtrak-'til-ət-ē\ *n*

contractile vacuole *n* : a vacuole in a unicellular organism that contracts regularly to discharge fluid from the body and that probably has an excretory or hydrostatic function

con·trac·tion \kən-'trak-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the action or process of contracting : the state of being contracted **b** : the shortening and thickening of a functioning muscle or muscle fiber **c** : a reduction in business activity **2** : a shortening of a word, syllable, or word group by omission of a sound or letter; *also* : a form produced by such shortening — **con·trac·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·trac·tive** \kən-'trak-tiv, 'kän-ˌ\ *adj*

con·trac·tor \'kän-ˌtrak-tər (*usual for 1*), kən-'\ *n* **1** : one that contracts or is party to a contract: as **a** : one that contracts to perform work or provide supplies on a large scale **b** : one that contracts to erect buildings **2** : something (as a muscle) that contracts or shortens

con·trac·tu·al \kən-'trak-chə(-wə)l, kän-, -'traksh-wəl\ *adj* [L *contractus* contract] : of, relating to, or constituting a contract — **con·trac·tu·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

con·trac·ture \kən-'trak-chər\ *n* : a permanent shortening (as of muscle, tendon, or scar tissue) producing deformity or distortion

con·tra·dict \ˌkän-trə-'dikt\ *vt* [L *contradictus*, pp. of *contradicere*, fr. *contra-* + *dicere* to say, speak — more at DICTION] **1** : to resist or oppose in argument **2 a** : to assert the contrary of : GAINSAY **b** : to deny the truth of **3 a** : to be the contradictory of **b** : to go counter to **c** : to act in a manner contrary to ***syn*** see DENY ***ant*** corroborate — **con·tra·dict·able** \-'dik-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **con·tra·dic·tor** \-'dik-tər\ *n*

con·tra·dic·tion \ˌkän-trə-'dik-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of contradicting **2** : an expression or proposition containing contradictory parts **3 a** : logical incongruity **b** : opposition of factors inherent in a system or situation

con·tra·dic·tious \-shəs\ *adj* **1** : CONTRADICTORY, OPPOSITE **2** : given to or marked by contradiction : CONTRARY

[1]con·tra·dic·to·ry \ˌkän-trə-'dik-t(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1 a** : something that contradicts **b** : OPPOSITE, CONTRARY **2** : a proposition so related to another that if either of the two is true the other is false and if either is false the other must be true — **con·tra·dic·to·ri·ly** \-t(ə-)rə-lē\ *adv* — **con·tra·dic·to·ri·ness** \-t(ə-)rē -nəs\ *n*

[2]contradictory *adj* **1** : CONTRADICTIOUS 2 ⟨an irritable ~ nature⟩ **2** : involving, causing, or constituting a contradiction ⟨ill-planned and often ~ proposals⟩ ***syn*** see OPPOSITE

con·tra·dis·tinc·tion \ˌkän-trə-dis-'tiŋ(k)-shən\ *n* : distinction by contrast ⟨painting in ~ to sculpture⟩ — **con·tra·dis·tinc·tive** \-'tiŋ(k)-tiv\ *adj* — **con·tra·dis·tinc·tive·ly** *adv*

con·tra·dis·tin·guish \-'tiŋ-gwish\ *vt* : to distinguish by contrast of qualities

con·trail \'kän-ˌtrāl\ *n* [*con*densation *trail*] : streaks of condensed water vapor created in the air by an airplane or rocket at high altitudes

con·tra·in·di·cate \ˌkän-trə-'in-də-ˌkāt\ *vt* : to make (a treatment or procedure) inadvisable — **con·tra·in·di·ca·tion** \-ˌin-də-'kā-shən\ *n* — **con·tra·in·dic·a·tive** \-in-'dik-ət-iv\ *adj*

con·tra·lat·er·al \-'lat-ə-rəl, -'la-trəl\ *adj* [ISV] : occurring on or acting in conjunction with similar parts on an opposite side

con·tral·to \kən-'tral-(ˌ)tō\ *n, pl* **-tos** [It, fr. *contra-* + *alto*] **1 a** : the lowest female singing voice **b** : a person having this voice **2** : the part sung by a contralto

con·tra·oc·tave \ˌkän-trə-'äk-tiv, -təv, -ˌtāv\ *n* : the musical octave that begins on the third C below middle C — see PITCH illustration

con·tra·po·si·tion \-pə-'zish-ən\ *n* [LL *contraposition-, contrapositio*, fr. L *contrapositus*, pp. of *contraponere* to place opposite, fr. *contra-* + *ponere* to place] **1** : OPPOSITION, ANTITHESIS **2** : the relationship between two propositions when the subject and predicate of one are respectively the negation of the predicate and the negation of the subject of the other

con·tra·pos·i·tive \-'päz-ət-iv, -'päz-tiv\ *n* : a proposition resulting from an operation of immediate inference in which the terms of a given proposition are permuted and negated ⟨"all not-*P* is not-*S*" is the ~ of "all *S* is *P*"⟩

con·trap·tion \kən-'trap-shən\ *n* [perh. blend of *contrivance, trap,* and *invention*] : CONTRIVANCE, GADGET

con·tra·pun·tal \ˌkän-trə-'pənt-ᵊl\ *adj* [It *contrappunto* counterpoint, fr. ML *contrapunctus*] **1** : of or relating to counterpoint **2** : POLYPHONIC — **con·tra·pun·tal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

con·tra·pun·tist \-'pənt-əst\ *n* : one who writes counterpoint

con·tra·ri·ety \ˌkän-trə-'rī-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-eties** [ME *contrariete*, fr. MF *contrarieté*, fr. LL *contrarietat-, contrarietas*, fr. L *contrarius* contrary] **1** : the quality or state of being contrary **2** : something contrary

con·trar·i·ous \kən-'trer-ē-əs, kän-\ *adj* : PERVERSE, ANTAGONISTIC

con·trari·wise \'kän-ˌtrer-ē-ˌwīz, kən-'\ *adv* **1** : on the contrary **2** : vice versa : CONVERSELY **3** : in a contrary manner

[1]con·trary \'kän-ˌtrer-ē\ *n, pl* **-trar·ies** **1** : a fact or condition incompatible with another : OPPOSITE **2** : one of a pair of opposites **3 a** : a proposition so related to another that though both may be false they cannot both be true — compare SUBCONTRARY **b** : either of two terms (as black and white) that cannot both be affirmed of the same subject — **by contraries** : in a manner opposite to what is logical or expected — **on the contrary** : just the opposite : NO — **to the contrary** : NOTWITHSTANDING

[2]con·trary \'kän-ˌtrer-ē, *in sense 4 often* kən-'tre(ə)r-ē\ *adj* [ME *contrarie*, fr. MF *contraire*, fr. L *contrarius*, fr. *contra* opposite] **1 a** : diametrically different ⟨the result was ~ to our plan⟩ **b** : opposite in character : tending to an opposing course ⟨he remained firm in the ~ intention⟩ **c** : mutually opposed : ANTAGONISTIC ⟨they held ~ opinions⟩ **2** : opposite in position, direction, or nature **3** : UNFAVORABLE — used of wind or weather **4** : temperamentally unwilling to accept control or advice ⟨a ~ child⟩ — **con·trari·ly** \-ˌtrer-ə-lē, -'trer-\ *adv* — **con·trari·ness** \-ˌtrer-ē-nəs, -'trer-\ *n*
syn **1** see OPPOSITE
2 CONTRARY, PERVERSE, RESTIVE, BALKY, FROWARD, WAYWARD *shared meaning element* : unwilling or unable to conform to custom or submit to authority ***ant*** complaisant

[3]con·trary *like* [2]CONTRARY\ *adv* : CONTRARIWISE, CONTRARILY

contrary to *prep* : in opposition to ⟨*contrary to* orders, he set out alone⟩

[1]con·trast \'kän-ˌtrast\ *n* **1 a** : juxtaposition of dissimilar elements (as color, tone, or emotion) in a work of art **b** : degree of difference between the lightest and darkest parts of a picture **2**

: comparison of similar objects to set off their dissimilar qualities **3** : a person or thing that exhibits differences when compared with another

²con·trast \kən-'trast, 'kän-,\ *vb* [F *contraster*, fr. MF, to oppose, resist, alter. of *contrester*, fr. (assumed) VL *contrastare*, fr. L *contra-* + *stare* to stand — more at STAND] *vi* : to exhibit contrast ~ *vt* **1** : to put in contrast **2** : to compare or appraise in respect to differences ⟨~ European and American manners⟩ ***syn*** see COMPARE — **con·trast·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj*

con·tras·tive \kən-'tras-tiv, 'kän-,\ *adj* : forming or consisting of a contrast : CONTRASTING — **con·tras·tive·ly** *adv*

con·trasty \'kän-,tras-tē\ *adj* : having or producing in photography great contrast between highlights and shadows

con·tra·vene \,kän-trə-'vēn\ *vt* **-vened; -ven·ing** [MF or LL; MF *contrevenir*, fr. LL *contravenire*, fr. L *contra-* + *venire* to come — more at COME] **1** : to go or act contrary to ⟨~ a law⟩ **2** : to oppose in argument : CONTRADICT ⟨~ a proposition⟩ ***syn*** see DENY ***ant*** uphold (*as a law or principle*), allege (*as a right or claim*) — **con·tra·ven·er** *n*

con·tra·ven·tion \,kän-trə-'ven-chən\ *n* [MF, fr. LL *contraventus*, pp. of *contravenire*] : the act of contravening : VIOLATION

con·tre·danse \'kän-trə-,dan(t)s, kōⁿ-trə-dänˢs\ *or* **con·tra dance** \'kän-trə-,dan(t)s\ *n* [F *contredanse*, by folk etymology fr. E *country-dance*] **1** : a folk dance in which couples face each other in two lines or in a square **2** : a piece of music for a contredanse

con·tre·temps \'kän-trə-,täⁿ, kōⁿ-trə-täⁿ\ *n, pl* **con·tre·temps** \ -(,)täⁿ(z)\ [F, fr. *contre-* counter- + *temps* time, fr. L *tempus* — more at TEMPORAL] : an inopportune and embarrassing occurrence

contrib *abbr* contribution; contributor

con·trib·ute \kən-'trib-yət\ *vb* **-ut·ed; -ut·ing** [L *contributus*, pp. of *contribuere*, fr. *com-* + *tribuere* to grant — more at TRIBUTE] *vt* **1** : to give or supply in common with others **2** : to supply (as an article) for a publication ~ *vi* **1 a** : to give a part to a common fund or store **b** : to play a significant part in bringing about an end or result **2** : to submit articles to a publication ***syn*** see CONDUCE — **con·trib·u·tor** \-yət-ər\ *n*

con·tri·bu·tion \,kän-trə-'byü-shən\ *n* **1** : a payment (as a levy or tax) imposed by military, civil, or ecclesiastical authorities usu. for a special or extraordinary purpose **2** : the act of contributing; *also* : the thing contributed **3** : a writing for publication esp. in a periodical — **con·trib·u·tive** \kən-'trib-yət-iv\ *adj* — **con·trib·u·tive·ly** *adv*

con·trib·u·to·ry \kən-'trib-yə-,tōr-ē, -,tȯr-\ *adj* **1 a** : contributing to a common fund or enterprise **b** : subject to a levy of supplies, money, or men **2** : of, relating to, or forming a contribution

con·trite \'kän-,trīt, kən-'\ *adj* [ME *contrit*, fr. MF, fr. ML, fr. L, pp. of *conterere* to grind, bruise, fr. *com-* + *terere* to rub — more at THROW] **1** : grieving and penitent for sin or shortcoming **2** : proceeding from contrition ⟨~ sighs⟩ — **con·trite·ly** *adv* — **con·trite·ness** *n*

con·tri·tion \kən-'trish-ən\ *n* : the state of being contrite : REPENTANCE ***syn*** see PENITENCE

con·triv·ance \kən-'trī-vən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act or faculty of contriving : the state of being contrived **2** : a thing contrived; *esp* : a mechanical device

con·trive \kən-'trīv\ *vb* **con·trived; con·triv·ing** [ME *controven, contreven*, fr. MF *controver*, fr. LL *contropare* to compare] *vt* **1 a** : DEVISE, PLAN ⟨~ ways of handling the situation⟩ **b** : to form or create in an artistic or ingenious manner ⟨*contrived* household utensils from stone⟩ **2** : to bring about by stratagem or with difficulty : MANAGE ~ *vi* : to make schemes — **con·triv·er** *n*

con·trived *adj* : ARTIFICIAL, LABORED

¹con·trol \kən-'trōl\ *vt* **con·trolled; con·trol·ling** [ME *controllen*, fr. MF *contreroller*, fr. *contrerolle* copy of an account, audit, fr. *contre-* counter- + *rolle* roll, account] **1** : to check, test, or verify by evidence or experiments **2 a** : to exercise restraining or directing influence over : REGULATE **b** : to have power over : RULE ***syn*** see CONDUCT — **con·trol·la·ble** \-'trō-lə-bəl\ *adj* — **con·trol·ment** \-'trōl-mənt\ *n*

²control *n* **1 a** : an act or instance of controlling; *also* : power or authority to guide or manage **b** : skill in the use of a tool, instrument, technique, or artistic medium **c** : direction, regulation, and coordination of business activities (as production and administration) **2** : RESTRAINT, RESERVE **3** : one that controls: as **a** (1) : an experiment in which the subjects are treated as in a parallel experiment except for omission of the procedure or agent under test and which is used as a standard of comparison in judging experimental effects — called also *control experiment* (2) : one (as an organism, culture, or group) that is part of a control **b** : a mechanism used to regulate or guide the operation of a machine, apparatus, or system **c** : an organization that directs a space flight ⟨mission ~⟩ **d** : a personality or spirit believed to actuate the utterances or performances of a spiritualist medium

control chart *n* : a chart that gives the results of periodic sampling for rejects of a manufactured product and that is used in making decisions concerning the maintenance of product quality

con·trolled \kən-'trōld\ *adj* : RESTRAINED

con·trol·ler \kən-'trō-lər, 'kän-,\ *n* [ME *conterroller*, fr. MF *contrerolleur*, fr. *contrerolle*] **1 a** : COMPTROLLER 1 **b** : COMPTROLLER 2 **c** : the chief accounting officer of a business enterprise or an institution (as a college) **2** : one that controls or has power or authority to control — **con·trol·ler·ship** \-,ship\ *n*

controlling interest *n* : sufficient stock ownership in a corporation to exert control over policy

control surface *n* : a movable airfoil designed to change the attitude of an aircraft

con·tro·ver·sial \,kän-trə-'vər-shəl, -'vər-sē-əl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or arousing controversy ⟨a ~ public figure⟩ **2** : given to controversy : DISPUTATIOUS — **con·tro·ver·sial·ism** \-,iz-əm\ *n* — **con·tro·ver·sial·ist** \-əst\ *n* — **con·tro·ver·sial·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

con·tro·ver·sy \'kän-trə-,vər-sē\ *n, pl* **-sies** [ME *controversie*, fr. L *controversia*, fr. *controversus* disputable, lit., turned opposite, fr. *contro-* (akin to *contra-*) + *versus*, pp. of *vertere* to turn — more at WORTH] **1** : a discussion marked esp. by the expression of opposing views : DISPUTE **2** : QUARREL, STRIFE

con·tro·vert \'kän-trə-,vərt, ,kän-trə-'\ *vb* [*controversy*] *vt* : to dispute or oppose by reasoning ⟨~ a point in a discussion⟩ ~ *vi* : to engage in controversy ***syn*** see DISPROVE ***ant*** assert — **con·tro·vert·er** \-ər\ *n* — **con·tro·vert·ible** \-ə-bəl\ *adj*

con·tu·ma·cious \,kän-t(y)ə-'mā-shəs, ,kän-chə-\ *adj* : stubbornly disobedient : REBELLIOUS — **con·tu·ma·cious·ly** *adv*

con·tu·ma·cy \kən-'t(y)ü-mə-sē; 'kän-t(y)ə-, 'kän-chə-\ *n* [ME *contumacie*, fr. L *contumacia*, fr. *contumac-, contumax* insubordinate, fr. *com-* + *tumēre* to swell, be proud — more at THUMB] : stubborn resistance to authority; *specif* : willful contempt of court

con·tu·me·li·ous \,kän-t(y)ə-'mē-lē-əs, ,kän-chə-\ *adj* : insolently abusive and humiliating — **con·tu·me·li·ous·ly** *adv*

con·tume·ly \kən-'t(y)ü-mə-lē; 'kän-t(y)ə-,mē-lē, 'kän-chə-; 'kän-təm-lē\ *n, pl* **-lies** [ME *contumelie*, fr. MF, fr. L *contumelia*; perh. akin to L *contumacia*] : rude language or treatment arising from haughtiness and contempt; *also* : an instance of such language or treatment

con·tuse \kən-'t(y)üz\ *vt* **con·tused; con·tus·ing** [MF *contuser*, fr. L *contusus*, pp. of *contundere* to crush, bruise, fr. *com-* + *tundere* to beat — more at STINT] : to injure (tissue) usu. without laceration : BRUISE — **con·tu·sion** \-'t(y)ü-zhən\ *n*

co·nun·drum \kə-'nən-drəm\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : a riddle whose answer is or involves a pun **2 a** : a question or problem having only a conjectural answer **b** : an intricate and difficult problem ***syn*** see MYSTERY

con·ur·ba·tion \,kän-(,)ər-'bā-shən\ *n* [*com-* + L *urb-, urbs* city] : an aggregation or continuous network of urban communities

co·nus ar·te·ri·o·sus \'kō-nə-sär-,tir-ē-'ō-səs\ *n, pl* **co·ni ar·te·ri·o·si** \-,nī-är-,tir-ē-'ō-,sī\ [NL, lit., arterial cone] **1** : a prolongation of the ventricle of amphibians and some fishes that has a spiral valve separating venous blood going to the respiratory arteries from blood going to the aorta and systemic arteries **2** : a conical prolongation of the right ventricle in mammals from which the pulmonary arteries emerge — called also *conus*

conv *abbr* **1** convention; conventional **2** convertible **3** convocation

con·va·lesce \,kän-və-'les\ *vi* **-lesced; -lesc·ing** [L *convalescere*, fr. *com-* + *valescere* to grow strong, fr. *valēre* to be strong, be well — more at WIELD] : to recover health and strength gradually after sickness or weakness — **con·va·les·cence** \-'les-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* — **con·va·les·cent** \-ᵊnt\ *adj or n*

con·vect \kən-'vekt\ *vb* [back-formation fr. *convection*] *vi* : to transfer heat by convection ~ *vt* : to circulate (warm air) by convection

con·vec·tion \kən-'vek-shən\ *n* [LL *convection-, convectio*, fr. L *convectus*, pp. of *convehere* to bring together, fr. *com-* + *vehere* to carry — more at WAY] **1** : the action or process of conveying **2 a** : the circulatory motion that occurs in a fluid at a nonuniform temperature owing to the variation of its density and the action of gravity **b** : the transfer of heat by this automatic circulation of a fluid — **con·vec·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·vec·tive** \-'vek-tiv\ *adj*

con·vec·tor \-'vek-tər\ *n* : a heating unit in which air heated by contact with a heating device (as a radiator or a tube with fins) in a casing circulates by convection

con·vene \kən-'vēn\ *vb* **con·vened; con·ven·ing** [ME *convenen*, fr. MF *convenir* to come together] *vi* : to come together in a body ~ *vt* **1** : to summon before a tribunal **2** : to cause to assemble ***syn*** see SUMMON — **con·ven·er** *n*

con·ve·nience \kən-'vē-nyən(t)s\ *n* **1** : fitness or suitability for performing an action or fulfilling a requirement **2** : an appliance, device, or service conducive to comfort **3** : a suitable time : OPPORTUNITY **4** : freedom from discomfort : EASE

con·ve·nien·cy \-nyən-sē\ *n, archaic* : CONVENIENCE

con·ve·nient \kən-'vē-nyənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *convenient-, conveniens*, fr. prp. of *convenire* to come together, be suitable] **1** *obs* : SUITABLE, PROPER **2 a** : suited to personal comfort or to easy performance **b** : suited to a particular situation **c** : affording accommodation or advantage **3** : being near at hand : HANDY — **con·ve·nient·ly** *adv*

¹con·vent \'kän-vənt, -,vent\ *n* [ME *covent*, fr. OF, fr. ML *conventus*, fr. L, assembly, fr. *conventus*, pp. of *convenire*] : a local community or house of a religious order or congregation; *esp* : an establishment of nuns

²con·vent \kən-'vent\ *vb* [L *conventus*, pp.] *obs* : CONVENE

con·ven·ti·cle \kən-'vent-i-kəl\ *n* [ME, fr. L *conventiculum*, dim. of *conventus* assembly] **1** : ASSEMBLY, MEETING **2** : an assembly of an irregular or unlawful character **3** : an assembly for religious worship; *esp* : a secret meeting for worship not sanctioned by law **4** : MEETINGHOUSE — **con·ven·ti·cler** \-k(ə-)lər\ *n*

con·ven·tion \kən-'ven-chən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *convention-, conventio*, fr. *conventus*, pp. of *convenire* to come together, be suitable, fr. *com-* + *venire* to come — more at COME] **1 a** : AGREEMENT, CONTRACT **b** : an agreement between states for regulation of matters affecting all of them **c** : a compact between opposing commanders esp. concerning prisoner exchange or armistice **d** : a general agreement about basic principles; *also* : a principle that is true by convention **2 a** : the summoning or convening of an assembly **b** : an assembly of persons met for a common purpose; *esp* : a meeting of the delegates of a political party for the purpose of formulating a platform and selecting candidates for office **c** : the usu. state or national organization of a religious denomination **3 a** : usage or custom esp. in social matters **b** : a rule of conduct or behavior **c** : a practice in bidding or playing that conveys information between partners in a card game (as

bridge) **d** : an established theatrical technique or practice (as a stage whisper or spotlighting)

con·ven·tion·al \kən-'vench-nəl, -'ven-chən-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : formed by agreement or compact **2 a** : according with, sanctioned by, or based on convention **b** : lacking originality or individuality : TRITE **3 a** : according with a mode of artistic representation that simplifies or provides symbols or substitutes for natural forms **b** : of traditional design **4** : of, resembling, or relating to a convention, assembly, or public meeting **5** : not making use of nuclear powers ⟨~ warfare⟩ ***syn*** see CEREMONIAL ***ant*** unconventional — **con·ven·tion·al·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* — **con·ven·tion·al·ist** \-əst\ *n* — **con·ven·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

con·ven·tion·al·i·ty \-ˌven-chə-'nal-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being conventional; *specif* : adherence to conventions **2** : a conventional usage, practice, or thing

con·ven·tion·al·iza·tion \kən-ˌvench-nə-lə-'zā-shən, -ˌven-chən-ᵊl-ə-'zā-\ *n* : the act, practice, or product of conventionalizing

con·ven·tion·al·ize \kən-'vench-nə-ˌlīz, -'ven-chən-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to make conventional

con·ven·tion·eer \kən-ˌven-chə-'ni(ə)r\ *n* : a person attending a convention

¹con·ven·tu·al \kən-'vench-(ə-)wəl, kän-\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or ML; MF, fr. ML *conventualis*, fr. *conventus* convent] **1** : of, relating to, or befitting a convent or monastic life : MONASTIC **2** *cap* : of or relating to the Conventuals — **con·ven·tu·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

²conventual *n* **1** : a member of a conventual community **2** *cap* : a member of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual forming a branch of the first order of St. Francis of Assisi under a mitigated rule

con·verge \kən-'vərj\ *vb* **con·verged; con·verg·ing** [ML *convergere*, fr. L *com-* + *vergere* to bend, incline — more at WRENCH] *vi* **1** : to tend or move toward one point or one another : come together : MEET **2** : to come together and unite in a common interest or focus **3** : to approach a limit as the number of terms increases without limit ~ *vt* : to cause to converge

con·ver·gence \kən-'vər-jən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act of converging and esp. moving toward union or uniformity; *esp* : coordinated movement of the two eyes resulting in impingement of the image of a point on corresponding retinal areas **2** : the condition of converging; *esp* : independent development of similar characters (as of bodily structure or cultural traits) often associated with similarity of habits or environment

con·ver·gen·cy \-jən-sē\ *n* : CONVERGENCE

con·ver·gent \-jənt\ *adj* **1** : tending to move toward one point or to approach each other : CONVERGING ⟨~ lines⟩ **2** : exhibiting convergence in form, function, or development **3 a** *of an improper integral* : having a value that is a real number **b** : characterized by having the *n*th term or the sum of the first *n* terms approach a finite limit ⟨a ~ sequence⟩ ⟨a ~ series⟩

convergent lady beetle *n* [fr. the pattern of spots on its back] : a periodically migratory beneficial lady beetle (*Hippodamia convergens*) that feeds on various crop pests (as aphids) — called also *convergent*

con·vers·able \kən-'vər-sə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : pleasant and easy to converse with **2** *archaic* : relating to or suitable for social interaction

con·ver·sance \kən-'vərs-ᵊn(t)s *also* 'kän-vər-sən(t)s\ *n* : the quality or state of being conversant

con·ver·san·cy \-ᵊn-sē, -sən-sē\ *n* : CONVERSANCE

con·ver·sant \kən-'vərs-ᵊnt *also* 'kän-vər-sənt\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : OCCUPIED, CONCERNED **2** *archaic* : having frequent, customary, or familiar association **3** : having knowledge or experience — **con·ver·sant·ly** *adv*

con·ver·sa·tion \ˌkän-vər-'sā-shən\ *n* [ME *conversacioun*, fr. MF *conversation*, fr. L *conversation-*, *conversatio*, fr. *conversatus*, pp. of *conversari* to live, keep company with] **1** *obs* : CONDUCT, BEHAVIOR **2 a** (1) : oral exchange of sentiments, observations, opinions, or ideas (2) : an instance of such exchange : TALK **b** : an informal discussion of an issue by representatives of governments, institutions, or groups **c** : an exchange similar to conversation; *esp* : real-time interaction with a computer esp. through a keyboard — **con·ver·sa·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **con·ver·sa·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

con·ver·sa·tion·al·ist \-shnə-ləst, -shən-ᵊl-əst\ *n* : one who converses a great deal or who excels in conversation

conversation piece *n* **1** : a painting of a group of persons in their customary surroundings **2** : a novel or striking object that stimulates conversation

con·ver·sa·zi·o·ne \ˌkän-vər-ˌsät-sē-'ō-nē, ˌkōn-\ *n, pl* **-ones** *or* **-o·ni** \-'ō-(ˌ)nē\ [It, lit. conversation, fr. L *conversation-*, *conversatio*] : a meeting for conversation esp. about art, literature, or science

¹con·verse \kən-'vərs\ *vi* **con·versed; con·vers·ing** [ME *conversen*, fr. MF *converser*, fr. L *conversari* to live, keep company with, fr. *conversus*, pp. of *convertere* to turn around] **1** *archaic* **a** : to become occupied or engaged **b** : to have acquaintance or familiarity **2 a** : to exchange thoughts and opinions in speech : TALK **b** : to carry on an exchange similar to a conversation; *esp* : to interact with a computer ***syn*** see SPEAK — **con·vers·er** *n*

²con·verse \'kän-ˌvərs\ *n* **1** *obs* : social interaction **2** : CONVERSATION

³con·verse \kən-'vərs, 'kän-ˌ\ *adj* [L *conversus*, pp. of *convertere*] : reversed in order, relation, or action — **con·verse·ly** *adv*

⁴con·verse \'kän-ˌvərs\ *n* : something converse to another; *esp* : a proposition obtained by interchange of the subject and predicate of a logical proposition ⟨"no *P* is *S*" is the ~ of "no *S* is *P*"⟩

con·ver·sion \kən-'vər-zhən, -shən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *conversion-*, *conversio*, fr. *conversus*, pp. of *convertere*] **1** : the act of converting : the process of being converted **2** : an experience associated with a definite and decisive adoption of religion **3 a** : the operation of finding a converse in logic **b** : reduction of a mathematical expression by clearing of fractions **4** : the making of a score on a try for point after touchdown in football or a free throw in basketball **5** : something converted from one use to another — **con·ver·sion·al** \-'vərzh-nəl, -'vərsh-, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj*

conversion reaction *n* : a psychoneurosis in which bodily symptoms (as paralysis of the limbs) appear without physical basis — called also *conversion hysteria*

¹con·vert \kən-'vərt\ *vb* [ME *converten*, fr. OF *convertir*, fr. L *convertere*, to turn around, transform, convert, fr. *com-* + *vertere* to turn — more at WORTH] *vt* **1 a** : to bring over from one belief, view, or party to another **b** : to bring about a religious conversion in **2 a** : to alter the physical or chemical nature or properties of esp. in manufacturing **b** (1) : to change from one form or function to another (2) : to alter for more effective utilization (3) : to appropriate without right **c** : to exchange for an equivalent **3** *obs* : TURN **4** : to subject to logical conversion **5 a** : to make a goal after receiving (a pass) from a teammate **b** : to make (a spare) in bowling ~ *vi* **1** : to undergo conversion **2** : to make good on a try for point after touchdown or on a free throw ***syn*** see TRANSFORM

²con·vert \'kän-ˌvərt\ *n* : one that is converted; *esp* : one who has experienced conversion

con·vert·er \kən-'vərt-ər\ *n* : one that converts: as **a** : the furnace used in the Bessemer process **b** *or* **con·ver·tor** \-'vərt-ər\ : a device employing mechanical rotation for changing electrical energy from one form to another; *also* : a radio device for converting one frequency to another **c** : a device for adapting a television receiver to receive channels for which it was not orig. designed **d** : a device that accepts data in one form and converts it to another ⟨analog-digital ~⟩

¹con·vert·ible \kən-'vərt-ə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : capable of being converted **2** : having a top that may be lowered or removed ⟨~ coupe⟩ **3** : capable of being exchanged for a specified equivalent (as another currency or security) ⟨U.S. currency is no longer ~ to gold⟩ ⟨a bond ~ to 12 shares of common stock⟩ — **con·vert·ibil·i·ty** \-ˌvərt-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **con·vert·ible·ness** \-'vərt-ə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **con·vert·ibly** \-blē\ *adv*

²convertible *n* : something convertible; *esp* : a convertible automobile

con·verti·plane *or* **con·verta·plane** \kən-'vərt-ə-ˌplān\ *n* : an aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter and is convertible to a fixed-wing configuration for forward flight

con·vex \kän-'veks; 'kän-ˌ, kən-'\ *adj* [MF or L; MF *convexe*, fr. L *convexus* vaulted, concave, convex, fr. *com-* + *-vexus* (akin to OE *wōh* crooked, bent) — more at PREVARICATE] **1** : curved or rounded like the exterior of a sphere or circle — used of a spherical surface or curved line viewed from without **2** : arched up : bulging out — used of that side of a curve or surface on which the tangent line or plane lies or on which normals at neighboring points diverge

con·vex·i·ty \kən-'vek-sət-ē, kän-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being convex **2** : a convex surface or part

con·vexo–con·cave \-ˌvek-(ˌ)sō-\ *adj* **1** : CONCAVO-CONVEX **2** : having the convex side of greater curvature than the concave

con·vey \kən-'vā\ *vt* [ME *conveyen*, fr. OF *conveier* to accompany, escort, fr. (assumed) VL *conviare*, fr. L *com-* + *via* way — more at VIA] **1** *obs* : LEAD, CONDUCT **2 a** : to bear from one place to another; *esp* : to move in a continuous stream or mass **b** : to impart or communicate by statement, suggestion, gesture, or appearance **c** (1) *archaic* : STEAL (2) *obs* : to carry away secretly **d** : to transfer or deliver to another; *specif* : to transfer by a sealed writing **e** : to cause to pass from one place or person to another : TRANSMIT ***syn*** see CARRY, TRANSFER

con·vey·ance \kən-'vā-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the action of conveying **2** : a means or way of conveying: as **a** : an instrument by which title to property is conveyed **b** : a means of transport : VEHICLE

con·vey·anc·er \-ən-sər\ *n* : one whose business is conveyancing

con·vey·anc·ing \-ən-siŋ\ *n* : the act or business of drawing deeds, leases, or other writings for transferring the title to property

con·vey·er *or* **con·vey·or** \kən-'vā-ər\ *n* : one that conveys: as **a** : a person who transfers property **b** *usu conveyor* : a mechanical apparatus for carrying packages or bulk material from place to place (as by an endless moving belt or a chain of receptacles)

con·vey·or·ize \-ə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to equip with a conveyor — **con·vey·or·iza·tion** \-ˌvā-ə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n*

¹con·vict \kən-'vikt\ *adj, archaic* : CONVICTED

²con·vict \kən-'vikt\ *vt* [ME *convicten*, fr. L *convictus*, pp. of *convincere* to refute, convict] **1** : to find or prove to be guilty **2** : to convince of error or sinfulness

³con·vict \'kän-ˌvikt\ *n* **1** : a person convicted of and under sentence for a crime **2** : a person serving a prison sentence usu. for a long term

con·vic·tion \kən-'vik-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of convicting of a crime esp. in a court of law **2 a** : the act of convincing a person of error or of compelling the admission of a truth **b** : the state of being convinced of error or compelled to admit the truth **3 a** : a strong persuasion or belief **b** : the state of being convinced ***syn*** see CERTAINTY, OPINION

con·vince \kən-'vin(t)s\ *vt* **con·vinced; con·vinc·ing** [L *convincere* to refute, convict, prove, fr. *com-* + *vincere* to conquer — more at VICTOR] **1 a** *obs* : to overcome by argument **b** *obs* : OVERPOWER, OVERCOME **2** *obs* : DEMONSTRATE, PROVE **3** : to bring by argument to belief, consent, or a course of action : PERSUADE ⟨*convinced* them to leave the country⟩ ⟨they were *convinced* that he had drowned⟩ — **con·vinc·er** *n*

con·vinc·ing \kən-'vin(t)-siŋ\ *adj* **1** : satisfying or assuring by argument or proof ⟨a ~ test of a new product⟩ **2** : having power to convince of the truth, rightness, or reality of something : PLAUSIBLE ⟨told a ~ story⟩ ***syn*** see VALID ***ant*** unconvincing — **con·vinc·ing·ly** \-siŋ-lē\ *adv* — **con·vinc·ing·ness** *n*

con·viv·ial \kən-'viv-yəl, -'viv-ē-əl\ *adj* [LL *convivialis*, fr. L *convivium* banquet, fr. *com-* + *vivere* to live — more at QUICK] : relating to, occupied with, or fond of feasting, drinking, and good company — **con·viv·i·al·i·ty** \-ˌviv-ē-'al-ət-ē\ *n* — **con·viv·ial·ly** \-'viv-yə-lē, -'viv-ē-ə-lē\ *adv*

con·vo·ca·tion \ˌkän-və-'kā-shən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *convocation-*, *convocatio*, fr. *convocatus*, pp. of *convocare*] **1 a** : an assembly of persons convoked **b** (1) : an assembly of bishops and

representative clergy of the Church of England (2) : a consultative assembly of clergy and lay delegates from one part of an Episcopal diocese; *also* : a territorial division of an Episcopal diocese **c** : a ceremonial assembly of members of a college or university **2** : the act or process of convoking — **con·vo·ca·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

con·voke \kən-ˈvōk\ *vt* **con·voked; con·vok·ing** [MF *convoquer*, fr. L *convocare*, fr. *com-* + *vocare* to call — more at VOICE] : to call together to a meeting ***syn*** see SUMMON ***ant*** prorogue, dissolve

¹con·vo·lute \ˈkän-və-ˌlüt\ *vb* **-lut·ed; -lut·ing** [L *convolutus*, pp. of *convolvere*] : TWIST, COIL

²convolute *adj* : rolled or wound together with one part upon another : COILED ⟨a ~ shell⟩ — **con·vo·lute·ly** *adv*

con·vo·lut·ed *adj* **1** : folded in curved or tortuous windings; *specif* : having convolutions **2** : INVOLVED, INTRICATE

convoluted tubule *n* **1** : PROXIMAL CONVOLUTED TUBULE **2** : DISTAL CONVOLUTED TUBULE

con·vo·lu·tion \ˌkän-və-ˈlü-shən\ *n* **1** : one of the irregular ridges on the surface of the brain and esp. of the cerebrum of higher mammals **2** : a convoluted form or structure — **con·vo·lu·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

con·volve \kən-ˈvälv, -ˈvȯlv\ *vb* **con·volved; con·volv·ing** [L *convolvere*, fr. *com-* + *volvere* to roll — more at VOLUBLE] *vt* : to roll together : WRITHE ~ *vi* : to roll together or circulate involvedly

con·vol·vu·lus \kən-ˈväl-vyə-ləs, -ˈvȯl-\ *n, pl* **-lus·es** *or* **-li** \-ˌlī, -ˌlē\ [NL, fr. L *convolvere* to roll together, roll up] : any of a genus (*Convolvulus*) of erect, trailing, or twining herbs and shrubs of the morning-glory family

¹con·voy \ˈkän-ˌvȯi, kən-ˈ\ *vt* [ME *convoyen*, fr. MF *conveier, convoier* — more at CONVEY] : ACCOMPANY, GUIDE; *esp* : to escort for protection

²con·voy \ˈkän-ˌvȯi\ *n* **1** : one that convoys; *esp* : a protective escort (as for ships) **2** : the act of convoying **3** : a group convoyed or organized for convenience or protection in moving

con·vul·sant \kən-ˈvəl-sənt\ *adj* : causing convulsions : CONVULSIVE 1 — **convulsant** *n*

con·vulse \kən-ˈvəls\ *vt* **con·vulsed; con·vuls·ing** [L *convulsus*, pp. of *convellere* to pluck up, convulse, fr. *com-* + *vellere* to pluck — more at VULNERABLE] : to shake or agitate violently; *esp* : to shake with or as if with irregular spasms ***syn*** see SHAKE

con·vul·sion \kən-ˈvəl-shən\ *n* **1** : an abnormal violent and involuntary contraction or series of contractions of the muscles **2 a** : a violent disturbance **b** : an uncontrolled fit : PAROXYSM — **con·vul·sion·ary** \-shə-ˌner-ē\ *adj*

con·vul·sive \kən-ˈvəl-siv\ *adj* **1** : constituting or producing a convulsion **2** : attended or affected with convulsions ***syn*** see FITFUL — **con·vul·sive·ly** *adv* — **con·vul·sive·ness** *n*

cony *var of* CONEY

coo \ˈkü\ *vi* [imit.] **1** : to make the low soft cry of a dove or pigeon or a similar sound **2** : to talk fondly, amorously, or appreciatively ⟨an album that will be ~*ed* over by condescending classical music critics —Ellen Sander⟩ — **coo** *n*

¹cook \ˈkůk\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *cōc*; akin to OHG *koch*; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. L *coquus*, fr. *coquere* to cook; akin to OE *āfigen* fried, Gk *pessein* to cook] **1** : one who prepares food for eating **2** : a technical or industrial process comparable to cooking food; *also* : a substance so processed

²cook *vi* **1** : to prepare food for eating by means of heat **2** : to undergo the action of being cooked ⟨the rice is ~*ing* now⟩ **3** : OCCUR, HAPPEN ⟨find out what was ~*ing* in the committee⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : CONCOCT, IMPROVISE — usu. used with *up* ⟨~*ed* up a scheme⟩ **2** : to prepare for eating by a heating process **3** : FALSIFY, DOCTOR ⟨an old hand at company manipulation, he prepares to ~ the books —*Punch*⟩ **4** : to subject to the action of heat or fire — **cook one's goose** : to ruin (one) irretrievably

cook·book \-ˌbůk\ *n* : a book of cooking directions and recipes; *broadly* : a book of detailed instructions

cook cheese *n* : a soft unripened cheese made from curd that has been heated to the consistency of honey and poured into containers

cooked cheese \ˈkůk-ˈchēz\ *n* : COOK CHEESE

cook·er \ˈkůk-ər\ *n* : one that cooks: as **a** : a utensil, device, or apparatus for cooking **b** : one who tends a cooking process : COOK **c** *Brit* : STOVE

cook·ery \ˈkůk-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1** : the art or practice of cooking **2** : an establishment for cooking

cookery book *n, chiefly Brit* : COOKBOOK

cook·ie *or* **cooky** \ˈkůk-ē\ *n, pl* **cook·ies** [D *koekje*, dim. of *koek* cake] **1** : any of various small sweet flat or slightly raised cakes **2 a** : an attractive woman ⟨a buxom French ~ who haunts the . . . colony's one night spot —*Newsweek*⟩ **b** : PERSON, GUY ⟨a very tough ~ indeed, who can break a man's wrist without a quiver of distaste —John Crosby⟩

cookie sheet *n* : a flat rectangle of metal with at least one rolled edge used esp. for the baking of cookies or biscuits

cook·ing *adj* : suitable for or used in cooking ⟨~ apples⟩ ⟨~ sherry⟩ ⟨~ utensils⟩

cooking top *n* : a built-in cabinet-top cooking apparatus consisting usu. of four heating units for gas or electricity

cook off *vi, of a cartridge* : to fire as a result of being allowed to rest in the chamber of an overheated weapon

cook·out \ˈkůk-ˌaůt\ *n* : an outing at which a meal is cooked and served in the open; *also* : the meal cooked

cook·shack \-ˌshak\ *n* : a shack used for cooking

cook·shop \-ˌshäp\ *n* : a shop supplying or serving cooked food

Cook's tour \ˈkůks-\ *n* [Thomas *Cook* & Son, E travel agency] : a quick tour in which attractions are viewed briefly and cursorily

cook·ware \ˈkůk-ˌwa(ə)r, -ˌwe(ə)r\ *n* : utensils used in cooking

¹cool \ˈkül\ *adj* [ME *col*, fr. OE *cōl*; akin to OHG *kuoli* cool, OE *ceald* cold] **1** : moderately cold : lacking in warmth ⟨warm days and ~ nights⟩ **2 a** : marked by steady dispassionate calmness and self-control ⟨a ~ and calculating administrator —*Current Biog.*⟩ **b** : lacking ardor or friendliness ⟨the ~, impersonal manner of some of the bright young men . . . who administer the anti-poverty programs —J. C. Cort⟩ **c** (1) : marked by restrained emotion or excitement ⟨~ jazz⟩ (2) : free from racial tensions or violence ⟨meeting with minority groups in an attempt to keep the city ~⟩ **3** — used as an intensive ⟨a ~ million dollars⟩ **4** : marked by deliberate effrontery or lack of due respect or discretion ⟨a ~ reply⟩ **5** : facilitating or suggesting relief from heat ⟨a ~ dress⟩ **6 a** *of a color* : producing an impression of being cool; *specif* : of a hue in the range violet through blue to green **b** *of a musical tone* : relatively lacking in timbre or resonance **7** *slang* : very good : EXCELLENT **8** : employing understatement and a minimum of detail to convey information and usu. requiring the listener, viewer, or reader to complete the message ⟨another indication of the very ~ . . . character of this medium —H. M. McLuhan⟩ — **cool·ish** \ˈkü-lish\ *adj* — **cool·ly** *also* **cooly** \-ˈkül-(l)ē\ *adv* — **cool·ness** \ˈkül-nəs\ *n*

syn COOL, COMPOSED, COLLECTED, UNRUFFLED, IMPERTURBABLE, NONCHALANT *shared meaning element* : actually or apparently free from agitation or excitement ***ant*** ardent, agitated

²cool *vi* **1** : to become cool : lose heat or warmth ⟨placed the pie in the window to ~⟩ — sometimes used with *off* or *down* **2** : to lose ardor or passion ⟨his anger ~*ed*⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to make cool : impart a feeling of coolness to ⟨~*ed* the room with a fan⟩ — often used with *off* or *down* ⟨a swim ~*ed* us off a little⟩ **2 a** : to moderate the heat, excitement, or force of : CALM ⟨~*ed* her growing anger⟩ **b** : to slow or lessen the growth or activity of — usu. used with *off* or *down* ⟨wants to ~ off the economy without freezing it —*Newsweek*⟩ — **cool it** : to calm down : go easy ⟨the word went out to the young to *cool it* —W. M. Young⟩ — **cool one's heels** : to wait or be kept waiting for a long time esp. from or as if from disdain or discourtesy

³cool *n* **1** : a cool time, place, or situation ⟨the ~ of the evening⟩ **2 a** : a lack of excitement or enthusiasm : INDIFFERENCE ⟨wears her ~ like perfume, without a . . . single expression to disturb her aristocratic unconcern —Hubert Saal⟩ **b** : SELF-ASSURANCE, SOPHISTICATION ⟨girls, from 9 to 12, who are only beginning to awaken to the world around and have not yet developed any ~ about themselves —J. K. Sale & Ben Apfelbaum⟩ **3** : POISE, COMPOSURE ⟨press questions . . . seemed to rattle him and he lost his ~ —*New Republic*⟩

⁴cool *adv* : in a casual and nonchalant manner ⟨they learn to play it ~, not really involve themselves —Marilyn B. Noble⟩

cool·ant \ˈkü-lənt\ *n* : a usu. fluid cooling agent

cool·er \ˈkü-lər\ *n* **1** : one that cools: as **a** : a container for cooling liquids **b** : REFRIGERATOR **2** : LOCKUP, JAIL; *esp* : a cell for violent or unmanageable prisoners **3** : an iced drink usu. with an alcoholic beverage as base

Coo·ley's anemia \ˌkü-lēz-\ *n* [Thomas B. *Cooley* †1945 Amer pediatrician] : THALASSEMIA

cool·head·ed \ˈkül-ˈhed-əd\ *adj* : not easily excited

coo·lie \ˈkü-lē\ *n* [Hindi *kulī*] : an unskilled laborer or porter usu. in or from the Far East hired for low or subsistence wages

coolie hat *n* : a conical-shaped usu. straw hat worn esp. to protect the head from the heat of the sun

cool·ing–off \ˌkü-liŋ-ˈȯf\ *adj* : designed to allow passions to cool or to permit negotiation between parties ⟨a ~ period⟩

coombe *or* **coomb** \ˈküm\ *var of* COMBE

coon \ˈkün\ *n* : RACCOON

coon·can \ˈkün-ˌkan\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. MexSp *conquián* conquian, fr. Sp *¿con quién?* with whom?] : a game of rummy played with two packs including two jokers

coon cat *n, chiefly NewEng* : ANGORA CAT

coon cheese \ˈkün-\ *n* [prob. fr. *coon* (Negro), fr. *coon* (raccoon)] : a sharp cheddar cheese that has been cured at higher than usual temperature and humidity and that is usu. coated with black wax

coon·hound \ˈkün-ˌhaůnd\ *n* : a sporting dog trained to hunt raccoons; *esp* : BLACK AND TAN COONHOUND

coon's age *n* : a long while ⟨best fried chicken I've tasted for a *coon's age* —Sinclair Lewis⟩

coon·skin \ˈkün-ˌskin\ *n* **1** : the skin or pelt of the raccoon **2** : an article (as a cap or coat) made of coonskin

coon·tie \ˈkünt-ē\ *n* [Seminole *kunti* coontie flour] : any of several tropical American woody plants (genus *Zamia*) of the cycad family whose roots and stems yield a starchy foodstuff — called also *arrowroot*

¹coop \ˈküp, ˈkůp\ *n* [ME *cupe*; akin to OE *cȳpe* basket, *cot* cot] **1** : a cage or small enclosure (as for poultry); *also* : a small building for housing poultry **2 a** : a confined area **b** : JAIL

²coop *vt* **1** : to confine in a restricted and often crowded area — usu. used with *up* **2** : to place or keep in a coop : PEN — often used with *up*

co–op \ˈkō-ˌäp, kō-ˈ; ˈküp\ *n* : COOPERATIVE

¹coo·per \ˈkü-pər, ˈkůp-ər\ *n* [ME *couper, cowper*, fr. MD *cūper* (fr. *cūpe* cask) or MLG *kūper*, fr. *kūpe* cask; MD *cūpe* & MLG *kūpe*, fr. L *cupa*; akin to Gk *kypellon* cup — more at HIVE] : one that makes or repairs wooden casks or tubs

²cooper *vb* **coo·pered; coo·per·ing** \ˈkü-p(ə-)riŋ, ˈkůp-(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* : to work as a cooper on ~ *vi* : to work at or do coopering

coo·per·age \ˈkü-p(ə-)rij, ˈkůp-(ə-)\ *n* **1** : a cooper's place of business **2** : a cooper's work or products

co·op·er·ate \kō-ˈäp(-ə)-ˌrāt\ *vi* [LL *cooperatus*, pp. of *cooperari*, fr. L *co-* + *operari* to work — more at OPERATE] **1** : to act or work with another or others : act together **2** : to associate with another or others for mutual benefit — **co·op·er·a·tor** \-ˌrāt-ər\ *n*

co·op·er·a·tion \(ˌ)kō-ˌäp-ə-ˈrā-shən\ *n* **1** : the action of cooperating : common effort **2** : association of persons for common benefit **3** : a dynamic social process in ecological aggregations (as communities or colonies) in which mutual benefits outweigh the

disadvantages (as competition) of crowding — **co·op·er·a·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n*

[1]co·op·er·a·tive \kō-'äp-(ə-)rət-iv, -'äp-ə-ˌrāt-\ *adj* **1 a** : marked by cooperation ⟨~ efforts⟩ **b** : marked by a willingness and ability to work with others ⟨~ neighbors⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or organized as a cooperative **3** : relating to or comprising a program of combined liberal arts and technical studies at different schools — **co·op·er·a·tive·ly** *adv* — **co·op·er·a·tive·ness** *n*

[2]cooperative *n* : an enterprise or organization owned by and operated for the benefit of those using its services

Coo·per's hawk \'kü-pərz-\ *n* [William *Cooper* †1864 Amer. naturalist] : an American hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) that is larger than the similarly colored sharp-shinned hawk and has a more rounded tail

co–opt \kō-'äpt\ *vt* [L *cooptare*, fr. *co-* + *optare* to choose] **1 a** : to choose or elect as a member **b** : to appoint as a colleague or assistant **2 a** : to take into a group (as a faction, movement, or culture) : ABSORB, ASSIMILATE ⟨the students are ~*ed* by a system they serve even in their struggle against it —A. C. Danto⟩ **b** : to take over : APPROPRIATE — **co–op·ta·tion** \ˌkō-ˌäp-'tā-shən\ *n* — **co–op·ta·tive** \kō-'äp-tət-iv\ *adj* — **co–op·tion** \-'äp-shən\ *n* — **co–op·tive** \-'äp-tiv\ *adj*

[1]co·or·di·nate \kō-'ȯrd-nət, -ᵊn-ət, -ᵊn-ˌāt\ *adj* [back-formation fr. *coordination*] **1 a** : equal in rank, quality, or significance **b** : being of equal rank in a sentence ⟨~ clauses⟩ **2** : relating to or marked by coordination **3 a** : being a university that awards degrees to men and women taught usu. by the same faculty but attending separate classes often on separate campuses **b** : being one of the colleges and esp. the women's branch of a coordinate university **4** : of, relating to, or being a system of indexing by two or more terms so that documents may be retrieved through the intersection of index terms — **co·or·di·nate·ly** *adv* — **co·or·di·nate·ness** *n*

[2]coordinate *n* **1** : one who is of equal rank, authority, or importance with another **2 a** : any of a set of numbers used in specifying the location of a point on a line, on a surface, or in space **b** : any one of a set of variables used in specifying the state of a substance or the motion of a particle or momentum **3** *pl* : articles (as of clothing) designed to be used together and to attain their effect through pleasing contrast (as of color, material, or texture)

[3]co·or·di·nate \kō-'ȯrd-ᵊn-ˌāt\ *vb* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [back-formation fr. *coordination*] *vt* **1** : to put in the same order or rank **2** : to bring into a common action, movement, or condition : HARMONIZE **3** : to attach so as to form a coordination complex ~ *vi* **1** : to be or become coordinate esp. so as to act together in a smooth concerted way **2** : to combine by means of a coordinate bond — **co·or·di·na·tive** \kō-'ȯrd-nət-iv, -ᵊn-ət-, -ᵊn-ˌāt-\ *adj* — **co·or·di·na·tor** \-ᵊn-ˌāt-ər\ *n*

coordinate bond *n* : a covalent bond held to consist of a pair of electrons supplied by only one of the two atoms it joins

co·or·di·nat·ed \-ᵊn-ˌāt-əd\ *adj* : able to use more than one set of muscle movements to a single end ⟨a well-*coordinated* athlete⟩

coordinate geometry *n* : ANALYTIC GEOMETRY

coordinating conjunction *n* : a conjunction that joins together words or word groups of equal grammatical rank

co·or·di·na·tion \(ˌ)kō-ˌȯrd-ᵊn-'ā-shən\ *n* [F or LL; F, fr. LL *coordination-*, *coordinatio*, fr. L *co-* + *ordination-*, *ordinatio* arrangement] **1** : the act or action of coordinating **2** : the state of being coordinate or coordinated

coordination complex *n* : a compound or ion with a central usu. metallic atom or ion combined by coordinate bonds with a definite number of surrounding ions, groups, or molecules

coot \'küt\ *n* [ME *coote;* akin to D *koet* coot] **1** : any of various sluggish slow-flying slaty-black birds (genus *Fulica*) of the rail family that somewhat resemble ducks and have lobed toes and the upper mandible prolonged on the forehead as a horny frontal shield **2** : any of several No. American scoters **3** : a harmless simple person; *broadly* : FELLOW

coo·tie \'küt-ē\ *n* [perh. modif. of Malay *kutu*] : BODY LOUSE

[1]cop \'käp\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *copp*] **1** *dial chiefly Eng* : TOP, CREST **2** : a cylindrical or conical mass of thread, yarn, or roving wound on a quill or tube; *also* : a quill or tube upon which it is wound

[2]cop *vt* **copped; cop·ping** [perh. fr. D *kapen* to steal, fr. Fris *kāpia* to take away; akin to OHG *kouf* trade — more at CHEAP] **1** *slang* : to get hold of : CATCH, CAPTURE; *also* : PURCHASE **2** *slang* : STEAL, SWIPE — **cop a plea** : to plead guilty to a lesser charge in order to avoid standing trial for a more serious one; *broadly* : to admit fault and plead for mercy

[3]cop *n* [short for [3]*copper*] : POLICEMAN

[4]cop *abbr* **1** copper **2** copulative **3** copy **4** copyright

Cop *abbr* Coptic

co·pa·ce·tic *or* **co·pe·se·tic** \ˌkō-pə-'set-ik, -'sēt-\ *adj* [origin unknown] : very satisfactory

co·pai·ba \kō-'pī-bə, -'pā-; ˌkō-pə-'ē-bə\ *n* [Sp & Pg; Sp, fr. Pg *copaíba*, of Tupian origin; akin to Guarani *cupaiba* copaiba] : a stimulant oleoresin obtained from several pinnate-leaved So. American leguminous trees (genus *Copaifera*); *also* : one of these trees

co·pal \'kō-pəl, -ˌpal; kō-'pal\ *n* [Sp, fr. Nahuatl *copalli* resin] : a recent or fossil resin from various tropical trees

co·par·ce·nary \kō-'pärs-ᵊn-ˌer-ē\ *n, pl* **-nar·ies** **1** : joint heirship **2** : joint ownership

co·par·ce·ner \-'pärs-nər, -ᵊn-ər\ *n* : a joint heir

co·part·ner \(ˌ)kō-'pärt-nər\ *n* : PARTNER — **co·part·ner·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

[1]cope \'kōp\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *-cāp*, fr. LL *cappa* head covering] **1** : a long enveloping ecclesiastical vestment **2 a** : something resembling a cope (as by concealing or covering) ⟨the dark sky's starry ~ —P. B. Shelley⟩ **b** : COPING

[2]cope *vt* **coped; cop·ing** : to cover or furnish with a cope or coping

[3]cope *vb* **coped; cop·ing** [ME *copen*, fr. MF *couper* to strike, cut, fr. OF, fr. *coup* blow, fr. LL *colpus*, alter. of L *colaphus*, fr. Gk *kolaphos* buffet] *vi* **1** *obs* : STRIKE, FIGHT **2 a** : to maintain a contest or combat usu. on even terms or with success — used with *with* **b** : to deal with and attempt to overcome problems and difficulties — usu. used with *with* **3** *archaic* : MEET, ENCOUNTER ~ *vt* **1** *obs* : to meet in combat **2** *obs* : to come in contact with **3** *obs* : MATCH

[4]cope *vt* **coped; cop·ing** [prob. fr. F *couper* to cut] **1** : NOTCH **2** : to shape (a structural member) to fit a coping or conform to the shape of another member

copeck *var of* KOPECK

copemate *or* **copesmate** *n* [[3]*cope* + *mate*] **1** *obs* : ANTAGONIST **2** *obs* : PARTNER, COMRADE

co·pen \'kō-pən\ *n* [short for *copenhagen blue*, fr. *Copenhagen*, Denmark] : a variable color averaging a moderate blue — called also *copen blue*

co·pe·pod \'kō-pə-ˌpäd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *kōpē* oar + *pod-*, *pous* foot] : any of a large subclass (Copepoda) of usu. minute freshwater and marine crustaceans — **copepod** *adj*

cop·er \'kō-pər\ *n* [E dial. *cope* (to trade)] *Brit* : a horse dealer; *esp* : a dishonest one

Co·per·ni·can \kō-'pər-ni-kən\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to Copernicus or the belief that the earth rotates daily on its axis and the planets revolve in orbits around the sun **2** : of radical or major importance or degree ⟨effected a ~ revolution in philosophy — *Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ — **Copernican** *n* — **Co·per·ni·can·ism** \-kəˌniz-əm\ *n*

cope·stone \'kōp-ˌstōn\ *n* **1** : a stone forming a coping **2** : a finishing touch : CROWN

copi·er \'käp-ē-ər\ *n* : one that copies; *specif* : a machine for making copies of graphic matter (as printing, drawings, or pictures)

co·pi·hue \kō-'pē-(ˌ)wā\ *n* [AmerSp, fr. Araucan *copiu*] : a showy climbing vine (*Lapageria rosea*) with deep rosy red trumpet-shaped flowers and oval edible yellowish fruits that is the national flower of Chile — called also *Chile-bells*

co·pi·lot \'kō-ˌpī-lət\ *n* : a qualified pilot who assists or relieves the pilot but is not in command

cop·ing \'kō-piŋ\ *n* : the covering course of a wall usu. with a sloping top

cop·ing saw \'kō-piŋ-\ *n* [fr. prp. of [4]*cope*] : a handsaw with a very narrow blade held under tension in a U-shaped frame and used esp. for cutting curves in wood

cop·ing·stone \'kō-piŋ-ˌstōn\ *n, chiefly Brit* : COPESTONE

co·pi·ous \'kō-pē-əs\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *copiosus*, fr. *copia* abundance, fr. *co-* + *ops* wealth — more at OPULENT] **1** : yielding something abundantly ⟨a ~ harvest⟩ ⟨~ springs⟩ **2 a** : full of thought, information, or matter **b** : profuse or exuberant in words, expression, or style ⟨she was evidently a ~ talker, and now poured forth a breathless stream of anecdote —W. S. Maugham⟩ **3** : present in large quantity : taking place on a large scale ⟨~ rainfall⟩ ⟨~ eating and still more ~ drinking —Aldous Huxley⟩ ***syn*** see PLENTIFUL ***ant*** meager — **co·pi·ous·ly** *adv* — **co·pi·ous·ness** *n*

co·pla·nar \(ˈ)kō-'-plā-nər, -ˌnär\ *adj* : lying or acting in the same plane — **co·pla·nar·i·ty** \ˌkō-plā-'nar-ət-ē\ *n*

co·pol·y·mer \(ˈ)kō-'päl-ə-mər\ *n* : a product of copolymerization — **co·pol·y·mer·ic** \ˌkō-ˌpäl-ə-'mer-ik\ *adj*

co·po·ly·mer·ize \ˌkō-pə-'lim-ə-ˌrīz, (ˈ)kō-'päl-ə-mə-\ *vb* : to polymerize (as two different monomers) together — **co·po·ly·mer·iza·tion** \ˌkō-pə-ˌlim-ə-rə-'zā-shən, ˌkō-ˌpäl-ə-mə-\ *n*

cop–out \'käp-ˌau̇t\ *n* **1** : an excuse for copping out : PRETEXT **2** : the means for copping out **3** : one who cops out **4** : the act or an instance of copping out

cop out \(ˈ)käp-'au̇t\ *vi* : to back out (as of an unwanted responsibility) — often used with *on* or *of* ⟨young Americans who *cop out* on society —*Christian Science Monitor*⟩ ⟨*copping out* of jury duty through a variety of machinations —H. F. Waters⟩

[1]cop·per \'käp-ər\ *n, often attrib* [ME *coper*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *kupfar* copper; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc word borrowed fr. LL *cuprum* copper, fr. L (*aes*) *Cyprium*, lit., Cyprian metal] **1** : a common reddish metallic element that is ductile and malleable and one of the best conductors of heat and electricity — see ELEMENT table **2** : a coin or token made of copper or bronze **3** *chiefly Brit* : a large boiler (as for cooking) **4** : any of various small butterflies (family Lycaenidae) with usu. copper-colored wings — **cop·pery** \'käp-(ə-)rē\ *adj*

[2]copper *vt* **cop·pered; cop·per·ing** \'käp-(ə-)riŋ\ **1** : to coat or sheathe with or as if with copper **2 a** : to bet against (as in faro) **b** : HEDGE

[3]copper *n* [[2]*cop*] : POLICEMAN

cop·per·as \'käp-(ə-)rəs\ *n* [alter. of ME *coperose*, fr. MF, fr. (assumed) VL *cuprirosa*, fr. LL *cuprum* + L *rosa* rose] : a green hydrated ferrous sulfate $FeSO_4.7H_2O$ used esp. in making inks and pigments

cop·per·head \'käp-ər-ˌhed\ *n* **1** : a common pit viper usu. having a copper-colored head and markings that is found esp. in uplands of the eastern U.S. **2** : a person in the northern states who sympathized with the South during the Civil War

cop·per·plate \ˌkäp-ər-'plāt\ *n* : an engraved or etched copper printing plate; *also* : a print made from such a plate

copper pyrites *n* : CHALCOPYRITE

cop·per·smith \'käp-ər-ˌsmith\ *n* : a worker in copper

copper sulfate *n* : a sulfate of copper; *esp* : the normal sulfate that is white in the anhydrous form but blue in the crystalline hydrous form $CuSO_4.5H_2O$ and that is often used as an algicide and fungicide

cop·pice \'käp-əs\ *n* [MF *copeiz*, fr. *couper* to cut — more at COPE] **1** : a thicket, grove, or growth of small trees **2** : forest originating mainly from shoots or root suckers rather than seed

copr- *or* **copro-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *kopr-*, *kopro-*, fr. *kopros* akin to Skt *śakṛt* dung] : dung : feces ⟨*copro*lite⟩

co·pra \'kō-prə *also* 'käp-rə\ *n* [Pg, fr. Malayalam *koppara*] : dried coconut meat yielding coconut oil

co·pro·duce \ˌkō-prə-'d(y)üs\ *vt* : to produce in cooperation with another — **co·pro·duc·er** *n* — **co·pro·duc·tion** \-'dək-shən\ *n*

co·prod·uct \(ˈ)kō-'präd-(ˌ)əkt\ *n* : BY-PRODUCT 1

cop·ro·lite \'käp-rə-ˌlīt\ *n* : fossil excrement — **cop·ro·lit·ic** \ˌkäp-rə-'lit-ik\ *adj*

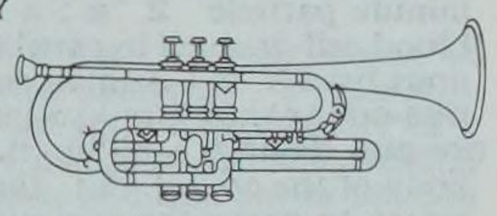
co·proph·a·gous \kä-'präf-ə-gəs\ *adj* [Gk *koprophagos*, fr. *kopr-* + *-phagos* -phagous] : feeding on dung — **co·proph·a·gy** \-ə-jē\ *n*
cop·ro·phil·ia \ˌkäp-rə-'fil-ē-ə\ *n* [NL] : marked interest in excrement; *esp* : the use of feces or filth for sexual excitement — **cop·ro·phil·i·ac** \-ē-ˌak\ *n*
cop·roph·i·lous \kä-'präf-ə-ləs\ *adj* : growing or living on dung ⟨~ fungi⟩
copse \'käps\ *n* [by alter.] : COPPICE 1
¹Copt \'käpt\ *n* [Ar *qubṭ* Copts, fr. Coptic *gyptios* Egyptian, fr. Gk *aigyptios*] **1** : a member of a people descended from the ancient Egyptians **2** : a member of the traditional Monophysite Christian church originating and centering in Egypt
²Copt *abbr* Coptic
cop·ter \'käp-tər\ *n* : HELICOPTER
¹Cop·tic \'käp-tik\ *adj* : of or relating to the Copts, their liturgical language, or their church
²Coptic *n* : an Afro-Asiatic language descended from ancient Egyptian and used as the liturgical language of the Coptic church
co–pub·lish \(')kō-'pəb-lish\ *vt* : to publish in cooperation with another publisher — **co–pub·lish·er** *n*
cop·u·la \'käp-yə-lə\ *n* [L, bond] : something that connects: as **a** : the connecting link between subject and predicate of a proposition **b** : a word or expression (as a form of *be, become, feel,* or *seem*) that links a subject with its predicate
cop·u·late \'käp-yə-ˌlāt\ *vi* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *copulatus*, pp. of *copulare* to join, fr. *copula*] **1** : to engage in sexual intercourse **2** *of gametes* : to fuse permanently — **cop·u·la·tion** \ˌkäp-yə-'lā-shən\ *n* — **cop·u·la·to·ry** \'käp-yə-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*
¹cop·u·la·tive \'käp-yə-ˌlāt-iv\ *adj* **1 a** : joining together coordinate words or word groups and expressing addition of their meanings ⟨a ~ conjunction⟩ **b** : functioning as a copula **2** : relating to or serving for copulation **3** : of or relating to coupling of chemical compounds or radicals — **cop·u·la·tive·ly** *adv*
²copulative *n* : a copulative word
¹copy \'käp-ē\ *n, pl* **cop·ies** [ME *copie*, fr. MF, fr. ML *copia*, fr. L, abundance — more at COPIOUS] **1** : an imitation, transcript, or reproduction of an original work (as a letter, a painting, a piece of furniture, or a dress) **2** : one of a series of esp. mechanical reproductions of an original impression; *also* : an individual example of such a reproduction ⟨a presentation ~⟩ **3** *archaic* : something to be imitated : MODEL **4 a** : matter to be set up for printing or photoengraving **b** : something considered printable or newsworthy — used in the singular and without an article ⟨at the mercy of newsmen . . . who found anything she did to be good ~ —*Current Biog.*⟩
²copy *vb* **cop·ied; copy·ing** *vt* **1** : to make a copy of **2** : to model oneself on ~ *vi* **1** : to make a copy **2** : to undergo copying ⟨the document did not ~ well⟩
syn COPY, IMITATE, MIMIC, APE, MOCK *shared meaning element* : to make something so that it resembles an existing thing ***ant*** originate
copy·book \'käp-ē-ˌbu̇k\ *n* : a book formerly used in teaching penmanship and containing models for imitation
copy·boy \-ˌbȯi\ *n* : one who carries copy and runs errands
¹copy·cat \-ˌkat\ *n* : one who slavishly imitates or adopts the behavior or practices of another
²copycat *vb* **copy·cat·ted; copy·cat·ting** *vi* : to act as a copycat ~ *vt* : IMITATE
copy·desk \-ˌdesk\ *n* : the desk at which newspaper copy is edited
copy editor *n* **1** : COPYREADER **2 a** : an editor who prepares copy for the printer **b** : an editor in charge of a copydesk and the copyreaders on a newspaper
copy·hold \'käp-ē-ˌhōld\ *n* **1** : a former tenure of land in England and Ireland by right of being recorded in the court of the manor **2** : an estate held by copyhold
copy·hold·er \-ˌhōl-dər\ *n* **1** : a device for holding copy esp. for a typesetter **2** : one who reads copy for a proofreader
copy·ist \'käp-ē-əst\ *n* **1** : one who makes copies **2** : IMITATOR
copy·read·er \-ˌrēd-ər\ *n* : a publishing-house editor who reads and corrects manuscript copy; *also* : one who edits and headlines newspaper copy
¹copy·right \-ˌrīt\ *n* : the exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, and sell the matter and form of a literary, musical, or artistic work — **copyright** *adj*
²copyright *vt* : to secure a copyright on
copy·writ·er \'käp-ē-ˌrīt-ər\ *n* : a writer of advertising or publicity copy
coq au vin \ˌkō-kō-'vaⁿ, ˌkäk-ō-\ *n* [F, cock with wine] : chicken cooked in usu. red wine
¹co·quet *n* [F, dim. of *coq* cock] **1** \kō-'ket, -'kā\ *obs* : a man who indulges in coquetry **2** \-'ket\ : COQUETTE
²co·quet \kō-'ket\ *adj* : COQUETTISH
³co·quet *or* **co·quette** \-'ket\ *vi* **co·quet·ted; co·quet·ting** **1** : to play the coquette : FLIRT **2** : to deal with something playfully rather than seriously ***syn*** see TRIFLE
co·que·try \'kō-kə-trē, kō-'ke-trē\ *n, pl* **-tries** : a flirtatious act or attitude
co·quette \kō-'ket\ *n* [F, fem. of *coquet*] : a woman who endeavors without sincere affection to gain the attention and admiration of men
co·quett·ish \kō-'ket-ish\ *adj* : having the air or nature of a coquette or of coquetry — **co·quett·ish·ly** *adv* — **co·quett·ish·ness** *n*
co·qui·lla nut \kō-ˌkē-(y)ə-, -ˌkēl-yə-\ *n* [Pg *coquilho*, dim. of *côco* coconut] : the nut of a piassava palm (*Attalea funifera*) of Brazil having a hard brown shell much used by turners
co·qui·na \kō-'kē-nə\ *n* [Sp, prob. irreg. dim. of *concha* shell] **1** : a small marine clam (genus *Donax*) used for broth or chowder **2** : a soft whitish limestone formed of broken shells and corals cemented together and used for building
¹cor *abbr* **1** corner **2** coroner **3** corpus
²cor *or* **corr** *abbr* **1** correct; corrected; correction **2** correspondence; correspondent; corresponding **3** corrupt; corruption
Cor *abbr* Corinthians
co·rac·ii·form \kə-'ras-ē-ə-ˌfȯrm\ *adj* [deriv. of Gk *korak-, korax* raven + L *forma* form — more at RAVEN] : of or relating to an order (Coraciiformes) of arboreal nonpasserine birds including the rollers, kingfishers, and hornbills
cor·a·cle \'kȯr-ə-kəl, 'kär-\ *n* [W *corwgl*] **1** : a small boat made by covering a wicker frame with hide or leather and used by the ancient Britons **2** : a boat made of broad hoops covered with horsehide or tarpaulin and used in parts of the British Isles
cor·a·coid \'kȯr-ə-ˌkȯid, 'kär-\ *adj* [NL *coracoides*, fr. Gk *korakoeidēs*, lit., like a raven, fr. *korak-, korax*] : of, relating to, or being a process or cartilage bone of many vertebrates that extends from the scapula to or toward the sternum — **coracoid** *n*
cor·al \'kȯr-əl, 'kär-\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *corallium*, fr. Gk *korallion*] **1 a** : the calcareous or horny skeletal deposit produced by anthozoan or rarely hydrozoan polyps; *esp* : a richly red precious coral secreted by a gorgonian (*Corallium nobile*) **b** : a polyp or polyp colony together with its membranes and skeleton **2** : a piece of coral and esp. of red coral **3 a** : a bright reddish ovary (as of a lobster or scallop) **b** : a variable color averaging a deep pink — **coral** *adj* — **cor·al·loid** \-ə-ˌlȯid\ *or* **cor·al·loi·dal** \ˌkȯr-ə-'lȯid-ᵊl, ˌkär-\ *adj*


coral 1b

cor·al·bells \'kȯr-əl-ˌbelz, 'kär-\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : a perennial alumroot (*Heuchera sanguinea*) widely cultivated for its feathery spikes of tiny coral flowers
cor·al·ber·ry \-ˌber-ē\ *n* : an American dwarf shrub (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) that bears clusters of small flowers succeeded by red berries
¹cor·al·line \'kȯr-ə-ˌlīn, 'kär-\ *adj* [F *corallin*, fr. LL *corallinus*, fr. L *corallium*] : of, relating to, or resembling coral or a coralline
²coralline *n* **1** : any of a family (Corallinaceae) of calcareous red algae **2** : a bryozoan or hydroid that resembles a coral
coral pink *n* : a moderate yellowish pink
coral snake *n* **1** : any of several venomous chiefly tropical New World elapid snakes (genus *Micrurus*) brilliantly banded in red, black, and yellow or white that include two (*M. fulvius* and *M. euryxanthus*) ranging northward into the southern U.S. **2** : any of several harmless snakes resembling the coral snakes
co·ran·to \kə-'rant-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-tos** *or* **-toes** [modif. of F *courante*] : COURANTE
cor·ban \'kȯ(ə)r-ˌban\ *n* [Heb *qorbān* offering] : a sacrifice or offering to God among the ancient Hebrews
cor·beil *or* **cor·beille** \'kȯr-bəl, kȯr-'bā\ *n* [F *corbeille*, lit., basket, fr. LL *corbicula*, dim. of *corbis* basket] : a sculptured basket of flowers or fruit as an architectural decoration
¹cor·bel \'kȯr-bəl\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. dim. of *corp* raven, fr. L *corvus* — more at RAVEN] : an architectural member that projects from within a wall and supports a weight; *esp* : one that is stepped upward and outward from a vertical surface
²corbel *vt* **-beled** *or* **-belled; -bel·ing** *or* **-bel·ling** : to furnish with or make into a corbel
corbeling *n* **1** : corbel work **2** : the construction of a corbel
cor·bic·u·la \kȯr-'bik-yə-lə\ *n, pl* **-lae** \-(ˌ)lē, -ˌlī\ [LL, basket] : POLLEN BASKET
cor·bie \'kȯr-bē\ *n* [ME, modif. of OF *corbin*, fr. L *corvinus* of a raven] *chiefly Scot* : a carrion crow; *also* : RAVEN
corbie gable *n* : a gable having corbiesteps
cor·bie·step \'kȯr-bē-ˌstep\ *n* : one of a series of steps terminating the upper part of a gable wall
cor·bi·na \kȯr-'bē-nə\ *n* [MexSp, fr. Sp *corvina*, an acanthopterygian fish, fr. fem. of *corvino* of a raven, fr. L *corvinus*] : any of several American marine fishes; *esp* : a spotted whiting (*Menticirrhus undulatus*) favored by surf casters along the California coast
¹cord \'kȯ(ə)rd\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *corde*, fr. L *chorda* string, fr. Gk *chordē* — more at YARN] **1 a** : a long slender flexible material usu. consisting of several strands (as of thread or yarn) woven or twisted together **b** : the hangman's rope **2** : a moral, spiritual, or emotional bond **3 a** : an anatomical structure (as a nerve) resembling a cord **b** : a small flexible insulated electrical cable having a plug at one or both ends used to connect a lamp or other appliance with a receptacle **4** : a unit of wood cut for fuel equal to a stack 4x4x8 feet or 128 cubic feet **5 a** : a rib like a cord on a textile **b** (1) : a fabric made with such ribs or a garment made of such a fabric (2) *pl* : trousers made of such a fabric
²cord *vt* **1** : to furnish, bind, or connect with a cord **2** : to pile up (wood) in cords — **cord·er** *n*
cord·age \'kȯrd-ij\ *n* **1** : ropes or cords; *esp* : the ropes in the rigging of a ship **2** : the number of cords (as of wood) on a given area
cor·date \'kȯ(ə)r-ˌdāt\ *adj* [NL *cordatus*, fr. L *cord-, cor*] : shaped like a heart ⟨a ~ leaf⟩ — **cor·date·ly** *adv*
cord·ed \'kȯrd-əd\ *adj* **1 a** : made of or provided with cords or ridges; *specif* : muscled in ridges **b** *of a muscle* : TENSE, TAUT **2** : bound, fastened, or wound about with cords **3** : striped or ribbed with or as if with cord : TWILLED
¹cor·dial \'kȯr-jəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. ML *cordialis*, fr. L *cord-, cor* heart — more at HEART] **1** *obs* : of or relating to the heart : VITAL **2** : tending to revive, cheer, or invigorate **3** : warmly and genially affable : HEARTFELT ⟨she received a most ~ welcome⟩ ***syn*** see GRACIOUS ***ant*** uncordial — **cor·dial·ly** \'kȯrj-(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **cor·dial·ness** \'kȯr-jəl-nəs\ *n*
²cordial *n* **1** : a stimulating medicine or drink **2** : LIQUEUR

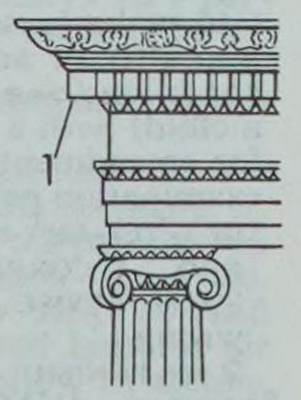
cor·dial·i·ty \ˌkȯr-jē-ˈal-ət-ē, kȯr-ˈjal- *also* kȯrd-ˈyal-\ *n* : sincere affection and kindness : cordial regard
cordia pulmonalia *pl of* COR PULMONALE
cor·di·er·ite \ˈkȯrd-ē-ə-ˌrīt\ *n* [F, fr. Pierre L. A. *Cordier* †1861 F geologist] : a blue mineral $(Mg,Fe)_2Al_4Si_5O_{18}$ with vitreous luster and strong dichroism consisting of a silicate of aluminum, iron, and magnesium
cor·di·form \ˈkȯrd-ə-ˌfȯrm\ *adj* [F *cordiforme*, fr. L *cord-*, *cor* + F *-iforme* -iform] : shaped like a heart
cor·dil·le·ra \ˌkȯrd-ᵊl-ˈ(y)er-ə, kȯr-ˈdil-ə-rə\ *n* [Sp] : a system of mountain ranges often consisting of a number of more or less parallel chains — **cor·dil·le·ran** \-ˈ(y)er-ən, -ə-rən\ *adj*
cord·ite \ˈkȯ(ə)r-ˌdīt\ *n* : a smokeless powder composed of nitroglycerin, guncotton, and a petroleum substance usu. gelatinized by addition of acetone and pressed into cords resembling brown twine
cord·less \ˈkȯrd-ləs\ *adj* : having no cord; *esp* : powered by a battery ⟨~ tools⟩
cor·do·ba \ˈkȯrd-ə-bə, -ə-və\ *n* [Sp *córdoba*, fr. Francisco Fernández de *Córdoba* †1526 Sp explorer] — see MONEY table
¹cor·don \ˈkȯrd-ᵊn, ˈkȯ(ə)r-ˌdän\ *n* [F, dim. of *corde* cord] **1 a** : an ornamental cord used esp. on costumes **b** : a cord or ribbon worn as a badge of honor or as a decoration **c** : STRINGCOURSE **2 a** : a line of troops or of military posts enclosing an area to prevent passage **b** : a line of persons or objects around a person or place ⟨a ~ of police⟩
²cordon *vt* **1** : to ornament with a cordon **2** : to form a protective or restrictive cordon around — often used with *off*
¹cor·do·van \ˈkȯrd-ə-vən\ *adj* [OSp *cordovano*, fr. *Córdova* (now *Córdoba*), Spain] **1** *cap* : of or relating to Córdoba and esp. Córdoba, Spain **2** : made of cordovan leather
²cordovan *n* **1** : a soft fine-grained colored leather **2** : leather tanned from the inner layer of horsehide and characterized by nonporosity and density
¹cor·du·roy \ˈkȯrd-ə-ˌrȯi\ *n, pl* **-roys** [perh. alter. of the name *Corderoy*] **1 a** : a durable usu. cotton pile fabric with vertical ribs or wales **b** *pl* : trousers of corduroy **2** : a road built of logs laid side by side transversely
²corduroy *vt* **-royed; -roy·ing** : to build (a road) of logs laid side by side transversely
cord·wain \ˈkȯ(ə)r-ˌdwān\ *n* [ME *cordwane*, fr. MF *cordoan*, fr. OSp *cordovano, cordován*] *archaic* : cordovan leather
cord·wain·er \-ˌdwā-nər\ *n* **1** *archaic* : a worker in cordovan leather **2** : SHOEMAKER — **cord·wain·ery** \-ˌdwā-nə-rē\ *n*
cord·wood \ˈkȯ(ə)r-ˌdwůd\ *n* : wood piled or sold in cords; *also* : standing timber suitable for use as fuel
¹core \ˈkō(ə)r, ˈkȯ(ə)r\ *n* [ME] **1** : a central and often foundational part usu. distinct from the enveloping part by a difference in nature ⟨~ of the city⟩: as **a** : the usu. inedible central part of some fruits (as a pineapple); *esp* : the papery or leathery carpels composing the ripened ovary in a pome fruit **b** : the portion of a foundry mold that shapes the interior of a hollow casting **c** : a part removed from the interior of a mass esp. to determine the interior composition or a hidden condition **d** : the central strand around which other strands twist in some ropes **e** (1) : a mass of iron serving to concentrate and intensify the magnetic field resulting from a current in a surrounding coil (2) : a tiny doughnut-shaped piece of magnetic material (as ferrite) used in computer memories — called also *magnetic core* (3) : a computer memory consisting of an array of cores strung on fine wires; *broadly* : the internal memory of a computer — called also *core memory, core storage* **f** : the central part of the earth having a radius of about 2100 miles and physical properties different from those of the surrounding parts **g** : a nodule of stone (as flint or obsidian) from which flakes have been struck for making implements **h** : the conducting wire with its insulation in an electric cable **i** : a layer of wood on which veneers are glued (as in making plywood) **j** : an arrangement of a course of studies that combines under certain basic topics material from subjects conventionally separated and aims to provide a common background for all students **k** : the place in a nuclear reactor where fission occurs **2 a** : a basic, essential, or enduring part (as of an individual, a class, or an entity) **b** : the essential meaning : GIST ⟨the ~ of the book is thus an attempt to comprehend the nature of total war — *Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ **c** : the inmost or most intimate part ⟨honest to the ~⟩
²core *vt* **cored; cor·ing** : to remove a core from — **cor·er** *n*
³core *n* [ME *chore* chorus, company, fr. L *chorus*] *chiefly Scot* : a group of people
CORE \ˈkō(ə)r, ˈkȯ(ə)r\ *abbr* Congress of Racial Equality
co·re·cip·i·ent \ˌkō-ri-ˈsip-ē-ənt\ *n* : a joint recipient (as of an honor or a prize)
core city *n* : INNER CITY
co·re·late \ˌkō-ri-ˈlāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [back-formation fr. *corelation*] *chiefly Brit* : CORRELATE — **co·re·la·tion** \-ˈlā-shən\ *n* — **co·rel·a·tive** \kō-ˈrel-ət-iv, kə-\ *adj* — **co·rel·a·tive·ly** *adv*
co·re·li·gion·ist \ˌkō-ri-ˈlij-(ə-)nəst\ *n* : one of the same religion
co·re·mi·um \kə-ˈrē-mē-əm\ *n, pl* **-mia** \-mē-ə\ [NL, fr. Gk *korēma* broom, fr. *korein* to sweep] : a fruiting body characteristic of certain imperfect fungi (as the Stilbellaceae) that consists of a sterile stalk of parallel or fascicled hyphae and a terminal head of fertile or spore-bearing branches
co·re·op·sis \ˌkōr-ē-ˈäp-səs, ˌkȯr-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *koris* bedbug + NL *-opsis;* akin to Gk *keirein* to cut — more at SHEAR] : any of a genus (*Coreopsis*) of composite herbs widely grown for their showy flower heads
co·re·pres·sor \ˌkō-ri-ˈpres-ər\ *n* : a substance that activates a particular genetic repressor by combining with it
co·req·ui·site \kō-ˈrek-wə-zət\ *n* : a formal course of study required to be taken simultaneously with another
co·re·spon·dent \ˌkō-ri-ˈspän-dənt\ *n* : a person named as guilty of adultery with the defendant in a divorce suit
corf \ˈkȯ(ə)rf\ *n, pl* **corves** \ˈkȯ(ə)rvz\ [ME, basket, fr. MD *corf* or MLG *korf*] *Brit* : a basket, tub, or truck used in a mine
cor·gi \ˈkȯr-gē\ *n, pl* **corgis** [W, fr. *cor* dwarf + *ci* dog; akin to OIr *cū* dog, OE *hund* — more at HOUND] : WELSH CORGI
co·ri·a·ceous \ˌkōr-ē-ˈā-shəs, ˌkȯr-\ *adj* [LL *coriaceus* — more at CUIRASS] : resembling leather
co·ri·an·der \ˈkōr-ē-ˌan-dər, ˌkōr-ē-ˈ, ˈkȯr-, ˌkȯr-\ *n* [ME *coriandre*, fr. OF, fr. L *coriandrum*, fr. Gk *koriandron*] **1** : an Old World herb (*Coriandrum sativum*) of the carrot family with aromatic fruits **2** : the ripened dried fruit of coriander used as a flavoring — called also *coriander seed*
¹Co·rin·thi·an \kə-ˈrin(t)-thē-ən\ *n* **1** : a native or resident of Corinth, Greece **2 a** : a gay profligate man **b** : a fashionable man-about-town; *esp* : SPORTSMAN **c** : an amateur yachtsman
²Corinthian *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of Corinth or Corinthians **2** : of or relating to the lightest and most ornate of the three Greek orders of architecture characterized esp. by its bell-shaped capital enveloped with acanthuses
Co·rin·thi·ans \-thē-ənz\ *n pl but sing in constr* : either of two letters written by St. Paul to the Christians of Corinth and included as books in the New Testament — see BIBLE table
Co·ri·o·lis force \ˌkōr-ē-ˌō-ləs-, ˌkȯr-, -ē-ə-ˌlēs-\ *n* [Gaspard G. *Coriolis* †1843 F civil engineer] : an apparent force that as a result of the earth's rotation deflects moving objects (as projectiles or air currents) to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern hemisphere
co·ri·um \ˈkōr-ē-əm, ˈkȯr-\ *n, pl* **co·ria** \-ē-ə\ [NL, fr. L, leather — more at CUIRASS] : DERMIS
¹cork \ˈkȯ(ə)rk\ *n* [ME, cork, bark, prob. fr. Ar *qurq*, fr. L *cortic-, cortex*] **1 a** : the elastic tough outer tissue of the cork oak that is used esp. for stoppers and insulation **b** : PHELLEM **2** : a usu. cork stopper for a bottle or jug **3** : an angling float
²cork *vt* **1** : to furnish or fit with cork or a cork **2** : to stop up with a cork **3** : to blacken with burnt cork
cork·board \ˈkȯ(ə)rk-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a heat-insulating material made of compressed granulated cork
cork cambium *n* : PHELLOGEN
cork·er \ˈkȯr-kər\ *n* **1** : one that corks containers (as bottles) **2** : one that is excellent or remarkable
cork·ing \ˈkȯr-kiŋ\ *adj or adv* : extremely fine — often used as an intensive esp. before *good* ⟨had a ~ good time⟩
cork oak *n* : an oak (*Quercus suber*) of southern Europe and northern Africa that is the source of the cork of commerce
¹cork·screw \ˈkȯrk-ˌskrü\ *n* : a pointed spiral piece of metal with a handle used for drawing corks from bottles
²corkscrew *vt* **1** : WIND **2** : to draw out with difficulty **3** : to twist into a spiral ~ *vi* : to move in a winding course
³corkscrew *adj* : resembling a corkscrew : SPIRAL ⟨the single ~ staircase that connected the two floors —G. K. Chesterton⟩
cork·wood \ˈkȯr-ˌkwůd\ *n* : any of several trees having light or corky wood; *esp* : a small or shrubby tree (*Leitneria floridana*) of the southeastern U.S. that has extremely light soft wood
corky \ˈkȯr-kē\ *adj* **cork·i·er; -est** : resembling cork
corm \ˈkȯ(ə)rm\ *n* [NL *cormus*, fr. Gk *kormos* tree trunk, fr. *keirein* to cut — more at SHEAR] : a rounded thick modified underground stem base bearing membranous or scaly leaves and buds and acting as a vegetative reproductive structure — compare BULB, TUBER
corm·el \ˈkȯr-məl, kȯr-ˈmel\ *n* [dim. of *corm*] : a small or secondary corm produced by a larger corm
cor·mo·rant \ˈkȯrm-(ə-)rənt, ˈkȯr-mə-ˌrant\ *n* [ME *cormeraunt*, fr. MF *cormorant*, fr. OF *cormareng*, fr. *corp* raven + *marenc* of the sea, fr. L *marinus*] **1** : any of various dark-colored web-footed seabirds (family Phalacrocoracidae) that have a long neck, wedge-shaped tail, hooked bill, and a patch of bare often brightly colored distensible skin under the mouth and are used in eastern Asia for catching fish **2** : a gluttonous, greedy, or rapacious person
¹corn \ˈkȯ(ə)rn\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG & ON *korn* grain, L *granum*, Gk *gēras* old age] **1** *chiefly dial* : a small hard particle : GRAIN **2** : a small hard seed **3 a** : the seeds of a cereal grass and esp. of the important cereal crop of a particular region (as wheat in Britain, oats in Scotland and Ireland, and Indian corn in the New World and Australia) **b** : the kernels of sweet corn served as a vegetable while still soft and milky **4** : a plant that produces corn **5** : CORN WHISKEY **6** : something (as writing, music, or acting) that is corny
²corn *vt* **1** : to form into grains : GRANULATE **2 a** : to preserve or season with salt in grains **b** : to cure or preserve in brine containing preservatives and often seasonings ⟨~*ed* beef⟩ **3** : to feed with corn ⟨~ the horses⟩
³corn *n* [ME *corne*, fr. MF, horn, corner, fr. L *cornu* horn, point] : a local hardening and thickening of epidermis (as on a toe)
Corn *abbr* **1** Cornish **2** Cornwall
¹corn·ball \ˈkȯ(ə)rn-ˌbȯl\ *n* [*corn ball* (ball of popcorn and molasses); influenced in meaning by ¹*corn* 5] : an unsophisticated person : HICK
²cornball *adj* : CORNY ⟨terrible ~ clichés —Bosley Crowther⟩
corn borer *n* : any of several insects that bore in maize: as **a** : EUROPEAN CORN BORER **b** : SOUTHWESTERN CORN BORER
corn bread *n* : bread made with cornmeal
corn chip *n* : a piece of a dry crisp snack food prepared from a seasoned cornmeal batter
corn·cob \ˈkȯ(ə)rn-ˌkäb\ *n* **1** : the axis on which the kernels of Indian corn are arranged **2** : an ear of Indian corn
corncob pipe *n* : a tobacco pipe with a bowl made from a corncob
corn cockle *n* : an annual hairy weed (*Agrostemma githago*) with purplish red flowers that is found in grainfields
corn·crake \ˈkȯ(ə)rn-ˌkrāk\ *n* : a common Eurasian short-billed rail (*Crex crex*) that frequents grainfields — called also *land rail*
corn·crib \-ˌkrib\ *n* : a crib for storing ears of Indian corn
corn dodger *n, chiefly South & Midland* : a cake of corn bread that is fried, baked, or boiled as a dumpling
cor·nea \ˈkȯr-nē-ə\ *n* [ML, fr. L, fem. of *corneus* horny, fr. *cornu*] : the transparent part of the coat of the eyeball that covers the iris and pupil and admits light to the interior — see EYE illustration — **cor·ne·al** \-əl\ *adj*
corn earworm *n* : a noctuid moth (*Heliothis zea*) whose large striped yellow-headed larva is esp. destructive to Indian corn

cor·nel \'kȯrn-ᵊl, 'kȯr-ˌnel\ *n* [deriv. of L *cornus* cornel cherry tree; akin to Gk *kerasos* cherry tree] : any of various shrubs or trees (*Cornus* and related genera) with very hard wood and perfect flowers; *specif* : DOGWOOD
cor·ne·lian \kȯr-'nēl-yən\ *n* : CARNELIAN
cor·ne·ous \'kȯr-nē-əs\ *adj* [L *corneus*] : HORNY
¹cor·ner \'kȯ(r)-nər\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *cornere*, fr. *corne* horn, corner] **1 a** : the point where converging lines, edges, or sides meet : ANGLE **b** : the place of intersection of two streets or roads **c** : a piece (as a leather or metal cap for the corner of a book) designed to form, mark, or protect a corner **2** : the angular part or space between meeting lines, edges, or borders near the vertex of the angle ⟨the southwest ~ of the state is hilly⟩ ⟨lift up the ~*s* of the tablecloth⟩: as **a** : the area of a playing field or court near the intersection of the sideline and the goal line or baseline ⟨hit four for six from the ~⟩ **b** (1) : either of the four angles of a boxing ring; *esp* : the angle in which a boxer rests or is worked on by his seconds during periods between rounds (2) : a group of supporters, well-wishers, or adherents associated esp. with a contestant **c** : the side of home plate nearest to or farthest from a batter ⟨a fast ball over the outside ~⟩ **d** : CORNER KICK **e** : the outside of a football formation **3 a** : a private, secret, or remote place ⟨a quiet ~ of a small New England town⟩ ⟨to every ~ of the earth⟩ **b** : a difficult or embarrassing situation : a position from which escape or retreat is difficult or impossible ⟨talked himself into a ~⟩ **4** : control or ownership of enough of the available supply of a commodity or security esp. to permit manipulation of the price **5** : a point at which significant change occurs — often used in the phrase *turn a corner* — **cor·nered** \-nərd\ *adj* — **around the corner** : at hand : IMMINENT ⟨promised that good times were just *around the corner*⟩
²cor·ner *vb* **cor·nered; cor·ner·ing** \'kȯ(r)n-(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* **1 a** : to drive into a corner ⟨the animal is dangerous when ~*ed*⟩ ⟨the prosecutor ~*ed* the witness and forced out the truth⟩ **b** : to catch and hold the attention of esp. so as to force an interview ⟨he ~*s* the secretary on his way to lunch . . . and says what he has to say right in his ear —Clarence Woodbury⟩ **2** : to get a corner on ⟨~ the wheat market⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to meet or converge at a corner or angle **2** : to turn a corner ⟨a car that ~*s* well⟩
³corner *adj* **1** : situated at a corner ⟨the ~ drugstore⟩ **2** : used or fitted for use in or on a corner ⟨a ~ table⟩ **3** : of or relating to the corners of a playing area
cor·ner·back \'kȯ(r)-nər-ˌbak\ *n* : a defensive halfback in football who defends the flank and whose duties include covering a pass receiver
corner kick *n* : a free kick in soccer from close to the point of intersection of the goal line and touchline allowed to the attacking team when a member of the defending team has sent the ball behind his own goal line
cor·ner·man \'kȯ(r)-nər-ˌman\ *n* : one who plays in or near the corner: as **a** : CORNERBACK **b** : a basketball forward
cor·ner·stone \'kȯ(r)-nər-ˌstōn\ *n* **1** : a stone forming a part of a corner or angle in a wall; *specif* : such a stone laid at a formal ceremony **2** : the most basic element : FOUNDATION ⟨a ~ of foreign policy⟩
cor·ner·ways \-ˌwāz\ *adv* : DIAGONALLY
cor·ner·wise \-ˌwīz\ *adv* : DIAGONALLY
cor·net \kȯr-'net, *Brit usu* 'kȯr-nit\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. dim. of *corn* horn, fr. L *cornu*] **1** : a valved brass instrument resembling a trumpet in design and range but having a shorter tube and less brilliant tone **2** : something shaped like a cone: as **a** : a piece of paper twisted for use as a container **b** : a cone-shaped pastry shell that is often filled with whipped cream **c** *Brit* : an ice-cream cone — **cor·net·ist** *or* **cor·net·tist** \-'net-əst, -ni-tist\ *n*



cornet 1

corn–fed \'kȯ(ə)rn-ˌfed\ *adj* **1** : fed or fattened on grain (as corn) ⟨~ hogs⟩ **2** : PLUMP ⟨she was gorgeous. A little ~, but gorgeous —Albert Morgan⟩
corn·field \-ˌfēld\ *n* : a field in which corn is grown
corn·flakes \-ˌflāks\ *n pl* : toasted flakes made from the coarse meal of hulled corn for use as a breakfast cereal
corn flour *n, Brit* : CORNSTARCH
corn·flow·er \'kȯ(ə)rn-ˌflau̇(-ə)r\ *n* **1** : CORN COCKLE **2** : BACHELOR'S BUTTON
cornflower blue *n* : a variable color averaging a moderate purplish blue
corn·husk·ing \'kȯrn-ˌhəs-kiŋ\ *n* : the husking of corn; *specif* : HUSKING
¹cor·nice \'kȯr-nəs, -nish\ *n* [MF, fr. It] **1 a** : the molded and projecting horizontal member that crowns an architectural composition **b** : a top course that crowns a wall **2** : a decorative band of metal or wood used to conceal curtain fixtures **3** : an overhanging mass of snow, ice, or rock usu. on a ridge



1, cornice 1a

²cornice *vt* **cor·niced; cor·nic·ing** : to furnish or crown with a cornice
cor·niche \kȯr-'nēsh\ *n* [F *cornice, corniche*, lit., cornice] : a road built along a coast and esp. along the face of a cliff
cor·nic·u·late cartilage \kȯr-ˌnik-yə-lət-\ *n* [L *corniculatus* horned, fr. *corniculum*, dim. of *cornu* horn] : a small nodule of yellow elastic cartilage articulating with the apex of the arytenoid
cor·ni·fi·ca·tion \ˌkȯr-nə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* [L *cornu* horn + E *-i-* + *-fication*] **1** : conversion into horn or a horny substance or tissue **2** : the conversion of the vaginal epithelium from the columnar to the squamous type
¹Cor·nish \'kȯr-nish\ *adj* [*Corn*wall, England + E *-ish*] : of, relating to, or characteristic of Cornwall, Cornishmen, or Cornish
²Cornish *n* **1** : a Celtic language of Cornwall extinct since the late 18th century **2** : any of an English breed of domestic fowls much used in crossbreeding for meat production
Cor·nish·man \-mən\ *n* : a native or resident of Cornwall, England
Corn Law *n* : one of a series of laws in force in Great Britain before 1846 prohibiting or discouraging the importation of foreign grain
corn leaf aphid *n* : a dusky greenish or brownish aphid (*Rhopalosiphum maidis*) that feeds on the flowers and foliage of various commercially important grasses (as Indian corn)
corn·meal \'kȯ(ə)rn-'mē(ə)l, -ˌmēl\ *n* : meal ground from corn
corn pone *n, South & Midland* : corn bread often made without milk or eggs and baked or fried
corn poppy *n* : an annual red-flowered poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) common in European grainfields and cultivated in several varieties
corn rootworm *n* : any of several beetles (genus *Diabrotica* of the family Galerucidae) whose root-eating larvae are pests esp. of Indian corn
corn silk *n* : the silky styles on an ear of Indian corn
corn snow *n* : granular snow formed by alternate thawing and freezing
corn·stalk \'kȯ(ə)rn-ˌstȯk\ *n* : a stalk of Indian corn
corn·starch \-ˌstärch\ *n* : starch made from corn and used in foods as a thickening agent, in making corn syrup and sugars, and in the manufacture of adhesives and sizes for paper and textiles
corn sugar *n* : DEXTROSE; *esp* : that made by hydrolysis of cornstarch
corn syrup *n* : a syrup containing dextrins, maltose, and dextrose that is obtained by partial hydrolysis of cornstarch
cor·nu \'kȯr-(ˌ)n(y)ü\ *n, pl* **cor·nua** \-n(y)ə-wə\ [L] : HORN; *esp* : a horn-shaped anatomical structure — **cor·nu·al** \-n(y)ə-wəl\ *adj*
cor·nu·co·pia \ˌkȯr-n(y)ə-'kō-pē-ə\ *n* [LL, fr. L *cornu copiae* horn of plenty] **1** : a curved goat's horn overflowing with fruit and ears of grain that is used as a decorative motif emblematic of abundance **2** : an inexhaustible store : ABUNDANCE ⟨a pair of books that . . . add up to a 550-page ~ of humor —Bernard Kalb⟩ **3** : a receptacle shaped like a horn or cone — **cor·nu·co·pi·an** \-pē-ən\ *adj*
cor·nu·to \kȯr-'n(y)üt-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-tos** [It, fr. L *cornutus* having horns, fr. *cornu*] : CUCKOLD
corn whiskey *n* : whiskey distilled from a mash made up of not less than 80 percent corn — compare BOURBON
¹corny \'kȯr-nē\ *adj* **corn·i·er; -est** **1** *archaic* : tasting strongly of malt **2** : of or relating to corn **3** : mawkishly old-fashioned : tiresomely simple and sentimental : TRITE — **corn·i·ly** \'kȯrn-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **corn·i·ness** \'kōr-nē-nəs\ *n*
²corny *adj* **corn·i·er; -est** : relating to or having corns on the feet
cor·o·dy \'kȯr-əd-ē, 'kär-\ *n, pl* **-dies** [ME *corrodie*, fr. ML *corrodium*] : an allowance of provisions for maintenance dispensed as a charity
co·rol·la \kə-'räl-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. L, dim. of *corona*] : the petals of a flower constituting the inner floral envelope surrounding the sporophylls — **co·rol·late** \kə-'räl-ət; 'kȯr-ə-ˌlāt, 'kär-\ *adj*
cor·ol·lary \'kȯr-ə-ˌler-ē, 'kär-, *Brit* kə-'räl-ə-rē\ *n, pl* **-lar·ies** [ME *corolarie*, fr. LL *corollarium*, fr. L, money paid for a garland, gratuity, fr. *corolla*] **1** : an immediate inference from a proved proposition **2 a** : something that naturally follows : RESULT **b** : something that incidentally or naturally accompanies or parallels — **corollary** *adj*
cor·o·man·del \ˌkȯr-ə-'man-dᵊl, ˌkär-\ *n* [*Coromandel* coast region, India] : an East Indian timber tree (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) with a hard dark-colored wood — called also *coromandel ebony*
co·ro·na \kə-'rō-nə\ *n* [L, garland, crown, cornice — more at CROWN] **1** : the projecting part of a classic cornice **2 a** : a usu. colored circle often seen around and close to a luminous body (as the sun or moon) caused by diffraction produced by suspended droplets or occas. particles of dust **b** : the tenuous outermost part of the atmosphere of the sun appearing as a halo around the moon's black disk during a total eclipse of the sun; *also* : a similar portion of the atmosphere of a star **c** : a circle of light made by the apparent convergence of the streamers of the aurora borealis **d** : the upper portion of a bodily part (as a tooth or the skull) **e** : an appendage on the inner side of the corolla in some flowers (as the daffodil, jonquil, or milkweed) **f** : a faint glow adjacent to the surface of an electrical conductor at high voltage **3** [fr. *La Corona*, a trademark] : a long cigar having the sides straight to the unsealed end and being roundly blunt at the sealed end
Corona Aus·tra·lis \-ȯ-'strā-ləs, -ä-\ *n* [L (gen. *Coronae Australis*), lit., southern crown] : a southern constellation adjoining Sagittarius on the south
Corona Bo·re·al·is \-ˌbōr-ē-'al-əs, -ˌbȯr-\ *n* [L (gen. *Coronae Borealis*), lit., northern crown] : a northern constellation between Hercules and Boötes
cor·o·nach \'kȯr-ə-nək, 'kär-\ *n* [ScGael *corranach* & IrGael *corānach*] : a funeral dirge sung or played on the bagpipes in Scotland and Ireland
co·ro·na·graph *also* **co·ro·no·graph** \kə-'rō-nə-ˌgraf\ *n* : a telescope for observation of the sun's corona
¹cor·o·nal *also* **cor·o·nel** \'kȯr-ən-ᵊl, 'kär-\ *n* [ME *coronal*, fr. AF, fr. L *coronalis* of a crown, fr. *corona*] : a circlet for the head usu. implying rank or dignity
²co·ro·nal \'kȯr-ən-ᵊl, 'kär-; kə-'rōn-\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a corona or crown **2 a** : lying in the direction of the coronal suture **b** : of or relating to the frontal plane that passes through the long axis of the body
coronal suture *n* : a suture extending across the skull between the parietal and frontal bones

co·ro·na ra·di·a·ta \kə-'rō-nə-ˌrād-ē-'āt-ə, -'ät-\ *n, pl* **co·ro·nae ra·di·a·tae** \-(ˌ)nē-ˌrād-ē-'āt-(ˌ)ē, -'ät-\ [NL, lit., crown with rays] : the zone of small follicular cells immediately surrounding the ovum in the Graafian follicle and accompanying the ovum on its discharge from the follicle

[1]cor·o·nary \'kȯr-ə-ˌner-ē, 'kär-\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, resembling, or being a crown or coronal **2** : relating to or being the coronary arteries or veins of the heart; *broadly* : of or relating to the heart

[2]coronary *n, pl* **-nar·ies** **1** **a** : CORONARY ARTERY **b** : CORONARY VEIN **2** : CORONARY THROMBOSIS

coronary artery *n* : either of two arteries, one on the right and one on the left, that arise from the aorta immediately above the semilunar valves and supply the tissues of the heart itself

coronary occlusion *n* : the partial or complete blocking (as by a thrombus, by spasm, or by sclerosis) of a coronary artery

coronary sinus *n* : a venous channel that is derived from the sinus venosus, is continuous with the largest of the cardiac veins, receives most of the blood from the walls of the heart, and empties into the right atrium

coronary thrombosis *n* : the blocking of a coronary artery of the heart by a thrombus

coronary vein *n* : any of several veins that drain the tissues of the heart and empty into the coronary sinus

cor·o·na·tion \ˌkȯr-ə-'nā-shən, ˌkär-\ *n* [ME *coronacion*, fr. MF *coronation*, fr. *coroner* to crown] : the act or ceremony of investing a sovereign or his consort with the royal crown

cor·o·ner \'kȯr-ə-nər, 'kär-\ *n* [ME, an officer of the crown, fr. AF, fr. OF *corone* crown, fr. L *corona*] : a public officer whose principal duty is to inquire by an inquest into the cause of any death which there is reason to suppose is not due to natural causes

cor·o·net \ˌkȯr-ə-'net, ˌkär-\ *n* [MF *coronette*, fr. OF *coronete*, fr. *corone*] **1** : a small or lesser crown usu. signifying a rank below that of a sovereign **2** : an ornamental wreath or band for the head usu. for wear by women on formal occasions **3** : the lower part of a horse's pastern where the horn terminates in skin — see HORSE illustration

co·ro·tate \('ō-'rō-ˌtāt\ *vi* : to rotate in conjunction with or at the same rate as another rotating body — **co·ro·ta·tion** \ˌkō-rō-'tā-shən\ *n*

corp *abbr* **1** corporal **2** corporation

corpora *pl of* CORPUS

[1]cor·po·ral \'kȯr-p(ə-)rəl\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. ML *corporale*, fr. L, neut. of *corporalis*; fr. the doctrine that the bread of the Eucharist becomes or represents the body of Christ] : a linen cloth on which the eucharistic elements are placed

[2]corporal *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *corporalis*, fr. *corpor-, corpus* body] **1** : of, relating to, or affecting the body ⟨~ punishment⟩ **2** *obs* : CORPOREAL, PHYSICAL ***syn*** see BODILY — **cor·po·ral·ly** \-p(ə-)rə-lē\ *adv*

[3]corporal *n* [MF, lowest noncommissioned officer, alter. of *caporal*, fr. OIt *caporale*, fr. *capo* head, fr. L *caput* — more at HEAD] : a noncommissioned officer ranking in the army above a private first class and below a sergeant and in the marine corps above a lance corporal and below a sergeant

cor·po·ral·i·ty \ˌkȯr-pə-'ral-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** : the quality or state of being or having a body or a material or physical existence

corporal's guard *n* **1** : the small detachment commanded by a corporal **2** : a small group

cor·po·rate \'kȯr-p(ə-)rət\ *adj* [L *corporatus*, pp. of *corporare* to make into a body, fr. *corpor-, corpus*] **1** **a** : formed into an association and endowed by law with the rights and liabilities of an individual : INCORPORATED **b** : of or relating to a corporation ⟨a plan to reorganize the ~ structure⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or formed into a unified body of individuals ⟨human law arises by the ~ action of a people —G. H. Sabine⟩ ⟨the yeomen . . . were a ~ society like the country gentry —Adrian Bell⟩ **3** : CORPORATIVE 2 — **cor·po·rate·ly** *adv*

cor·po·ra·tion \ˌkȯr-pə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** **a** *obs* : a group of merchants or traders united in a trade guild **b** : the municipal authorities of a town or city **2** : a body formed and authorized by law to act as a single person although constituted by one or more persons and legally endowed with various rights and duties including the capacity of succession **3** : an association of employers and employees in a basic industry or of members of a profession organized as an organ of political representation in a corporative state **4** : POTBELLY 1

cor·po·rat·ism \'kȯr-p(ə-)rət-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : the organization of a society into industrial and professional corporations serving as organs of political representation and exercising some control over persons and activities within their jurisdiction — **cor·po·rat·ist** \-p(ə-)rət-əst\ *adj*

cor·po·ra·tive \'kȯr-pə-ˌrāt-iv, -p(ə-)rət-\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a corporation **2** : of or relating to corporatism ⟨a ~ state⟩

cor·po·ra·tiv·ism \'kȯr-pə-ˌrāt-i-ˌviz-əm, -p(ə-)rət-\ *n* : CORPORATISM

cor·po·ra·tor \'kȯr-pə-ˌrāt-ər\ *n* : a corporation organizer, member, or stockholder

cor·po·re·al \kȯr-'pōr-ē-əl, -'pȯr-\ *adj* [L *corporeus* of the body, fr. *corpor-, corpus*] **1** : having, consisting of, or relating to a physical material body: as **a** : not spiritual **b** : not immaterial or intangible : SUBSTANTIAL **2** *archaic* : CORPORAL ***syn*** **1** see MATERIAL ***ant*** incorporeal **2** see BODILY — **cor·po·re·al·ly** \-ē-ə-lē\ *adv* — **cor·po·re·al·ness** *n*

cor·po·re·al·i·ty \(ˌ)kȯr-ˌpōr-ē-'al-ət-ē, -ˌpȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ties** : corporeal existence

cor·po·re·ity \ˌkȯr-pə-'rē-ət-ē, -'rā-\ *n, pl* **-ities** : the quality or state of having or being a body : MATERIALITY

cor·po·sant \'kȯr-pə-ˌsant, -ˌzant\ *n* [Pg *corpo-santo*, lit., holy body] : SAINT ELMO'S FIRE

corps \'kō(ə)r, 'kȯ(ə)r\ *n, pl* **corps** \'kō(ə)rz, 'kȯ(ə)rz\ [F, fr. L *corpus* body] **1** **a** : an organized subdivision of the military establishment ⟨Marine *Corps*⟩ ⟨Signal *Corps*⟩ **b** : a tactical unit usu. consisting of two or more divisions and auxiliary arms and services **2** **a** : a group of persons associated together or acting under common direction; *esp* : a body of persons having a common activity or occupation ⟨the press ~⟩ **b** : an association of German university students **3** : CORPS DE BALLET

corps area *n* : a former territorial division of the U. S. for purposes of military administration and training

corps de bal·let \ˌkōrd-ə-(ˌ)ba-'lā, ˌkȯrd-\ *n, pl* **corps de ballet** *same, or* ˌkōrz-də-, ˌkȯrz-\ [F] : the ensemble of a ballet company

corps d'elite \ˌkōr-dā-'lēt, ˌkȯr-\ *n, pl* **corps d'elite** *same, or* ˌkōrz-dā-, ˌkȯrz-\ [F *corps d'élite*] **1** : a body of picked troops **2** : a group of the best people in a category ⟨thirteen reporters — the *corps d'elite* of a great newspaper —*N.Y. Herald Tribune*⟩

corpse \'kȯ(ə)rps\ *n* [ME *corps*, fr. MF, fr. L *corpus* — more at MIDRIFF] **1** *obs* : a human or animal body whether living or dead **2** **a** : a dead body esp. of a human being **b** : something discarded or defunct ⟨it was an awful thing to look at the ~ of a city —*Nat'l Geographic*⟩

corps·man \'kō(ə)r(z)-mən, 'kȯ(ə)r(z)-\ *n* **1** : an enlisted man trained to give first aid and minor medical treatment **2** : a member of a government-sponsored service corps

cor·pu·lence \'kȯr-pyə-lən(t)s\ *n* : the state of being excessively fat

cor·pu·len·cy \-lən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** : CORPULENCE

cor·pu·lent \-lənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *corpulentus*, fr. *corpus*] : having a large bulky body : OBESE — **cor·pu·lent·ly** *adv*

cor pul·mo·na·le \ˌkȯr-ˌpůl-mə-'näl-ē, -ˌpəl-, -'nal-\ *n, pl* **cor·dia pul·mo·na·lia** \'kȯrd-ē-ə- . . . -'näl-ē-ə, -'nal-\ [NL, lit., pulmonary heart] : disease of the heart characterized by hypertrophy and dilatation of the right ventricle and secondary to disease of the lungs or their blood vessels

cor·pus \'kȯr-pəs\ *n, pl* **cor·po·ra** \-p(ə-)rə\ [ME, fr. L] **1** : the body of a man or animal esp. when dead **2** **a** : the main part or body of a bodily structure or organ ⟨the ~ of the uterus⟩ **b** : the main body or corporeal substance of a thing; *specif* : the principal of a fund or estate as distinct from income or interest **3** **a** : all the writings of a particular kind or on a particular subject; *esp* : the complete works of an author **b** : a collection or body of knowledge or evidence; *esp* : a collection of recorded utterances used as a basis for the descriptive analysis of a language

corpus al·la·tum \-ə-'lāt-əm, -'lät-\ *n, pl* **corpora al·la·ta** \-'lāt-ə, -'lät-ə\ [NL, lit., applied body] : one of a pair of separate or fused bodies in many insects that are sometimes closely associated with the corpora cardiaca and that secrete hormones (as juvenile hormone)

corpus cal·lo·sum \-ka-'lō-səm\ *n, pl* **corpora cal·lo·sa** \-sə\ [NL, lit., callous body] : the great band of commissural fibers uniting the cerebral hemispheres in man and in the higher mammals — see BRAIN illustration

corpus car·di·a·cum \-kär-'dī-ə-kəm\ *n, pl* **corpora car·di·a·ca** \-ə-kə\ [NL, lit., cardiac body] : one of a pair of separate or fused bodies of nervous tissue in many insects that lie posterior to the brain and dorsal to the esophagus and that function in the storage and secretion of brain hormone

Cor·pus Chris·ti \ˌkȯr-pə-'skris-tē\ *n* [ME, fr. ML, lit., body of Christ] : the Thursday after Trinity Sunday observed as a Roman Catholic festival in honor of the Eucharist

cor·pus·cle \'kȯr-(ˌ)pəs-əl\ *n* [L *corpusculum*, dim. of *corpus*] **1** : a minute particle **2** **a** : a living cell; *esp* : one (as a red or white blood cell or a cell in cartilage or bone) not aggregated into continuous tissues **b** : a small circumscribed multicellular body — **cor·pus·cu·lar** \kȯr-'pəs-kyə-lər\ *adj*

cor·pus de·lic·ti \-di-'lik-ˌtī, -(ˌ)tē\ *n, pl* **corpora delicti** [NL, lit., body of the crime] **1** : the substantial and fundamental fact necessary to prove the commission of a crime **2** : the material substance (as the body of the victim of a murder) upon which a crime has been committed

corpus lu·te·um \-'lüt-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **corpora lu·tea** \-ē-ə\ [NL, lit., yellowish body] : a reddish yellow mass of endocrine tissue that forms from a ruptured Graafian follicle in the mammalian ovary

corr *abbr* — see COR

cor·rade \kə-'rād\ *vb* **cor·rad·ed; cor·rad·ing** [L *corradere* to scrape together, fr. *com-* + *radere* to scrape — more at RAT] *vt* : to wear away by abrasion ~ *vi* : to crumble away through abrasion — **cor·ra·sion** \-'rā-zhən\ *n* — **cor·ra·sive** \-'rā-siv, -ziv\ *adj*

[1]cor·ral \kə-'ral, -'rel\ *n* [Sp, fr. (assumed) VL *currale* enclosure for vehicles, fr. L *currus* cart, fr. *currere* to run — more at CURRENT] **1** : a pen or enclosure for confining or capturing livestock **2** : an enclosure made with wagons for defense of an encampment

[2]corral *vt* **cor·ralled; cor·ral·ling** **1** : to enclose in a corral **2** : to arrange (wagons) so as to form a corral **3** : COLLECT, GATHER ⟨helped elect certain municipal council members by *corralling* the necessary votes —R. L. Maullin⟩

[1]cor·rect \kə-'rekt\ *vt* [ME *correcten*, fr. L *correctus*, pp. of *corrigere*, fr. *com-* + *regere* to lead straight — more at RIGHT] **1** **a** : to make or set right : AMEND **b** : COUNTERACT, NEUTRALIZE **c** : to alter or adjust so as to bring to some standard or required condition ⟨~ a lens for spherical aberration⟩ **2** **a** : to punish (as a child) with a view to reforming or improving **b** : to point out for amendment the errors or faults of ⟨spent the whole day ~*ing* examination papers⟩ — **cor·rect·able** \-'rek-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **cor·rec·tor** \-'rek-tər\ *n*

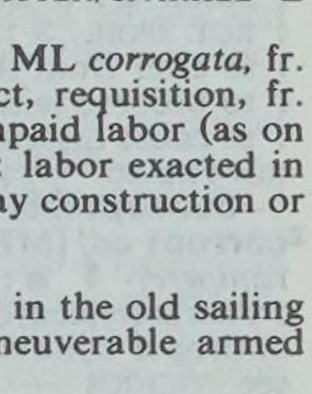
syn **1** CORRECT, RECTIFY, EMEND, REMEDY, REDRESS, AMEND, REFORM, REVISE *shared meaning element* : to make right what is wrong
2 see PUNISH

[2]correct *adj* [ME, corrected, fr. L *correctus*, fr. pp. of *corrigere*] **1** : conforming to an approved or conventional standard ⟨relations . . . were ~ but not very friendly —W. L. Shirer⟩ ⟨find him a courteous, ~, if not always candid, subject —Robert Neville⟩ **2** : conforming to or agreeing with fact, logic, or known truth **3** : conforming to a set figure ⟨enclosed the ~ return postage⟩ — **cor·rect·ly** \kə-'rek-(t)lē\ *adv* — **cor·rect·ness** \-'rek(t)-nəs\ *n*

syn CORRECT, ACCURATE, EXACT, PRECISE, NICE, RIGHT *shared meaning element* : conforming to fact, truth, or a standard ***ant*** incorrect

corrected time *n* : a boat's elapsed time less her time allowance in yacht racing
cor·rec·tion \kə-'rek-shən\ *n* **1** : the action or an instance of correcting: as **a** : AMENDMENT, RECTIFICATION **b** : REBUKE, PUNISHMENT **c** : a bringing into conformity with a standard **d** : NEUTRALIZATION, COUNTERACTION ⟨~ of acidity⟩ **2** : a decline in market price or business activity following and counteracting a rise **3 a** : something substituted in place of what is wrong ⟨marking ~*s* on the students' papers⟩ **b** : a quantity applied by way of correcting (as for adjustment or inaccuracy of an instrument) **4** : the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders through a program involving penal custody, parole, and probation; *also* : the administration of such treatment as a matter of public policy — usu. used in pl. — **cor·rec·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*
cor·rec·ti·tude \kə-'rek-tə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* [blend of *correct* and *rectitude*] : correctness or propriety of conduct
cor·rec·tive \kə-'rek-tiv\ *adj* : tending to correct ⟨~ lenses⟩ ⟨~ punishment⟩ — **corrective** *n* — **cor·rec·tive·ly** *adv* — **cor·rective·ness** *n*
¹cor·re·late \'kȯr-ə-ləṭ, 'kär-, -ˌlāṭ\ *n* [back-formation fr. *correlation*] **1** : either of two things so related that one directly implies or is complementary to the other (as husband and wife) **2** : a phenomenon (as brain activity) that accompanies another phenomenon (as behavior), is usu. parallel to it (as in form, type, development, or distribution), and is related in some way to it ***syn*** see PARALLEL — **correlate** *adj*
²cor·re·late \-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** *vi* : to bear reciprocal or mutual relations ~ *vt* **1 a** : to establish a mutual or reciprocal relation of **b** : to show a causal relationship between **2** : to relate so that to each member of one set or series a corresponding member of another is assigned **3** : to present or set forth so as to show relationship ⟨he ~*s* the findings of the scientists, the psychologists, and the mystics —Eugene Exman⟩ — **cor·re·lat·able** \-ˌlāt-ə-bəl\ *adj*
cor·re·la·tion \ˌkȯr-ə-'lā-shən, ˌkär-\ *n* [ML *correlation-, correlatio,* fr. L *com-* + *relation-, relatio* relation] **1 a** : the act of correlating **b** : the state of being correlated; *specif* : a relation of phenomena as invariable accompaniments of each other ⟨the assumption that there is a positive ~ between performance and pay —Kermit Eby⟩ **2** : reciprocal relation in the occurrence of different structures, characteristics, or processes in organisms **3** : an interdependence between mathematical variables esp. in statistics — **cor·re·la·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*
correlation coefficient *n* : a number or function that indicates the degree of correlation between two sets of data or between two random variables and that is equal to their covariance divided by the product of their standard deviations
cor·rel·a·tive \kə-'rel-ət-iv\ *adj* **1** : naturally related : CORRESPONDING **2** : reciprocally related **3** : regularly used together but typically not adjacent ⟨the ~ conjunctions *either . . . or*⟩ — **correlative** *n* — **cor·rel·a·tive·ly** *adv*
cor·re·spond \ˌkȯr-ə-'spänd, ˌkär-\ *vi* [MF or ML; MF *correspondre,* fr. ML *correspondēre,* fr. L *com-* + *respondēre* to respond] **1 a** : to be in conformity or agreement : SUIT ⟨fulfillment seldom ~*s* to anticipation⟩ **b** : to compare closely : MATCH — usu. used with *to* or *with* **c** : to be equivalent or parallel **2** : to communicate with a person by exchange of letters ⟨frequently ~*s* with his cousin⟩ ***syn*** see AGREE
cor·re·spon·dence \-'spän-dən(t)s\ *n* **1 a** : the agreement of things with one another **b** : a particular similarity **c** : association of one or more members of one set with each member of a second set : FUNCTION, MAPPING **2 a** : communication by letters; *also* : the letters exchanged **b** : the news, information, or opinion contributed by a correspondent to a newspaper or periodical
correspondence school *n* : a school that teaches nonresident students by mailing them lessons and exercises which upon completion are returned to the school for grading
cor·re·spon·den·cy \ˌkȯr-ə-'spän-dən-sē, ˌkär-\ *n, pl* **-cies** : CORRESPONDENCE
¹cor·re·spon·dent \ˌkȯr-ə-'spän-dənt, ˌkär-\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or ML; MF, fr. ML *correspondent-, correspondens,* prp. of *correspondēre*] **1** : CORRESPONDING ⟨each advantage having ~ disadvantages⟩ **2** : FITTING, CONFORMING — used with *with* or *to* ⟨the outcome was entirely ~ with my wishes⟩
²correspondent *n* **1** : something that corresponds **2 a** : one who communicates with another by letter **b** : one who has regular commercial relations with another **c** : one who contributes news or comment to a publication (as a newspaper) or a radio or television network often from a distant place ⟨a war ~⟩
cor·re·spond·ing *adj* **1 a** : agreeing in some respect (as kind, degree, position, or function) ⟨the figures are large but the ~ totals next year will be larger⟩ **b** : RELATED, ACCOMPANYING ⟨all rights carry with them ~ responsibilites —W. P. Paepcke⟩ **2 a** : charged with the duty of writing letters ⟨~ secretary⟩ **b** : participating or serving at a distance and by mail ⟨a ~ member of the society⟩ — **cor·re·spond·ing·ly** \-'spän-diŋ-lē\ *adv*
cor·re·spon·sive \ˌkȯr-ə-'spän(t)-siv, ˌkär-\ *adj* : mutually responsive
cor·ri·da \kȯ-'rē-t͟hə\ *n* [Sp, lit., act of running] : BULLFIGHT
cor·ri·dor \'kȯr-əd-ər, 'kär-, -ə-ˌdȯ(ə)r\ *n* [MF, fr. OIt *corridore,* fr. *correre* to run, fr. L *currere* — more at CURRENT] **1** : a passageway (as in a hotel) into which compartments or rooms open **2** : a usu. narrow passageway or route: as **a** : a narrow strip of land through foreign-held territory **b** (1) : a restricted lane for air traffic (2) : a restricted path a spacecraft must follow to accomplish its mission : WINDOW 3 **3** : a densely populated strip of land including two or more major cities ⟨the Northeast ~ stretching from Washington into New England —S. D. Browne⟩
cor·rie \'kȯr-ē, 'kär-ē\ *n* [ScGael *coire,* lit., kettle] : CIRQUE 3
Cor·rie·dale \-ˌdāl\ *n* [*Corriedale,* ranch in New Zealand] : any of a dual-purpose breed of rather large usu. hornless sheep developed in New Zealand
cor·ri·gen·dum \ˌkȯr-ə-'jen-dəm, ˌkär-\ *n, pl* **-da** \-də\ [L, neut. of *corrigendus,* gerundive of *corrigere* to correct] : an error in a printed work discovered after printing and shown with its correction on a separate sheet bound with the original
cor·ri·gi·ble \'kȯr-ə-jə-bəl, 'kär-\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. ML *corrigibilis,* fr. L *corrigere*] : capable of being set right : REPARABLE ⟨a ~ defect⟩ — **cor·ri·gi·bil·i·ty** \ˌkȯr-ə-jə-'bil-ət-ē, ˌkär-\ *n* — **cor·ri·gibly** \'kȯr-ə-jə-blē, 'kär-\ *adv*
cor·ri·val \kə-'rī-vəl, kȯ-, kō-\ *n* [MF, fr. L *corrivalis,* fr. *com-* + *rivalis* rival] : RIVAL, COMPETITOR — **corrival** *adj*
cor·rob·o·rant \kə-'räb-ə-rənt\ *adj, archaic* : having an invigorating effect — used of a medicine
cor·rob·o·rate \kə-'räb-ə-ˌrāt\ *vt* **-rat·ed; -rat·ing** [L *corroboratus,* pp. of *corroborare,* fr. *com-* + *robor-, robur* strength] : to support with evidence or authority : make more certain ***syn*** see CONFIRM ***ant*** contradict — **cor·rob·o·ra·tion** \-ˌräb-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* — **cor·rob·o·ra·tive** \-'räb-ə-ˌrāt-iv, -'räb-(ə-)rət-\ *adj* — **cor·rob·o·ra·tor** \-'räb-ə-ˌrāt-ər\ *n* — **cor·rob·o·ra·to·ry** \-'räb-(ə-)rə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*
cor·rob·o·ree \kə-'räb-ə-rē\ *n* [fr. native name in New South Wales, Australia] **1** : a nocturnal festivity with songs and symbolic dances by which the Australian aborigines celebrate events of importance **2** *Austral* **a** : a noisy festivity **b** : TUMULT
cor·rode \kə-'rōd\ *vb* **cor·rod·ed; cor·rod·ing** [ME *corroden,* fr. L *corrodere* to gnaw to pieces, fr. *com-* + *rodere* to gnaw — more at RAT] *vt* **1** : to eat away by degrees as if by gnawing; *esp* : to wear away gradually usu. by chemical action ⟨the metal was *corroded* beyond repair⟩ **2** : to weaken or destroy gradually ⟨manners and miserliness that ~ the human spirit —Bernard DeVoto⟩ ~ *vi* : to undergo corrosion ⟨the bare metal will ~ after a few weeks of exposure to the weather⟩ — **cor·rod·ible** \-'rōd-ə-bəl\ *adj*
cor·ro·dy *var of* CORODY
cor·ro·sion \kə-'rō-zhən\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *corrosion-, corrosio* act of gnawing, fr. L *corrosus,* pp. of *corrodere*] **1** : the action, process, or effect of corroding **2** : a product of corroding
cor·ro·sive \-'rō-siv, -ziv\ *adj* **1** : tending or having the power to corrode ⟨~ acids⟩ ⟨~ action⟩ **2 a** : weakening or destroying by a gradual process ⟨the ~ influence of industrialization —Louise C. Hunter⟩ **b** : bitingly sarcastic ⟨~ satire⟩ — **corrosive** *n* — **cor·ro·sive·ly** *adv* — **cor·ro·sive·ness** *n*
corrosive sublimate *n* : MERCURIC CHLORIDE
cor·ru·gate \'kȯr-ə-ˌgāt, 'kär-\ *vb* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** [L *corrugatus,* pp. of *corrugare,* fr. *com-* + *ruga* wrinkle — more at ROUGH] *vt* : to form or shape into wrinkles or folds or into alternating ridges and grooves : FURROW ⟨*corrugated* his brows in thought —John Buchan⟩ ~ *vi* : to become corrugated
corrugated iron *n* : usu. galvanized sheet iron or sheet steel shaped into straight parallel regular and equally curved ridges and hollows
cor·ru·ga·tion \ˌkȯr-ə-'gā-shən, ˌkär-\ *n* **1** : the act of corrugating **2** : a ridge or groove of a corrugated surface
¹cor·rupt \kə-'rəpt\ *vb* [ME *corrupten,* fr. L *corruptus,* pp. of *corrumpere,* fr. *com-* + *rumpere* to break — more at REAVE] *vt* **1 a** : to change from good to bad in morals, manners, or actions; *also* : BRIBE **b** : to degrade with unsound principles or moral values **2** : ROT, SPOIL **3** : to subject (a person) to corruption of blood **4** : to alter from the original or correct form or version ~ *vi* **1 a** : to become tainted or rotten **b** : to become morally debased **2** : to cause disintegration or ruin ***syn*** see DEBASE — **cor·rupt·er** *or* **cor·rup·tor** \-'rəp-tər\ *n* — **cor·rupt·ibil·i·ty** \-ˌrəp-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **cor·rupt·ible** \-'rəp-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **cor·rupt·ibly** \-blē\ *adv*
²corrupt *adj* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *corruptus,* fr. pp. of *corrumpere*] **1 a** : morally degenerate and perverted : DEPRAVED **b** : characterized by bribery, the selling of political favors, or other improper conduct ⟨~ judges⟩ **2** *archaic* : PUTRID, TAINTED ***syn*** see VICIOUS — **cor·rupt·ly** \-'rəp-(t)lē\ *adv* — **cor·rupt·ness** \-'rəp(t)-nəs\ *n*
cor·rup·tion \kə-'rəp-shən\ *n* **1 a** : impairment of integrity, virtue, or moral principle : DEPRAVITY **b** : DECAY, DECOMPOSITION **c** : inducement to wrong by bribery or other unlawful or improper means **d** : a departure from what is pure or correct **2** *archaic* : an agency or influence that corrupts **3** *chiefly dial* : PUS
cor·rup·tion·ist \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n* : one who practices or defends corruption esp. in politics
corruption of blood : the effect of an attainder upon a person which bars him from inheriting, retaining, or transmitting any estate, rank, or title
cor·rup·tive \kə-'rəp-tiv\ *adj* : producing or tending to produce corruption — **cor·rup·tive·ly** *adv*
cor·sage \kȯr-'säzh, -'säj, 'kȯr-ˌ\ *n* [F, bust, bodice, fr. OF, bust, fr. *cors* body, fr. L *corpus*] **1** : the waist or bodice of a woman's dress **2** : an arrangement of flowers to be worn by a woman
cor·sair \'kȯr-ˌsa(ə)r, -ˌse(ə)r\ *n* [MF & OIt; MF *corsaire* pirate, fr. OProv *corsari,* fr. OIt *corsaro,* fr. ML *cursarius,* fr. L *cursus* course — more at COURSE] : PIRATE; *esp* : a privateer of the Barbary coast
corse \'kȯ(ə)rs\ *n* [ME *cors,* fr. OF, body] *archaic* : CORPSE
corse·let *for 1* 'kȯr-slət, *for 2* ˌkȯr-sə-'let\ *n* **1** *or* **corslet** [MF, dim. of *cors* body, bodice] **a** : a piece of armor covering the trunk but usu. not the arms or legs **b** : a pikeman's armor including helmet **2** *or* **cor·se·lette** [fr. *Corselette,* a trademark] : an undergarment combining girdle and brassiere
¹cor·set \'kȯr-sət\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, dim. of *cors*] **1** : a usu. close-fitting and often laced medieval jacket **2** : a woman's close-fitting boned supporting undergarment that is often hooked and laced and that extends from above or beneath the bust or from the waist to below the hips and has garters attached
²corset *vt* **1** : to dress in or fit with a corset **2** : to restrict closely : control rigidly

corset cover *n* : a woman's undergarment worn over a corset
cor·se·tiere \ˌkȯr-sə-ˈti(ə)r, -ˈtye(ə)r\ *n* [F *corsetière*, fem. of *corsetier*, fr. *corset*] : one who makes, fits, or sells corsets, girdles, or brassieres
cor·tege *also* **cor·tège** \kȯr-ˈtezh, ˈkȯr-ˌ\ *n* [F *cortège*, fr. It *corteggio*, fr. *corteggiare* to court, fr. *corte* court, fr. L *cohort-*, *cohors* throng — more at COURT] **1** : a train of attendants : RETINUE **2** : PROCESSION; *esp* : a funeral procession
cor·tex \ˈkȯr-ˌteks\ *n, pl* **cor·ti·ces** \ˈkȯrt-ə-ˌsēz\ *or* **cor·tex·es** [L *cortic-*, *cortex* bark — more at CUIRASS] **1** : a plant bark or rind (as cinchona) used medicinally **2 a** : the outer or superficial part of an organ or body structure (as the kidney, adrenal gland, or a hair); *esp* : the outer layer of gray matter of the cerebrum and cerebellum **b** : the outer part of some organisms (as paramecia) **3 a** : the typically parenchymatous layer of tissue external to the vascular tissue and internal to the corky or epidermal tissues of a green plant; *broadly* : all tissues external to the xylem **b** : an outer or investing layer of various algae, lichens, or fungi
cor·ti·cal \ˈkȯrt-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or consisting of cortex **2** : involving or resulting from the action or condition of the cerebral cortex — **cor·ti·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cor·ti·cate \ˈkȯrt-ə-ˌkāt\ *adj* : having a cortex
cortico- *comb form* **1** : cortex ⟨*cortico*adrenal⟩ **2** : cortical and ⟨*cortico*spinal⟩
cor·ti·coid \ˈkȯrt-i-ˌkȯid\ *n* : any of various adrenal-cortex steroids
cor·ti·co·ste·roid \ˌkȯrt-i-kō-ˈsti(ə)r-ˌȯid *also* -ˈste(ə)r-\ *n* : CORTICOID
cor·ti·co·ste·rone \ˌkȯrt-ə-ˈkäs-tə-ˌrōn, -i-kō-stə-ˈ\ *n* : a colorless crystalline steroid hormone $C_{21}H_{30}O_4$ of the adrenal cortex that is important in protein and carbohydrate metabolism
cor·ti·co·tro·pin \-ˈtrō-pən\ *or* **cor·ti·co·tro·phin** \-fən\ *n* [*corticotropic* + *-in*] : ADRENOCORTICOTROPHIC HORMONE; *also* : a preparation of ACTH that is used esp. in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and rheumatic fever
cor·tin \ˈkȯrt-ᵊn\ *n* : the active principle of the adrenal cortex
cor·ti·sol \ˈkȯrt-ə-ˌsȯl, -ˌzȯl, -ˌsōl, -ˌzōl\ *n* [*cortis*one + *-ol*] : a crystalline hormone $C_{21}H_{30}O_5$ of the adrenal cortex that is a dihydro derivative of cortisone and is used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis — called also *hydrocortisone*
cor·ti·sone \-ˌsōn, -ˌzōn\ *n* [alter. of *corticosterone*] : a steroid hormone $C_{21}H_{28}O_5$ of the adrenal cortex used esp. in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis
co·run·dum \kə-ˈrən-dəm\ *n* [Tamil *kuruntam*, fr. Skt *kuruvinda* ruby] : a very hard mineral Al_2O_3 that consists of aluminum oxide occurring in massive form and as variously colored crystals which include the ruby and sapphire, that can be synthesized, and that is used as an abrasive (hardness 9, sp. gr. 3.95–4.10)
co·rus·cant \kə-ˈrəs-kənt\ *adj* : SHINING, GLITTERING
cor·us·cate \ˈkȯr-ə-ˌskāt, ˈkär-\ *vi* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *coruscatus*, pp. of *coruscare*] **1** : to give off or reflect light in bright beams or flashes : SPARKLE **2** : to be brilliant or showy in technique or style
syn see FLASH
cor·us·ca·tion \ˌkȯr-ə-ˈskā-shən, ˌkär-\ *n* **1** : GLITTER, SPARKLE **2** : a flash of wit
cor·vée \ˈkȯr-ˌvā, kȯr-ˈ\ *n* [ME *corvee*, fr. MF, fr. ML *corrogata*, fr. L, fem. of *corrogatus*, pp. of *corrogare* to collect, requisition, fr. *com-* + *rogare* to ask — more at RIGHT] **1** : unpaid labor (as on roads) due from a feudal vassal to his lord **2** : labor exacted in lieu of taxes by public authorities esp. for highway construction or repair
corves *pl of* CORF
cor·vette \kȯr-ˈvet\ *n* [F] **1** : a warship ranking in the old sailing navies next below a frigate **2** : a highly maneuverable armed escort ship that is smaller than a destroyer
cor·vi·na \kȯr-ˈvē-nə\ *var of* CORBINA
cor·vine \ˈkȯr-ˌvīn\ *adj* [L *corvinus*, fr. *corvus* raven — more at RAVEN] : of or relating to the crows : resembling a crow
Cor·vus \ˈkȯr-vəs\ *n* [L (gen. *Corvi*), lit., raven] : a small constellation adjoining Virgo on the south
Cor·y·bant \ˈkȯr-ə-bant, ˈkär-\ *n, pl* **Cor·y·bants** \-ˌban(t)s\ *or* **Cor·y·ban·tes** \ˌkȯr-ə-ˈbant-ēz, ˌkär-\ [F *Corybante*, fr. L *Corybas*, fr. Gk *Korybas*] : one of the attendants or priests of Cybele noted for orgiastic processions and rites — **cor·y·ban·tic** \ˌkȯr-ə-ˈbant-ik, ˌkär-\ *adj*
co·ryd·a·lis \kə-ˈrid-ᵊl-əs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *korydallis* crested lark; akin to L *cornu* horn — more at HORN] : any of a large genus (*Corydalis*) of herbs of the fumitory family with racemose irregular flowers
cor·ymb \ˈkȯr-ˌim(b), ˈkär-, -əm(b)\ *n, pl* **cor·ymbs** \-ˌimz, -əmz\ [F *corymbe*, fr. L *corymbus* cluster of fruit or flowers, fr. Gk *korymbos*] : a flat-topped inflorescence; *specif* : one in which the flower stalks arise at different levels on the main axis and reach about the same height and in which the outer flowers open first and the inflorescence is indeterminate — **cor·ymbed** \-ˌimd, -əmd\ *adj* — **cor·ym·bose** \-əm-ˌbōs\ *adj* — **cor·ym·bose·ly** *adv*



corymb of cherry: *1* peduncle, *2* pedicels, *3* bracts

co·ry·ne·bac·te·ri·um \ˌkȯr-ə-(ˌ)nē-bak-ˈtir-ē-əm, kə-ˌrin-ə-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *korynē* club; akin to L *cornu* horn] : any of a large genus (*Corynebacterium*) of usu. gram-positive nonmotile bacteria that occur as irregular or branching rods and include numerous important parasites of man, lower animals, and plants — **co·ry·ne·bac·te·ri·al** \-ē-əl\ *adj*
co·ryne·form \kə-ˈrin-ə-ˌfȯrm\ *adj* : being or resembling corynebacteria
cor·y·phae·us \ˌkȯr-ə-ˈfē-əs, ˌkär-\ *n, pl* **-phaei** \-ˈfē-ˌī\ [L, leader, fr. Gk *koryphaios*, fr. *koryphē* summit; akin to L *cornu*] **1** : the leader of a chorus **2** : the leader of a party or school of thought
co·ry·phée \ˌkȯr-i-ˈfā\ *n* [F, fr. L *coryphaeus*] : a ballet dancer who dances in a small group instead of in the corps de ballet or as a soloist
co·ry·za \kə-ˈrī-zə\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *koryza* nasal mucus; akin to OHG *hroz* nasal mucus, Skt *kardama* mud] : an acute inflammatory contagious disease involving the upper respiratory tract; *esp* : COMMON COLD — **co·ry·zal** \-zəl\ *adj*
¹cos *abbr* consul; consulship
²cos *symbol* cosine
COS *abbr* **1** cash on shipment **2** chief of staff
cosec *abbr* cosecant
co·se·cant \(ˈ)kō-ˈsē-ˌkant, -kənt\ *n* [NL *cosecant-*, *cosecans*, fr. *co-* + *secant-*, *secans* secant] : the trigonometric function that for an acute angle is the ratio between the hypotenuse of a right triangle of which the angle is considered part and the side opposite the angle
co·set \ˈkō-ˌset\ *n* : a subset of a mathematical group that consists of all the products obtained by multiplying either on the right or the left a fixed element of the group by each of the elements of a given subgroup
¹cosh \ˈkäsh\ *n* [perh. fr. Romany *kosh* stick] *chiefly Brit* : a weighted weapon similar to a blackjack; *also* : an attack with a cosh
²cosh *vt, chiefly Brit* : to strike or assault with or as if with a cosh
co·sig·na·to·ry \(ˈ)kō-ˈsig-nə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *n* : a joint signer
co·sign·er \ˈkō-ˌsī-nər\ *n* : COSIGNATORY; *esp* : a joint signer of a promissory note
co·sine \ˈkō-ˌsīn\ *n* [NL *cosinus*, fr. *co-* + ML *sinus* sine] : the trigonometric function that for an acute angle is the ratio between the side adjacent to the angle when it is considered part of a right triangle and the hypotenuse
cos lettuce \ˈkäs-, ˈkōs-\ *n* [*Kos*, *Cos*, Gk island] : a lettuce (*Lactuca sativa longifolia*) with long crisp leaves and columnar heads
¹cos·met·ic \käz-ˈmet-ik\ *n* : a cosmetic preparation for external use
²cosmetic *adj* [Gk *kosmētikos* skilled in adornment, fr. *kosmein* to arrange, adorn, fr. *kosmos* order] **1** : of, relating to, or making for beauty esp. of the complexion : BEAUTIFYING ⟨~ salves⟩ **2** : correcting defects esp. of the face ⟨~ surgery⟩
cosmetic case *n* : a small piece of luggage esp. for cosmetics
cos·me·ti·cian \ˌkäz-mə-ˈtish-ən\ *n* : one who is professionally trained in the use of cosmetics
cos·me·tol·o·gist \-ˈtäl-ə-jəst\ *n* : one who gives beauty treatments (as to skin and hair) — called also *beautician*
cos·me·tol·o·gy \-jē\ *n* [F *cosmétologie*, fr. *cosmétique* cosmetic (fr. E *cosmetic*) + *-logie* -logy] : the cosmetic treatment of the skin, hair, and nails
cos·mic \ˈkäz-mik\ *also* **cos·mi·cal** \-mi-kəl\ *adj* [Gk *kosmikos*, fr. *kosmos* order, universe] **1** : of or relating to the cosmos, the extraterrestrial vastness, or the universe in contrast to the earth alone **2** : characterized by greatness esp. in extent, intensity, or comprehensiveness ⟨an abiding illness of the 20th century . . . — a ~ boredom —Albert Hubbell⟩ — **cos·mi·cal·ly** \-mi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cosmic dust *n* : very fine particles of solid matter in any part of the universe
cosmic noise *n* : GALACTIC NOISE
cosmic ray *n* : a stream of atomic nuclei of heterogeneous extremely penetrating character that enter the earth's atmosphere from outer space at speeds approaching that of light and bombard atmospheric atoms to produce mesons as well as secondary particles possessing some of the original energy
cos·mo·chem·is·try \ˌkäz-mō-ˈkem-ə-strē\ *n* [Gk *kosmos* universe] : a branch of chemistry that deals with the chemical composition and changes in the universe — **cos·mo·chem·i·cal** \-ˈkem-i-kəl\ *adj*
cos·mo·gen·ic \ˌkäz-mə-ˈjen-ik\ *adj* [*cosmic* ray + *-o-* + *-genic*] : produced by the action of cosmic rays ⟨~ carbon 14⟩
cos·mog·o·ny \käz-ˈmäg-ə-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [NL *cosmogonia*, fr. Gk *kosmogonia*, fr. *kosmos* + *gonos* offspring] **1** : the creation or origin of the world or universe **2** : a theory of the origin of the universe — **cos·mo·gon·ic** \ˌkäz-mə-ˈgän-ik\ *or* **cos·mo·gon·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **cos·mog·o·nist** \käz-ˈmäg-ə-nəst\ *n*
cos·mog·ra·phy \käz-ˈmäg-rə-fē\ *n, pl* **-phies** [ME *cosmographie*, fr. LL *cosmographia*, fr. Gk *kosmographia*, fr. *kosmos* + *-graphia* -graphy] **1** : a general description of the world or of the universe **2** : the science that deals with the constitution of the whole order of nature — **cos·mog·ra·pher** \-fər\ *n* — **cos·mo·graph·ic** \ˌkäz-mə-ˈgraf-ik\ *or* **cos·mo·graph·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **cos·mo·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
Cosmoline \ˈkäz-mə-ˌlēn\ *trademark* — used for petrolatum
cos·mol·o·gy \käz-ˈmäl-ə-jē\ *n, pl* **-gies** [NL *cosmologia*, fr. Gk *kosmos* + NL *-logia* -logy] **1** : a branch of metaphysics that deals with the universe as an orderly system **2** : a branch of astronomy that deals with the origin, structure, and space-time relationships of the universe — **cos·mo·log·ic** \ˌkäz-mə-ˈläj-ik\ *or* **cos·mo·log·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **cos·mo·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **cos·mol·o·gist** \käz-ˈmäl-ə-jəst\ *n*
cos·mo·naut \ˈkäz-mə-ˌnȯt, -ˌnät\ *n* [part trans. of Russ *kosmonavt*, fr. Gk *kosmos* + Russ *-navt* (as in *aeronavt* aeronaut)] : a Soviet traveler beyond the earth's atmosphere : ASTRONAUT
cos·mop·o·lis \käz-ˈmäp-ə-ləs\ *n* [NL, back-formation fr. *cosmopolites*] : cosmopolitan city
¹cos·mo·pol·i·tan \ˌkäz-mə-ˈpäl-ət-ᵊn\ *adj* **1** : having worldwide rather than limited or provincial scope or bearing **2** : having wide international sophistication **3** : composed of persons, constituents, or elements from all or many parts of the world **4** : found in most parts of the world and under varied ecological conditions ⟨a ~ herb⟩ — **cos·mo·pol·i·tan·ism** \-ᵊn-ˌiz-əm\ *n*
²cosmopolitan *n* : COSMOPOLITE
cos·mop·o·lite \käz-ˈmäp-ə-ˌlīt\ *n* [NL *cosmopolites*, fr. Gk *kosmopolitēs*, fr. *kosmos* + *politēs* citizen] : a cosmopolitan person or organism — **cos·mo·po·li·tism** \käz-ˈmäp-ə-ˌlīt-ˌiz-əm, -lə-ˌtiz-; ˌkäz-mə-ˈpäl-ə-ˌtiz-\ *n*
cos·mos \ˈkäz-məs, *1 & 2 also* -ˌmōs, -ˌmäs\ *n* [G *kosmos*, fr. Gk] **1 a** : an orderly harmonious systematic universe — compare CHAOS **b** : ORDER, HARMONY **2** : a complex orderly self-inclusive system **3** *pl* **cosmos** \-məs, -məz\ *also* **cos·mos·es** \-mə-səz\ [NL, genus

name, fr. Gk *kosmos*] : any of a genus (*Cosmos*) of tropical American composite herbs; *esp* : a widely cultivated tall fall-blooming annual (*C. bipinnatus*) with yellow or red disks and showy ray flowers

co·spon·sor \ˈkō-ˌspän(t)-sər, -ˈspän(t)-\ *n* : a joint sponsor — **cosponsor** *vt* — **co·spon·sor·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

cos·sack \ˈkäs-ˌak, -ək\ *n* [Russ *kazak* & Ukrainian *kozak*, fr. Turk *kazak* free person] : a member of a group of frontiersmen of southern Russia organized as cavalry in the czarist army

[1]cos·set \ˈkäs-ət\ *n* [origin unknown] : a pet lamb; *broadly* : PET

[2]cosset *vt* : to treat as a pet : PAMPER

[1]cost \ˈkȯst\ *n* **1 a** : the amount or equivalent paid or charged for something : PRICE **b** : the outlay or expenditure (as of effort or sacrifice) made to achieve an object **2** : loss or penalty incurred in gaining something **3** *pl* : expenses incurred in litigation; *esp* : those given by the law or the court to the prevailing party against the losing party — **cost·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **cost·less·ly** *adv*

[2]cost *vb* **cost; cost·ing** [ME *costen*, fr. MF *coster*, fr. L *constare* to stand firm, to cost — more at CONSTANT] *vi* **1** : to require expenditure or payment ⟨the best goods ~ more⟩ **2** : to require effort, suffering, or loss ~ *vt* **1** : to have a price of **2** : to cause (someone) to pay, suffer, or lose something ⟨frequent absences ~ him his job⟩ **3** : to estimate or set the cost of

cos·ta \ˈkäs-tə\ *n, pl* **cos·tae** \-(ˌ)tē, -ˌtī\ [L — more at COAST] **1** : [1]RIB 1a **2** : a part (as the midrib of a leaf or the anterior vein of an insect wing) that resembles a rib — **cos·tal** \-tᵊl\ *adj* — **cos·tate** \-ˌtāt\ *adj*

cost accountant *n* : a specialist in cost accounting

cost accounting *n* : the systematic recording and analysis of the costs of material, labor, and overhead incident to production

[1]co–star \ˈkō-ˌstär\ *n* : a star whose role in a motion picture or play is equal in importance to that of another leading player

[2]co–star *vi* : to appear as a co-star in a motion picture or play ~ *vt* : to feature (a player) as a co-star

cos·tard \ˈkäs-tərd\ *n* [ME] **1** : any of several large English cooking apples **2** *archaic* : NODDLE, PATE

cost–ef·fec·tive \ˌkȯs-tə-ˈfek-tiv\ *adj* : economical in terms of tangible benefits produced by money spent ⟨~ measures to combat poverty⟩ — **cost–ef·fec·tive·ness** *n*

cos·ter \ˈkäs-tər\ *n, Brit* : COSTERMONGER

cos·ter·mon·ger \-ˌməŋ-gər, -ˌmäŋ-\ *n* [*costard* + *monger*] *Brit* : a hawker of fruit or vegetables

cos·tive \ˈkäs-tiv\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *costivé*, pp. of *costiver* to constipate, fr. L *constipare*] **1 a** : affected with constipation **b** : causing constipation **2** : slow in action or expression **3** : NIGGARDLY — **cos·tive·ly** *adv* — **cos·tive·ness** *n*

cost·ly \ˈkȯs(t)-lē\ *adj* **cost·li·er; -est** **1** : commanding a high price usu. because of intrinsic worth ⟨~ gems⟩ **2** : GORGEOUS, SPLENDID **3** : made at heavy expense or sacrifice — **cost·li·ness** *n*
syn COSTLY, EXPENSIVE, DEAR, VALUABLE, PRECIOUS, INVALUABLE, PRICELESS *shared meaning element* : having a high value or valuation esp. in terms of money ***ant*** cheap

cost·mary \ˈkȯst-ˌmer-ē, ˈkäst-\ *n, pl* **-mari·es** [ME *costmarie*, fr. *coste* costmary (fr. OE *cost*, fr. L *costum*, fr. Gk *kostos*, a fragrant root) + *Marie* the Virgin Mary] : a tansy-scented composite herb (*Chrysanthemum majus*) used as a potherb and in flavoring

cost of living : the cost of purchasing those goods and services which are included in an accepted standard level of consumption

cost–of–living index *n* : CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

cost–plus \ˈkȯs(t)-ˈpləs\ *adj* : paid on the basis of a fixed fee or a percentage added to actual cost ⟨a ~ contract⟩

cost–push \ˈkȯs(t)-ˌpůsh\ *n* : an increase or upward trend in production costs (as wages) that tends to result in increased consumer prices irrespective of the level of demand — compare DEMAND–PULL — **cost–push** *adj*

cos·trel \ˈkäs-trəl\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *costerel*, fr. *costier* at the side, fr. *coste* rib, side — more at COAST] : a flat usu. earthenware container for liquids with loops through which a belt or cord may be passed for easy carrying — called also *pilgrim bottle*

[1]cos·tume \ˈkäs-ˌt(y)üm *also* -təm *or* -ˌchüm\ *n* [F, fr. It, custom, dress, fr. L *consuetudin-, consuetudo* custom — more at CUSTOM] **1** : the prevailing fashion in coiffure, jewelry, and apparel of a period, country, or class **2** : a suit or dress characteristic of a period, country, or class **3** : a person's ensemble of outer garments; *esp* : a woman's ensemble of dress with coat or jacket — **cos·tum·ey** *adj*

[2]cos·tume \käs-ˈt(y)üm *also* -ˈchüm; *or like* [1]\ *vt* **cos·tumed; cos·tum·ing** **1** : to provide with a costume **2** : to design costumes for ⟨~ a play⟩

[3]costume *like* [1]\ *adj* **1** : characterized by the use of costumes ⟨a ~ ball⟩ ⟨a ~ drama⟩ **2** : suitable for or enhancing the effect of a particular costume ⟨a ~ handbag⟩

costume jewelry *n* : inexpensive jewelry designed for wear with current fashions

cos·tum·er \ˈkäs-ˌt(y)ü-mər *also* -ˌchü-; käs-ˈ\ *n* **1** : one that deals in or makes costumes **2** : CLOTHES TREE

cos·tum·ery \-mə-rē\ *n* **1** : articles of costume **2** : the art of costuming

cos·tu·mi·er \käs-ˈt(y)ü-mē-ˌā, -mē-ər\ *n* [F] : COSTUMER 1

co·sy \ˈkō-zē\ *var of* COZY

[1]cot \ˈkät\ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to ON *kot* small hut, L *guttur* throat] **1** : a small house **2** : COVER, SHEATH; *esp* : STALL 4

[2]cot *n* [Hindi *khāṭ* bedstead, fr. Skt *khaṭvā*, of Dravidian origin; akin to Tamil *kaṭṭil* bedstead] : a small usu. collapsible bed often of fabric stretched on a frame

[3]cot *symbol* cotangent

co·tan·gent \(ˈ)kō-ˈtan-jənt\ *n* [NL *cotangent-, cotangens*, fr. *co-* + *tangent-, tangens* tangent] : the trigonometric function that for an acute angle is the ratio between the side adjacent to the angle when it is considered part of a right triangle and the side opposite

[1]cote \ˈkōt, ˈkät\ *n* [ME, fr. OE] **1** *dial Eng* : [1]COT 1 **2** : a shed or coop for small domestic animals and esp. pigeons

[2]cote \ˈkōt\ *vt* [prob. fr. MF *cotoyer*] *obs* : to pass by

co·te·rie \ˈkōt-ə-(ˌ)rē, ˌkōt-ə-ˈ\ *n* [F, fr. MF, tenants, fr. (assumed) MF *cotier* cotter, fr. ML *cotarius*] : an intimate and often exclusive group of persons with a unifying common interest or purpose ***syn*** see SET

co·ter·mi·nous \(ˈ)kō-ˈtər-mə-nəs\ *adj* [alter. of *conterminous*] **1** : having the same or coincident boundaries ⟨~ states⟩ **2** : coextensive in scope or duration ⟨~ interests⟩ — **co·ter·mi·nous·ly** *adv*

co·thur·nus \kō-ˈthər-nəs\ *n, pl* **-ni** \-ˌnī, -(ˌ)nē\ [L, fr. Gk *kothornos*] **1** : a high thick-soled laced boot worn by actors in Greek and Roman tragic drama — called also *cothurn* **2** : the dignified somewhat stylized spirit of ancient tragedy

co·tid·al \(ˈ)kō-ˈtīd-ᵊl\ *adj* : indicating equality in the tides or a coincidence in the time of high or low tide

co·til·lion \kō-ˈtil-yən\ *also* **co·til·lon** \kō-ˈtil-yən, kȯ-tē-(y)ōⁿ\ *n* [F *cotillon*, lit., petticoat, fr. OF, fr. *cote* coat] **1** : a ballroom dance for couples that resembles the quadrille **2** : an elaborate dance with frequent changing of partners carried out under the leadership of one couple at formal balls **3** : a formal ball

co·to·neas·ter \kə-ˈtō-nē-ˌas-tər, ˈkät-ᵊn-ˌēs-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L *cydonia, cotoneum* quince + NL *-aster*] : any of a genus (*Cotoneaster*) of Old World flowering shrubs of the rose family

cot·quean \ˈkät-ˌkwēn\ *n* **1** *archaic* : a coarse masculine woman **2** *archaic* : a man who busies himself with women's work or affairs

Cots·wold \ˈkät-ˌswōld\ *n* [*Cotswold* hills, England] : a sheep of an English breed of large long-wooled sheep

cot·ta \ˈkät-ə\ *n* [ML, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *kozza* coarse mantle — more at COAT] : a waist-length surplice

cot·tage \ˈkät-ij\ *n* [ME *cotage*, fr. (assumed) AF, fr. ME *cot*] **1** : the dwelling of a farm laborer or small farmer **2** : a small usu. frame one-family house **3** : a small detached dwelling unit at an institution **4** : a small house for vacation use — **cot·tag·ey** \-ij-ē\ *adj*

cottage cheese *n* : a soft uncured cheese made from soured skim milk — called also *Dutch cheese, pot cheese, smearcase*

cottage curtains *n pl* : a double set of upper and lower straight-hanging window curtains

cottage industry *n* : an industry whose labor force consists of family units working at home with their own equipment

cottage pudding *n* : plain cake covered with a hot sweet sauce

cot·tag·er \ˈkät-ij-ər\ *n* : one who lives in a cottage (as at a vacation resort)

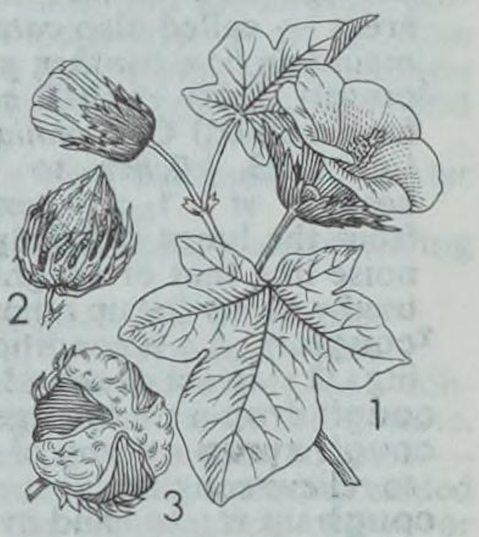
cottage tulip *n* : any of various tall-growing tulips that flower in the middle of the tulip-flowering season

[1]cot·ter *or* **cot·tar** \ˈkät-ər\ *n* [ME *cottar*, fr. ML *cotarius*, fr. ME *cot*] : a peasant or farm laborer who occupies a cottage and sometimes a small holding of land usu. in return for services

[2]cotter *n* [origin unknown] **1** : a wedge-shaped or tapered piece used to fasten together parts of a structure **2** : COTTER PIN

cotter pin *n* : a half-round metal strip bent into a pin whose ends can be flared after insertion through a slot or hole

[1]cot·ton \ˈkät-ᵊn\ *n, often attrib* [ME *coton*, fr. MF, fr. Ar *quṭn*] **1 a** : a soft usu. white fibrous substance composed of the hairs surrounding the seeds of various erect freely branching tropical plants (genus *Gossypium*) of the mallow family **b** : a plant producing cotton; *esp* : one grown for its cotton **c** : a crop of cotton **2 a** : fabric made of cotton **b** : yarn spun from cotton **3** : a downy cottony substance produced by various plants (as the cottonwood)



cotton: *1* flowering branch, *2* fruit, unopened, *3* fruit, partly opened

[2]cotton *vi* **cot·toned; cot·ton·ing** \ˈkät-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ **1** : to take a liking ⟨~*s* to people easily⟩ **2** : to come to understand : catch on : TUMBLE ⟨~*ed* on to the fact that our children work furiously —H. M. McLuhan⟩

cotton candy *n* : a candy made of spun sugar

cotton gin *n* : a machine that separates the seeds, hulls, and foreign material from cotton

cotton grass *n* : any of a genus (*Eriophorum*) of sedges with tufted spikes

cot·ton·mouth \ˈkät-ᵊn-ˌmaůth\ *n* : WATER MOCCASIN

cottonmouth moccasin *n* : WATER MOCCASIN

cot·ton–pick·ing \ˌkät-ᵊn-ˌpik-iŋ, -ˌpik-ən\ *adj* **1** : DAMNED — used as a generalized expression of disapproval ⟨a ~ hypocrite⟩ **2** : DAMNED — used as an intensive ⟨out of his ~ mind —Irving Kristol⟩

cot·ton·seed \ˈkät-ᵊn-ˌsēd\ *n* : the seed of the cotton plant

cottonseed oil *n* : a pale yellow semidrying fatty oil that is obtained from the cottonseed and is used chiefly in salad and cooking oils and after hydrogenation in shortenings and margarine

cotton stainer *n* : any of several red and black or dark brown bugs (genus *Dysdercus*) that damage and stain the lint of developing cotton; *specif* : a red and brown bug (*D. suturellus*) that attacks cotton in the southern U.S.

cot·ton·tail \ˈkät-ᵊn-ˌtāl\ *n* : any of several rather small No. American rabbits (genus *Sylvilagus*) sandy brown in color with a white-tufted underside of the tail

cot·ton·weed \-ˌwēd\ *n* : any of various weedy plants (as cudweed) with hoary pubescence or cottony seeds

cot·ton·wood \-ˌwu̇d\ *n* : a poplar with a tuft of cottony hairs on the seed; *esp* : one (*Populus deltoides*) of the eastern and central U.S. often cultivated for its rapid growth and luxuriant foliage
cotton wool *n* : raw cotton; *esp* : cotton batting
cot·tony \'kät-nē, -ᵊn-ē\ *adj* : resembling cotton in appearance or character: as **a** : covered with hairs or pubescence **b** : SOFT
cotyl- *or* **cotyli-** *or* **cotylo-** *comb form* [Gk *kotyl-*, *kotylo-*, fr. *kotylē*] : cup : organ or part like a cup ⟨*cotyl*oid⟩ ⟨*cotyli*form⟩
-cot·yl \ˌkät-ᵊl\ *n comb form* [*cotyledon*] : cotyledon ⟨di*cotyl*⟩
cot·y·le·don \ˌkät-ᵊl-'ēd-ᵊn\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *kotylēdōn* cup-shaped hollow, fr. *kotylē* cup] **1** : a placental lobule **2** : the first leaf or one of the first pair or whorl of leaves developed by the embryo of a seed plant or of some lower plants (as ferns) — see PLUMULE illustration — **cot·y·le·don·al** \-'ēd-nəl, -ᵊn-əl\ *adj* — **cot·y·le·don·ary** \-'ēd-ᵊn-ˌer-ē\ *or* **cot·y·le·don·ous** \-'ēd-nəs, -ᵊn-əs\ *adj*
co·ty·lo·saur \'kät-ᵊl-ō-ˌsȯ(ə)r, kə-'til-ə-\ *n* [NL *Cotylosauria*, group name, deriv. of Gk *kotylē* cup & *sauros* lizard] : any of an order (Cotylosauria) of extinct ancient primitive reptiles with short legs and massive bodies that were prob. the earliest truly terrestrial vertebrate animals
co·type \'kō-ˌtīp\ *n* : any of several secondary taxonomic types
¹couch \'kau̇ch\ *vb* [ME *couchen*, fr. MF *coucher*, fr. L *collocare* to set in place — more at COLLOCATE] *vt* **1** : to lay (oneself) down for rest or sleep **2** : to embroider (a design) by laid threads fastened by small stitches at regular intervals **3** : to place or hold level and pointed forward ready for use **4** : to phrase in a specified manner ⟨the memorandum was ~*ed* in strong language —W. L. Shirer⟩ **5** : to treat (a cataract) by displacing the lens of the eye into the vitreous humor ~ *vi* **1** : to lie down or recline for sleep or rest **2** : to lie in ambush
²couch *n* **1 a** : an article of furniture (as a bed or sofa) for sitting or reclining **b** : a couch on which a patient reclines when undergoing psychoanalysis **2** : the den of an animal (as an otter) — **on the couch** : receiving psychiatric treatment
couch·ant \'kau̇-chənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. prp. of *coucher*] : lying down esp. with the head up ⟨a heraldic lion ~⟩
couch grass \'kau̇ch-, 'küch-\ *n* [alter. of *quitch grass*] **1** : QUACK GRASS **2** : any of several grasses that resemble quack grass in spreading by creeping rhizomes
cou·dé \kü-'dā\ *adj* [F *coudé* bent like an elbow, fr. *coude* elbow, fr. L *cubitum* — more at HIP] **1** *of a telescope* : constructed so that the light is reflected along the polar axis to come to a focus at a fixed place where the holder for a photographic plate or a spectrograph may be mounted **2** : of or relating to a coudé telescope
cou·gar \'kü-gər, -ˌgär\ *n, pl* **cougars** *also* **cougar** [F *couguar*, fr. NL *cuguacuarana*, modif. of Tupi *suasuarana*, lit., false deer, fr. *suasú* deer + *rana* false] : a large powerful tawny brown cat (*Felis concolor*) formerly widespread in the Americas but now extinct in many areas — called also *catamount, mountain lion, panther, puma*


cougar

¹cough \'kȯf\ *vb* [ME *coughen*, fr. (assumed) OE *cohhian*; akin to MHG *kūchen* to breathe heavily] *vi* **1** : to expel air from the lungs suddenly with an explosive noise **2** : to make a noise like that of coughing ~ *vt* : to expel by coughing — often used with *up* ⟨~ up mucus⟩
²cough *n* **1** : a condition marked by repeated or frequent coughing **2** : an act or sound of coughing
cough drop *n* : a lozenge or troche used to relieve coughing
cough syrup *n* : any of various sweet usu. medicated liquids used to relieve coughing
cough up *vt* : to hand over : DELIVER, PAY ⟨*cough up* the money⟩
could \kəd, (')ku̇d\ [ME *couthe*, *coude*, fr. OE *cūthe*; akin to OHG *konda* could] *past of* CAN — used in auxiliary function in the past ⟨he found he ~ go⟩, in the past conditional ⟨he said he would go if he ~⟩, and as an alternative to *can* suggesting less force or certainty or as a polite form in the present ⟨~ you do this for me⟩ ⟨if you ~ come we would be pleased⟩
could·est \'ku̇d-əst\ *archaic past 2d sing of* CAN
couldn't \'ku̇d-ᵊnt\ : could not
couldst \kədst, (')ku̇dst, kətst, (')ku̇tst\ *archaic past 2d sing of* CAN
cou·lee \'kü-lē\ *n* [CanF *coulée*, fr. F, flowing, flow of lava, fr. *couler* to flow, fr. L *colare* to strain, fr. *colum* sieve] **1 a** : a small stream **b** : a dry stream bed **c** : a usu. small or shallow ravine : GULLY **2** : a thick sheet or stream of lava
cou·lisse \kü-'lēs, -'lis\ *n* [F] **1 a** : a side scene of a theater stage; *also* : the space between the side scenes **b** : a backstage area **c** : HALLWAY **2** : a piece of timber having a groove in which something glides
cou·loir \kül-'wär\ *n* [F, lit., strainer, fr. LL *colatorium*, fr. L *colatus*, pp. of *colare*] : a mountainside gorge esp. in the Swiss Alps
¹cou·lomb \'kü-ˌläm, -ˌlōm, kü-'\ *n* [Charles A. de *Coulomb*] : the practical mks unit of electric charge equal to the quantity of electricity transferred by a current of one ampere in one second
²coulomb *or* **cou·lom·bic** \kü-'läm-(b)ik, -'lōm-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being the electrostatic force of attraction or repulsion between charged particles
cou·lom·e·try \kü-'läm-ə-trē\ *n* [alter. of earlier *coulombmeter*] : chemical analysis performed by determining the amount of a substance released in an electrolysis by measuring the number of coulombs used — **cou·lo·met·ric** \ˌkü-lə-'me-trik\ *adj* — **cou·lo·met·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-kə-lē\ *adv*
coul·ter \'kōl-tər\ *n* [ME *colter*, fr. OE *culter* & OF *coltre*, both fr. L *culter* plowshare] : a cutting tool (as a knife or sharp disc) that is attached to the beam of a plow, makes a vertical cut in the surface, and permits clean separation and effective covering of the soil and materials being turned under
cou·ma·phos \'kü-mə-ˌfäs\ *n* [*couma*rin + *phos*phorus] : an organophosphorus systemic insecticide $C_{14}H_{16}ClO_5PS$ used esp. on cattle and poultry
cou·ma·rin \'kü-mə-rən\ *n* [F *coumarine*, fr. *coumarou* tonka bean tree, fr. Sp or Pg; Sp *coumarú*, fr. Pg, fr. Tupi] : a toxic white crystalline lactone $C_9H_6O_2$ with an odor of new-mown hay found in plants or made synthetically and used esp. in perfumery
cou·ma·rone \-ˌrōn\ *n* [ISV *coumar*in + *-one*] : a compound C_8H_6O found in coal tar and polymerized with indene to form thermoplastic resins used esp. in coatings and printing inks — called also *benzofuran*
¹coun·cil \'kau̇n(t)-səl\ *n* [ME *counceil*, fr. OF *concile*, fr. L *concilium*, fr. *com-* + *calare* to call — more at LOW] **1** : an assembly or meeting for consultation, advice, or discussion **2** : a group elected or appointed as an advisory or legislative body **3 a** : a usu. administrative body **b** : an executive body whose members are equal in power and authority **c** : a governing body of delegates from local units of a federation **4** : deliberation in a council **5 a** : a federation of or a central body uniting a group of organizations **b** : a local chapter of an organization **c** : CLUB, SOCIETY
²council *adj* **1** : used for councils esp. by or with No. American Indians ⟨a ~ ground⟩ **2** *Brit* : built, maintained, or operated by a local governing agency ⟨a ~ house⟩ ⟨~ flats⟩
coun·cil·lor *or* **coun·cil·or** \'kau̇n(t)-s(ə-)lər\ *n* : a member of a council — **coun·cil·lor·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
coun·cil·man \'kau̇n(t)-səl-mən\ *n* : a member of a council (as of a town or city) — **coun·cil·man·ic** \ˌkau̇n(t)-səl-'man-ik\ *adj*
council of ministers *often cap C&M* : CABINET 3b
coun·cil·wom·an \'kau̇n(t)-səl-ˌwu̇m-ən\ *n* : a female member of a council
¹coun·sel \'kau̇n(t)-səl\ *n* [ME *conseil*, fr. OF, fr. L *consilium*, fr. *consulere* to consult] **1 a** : advice given esp. as a result of consultation **b** : a policy or plan of action or behavior **2** : DELIBERATION, CONSULTATION **3 a** *archaic* : PURPOSE **b** : guarded thoughts or intentions **4 a** *pl* **counsel** (1) : a lawyer engaged in the trial or management of a case in court (2) : a lawyer appointed to advise and represent in legal matters an individual client or a corporate and esp. a public body **b** : CONSULTANT 2
²counsel *vb* **-seled** *or* **-selled; -sel·ing** *or* **-sel·ling** \-s(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* : ADVISE ⟨~*ed* them to avoid rash actions —George Orwell⟩ ~ *vi* : CONSULT ⟨~*ed* with her husband⟩
coun·sel·ee \ˌkau̇n(t)-sə-'lē\ *n* : one who is being counseled
coun·sel·ing *n* : professional guidance of the individual by utilizing psychological methods esp. in collecting case history data, using various techniques of the personal interview, and testing interests and aptitudes
coun·sel·or *or* **coun·sel·lor** \'kau̇n(t)-s(ə-)lər\ *n* **1** : ADVISER **2** : LAWYER; *specif* : one that gives advice in law and manages cases for clients in court **3** : one who has supervisory duties at a summer camp — **coun·sel·or·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
counselor–at–law *n, pl* **counselors–at–law** : COUNSELOR 2
¹count \'kau̇nt\ *vb* [ME *counten*, fr. MF *compter*, fr. L *computare*, fr. *com-* + *putare* to consider — more at PAVE] *vt* **1 a** : to indicate or name by units or groups so as to find the total number of units involved : NUMBER **b** : to name the numbers in order up to and including ⟨~ ten⟩ **c** : to include in a tallying and reckoning ⟨about 100 present, ~*ing* children⟩ **d** : to call aloud (beats or time units) ⟨~ cadence ⟩ ⟨~ eighth notes⟩ **2 a** : CONSIDER, ACCOUNT ⟨~ oneself lucky⟩ **b** : ESTIMATE, ESTEEM **c** : to record as of an opinion or persuasion ⟨~ me as uncommitted⟩ **3** : to include or exclude by or as if by counting ⟨~ me in⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to recite or indicate the numbers in order by units or groups ⟨~ by fives⟩ **b** : to count the units in a group **2** : to rely or depend on someone or something ⟨~*ed* on his brother to help with the expenses⟩ **3** : ADD, TOTAL ⟨it ~*s* up to a sizable amount⟩ **4** : to have value or significance ⟨these are the men who really ~⟩ ***syn*** see RELY — **count heads** *or* **count noses** : to count the number present — **count on** : to look forward to as certain : ANTICIPATE ⟨*counted on* winning⟩
²count *n* **1 a** : the action or process of counting **b** : a total obtained by counting : TALLY **2** *archaic* **a** : RECKONING, ACCOUNT **b** : CONSIDERATION, ESTIMATION **3 a** : ALLEGATION, CHARGE; *specif* : one separately stating the cause of action or prosecution in a legal declaration or indictment ⟨guilty on all ~*s*⟩ **b** : a specific point under consideration : ISSUE **4** : the total number of individual things in a given unit or sample ⟨blood ~⟩ **5 a** : the calling off of the seconds from one to ten when a boxer has been knocked down **b** : the number of balls and strikes charged to a baseball batter during one turn ⟨the ~ stood at 3 and 2⟩ **c** : SCORE ⟨tied the ~ with a minute to play⟩
³count *n* [MF *comte*, fr. LL *comit-*, *comes*, fr. L, companion, one of the imperial court, fr. *com-* + *ire* to go — more at ISSUE] : a European nobleman whose rank corresponds to that of a British earl
count·able \'kau̇nt-ə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being counted; *esp* : DENUMERABLE ⟨a ~ set⟩ — **count·abil·i·ty** \ˌkau̇nt-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **count·ably** \'kau̇nt-ə-blē\ *adv*
count·down \'kau̇nt-ˌdau̇n\ *n* : an audible backward counting in fixed units (as seconds) from an arbitrary starting number to mark the time remaining before an event; *also* : preparations carried on during such a count — **count down** \-'dau̇n\ *vi*
¹coun·te·nance \'kau̇nt-ᵊn-ən(t)s, 'kau̇nt-nən(t)s\ *n* [ME *contenance*, fr. MF, fr. ML *continentia*, fr. L, restraint, fr. *continent-*, *continens*, prp. of *continēre* to hold together — more at CONTAIN] **1** *obs* : BEARING, DEMEANOR **2 a** : calm expression **b** : mental composure **c** : LOOK, EXPRESSION **3** *archaic* **a** : ASPECT, SEMBLANCE **b** : PRETENSE **4** : FACE, VISAGE; *esp* : the face as an indication of mood, emotion, or character **5** : bearing or expression that offers approval or sanction : moral support ***syn*** see FAVOR
²countenance *vt* **-nanced; -nanc·ing** : to extend approval or toleration to : SANCTION ⟨he never *countenanced* violence⟩ — **coun·te·nanc·er** *n*
¹count·er \'kau̇nt-ər\ *n* [ME *countour*, fr. MF *comptouer*, fr. ML *computatorium* computing place, fr. L *computatus*, pp. of *computare*] **1** : a piece (as of metal or ivory) used in reckoning or in

games **2** : something of value in bargaining : ASSET **3** : a level surface (as a table) over which transactions are conducted or food is served or on which goods are displayed or work is conducted ⟨a lunch ~⟩ — **over the counter** **1** : in or through a broker's office rather than through a stock exchange ⟨stock bought *over the counter*⟩ **2** : without a prescription ⟨drugs available *over the counter*⟩ — **under the counter** : by surreptitious means : in an illicit and private manner

²count·er *n* [ME, fr. MF *conteor*, fr. *compter* to count] : one that counts; *esp* : a device for indicating a number or amount

³coun·ter \'kau̇nt-ər\ *vb* [ME *countren*, fr. MF *contre*] *vt* **1 a** : to act in opposition to : OPPOSE **b** : OFFSET, NULLIFY ⟨tried to ~ the trend toward depersonalization⟩ **2** : to adduce in answer ⟨he ~*ed* that his warnings had been ignored⟩ ~ *vi* : to meet attacks or arguments with defensive or retaliatory steps

⁴coun·ter *adv* [ME *contre*, fr. MF, fr. L *contra* against, opposite; akin to L *com-* with, together — more at CO-] **1** : in an opposite or wrong direction **2** : to or toward a different or opposite direction, result, or effect ⟨values that run ~ to those of established society⟩

⁵coun·ter *n* **1** : CONTRARY, OPPOSITE **2** : the after portion of a boat from the waterline to the extreme outward swell or stern overhang **3 a** : the act of making an attack while parrying one (as in boxing or fencing); *also* : a blow thus given in boxing **b** : an agency or force that offsets : CHECK **4** : a stiffener to give permanent form to a boot or shoe upper around the heel **5** : an area in the face of a letter that is less than type-high and enclosed by the strokes — see TYPE illustration **6** : a football play in which the ballcarrier goes in a direction opposite to the movement of the play

⁶coun·ter *adj* **1** : marked by or tending toward or in an opposite direction or effect **2** : given to or marked by opposition, hostility, or antipathy **3** : situated or lying opposite ⟨the ~ side⟩ **4** : recalling or ordering back by a superseding contrary order : COUNTERMANDING ⟨~ orders from the colonel⟩ ***syn*** see ADVERSE

coun·ter- *prefix* [ME *contre-*, fr. MF, fr. *contre*] **1 a** : contrary : opposite ⟨*counter*clockwise⟩ ⟨*counter*march⟩ **b** : opposing : retaliatory ⟨*counter*irritant⟩ ⟨*counter*offensive⟩ **2** : complementary : corresponding ⟨*counter*weight⟩ ⟨*counter*part⟩ **3** : duplicate : substitute ⟨*counter*foil⟩

coun·ter·act \ˌkau̇nt-ə-'rakt\ *vt* : to make ineffective or restrain or neutralize the usu. ill effects of by an opposite force — **coun·ter·ac·tion** \-'rak-shən\ *n*

coun·ter·ac·tive \-'rak-tiv\ *adj* : tending to counteract ***syn*** see ADVERSE

¹coun·ter·at·tack \'kau̇nt-ə-rə-ˌtak\ *n* : an attack made to counter an enemy's attack

²counterattack *vi* : to make a counterattack ~ *vt* : to make a counterattack against — **coun·ter·at·tack·er** *n*

¹coun·ter·bal·ance \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌbal-ən(t)s, ˌkau̇nt-ər-'\ *n* **1** : a weight that balances another **2** : a force or influence that offsets or checks an opposing force

²counterbalance \ˌkau̇nt-ər-', 'kau̇nt-ər-ˌ\ *vt* **1** : to oppose or balance with an equal weight or force **2** : to equip with counterbalances

coun·ter·blow \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌblō\ *n* : a retaliatory blow

coun·ter·change \-ˌchānj\ *vt* **1** : INTERCHANGE, TRANSPOSE **2** : CHECKER 1a

¹coun·ter·check \-ˌchek\ *n* : a check or restraint often operating against something that is itself a check

²countercheck *vt* **1** : CHECK, COUNTERACT **2** : to check a second time for verification

counter check *n* : a check obtainable at a bank usu. to be cashed only at the bank by the drawer

¹coun·ter·claim \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌklām\ *n* : an opposing claim esp. in law

²counterclaim *vi* : to enter or plead a counterclaim ~ *vt* : to ask in a counterclaim

coun·ter·clock·wise \ˌkau̇nt-ər-'kläk-ˌwīz\ *adv* : in a direction opposite to that in which the hands of a clock rotate as viewed from in front — **counterclockwise** *adj*

coun·ter·con·di·tion·ing \-kən-'dish-(ə-)niŋ\ *n* : conditioning in order to replace an undesirable response (as fear) to a stimulus (as an engagement in public speaking) by a favorable one

coun·ter·coup \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌkü\ *n* : a coup directed toward overthrowing a government which seized power by a coup

coun·ter·cul·ture \-ˌkəl-chər\ *n* : a culture esp. of the young with values and mores that run counter to those of established society — **coun·ter·cul·tur·al** \ˌkau̇nt-ər-'kəlch-(ə-)rəl\ *adj* — **coun·ter·cul·tur·ist** \-(ə-)rəst\ *n*

¹coun·ter·cur·rent \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌkər-ənt, -ˌkə-rənt\ *n* : a current flowing in a direction opposite that of another current

²countercurrent \ˌkau̇nt-ər-'\ *adj* **1** : flowing in an opposite direction **2** : involving flow of materials in opposite directions ⟨~ dialysis⟩ — **coun·ter·cur·rent·ly** *adv*

coun·ter·dem·on·stra·tion \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌdem-ən-'strā-shən\ *n* : a demonstration opposing another demonstration — **coun·ter·dem·on·strate** \ˌkau̇nt-ər-'dem-ən-ˌstrāt\ *vi* — **coun·ter·dem·on·stra·tor** \-ˌstrāt-ər\ *n*

coun·ter·es·pi·o·nage \ˌkau̇nt-ə-'res-pē-ə-ˌnäzh, -nij, -ˌnäj; -rə-'spē-ə-nij\ *n* : espionage directed toward detecting and thwarting enemy espionage

coun·ter·ex·am·ple \'kau̇nt-ə-rig-ˌzam-pəl\ *n* : an example that disproves a theorem or proposition

¹coun·ter·feit \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌfit\ *vt* : to imitate or copy closely esp. with intent to deceive ⟨~*ed* interest that she did not feel⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to try to deceive by pretense or dissembling **2** : to engage in counterfeiting something of value ***syn*** see ASSUME — **coun·ter·feit·er** *n*

²counterfeit *adj* [ME *countrefet*, fr. MF *contrefait*, fr. pp. of *contrefaire* to imitate, fr. *contre-* + *faire* to make, fr. L *facere* — more at DO] **1** : made in imitation of something else with intent to deceive : FORGED ⟨~ money⟩ **2 a** : INSINCERE, FEIGNED ⟨~ sympathy⟩ **b** : marked by false pretense : SHAM, PRETENDED

³counterfeit *n* **1** : something counterfeit : FORGERY **2** : something likely to be mistaken for something of higher value ⟨pity was a ~ of love —Harry Hervey⟩ ***syn*** see IMPOSTURE

coun·ter·foil \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌfȯil\ *n* : a detachable stub (as on a check or ticket) usu. serving as a record or receipt

coun·ter·force \-ˌfōrs, -ˌfȯrs\ *n* : a force or trend that runs counter to another force or trend

coun·ter·guer·ril·la *also* **coun·ter·gue·ril·la** \ˌkau̇nt-ər-gə-'ril-ə, -g(y)i-, -ge-\ *n* : a guerrilla who is trained to thwart enemy guerrilla operations

coun·ter·in·sur·gen·cy \ˌkau̇nt-ə-rin-'sər-jən-sē\ *n* : organized military activity designed to counter insurgency — **coun·ter·in·sur·gent** \-jənt\ *n*

coun·ter·in·tel·li·gence \ˌkau̇nt-ə-rin-'tel-ə-jən(t)s\ *n* : organized activity of an intelligence service designed to block an enemy's sources of information, to deceive the enemy, to prevent sabotage, and to gather political and military information

coun·ter·ir·ri·tant \-'rir-ə-tənt\ *n* **1** : an agent applied locally to produce superficial inflammation with the object of reducing inflammation in deeper adjacent structures **2** : an irritation or discomfort that diverts attention from another — **counterirritant** *adj*

count·er·man \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌman, -mən\ *n* : one who tends a counter

¹coun·ter·mand \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌmand, ˌkau̇nt-ər-'\ *vt* [ME *countermaunden*, fr. MF *contremander*, fr. *contre-* counter- + *mander* to command, fr. L *mandare*] **1** : to revoke (a command) by a contrary order **2** : to recall or order back by a superseding contrary order ⟨~ reinforcements⟩

²coun·ter·mand \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌmand\ *n* **1** : a contrary order **2** : the revocation of an order or command

coun·ter·march \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌmärch\ *n* **1** : a marching back; *specif* : a movement in marching by which a unit of troops reverses direction while marching but keeps the same order **2** : a march (as of political demonstrators) designed to counter the effect of another march — **countermarch** *vi*

coun·ter·mea·sure \-ˌmezh-ər, -ˌmā-zhər\ *n* : a measure designed to counter another measure

¹coun·ter·mine \-ˌmīn\ *n* **1** : a tunnel for intercepting an enemy mine **2** : a stratagem for defeating an attack : COUNTERPLOT

²countermine *vt* **1** : to thwart by secret measures **2** : to oppose or intercept with a countermine ~ *vi* : to make or lay down countermines

coun·ter·move \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌmüv\ *n* : a move designed to counter another move

coun·ter·move·ment \-mənt\ *n* : a movement in an opposite direction

coun·ter·of·fen·sive \'kau̇nt-ə-rə-ˌfen(t)-siv\ *n* : a large-scale military offensive undertaken by a force previously on the defensive

coun·ter·of·fer \-ˌrȯf-ər, -ˌräf-\ *n* : a return offer made by one who has rejected an offer

coun·ter·pane \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌpān\ *n* [alter. of ME *countrepointe*, modif. of MF *coute pointe*, lit., embroidered quilt] : BEDSPREAD

coun·ter·part \-ˌpärt\ *n* **1** : one of two corresponding copies of a legal instrument : DUPLICATE **2 a** : a thing that fits another perfectly **b** : something that completes : COMPLEMENT **3 a** : one remarkably similar to another **b** : one having the same function or characteristics as another : EQUIVALENT ⟨college presidents and their ~*s* in business⟩ ***syn*** see PARALLEL

coun·ter·plan \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌplan\ *n* **1** : a plan designed to counter another plan **2** : an alternate or substitute plan

coun·ter·plea \-ˌplē\ *n* : a replication to a legal plea : an answering plea

¹coun·ter·plot \-ˌplät\ *vt* : to intrigue against : foil with a plot

²counterplot *n* : a plot designed to thwart an opponent's plot

¹coun·ter·point \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌpȯint\ *n* [MF *contrepoint*, fr. ML *contrapunctus*, fr. L *contra-* counter- + ML *punctus* musical note, melody, fr. L, act of pricking, fr. *punctus*, pp. of *pungere* to prick — more at POINT] **1 a** : one or more independent melodies added above or below a given melody **b** : the combination of two or more independent melodies into a single harmonic texture in which each retains its linear character : POLYPHONY **2 a** : a complementing or contrasting item : OPPOSITE **b** : use of contrast or interplay of elements in a work of art (as a drama)

²counterpoint *vt* **1** : to compose or arrange in counterpoint **2** : to set off or emphasize by contrast or juxtaposition : set in contrast ⟨~*s* opposing themes . . . hope and apathy —Curt Leviant⟩

¹coun·ter·poise \-ˌpȯiz\ *vt* [ME *countrepesen*, fr. MF *contrepeser*, fr. *contre-* + *peser* to weigh — more at POISE] : COUNTERBALANCE

²counterpoise *n* **1** : COUNTERBALANCE **2** : an equivalent power or force acting in opposition **3** : a state of balance

coun·ter·pose \ˌkau̇nt-ər-'pōz\ *vt* [*counter-* + *-pose* (as in *compose*)] : to place in opposition, contrast, or equilibrium ⟨*counterposed* an alternative solution to the problem⟩

coun·ter·pro·duc·tive \-prə-'dək-tiv\ *adj* : tending to hinder the attainment of a desired goal ⟨violence as a means to achieve an end is ~ —W. E. Brock *b*1930⟩

coun·ter·pro·gram·ming \ˌkau̇nt-ər-'prō-ˌgram-iŋ, -grəm-\ *n* : the scheduling of programs by television networks so as to attract audiences away from simultaneously telecast programs of competitors

coun·ter·pro·pa·gan·da \-ˌpräp-ə-'gan-də, -ˌprō-pə-\ *n* : propaganda designed to counter enemy propaganda

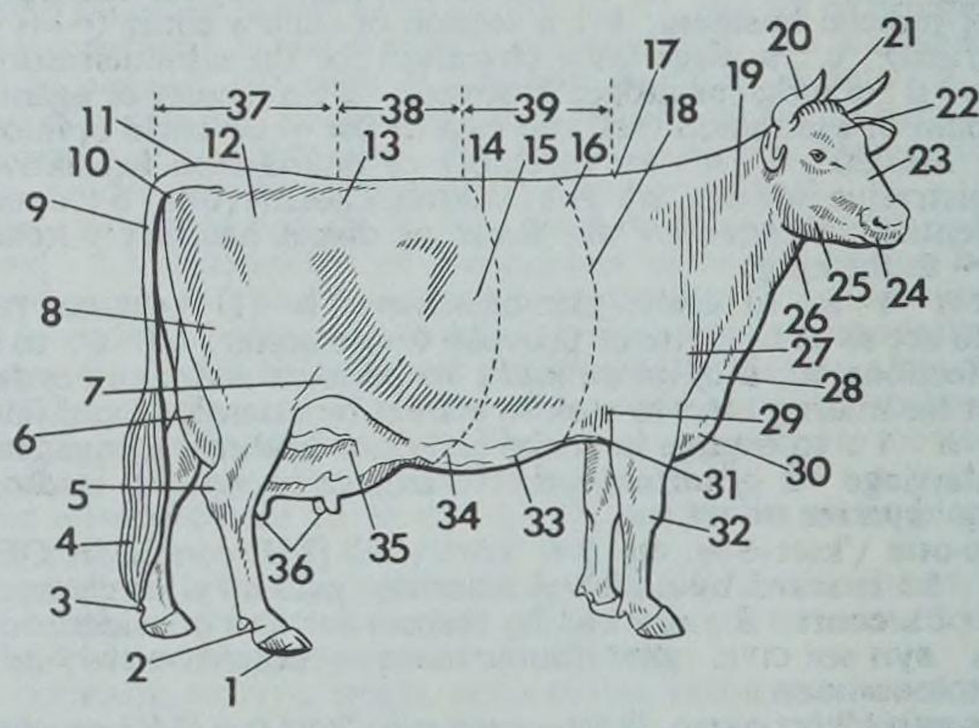
coun·ter·pro·pos·al \'kau̇nt-ər-prə-ˌpō-zəl\ *n* : a return proposal made by one who has rejected a proposal

coun·ter·punch \'kau̇nt-ər-ˌpənch\ *n* : a counter in boxing; *also* : a countering blow or attack — **coun·ter·punch·er** \-ˌpən-chər\ *n*

coun·ter·ref·or·ma·tion \ˌkau̇nt-ə(r)-ˌref-ər-ˈmā-shən\ *n* **1** : a reformation designed to counter the effects of a previous reformation **2** *usu* **Counter–Reformation** : the reform movement in the Roman Catholic Church following the Reformation
coun·ter·rev·o·lu·tion \-ˌrev-ə-ˈlü-shən\ *n* : a revolution directed toward overthrowing a government or social system established by a previous revolution — **coun·ter·rev·o·lu·tion·ary** \-shə-ˌner-ē\ *adj or n* — **coun·ter·rev·o·lu·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n*
coun·ter·shaft \ˈkau̇nt-ər-ˌshaft\ *n* : a shaft that receives motion from a main shaft and transmits it to a working part
1coun·ter·sign \-ˌsīn\ *n* **1** : a signature attesting the authenticity of a document already signed by another **2** : a sign given in reply to another; *specif* : a military secret signal that must be given by one wishing to pass a guard
2countersign *vt* **1** : to add one's signature to (a document) after another's so as to attest authenticity **2** : CONFIRM, CORROBORATE — **coun·ter·sig·na·ture** \ˌkau̇nt-ər-ˈsig-nə-ˌchu̇(ə)r, -chər, -ˌt(y)u̇(ə)r\ *n*
1coun·ter·sink \ˈkau̇nt-ər-ˌsiŋk\ *vt* **-sunk** \-ˌsəŋk\; **-sink·ing** **1** : to make a countersink on **2** : to set the head of (as a screw) at or below the surface
2countersink *n* **1** : a funnel-shaped enlargement at the outer end of a drilled hole **2** : a bit or drill for making a countersink
coun·ter·spy \ˈkau̇nt-ər-ˌspī\ *n* : a spy engaged in counterespionage
coun·ter·state·ment \-ˌstāt-mənt\ *n* : a statement opposing or denying another statement : REJOINDER
coun·ter·ten·or \-ˌten-ər\ *n* [ME *countretenour*, fr. MF *contreteneur*, fr. *contre-* + *teneur* tenor] : a tenor with an unusually high range and tessitura
coun·ter·ter·ror·ism \ˌkau̇nt-ər-ˈter-ər-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : retaliatory terrorism — **coun·ter·ter·ror·ist** \-ər-əst\ *adj*
coun·ter·trend \ˈkau̇nt-ər-ˌtrend\ *n* : a trend that runs counter to another trend
coun·ter·vail \ˌkau̇nt-ər-ˈvā(ə)l\ *vb* [ME *countrevailen*, fr. MF *contrevaloir*, fr. *contre-* counter- + *valoir* to be worth, fr. L *valēre* — more at WIELD] *vt* **1** : to compensate for **2** *archaic* : EQUAL, MATCH **3** : to exert force against : COUNTERACT ~ *vi* : to exert force against an opposing and often bad or harmful force or influence ***syn*** see COMPENSATE
coun·ter·view \ˈkau̇nt-ər-ˌvyü\ *n* **1** *archaic* : CONFRONTATION **2** : an opposite point of view
coun·ter·weight \-ˌwāt\ *n* : an equivalent weight : COUNTERBALANCE — **counterweight** *vt*
count·ess \ˈkau̇nt-əs\ *n* **1** : the wife or widow of an earl or count **2** : a woman who holds in her own right the rank of earl or count
coun·ti·an \ˈkau̇nt-ē-ən\ *n* : a native or resident of a usu. specified county
count·ing·house \ˈkau̇nt-iŋ-ˌhau̇s\ *n* : a building, room, or office used for keeping books and transacting business
counting room *n* : COUNTINGHOUSE
counting tube *n* : an ionization chamber designed to respond to passage through it of fast-moving ionizing particles and usu. connected to some device for counting the particles — called also *counter tube*
count·less \ˈkau̇nt-ləs\ *adj* : too numerous to be counted : MYRIAD — **count·less·ly** *adv*
count noun *n* : a noun (as *bean* or *sheet*) that forms a plural and is used with a numeral, with words such as *many* or *few*, or with the indefinite article *a* or *an* — compare MASS NOUN
count palatine *n* **1 a** : a high judicial official in the Holy Roman Empire **b** : a count of the Holy Roman Empire having imperial powers in his own domain **2** : the proprietor of a county palatine in England or Ireland
coun·tri·fied *also* **coun·try·fied** \ˈkən-tri-ˌfīd\ *adj* [*country* + *-fied* (as in *glorified*)] **1** : RURAL, RUSTIC **2** : UNSOPHISTICATED
1coun·try \ˈkən-trē\ *n, pl* **countries** [ME *contree*, fr. OF *contrée*, fr. ML *contrata*, fr. L *contra* against, on the opposite side] **1** : an indefinite usu. extended expanse of land : REGION **2 a** : the land of a person's birth, residence, or citizenship **b** : a political state or nation or its territory **3 a** : the people of a state or district : POPULACE **b** : JURY **c** : ELECTORATE **4** : rural as distinguished from urban areas **5** : COUNTRY MUSIC — **coun·try·ish** \-trē-ish\ *adj*
2country *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the country **2** : prepared or processed with farm supplies and procedures **3** : of or relating to country music ⟨~ singers⟩
country and western *n* : COUNTRY MUSIC
country club *n* : a suburban club for social life and recreation
coun·try–dance \ˈkən-trē-ˌdan(t)s\ *n* : any of various native English dances in which partners face each other esp. in rows
country gentleman *n* **1** : a well-to-do country resident : an owner of a country estate **2** : one of the English landed gentry
country house *n* : a house in the country; *specif* : COUNTRYSEAT
coun·try·man \ˈkən-trē-mən, *3 often* -ˌman\ *n* **1** : an inhabitant or native of a specified country **2** : COMPATRIOT **3** : one living in the country or marked by country ways : RUSTIC
country music *n* : music derived from or imitating the folk style of the southern U.S. or of the Western cowboy
coun·try·seat \ˌkən-trē-ˈsēt\ *n* : a mansion or estate in the country
coun·try·side \ˈkən-trē-ˌsīd\ *n* **1** : a rural area **2** : the inhabitants of a countryside
country singer *n* : one who sings country music or in the style of country music
coun·try·wom·an \ˈkən-trē-ˌwu̇m-ən\ *n* **1** : a woman compatriot **2** : a woman resident of the country
1coun·ty \ˈkau̇nt-ē\ *n, pl* **counties** [ME *counte*, fr. OF *conté*, fr. ML *comitatus*, fr. LL, office of a count, fr. *comit-*, *comes* count — more at COUNT] **1** : the domain of a count **2 a** : one of the territorial divisions of Great Britain and Ireland constituting the chief units for administrative, judicial, and political purposes **b** (1) : the people of a county (2) *Brit* : the gentry of a county **3** : the largest territorial division for local government within a state of the U.S. **4** : the largest local administrative unit in various countries — **county** *adj*
2county *n, pl* **counties** [modif. of MF *comte*] *obs* : 3COUNT
county agent *n* : a consultant employed jointly by federal and state governments to provide information about agriculture and home economics by means of lectures, demonstrations, and discussions in rural areas
county court *n* : a court in some states that has a designated jurisdiction usu. both civil and criminal within the limits of a county
county fair *n* : a fair usu. held annually at a set location in a county esp. to exhibit local agricultural products and livestock
county palatine *n* : the territory of a count palatine
county seat *n* : a town that is the seat of county administration
county town *n, chiefly Brit* : COUNTY SEAT
1coup \ˈkōp\ *vb* [ME *coupen* to strike, fr. MF *couper* — more at COPE] *chiefly Scot* : OVERTURN, UPSET
2coup \ˈkü\ *n, pl* **coups** \ˈküz\ [F, blow, stroke — more at COPE] **1** : a brilliant, sudden, and usu. highly successful stroke or act **2** : COUP D'ETAT
coup de grace \ˌküd-ə-ˈgräs\ *n, pl* **coups de grace** \ˌküd-ə-\ [F *coup de grâce*, lit., stroke of mercy] **1** : a death blow or shot administered to end the suffering of one mortally wounded **2** : a decisive finishing blow, act, or event
coup de main \-ˈmaⁿ\ *n, pl* **coups de main** \ˌküd-ə-\ [F, lit., hand stroke] : a sudden attack in force
coup d'etat \ˌküd-ə-ˈtä, ˌküd-(ˌ)ā-\ *n, pl* **coups d'etat** \ˌküd-ə-ˈtä(z), ˌküd-(ˌ)ā-\ [F *coup d'état*, lit., stroke of state] : a sudden decisive exercise of force in politics; *esp* : the violent overthrow or alteration of an existing government by a small group
coup de the·atre \ˌküd-ə-tā-ˈätrᵊ\ *n, pl* **coups de theatre** \ˌküd-ə-\ [F *coup de théâtre*, lit., stroke of theater] **1** : a sudden sensational turn in a play; *also* : a sudden dramatic turn of events **2** : a theatrical success
coup d'oeil \kü-ˈdə(r), -ˈdəi\ *n, pl* **coups d'oeil** *same*\ [F, lit., stroke of the eye] : a brief survey : GLANCE
cou·pé *or* **coupe** \kü-ˈpā, *2 often* ˈküp\ *n* [F *coupé*, fr. pp. of *couper* to cut] **1** : a four-wheeled closed horse-drawn carriage for two persons inside with an outside seat for the driver in front **2** *usu* *coupe* **a** : a closed 2-door automobile for usu. two persons **b** : a usu. closed 2-door automobile with a full-width rear seat
1cou·ple \ˈkəp-əl\ *vb* **cou·pled; cou·pling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* **1** : to connect for consideration together ⟨*coupled* his praise with a request⟩ **2 a** : to fasten together : LINK **b** : to bring (two electric circuits) into such close proximity as to permit mutual influence **3** : to join in marriage or sexual union ~ *vi* **1** : to unite in sexual union **2** : JOIN **3** : to unite chemically usu. with elimination of a simple molecule
2couple \ˈkəp-əl; "*couple of*" *is often* ˌkəp-lə(v)\ *n* [ME, pair, bond, fr. OF *cople*, fr. L *copula* bond, fr. *co-* + *apere* to fasten — more at APT] **1 a** : a man and woman married, engaged, or otherwise paired **b** : two persons paired together **2** : PAIR, BRACE **3** : something that joins or links two things together: as **a** : two equal and opposite forces that act along parallel lines **b** : GALVANIC COUPLE **4** : an indefinite small number : FEW ⟨a ~ of days ago⟩
3couple *adj* : TWO — used with *a* ⟨a ~ more drinks⟩
cou·ple·ment \ˈkəp-əl-mənt\ *n* [MF, fr. *coupler* to joın, fr. L *copulare*, fr. *copula*] *archaic* : the act or result of coupling
cou·pler \ˈkəp-(ə-)lər\ *n* **1** : one that couples **2** : a contrivance on a keyboard instrument by which keyboards or keys are connected to play together
cou·plet \ˈkəp-lət\ *n* [MF, dim. of *cople*] **1** : two successive lines of verse forming a unit marked usu. by rhythmic correspondence, rhyme, or the inclusion of a self-contained utterance : DISTICH **2** : COUPLE **3** : one of the musical episodes alternating with the main theme (as in a rondo)
cou·pling \ˈkəp-liŋ (*usual for 2*), -ə-liŋ\ *n* **1** : the act of bringing or coming together : PAIRING; *specif* : sexual union **2** : a device that serves to connect the ends of adjacent parts or objects **3** : the joining of or the part of the body that joins the hindquarters to the forequarters of a quadruped **4** : means of electric connection of two electric circuits by having a part common to both
cou·pon \ˈk(y)ü-ˌpän\ *n* [F, fr. OF, piece, fr. *couper* to cut — more at COPE] **1** : a statement of due interest to be cut from a bearer bond when payable and presented for payment **2** : a form surrendered in order to obtain an article, service, or accommodation: as **a** : one of a series of attached tickets or certificates often to be detached and presented as needed **b** : a ticket or form authorizing purchases of rationed commodities **c** : a certificate or similar evidence of a purchase redeemable in premiums **d** : a part of a printed advertisement to be cut off for use as an order blank or inquiry form
cour·age \ˈkər-ij, ˈkə-rij\ *n* [ME *corage*, fr. OF, fr. *cuer* heart, fr. L *cor* — more at HEART] : mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty
syn COURAGE, METTLE, SPIRIT, RESOLUTION, TENACITY *shared meaning element* : mental or moral strength to resist opposition, danger, or hardship. COURAGE implies firmness of mind and will in the face of danger or extreme difficulty ⟨but screw your *courage* to the sticking place, and we'll not fail —Shak.⟩ METTLE suggests an ingrained capacity for meeting strain or stress with fortitude and resilience ⟨a situation to try the *mettle* of the most resolute man⟩ SPIRIT suggests a quality of temperament that enables one to hold one's own against opposition, interference, or temptation ⟨constant unremitting drudgery had slowly broken his *spirit*⟩ RESOLUTION stresses firmness of character and determination to achieve one's ends ⟨approach an unpleasant task with *resolution*⟩ TENACITY adds an implication of stubborn persistence and unwillingness to acknowledge defeat ⟨the *tenacity* of the bulldog breed⟩ ***ant*** cowardice
cou·ra·geous \kə-ˈrā-jəs\ *adj* : having or characterized by courage : BRAVE — **cou·ra·geous·ly** *adv* — **cou·ra·geous·ness** *n*

cou·rante \kù-'ränt, -'rant\ *n* [MF, fr. *courir* to run, fr. L *currere*] **1** : a dance of Italian origin marked by quick running steps **2** : music in quick triple time or in a mixture of $^3/_2$ and $^6/_4$ time
cou·reur de bois \kù-ˌrərd-əb-'wä\ *n, pl* **coureurs de bois** *same*\ [CanF, lit., woods runner] : a French or half-breed trapper of No. America and esp. of Canada
cour·gette \kůr-'zhet\ *n* [F dial., dim. of *courge* gourd, fr. L *cucurbita*] *chiefly Brit* : ZUCCHINI
cou·ri·er \'kůr-ē-ər, 'kər-ē-, 'kə-rē-\ *n* [MF *courrier*, fr. OIt *corriere*, fr. *correre* to run, fr. L *currere*] **1** : MESSENGER: as **a** : a member of a diplomatic service entrusted with bearing messages **b** (1) : an espionage agent transferring secret information (2) : a runner of contraband **c** : a member of the armed services whose duties include carrying mail, information, or supplies **2** : a traveler's paid attendant; *esp* : a tourists' guide employed by a travel agency
cour·lan \'kù(ə)r-lən\ *n* [F, modif. of Galibi *kurliri*] : a long-billed bird (*Aramus guarana*) that is intermediate in some respects between the cranes and rails and occurs in So. and Central America
¹course \'kō(ə)rs, 'kȯ(ə)rs\ *n* [ME, fr OF, fr. L *cursus*, fr. *cursus*, pp. of *currere* to run — more at CAR] **1 a** : the act or action of moving in a path from point to point **b** : LIFE HISTORY, CAREER **2** : the path over which something moves: as **a** : RACECOURSE **b** (1) : the direction of flight of an airplane usu. measured as a clockwise angle from north (2) : a point of the compass **c** : WATERCOURSE **d** : GOLF COURSE **3 a** : accustomed procedure or normal action ⟨the law taking its ~⟩ **b** : a chosen manner of conducting oneself : BEHAVIOR ⟨our wisest ~ is to retreat⟩ **c** : progression through a series of acts or events or a development or period **4** : an ordered process or succession: as **a** : a series of lectures or other matter dealing with a subject; *also* : a series of such courses constituting a curriculum **b** : a series of doses or medicaments administered over a designated period **5 a** : a part of a meal served at one time **b** : ROW, LAYER; *esp* : a continuous level range of brick or masonry throughout a wall **c** : the lowest sail on a square-rigged mast — **in due course** : after a normal passage of time : in the expected or allotted time — **of course** **1** : following the ordinary way or procedure **2** : as might be expected
²course *vb* **coursed; cours·ing** *vt* **1 a** : to hunt or pursue (game) with hounds **b** : to cause (dogs) to run (as after game) **2** : to follow close upon : PURSUE **3** : to run or move swiftly through or over : TRAVERSE ⟨jets *coursed* the area daily⟩ ~ *vi* : to run or pass rapidly along or as if along an indicated path ⟨blood *coursing* through his veins⟩
course of study **1** : the total number of courses offered by a school : CURRICULUM **2** : COURSE 4a
¹cours·er \'kōr-sər, 'kȯr-\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *coursier*, fr. *course* course, run] : a swift or spirited horse : CHARGER
²courser *n* **1** : a dog for coursing **2** : one that courses : HUNTSMAN **3** : any of various birds (subfamily Cursoriinae of the family Glareolidae) of Africa and southern Asia related to the plovers and noted for their speed in running
cours·ing *n* **1** : the act of one that courses **2** : the pursuit of running game with dogs that follow by sight instead of by scent
¹court \'kō(ə)rt, 'kȯ(ə)rt\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *cohort-, cohors* enclosure, throng, cohort, fr. *co-* + *-hort-, -hors* (akin to *hortus* garden) — more at YARD] **1 a** : the residence or establishment of a sovereign or similar dignitary **b** : a sovereign's formal assembly of his councillors and officers **c** : the sovereign and his officers and advisers who are the governing power **d** : the family and retinue of a sovereign **e** : a reception held by a sovereign **2 a** (1) : a manor house or large building surrounded by usu. enclosed grounds (2) : MOTEL **b** : an open space enclosed wholly or partly by buildings or circumscribed by a single building **c** : a quadrangular space walled or marked off for playing one of various games with a ball (as lawn tennis, racquets, handball, or basketball) or a division of such a court **d** : a wide alley with only one opening onto a street **3 a** : an official assembly for the transaction of judicial business **b** : a session of such a court ⟨~ is now adjourned⟩ **c** : a place (as a chamber) for the administration of justice **d** : a judge or judges in session **e** : a faculty or agency of judgment or evaluation ⟨rest our case in the ~ of world opinion — L. H. Marks⟩ **4 a** : an assembly or board with legislative or administrative powers **b** : PARLIAMENT, LEGISLATURE **5** : conduct or attention intended to win favor or dispel hostility : HOMAGE ⟨pay ~ to the king⟩
²court *vt* **1 a** : to seek to gain or achieve **b** (1) : ALLURE, TEMPT (2) : to act so as to invite or provoke ⟨~*s* disaster⟩ **2 a** : to seek the affections of **b** *of an animal* : to perform actions in order to attract for mating **3** : to seek to attract by attentions and flatteries ~ *vi* **1** : to engage in social activities leading to engagement and marriage **2** *of an animal* : to engage in activity leading to mating ***syn*** see INVITE
cour·te·ous \'kərt-ē-əs, *esp Brit* 'kȯrt-\ *adj* [ME *corteis*, fr. OF, fr. *court*] **1** : marked by polished manners, gallantry, or ceremonial usage of a court **2** : marked by respect for and consideration of others ***syn*** see CIVIL ***ant*** discourteous — **cour·te·ous·ly** *adv* — **cour·te·ous·ness** *n*
cour·te·san \'kōrt-ə-zən, 'kȯrt-, -ˌzan *also* 'kərt-\ *n* [MF *courtisane*, fr. OIt *cortigiana* woman courtier, fem. of *cortigiano* courtier, fr. *corte* court, fr. L *cohort-, cohors*] : a prostitute with a courtly, wealthy, or upper-class clientele
¹cour·te·sy \'kərt-ə-sē, *esp Brit* 'kȯrt-\ *n, pl* **-sies** [ME *corteisie*, fr. OF, fr. *corteis*] **1 a** : courteous behavior **b** : a courteous act or expression **2 a** : general allowance despite facts : INDULGENCE ⟨hills called mountains by ~ only⟩ **b** : consideration, cooperation, and generosity in providing; *also* : AGENCY, MEANS
²courtesy *adj* : granted, provided, or performed as a courtesy or by way of courtesy ⟨made a ~ call on the ambassador⟩
courtesy card *n* : a card entitling its holder to some special privilege
courtesy title *n* **1** : a title (as "Lord" added to the Christian name of a peer's younger son) used in addressing certain lineal relatives of British peers **2** : a title (as "Professor" for any teacher) taken by the user and commonly accepted without consideration of official right
court game *n* : an athletic game (as tennis, handball, or basketball) played on a court
court·house \'kō(ə)rt-ˌhaůs, 'kȯ(ə)rt-\ *n* **1 a** : a building in which courts of law are regularly held **b** : the principal building in which county offices are housed **2** : COUNTY SEAT
court·ier \'kōrt-ē-ər, 'kōrt-yər, 'kȯrt-; 'kōr-chər, 'kȯr-\ *n* **1** : one in attendance at a royal court **2** : one who practices flattery
¹court·ly \'kō(ə)rt-lē, 'kȯ(ə)rt-\ *adj* **court·li·er; -est** **1 a** : of a quality befitting the court : ELEGANT **b** : insincerely flattering **2** : favoring the policy or party of the court — **court·li·ness** *n*
²courtly *adv* : in a courtly manner : POLITELY
courtly love *n* : a late medieval conventionalized code prescribing conduct and emotions of ladies and their lovers
¹court–mar·tial \'kōrt-ˌmär-shəl, 'kȯrt-, -'mär-\ *n, pl* **courts–martial** *also* **court–martials** **1** : a court consisting of commissioned officers and in some instances enlisted personnel for the trial of members of the armed forces or others within its jurisdiction **2** : a trial by court-martial
²court–martial *vt* **–mar·tialed** *also* **–mar·tialled; –mar·tial·ing** *also* **–mar·tial·ling** \-ˌmärsh-(ə-)liŋ, -'märsh-\ : to subject to trial by court-martial
court of appeal : a court hearing appeals from the decisions of lower courts — called also *court of appeals*
court of claims : a court that has jurisdiction over claims (as against a government)
court of common pleas **1** : a former English superior court having civil jurisdiction **2** : an intermediate court in some American states that usu. has civil and criminal jurisdiction
court of domestic relations : a court that has jurisdiction and often special advisory powers over family disputes involving the rights and duties of husband, wife, parent, or child esp. in matters affecting the support, custody, and welfare of children
court of honor : a tribunal (as a military court) for investigating questions of personal honor
court of inquiry : a military court that inquires into and reports on some military matter (as an officer's questionable conduct)
court of law : a court that hears cases and decides them on the basis of statutes or the common law
court of record : a court whose acts and proceedings are kept on permanent record
Court of St. James's \-sānt-'jāmz, -sənt-\ [fr. *St. James's* Palace, London, former seat of the British court] : the British court
court of sessions : any of various state criminal courts of record
court order *n* : an order issuing from a competent court that requires a person to do or abstain from doing a specified act
court plaster *n* [fr. its use for beauty spots by ladies at royal courts] : an adhesive plaster esp. of silk coated with isinglass and glycerin
court reporter *n* : a stenographer who records and transcribes a verbatim report of all proceedings in a court of law
court·room \'kō(ə)rt-ˌrüm, 'kȯ(ə)rt-, -ˌrům\ *n* : a room in which a court of law is held
court·ship \-ˌship\ *n* : the act, process, or period of courting
court·side \-ˌsīd\ *n* : the area at the edge of a court (as for tennis or basketball)
court tennis *n* : a game played with a ball and racket in an enclosed court divided by a net
court·yard \'kō(ə)rt-ˌyärd, 'kȯ(ə)rt-\ *n* : a court or enclosure adjacent to a building (as a house or palace)
cous·in \'kəz-ᵊn\ *n* [ME *cosin*, fr. OF, fr. L *consobrinus*, fr. *com-* + *sobrinus* cousin on the mother's side, fr. *soror* sister — more at SISTER] **1 a** : a child of one's uncle or aunt **b** : a relative descended from one's grandparent or more remote ancestor in a different line **c** : KINSMAN, RELATIVE ⟨a distant ~⟩ **2** : one associated with another : EQUIVALENT **3** — used as a title by a sovereign in addressing a nobleman **4** : a person of a race or people ethnically or culturally related ⟨our English ~*s*⟩ — **cous·in·hood** \-ˌhůd\ *n* — **cous·in·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
cous·in·age \'kəz-ᵊn-ij\ *n* **1** : relationship of cousins : KINSHIP **2** : a collection of cousins : KINFOLK
cous·in–ger·man \ˌkəz-ᵊn-'jər-mən\ *n, pl* **cous·ins–ger·man** \-ᵊnz-\ [ME *cosin germain*, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *cosin* + *germain* german] : COUSIN 1a
Cousin Jack \ˌkəz-ᵊn-'jak\ *n* : CORNISHMAN; *esp* : a Cornish miner
¹couth \'küth\ *adj* [back-formation fr. *uncouth*] : SOPHISTICATED, POLISHED
²couth *n* : POLISH, REFINEMENT ⟨lacks ~ but has ample energy and acting talent —*Newsweek*⟩
couth·ie \'kü-thē\ *adj* [ME *couth*] *chiefly Scot* : PLEASANT, KINDLY
cou·ture \kü-'tů(ə)r, -'tůər\ *n* [F, fr. OF *couture* sewing, fr. (assumed) VL *consutura*, fr. L *consutus*, pp. of *consuere* to sew together, fr. *com-* + *suere* to sew — more at SEW] : the business of designing, making, and selling fashionable custom-made women's clothing; *also* : the designers and establishments engaged in this business
cou·tu·ri·er \kü-'tůr-ē-ər, -ē-ˌā\ *n* [F, dressmaker, fr. OF *couturier* tailor's assistant, fr. *couture*] : an establishment engaged in couture; *also* : the proprietor of or designer for such an establishment
cou·tu·ri·ere \kü-'tůr-ē-ər, -ē-ˌe(ə)r\ *n* [F *couturière*, fr. OF *couturiere*, fem. of *couturier*] : a female couturier
cou·vade \kü-'väd\ *n* [F, fr. MF, cowardly inactivity, fr. *cover* to sit on, brood over — more at COVEY] : a custom among some primitive peoples in accordance with which when a child is born the father takes to bed as if bearing the child, cares for it, and submits himself to fasting, purification, or taboos

co·va·lence \(ˈ)kō-ˈvā-lən(t)s\ *n* : valence characterized by the sharing of electrons; *also* : the number of pairs of electrons an atom can share with its neighbors — compare ELECTROVALENCE — **co·va·lent** \-lənt\ *adj* — **co·va·lent·ly** *adv*
co·va·len·cy \-lən-sē\ *n* : COVALENCE
covalent bond *n* : a nonionic chemical bond formed by shared electrons
co·vari·ance \(ˈ)kō-ˈver-ē-ən(t)s, -ˈvar-\ *n* **1** : the expected value of the product of the deviations of two random variables from their respective means **2** : the arithmetic mean of the products of the deviations of corresponding values of two quantitative variables from their respective means
co·vari·ant \-ənt\ *adj* [ISV] : varying with something else so as to preserve certain mathematical interrelations
¹cove \ˈkōv\ *n* [ME, den, fr. OE *cofa;* akin to OE *cot*] **1** : a recessed place : CONCAVITY: as **a** : an architectural member with a concave cross section **b** : a trough for concealed lighting at the upper part of a wall **2** : a small sheltered inlet or bay **3 a** : a deep recess or small valley in the side of a mountain **b** : a level area sheltered by hills or mountains
²cove *vt* **coved; cov·ing** : to make in a hollow concave form
³cove *n* [Romany *kova* thing, person] *Brit* : MAN, FELLOW
co·ven \ˈkəv-ən, ˈkō-vən\ *n* [ME *covin* band, fr. MF, fr. ML *convenium* agreement, fr. L *convenire* to agree — more at CONVENTION] : an assembly or band of usu. 13 witches
¹cov·e·nant \ˈkəv-(ə-)nənt\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. prp. of *covenir* to agree, fr. L *convenire*] **1** : a usu. formal, solemn, and binding agreement : COMPACT **2 a** : a written agreement or promise usu. under seal between two or more parties esp. for the performance of some action **b** : the common-law action to recover damages for breach of such a contract — **cov·e·nan·tal** \ˌkəv-ə-ˈnant-ᵊl\ *adj*
²cov·e·nant \ˈkəv-(ə-)nənt, -ə-ˌnant\ *vt* : to promise by a covenant : PLEDGE ~ *vi* : to enter into a covenant : CONTRACT
cov·e·nan·tee \ˌkəv-ə-ˌnan-ˈtē, -nən-\ *n* : the person to whom a promise in the form of a covenant is made
cov·e·nant·er \ˈkəv-ə-ˌnant-ər, *2 also* ˌkəv-ə-ˈ\ *n* **1** : one that makes a covenant **2** *cap* : a signer or adherent of the Scottish National Covenant of 1638
cov·e·nan·tor \ˈkəv-ə-ˌnant-ər; ˌkəv-ə-ˌnan-ˈtȯ(ə)r, -nən-\ *n* : the party to a covenant bound to perform the obligation expressed in it
Cov·en·try \ˈkəv-ən-trē, ˈkäv-\ *n* [*Coventry*, England] : a state of ostracism or exclusion ⟨sent to ~⟩
¹cov·er \ˈkəv-ər\ *vb* **cov·ered; cov·er·ing** \ˈkəv-(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *coveren*, fr. OF *covrir*, fr. L *cooperire*, fr. *co-* + *operire* to close, cover — more at WEIR] *vt* **1 a** : to guard from attack **b** (1) : to have within the range of one's guns : COMMAND (2) : to hold within range of an aimed firearm **c** (1) : to afford protection or security to : INSURE (2) : to afford protection against or compensation for **d** (1) : to guard (an opponent) in order to obstruct a play (2) : to be in position to receive a throw to (a base in baseball) **e** (1) : to make provision for (a demand or charge) by means of a reserve or deposit ⟨his balance was insufficient to ~ his check⟩ (2) : to maintain a check on esp. by patrolling (3) : to protect by contrivance or expedient **2 a** : to hide from sight or knowledge : CONCEAL ⟨~ up a scandal⟩ **b** : to lie over : ENVELOP **3** : to lay or spread something over : OVERLAY **4 a** : to spread over **b** : to appear here and there on the surface of **5** : to place or set a cover or covering over **6 a** : to copulate with (a female animal) ⟨a horse ~*s* a mare⟩ **b** : to sit on and incubate (eggs) **7** : to invest with a large or excessive amount of something ⟨~*s* himself with glory⟩ **8** : to play a higher-ranking card on (a previously played card) **9** : to have sufficient scope to include or take into account **10** : to deal with : TREAT **11 a** : to have as one's territory or field of activity ⟨one salesman ~*s* the whole state⟩ **b** : to report news about **12** : to pass over : TRAVERSE **13** : to place one's stake in equal jeopardy with in a bet **14** : to buy securities or commodities for delivery against (an earlier short sale) ~ *vi* **1** : to conceal something illicit, blameworthy, or embarrassing from notice ⟨~ up for a friend⟩ **2** : to act as a substitute or replacement during an absence — **cov·er·able** \ˈkəv-(ə-)rə-bəl\ *adj* — **cov·er·er** \-ər-ər\ *n* — **cover one's tracks** : to conceal traces in order to elude pursuers — **cover the ground** *or* **cover ground** **1** : to traverse a course or distance with satisfying speed **2** : to handle an assignment thoroughly and efficiently
²cover *n, often attrib* **1** : something that protects, shelters, or guards: as **a** : natural shelter for an animal; *also* : the factors that provide such shelter **b** (1) : a position or situation affording protection from enemy fire (2) : the protection offered by airplanes in tactical support of a military operation **2** : something that is placed over or about another thing: **a** : LID, TOP **b** : a binding or case for a book; *also* : the front or back of such a binding **c** : an overlay or outer layer esp. for protection ⟨a mattress ~⟩ **d** : a tablecloth and the other table fittings **e** : COVER CHARGE **f** : ROOF **g** : a cloth used on a bed **h** : something (as vegetation or snow) that covers the ground **i** : the extent to which clouds obscure the sky **3 a** : something that conceals or obscures ⟨under ~ of darkness⟩ **b** : a masking device : PRETEXT ⟨the project was a ~ for intelligence operations⟩ **4** : an envelope or wrapper for mail **5** : one who substitutes for another during an absence — **cov·er·less** \-ər-ləs\ *adj* — **under cover** **1** : in an envelope or wrapper **2** : under concealment : in secret
cov·er·age \ˈkəv-(ə-)rij\ *n* **1** : the act or fact of covering **2** : something that covers: as **a** : inclusion within the scope of an insurance policy or protective plan : INSURANCE **b** : the amount available to meet liabilities **c** : inclusion within the scope of discussion or reporting ⟨the news ~ of the trial⟩ **3** : the total group covered : SCOPE: as **a** : all the risks covered by the terms of an insurance contract **b** : the number or percentage of persons reached by a communications medium
cov·er·all \ˈkəv-ə-ˌrȯl\ *n* : a one-piece outer garment worn to protect other garments — usu. used in pl. — **cov·er·alled** \-ˌrȯld\ *adj*
cover–all \ˈkəv-ə-ˌrȯl\ *adj* : COMPREHENSIVE ⟨~ provisions⟩
cover charge *n* : a charge made by a restaurant or nightclub in addition to the charge for food and drink
cover crop *n* : a crop planted to prevent soil erosion and to provide humus
covered bridge *n* : a bridge that has its roadway protected by a roof and enclosing sides
covered smut *n* : a smut disease of grains in which the spore masses are held together by the persistent grain membrane and glumes
covered wagon *n* : a wagon with a canvas top supported by bowed strips of wood or metal
cover girl *n* : an attractive girl whose picture appears on a magazine cover
cover glass *n* **1** : a piece of very thin glass used to cover material on a glass microscope slide **2** : a sheet of plain glass applied to a transparency for protection
¹cov·er·ing \ˈkəv-(ə-)riŋ\ *n* : something that covers or conceals
²covering *adj* : containing explanation of or additional information about an accompanying communication ⟨a ~ letter⟩
cov·er·let \ˈkəv-ər-lət, -(ˌ)lid\ *n* [ME, alter. of *coverlite*, fr. AF *coverelyth*, fr. OF *covrir* + *lit* bed, fr. L *lectus* — more at LIE] : BEDSPREAD
cover shot *n* : a wide-angle photographic shot that includes a whole scene
cov·er·slip \ˈkəv-ər-ˌslip\ *n* : COVER GLASS 1
cover story *n* : a story accompanying a magazine-cover illustration
¹co·vert \ˈkō-(ˌ)vərt, kō-ˈ; ˈkəv-ərt\ *adj* [ME, fr. OF, pp. of *covrir* to cover] **1** : not openly shown, engaged in, or avowed : VEILED ⟨a ~ alliance⟩ ⟨~ dislike concealed under apparent goodwill⟩ **2** : covered over : SHELTERED **3** : being married and under the authority or protection of one's husband ***syn*** see SECRET ***ant*** overt — **co·vert·ly** *adv* — **co·vert·ness** *n*
²co·vert \ˈkəv-ər(t), ˈkō-vərt\ *n* **1 a** : hiding place : SHELTER **b** : a thicket affording cover for game **c** : a masking or concealing device **2** : a feather covering the bases of the quills of the wings and tail of a bird — see BIRD illustration **3** : a firm durable twilled sometimes waterproofed cloth usu. of mixed-color yarns
cover text *n* : a text in plain language within which a ciphertext is concealed
cov·er·ture \ˈkəv-ər-ˌchu̇(ə)r, -chər, -ˌt(y)u̇(ə)r\ *n* **1 a** : COVERING **b** : SHELTER **2** : the status a woman acquires upon marriage under common law
cov·er–up \ˈkəv-ə-ˌrəp\ *n* : a device or stratagem for masking or concealing ⟨indifference to others . . . is a ~ for a lack of easy sociability —Marguerite Barze⟩
cov·et \ˈkəv-ət\ *vb* [ME *coveiten*, fr. OF *coveitier*, fr. *coveitié* desire, modif. of L *cupiditat-, cupiditas*, fr. *cupidus* desirous, fr. *cupere* to desire; akin to L *vapor* steam, vapor, Gk *kapnos* smoke] *vt* **1** : to wish for enviously **2** : to desire (what belongs to another) inordinately or culpably ~ *vi* : to feel inordinate desire for what belongs to another ***syn*** see DESIRE — **cov·et·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **cov·et·er** \-ər\ *n* — **cov·et·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
cov·et·ous \-əs\ *adj* **1** : marked by inordinate desire for wealth or possessions or for another's possessions **2** : having a craving for possession ⟨~ of power⟩ — **cov·et·ous·ly** *adv* — **cov·et·ous·ness** *n*
syn COVETOUS, GREEDY, ACQUISITIVE, GRASPING, AVARICIOUS *shared meaning element* : having or showing a strong desire for possessions and esp. material possessions
cov·ey \ˈkəv-ē\ *n, pl* **coveys** [ME, fr. MF *covee*, fr. OF, fr. *cover* to sit on, brood over, fr. L *cubare* to lie — more at HIP] **1** : a mature bird or pair of birds with a brood of young; *also* : a small flock **2** : COMPANY, GROUP
¹cow \ˈkau̇\ *n* [ME *cou*, fr. OE *cū;* akin to OHG *kuo* cow, L *bos* head of cattle, Gk *bous*, Skt *go*] **1** : the mature female of cattle (genus *Bos*) or of any animal the male of which is called *bull* (as the moose) **2** : a domestic bovine animal regardless of sex or age — **cowy** \-ē\ *adj*



cow: *1* hoof, *2* pastern, *3* dewclaw, *4* switch, *5* hock, *6* rear udder, *7* flank, *8* thigh, *9* tail, *10* pinbone, *11* tail head, *12* thurl, *13* hip, *14* barrel, *15* ribs, *16* crops, *17* withers, *18* heart girth, *19* neck, *20* horn, *21* poll, *22* forehead, *23* bridge of nose, *24* muzzle, *25* jaw, *26* throat, *27* point of shoulder, *28* dewlap, *29* point of elbow, *30* brisket, *31* chest floor, *32* knee, *33* milk well, *34* milk vein, *35* fore udder, *36* teats, *37* rump, *38* loin, *39* chine

²cow *vt* [alter. of *coll* (to poll)] *chiefly Scot* : to cut short : POLL
³cow *vt* [prob. of Scand origin; akin to Dan *kue* to subdue] : to intimidate with threats or show of strength : DAUNT ⟨~*ed* them with his hard, intelligent eyes —Arthur Morrison⟩ — **cowed·ly** \ˈkau̇(-ə)d-lē\ *adv*
cow·age *or* **cow·hage** \ˈkau̇-ij\ *n* [Hindi *kavā̃c*] : a tropical leguminous woody vine (*Mucuna pruritum*) with crooked pods covered

with barbed hairs that cause severe itching; *also* : these hairs sometimes used as a vermifuge
cow·ard \'kau̇(-ə)rd\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *coart*, fr. *coe* tail, fr. L *cauda*] : one who shows disgraceful fear or timidity — **coward** *adj*
cow·ard·ice \-əs\ *n* [ME *cowardise*, fr. OF *coardise*, fr. *coart*] : lack of courage or resolution
¹cow·ard·ly \-lē\ *adv* : in a cowardly manner
²cowardly *adj* : resembling or befitting a coward ⟨a ~ retreat⟩ — **cow·ard·li·ness** *n*
cow·bane \'kau̇-ˌbān\ *n* : any of several poisonous plants (as a water hemlock) of the carrot family
cow·bell \-ˌbel\ *n* : a bell hung around the neck of a cow to make a sound by which it can be located
cow·ber·ry \-ˌber-ē\ *n* : any of several pasture shrubs (as mountain cranberry); *also* : the fruit of a cowberry
cow·bird \-ˌbərd\ *n* : a small No. American blackbird (*Molothrus ater*) that lays its eggs in the nests of other birds
cow·boy \-ˌbȯi\ *n* : one who tends or drives cattle; *esp* : a usu. mounted cattle ranch hand
cowboy boot *n* : a boot made with a high arch, a high Cuban heel, and usu. fancy stitching
cowboy hat *n* : a wide-brimmed hat with a large soft crown — called also *ten-gallon hat*
cow·catch·er \'kau̇-ˌkach-ər, -ˌkech-\ *n* : an inclined frame on the front of a railroad locomotive for throwing obstacles off the track
cow college *n* **1** : a college that specializes in agriculture **2** : a provincial college or university that lacks culture, sophistication, and tradition
cow·er \'kau̇(-ə)r\ *vi* [ME *couren*, of Scand origin; akin to Norw *kura* to cower; akin to Gk *gyros* circle, OE *cot*] : to shrink away or crouch quivering (as in abject fear or grave distress) from something that menaces, domineers, or dismays ⟨~*ing* in their huts . . . listening in fear —Charles Kingsley⟩
cow·fish \'kau̇-ˌfish\ *n* **1 a** : any of various small cetaceans **b** : SIRENIAN **2** : any of various small bright-colored fishes (family Ostraciidae) with projections resembling horns over the eyes
cow·girl \-ˌgər(-ə)l\ *n* : a female cowboy
cow·hand \-ˌhand\ *n* : COWBOY
cow·herd \-ˌhərd\ *n* : one who tends cows
¹cow·hide \-ˌhīd\ *n* **1** : the hide of a cow; *also* : leather made from this hide **2** : a coarse whip of rawhide or braided leather
²cowhide *vt* **cow·hid·ed; cow·hid·ing** : to flog with a cowhide whip
cow horse *n* : COW PONY
¹cowl \'kau̇(ə)l\ *n* [ME *cowle*, fr. OE *cugele*, fr. LL *cuculla* monk's hood, fr. L *cucullus* hood] **1** : a hood or long hooded cloak esp. of a monk **2 a** : a chimney covering designed to improve the draft **b** : the top portion of the front part of an automobile body forward of the two front doors to which are attached the windshield and instrument board **c** : COWLING
²cowl *vt* : to cover with or as if with a cowl
cowled \'kau̇(ə)ld\ *adj* : shaped like a hood : HOODED ⟨a ~ flower⟩
cow·lick \'kau̇-ˌlik\ *n* [fr. its appearance of having been licked by a cow] : a lock or tuft of hair growing in a different direction from the rest of the hair
cowl·ing \'kau̇-liŋ\ *n* : a removable metal covering that houses the engine and sometimes a part of the fuselage or nacelle of an airplane; *also* : a metallic cover for an engine
cowl·staff \'kōl-ˌstaf, 'kau̇(ə)l-\ *n* [ME *cuvelstaff*, fr. *cuvel* vessel (fr. OE *cȳfel*, fr. ONF *cuvele* small vat) + *staff*] *archaic* : a staff from which a vessel is suspended and carried between two persons
cow·man \'kau̇-mən, -ˌman\ *n* **1** : COWHERD, COWBOY **2** : a cattle owner or rancher
co–work·er \'kō-ˌwər-kər\ *n* : a fellow worker
cow parsnip *n* : a tall perennial No. American plant (*Heracleum maximum*) of the carrot family with large compound leaves and broad umbels of white or purplish flowers; *also* : a related plant (*H. sphondylium*) naturalized in the U.S. from the Old World
cow·pat \'kau̇-ˌpat\ *n* : a dropping of cow dung
cow·pea \'kau̇-ˌpē\ *n* : a sprawling leguminous herb (*Vigna sinensis*) related to the bean and widely cultivated in southern U.S. esp. for forage and green manure; *also* : its edible seed — called also *black-eyed pea*
Cow·per's gland \ˌkau̇-pərz-, ˌkü-pərz-, ˌkůp-ərz-\ *n* [William *Cowper* †1709 E surgeon] : either of two small glands discharging into the male urethra
cow·poke \'kau̇-ˌpōk\ *n* : COWBOY
cow pony *n* : a light saddle horse trained for herding cattle
cow·pox \'kau̇-ˌpäks\ *n* : a mild eruptive disease of the cow that when communicated to man protects against smallpox
cow·punch·er \-ˌpən-chər\ *n* : COWBOY
cow·rie *or* **cow·ry** \'kau̇(ə)r-ē\ *n, pl* **cowries** [Hindi *kaurī*] : any of numerous marine gastropods (family Cypraeidae) widely distributed in warm seas with glossy and often brightly colored shells
cow·slip \'kau̇-ˌslip\ *n* [ME *cowslyppe*, fr. OE *cūslyppe*, lit., cow dung, fr. *cū* cow + *slypa*, *slyppe* paste] **1** : a common British primrose (*Primula veris*) with fragrant yellow or purplish flowers **2** : MARSH MARIGOLD **3** : SHOOTING STAR **4** : VIRGINIA COWSLIP
cow·shed \'kau̇-ˌshed\ *n* : a shed for the housing of cows
cow town *n* **1** : a town or city that serves as a market center or shipping point for cattle **2** : a small unsophisticated town within a cattle-raising area
¹cox \'käks\ *n* : COXSWAIN
²cox *vb* : COXSWAIN
coxa \'käk-sə\ *n, pl* **cox·ae** \-ˌsē, -ˌsī\ [L, hip; akin to OHG *hāhsina* hock, Skt *kakṣa* armpit] : the basal segment of a limb of various arthropods (as an insect) — **cox·al** \-səl\ *adj*
cox·comb \'käk-ˌskōm\ *n* [ME *cokkes comb*, lit., cock's comb] **1 a** *obs* : a jester's cap adorned with a strip of red **b** *archaic* : PATE, HEAD **2 a** *obs* : FOOL **b** : a conceited foolish person : FOP — **cox·comb·ical** \käk-'skō-mi-kəl, -'skäm-i-\ *adj*
cox·comb·ry \'käk-skəm-rē, -ˌskōm-\ *n, pl* **-ries** : behavior that is characteristic of a coxcomb : FOPPERY
Cox·sack·ie virus \(ˌ)kůk-ˌsäk-ē-, -ˌsak-; (ˌ)käk-ˌsak-ē-\ *n* [*Coxsackie*, N.Y.] : any of several viruses related to that of poliomyelitis and associated with human diseases
¹cox·swain \'käk-sən, -ˌswān\ *n* [ME *cokswayne*, fr. *cok* cockboat + *swain* servant] **1** : a sailor who has charge of a ship's boat and its crew and who usu. steers **2** : a steersman of a racing shell who usu. directs the crew
²coxswain *vt* : to direct as coxswain ~ *vi* : to act as coxswain
¹coy \'kȯi\ *adj* [ME, quiet, shy, fr. MF *coi* calm, fr. L *quietus* quiet] **1 a** : shrinking from contact or familiarity **b** : marked by cute, coquettish, or artful playfulness **2** : showing reluctance to make a definite commitment ***syn*** see SHY ***ant*** pert — **coy·ly** *adv* — **coy·ness** *n*
²coy *vt, obs* : CARESS ~ *vi, archaic* : to act coyly
coy·ote \'kī-ˌōt, kī-'ōt-ē\ *n, pl* **coyotes** *or* **coyote** [MexSp, fr. Nahuatl *coyotl*] : a small wolf (*Canis latrans*) native to western No. America


coyote

coy·o·til·lo \ˌkī-ə-'til-(ˌ)ō, ˌkȯi-ə-, -'tē-(ˌ)(y)ō\ *n* [MexSp, dim. of *coyote*] : a low poisonous shrub (*Karwinskia humboldtiana*) of the buckthorn family of the southwestern U.S. and Mexico
coy·pu \'kȯi-(ˌ)pü, kȯi-'\ *n* [AmerSp *coipú*, fr. Araucan *coypu*] **1** : a So. American aquatic rodent (*Myocastor coypus*) with webbed feet and dorsal mammae that has been introduced into the U.S. on the Gulf coast and in the Pacific Northwest **2** : NUTRIA 2
coz \'kəz\ *n* [by shortening & alter.] : COUSIN
coz·en \'kəz-ᵊn\ *vt* **coz·ened; coz·en·ing** \'kəz-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ [obs. It *cozzonare*, fr. It *cozzone* horse trader, fr. L *cocion-*, *cocio* trader] **1** : to deceive, win over, or induce to do something by artful coaxing and wheedling or shrewd trickery ⟨tried to ~ his opponent's supporters⟩ **2** : to gain by cozening someone ⟨~*ed* his supper out of the old woman⟩ ***syn*** see CHEAT — **coz·en·er** \'kəz-nər, -ᵊn-ər\ *n*
coz·en·age \'kəz-nij, -ᵊn-ij\ *n* **1** : the art or practice of cozening : FRAUD **2** : an act or an instance of cozening
¹co·zy \'kō-zē\ *adj* **co·zi·er; -est** [prob. of Scand origin; akin to Norw *koselig* cozy] **1** : enjoying or affording warmth and ease : SNUG **2 a** : marked by the intimacy of the family or a close group **b** : suggesting close association or connivance ⟨a ~ agreement⟩ **3** : marked by a discreet and cautious attitude or procedure ***syn*** see COMFORTABLE — **co·zi·ly** \-zə-lē\ *adv* — **co·zi·ness** \-zē-nəs\ *n*
²cozy *adv* : in a cautious manner ⟨play it ~ and wait for the other team to make a mistake —Bobby Dodd⟩
³cozy *n, pl* **cozies** : a padded covering esp. for a teapot to keep the contents hot
cozy up *vi* : to attain or try to attain familiarity, friendship, or intimacy : ingratiate onself ⟨*cozying up* to the party leaders⟩
cp *abbr* **1** compare **2** coupon
CP *abbr* **1** candlepower **2** Cape Province **3** center of pressure **4** charter party **5** chemically pure **6** command post **7** communist party **8** Congregation of the Passion **9** custom of port
CPA *abbr* **1** Catholic Press Association **2** certified public accountant
cpd *abbr* compound
CPFF *abbr* cost plus fixed fee
CPI *abbr* consumer price index
cpl *abbr* **1** complete **2** compline
Cpl *abbr* corporal
CPM *abbr* **1** cost per thousand **2** cycles per minute
CPO *abbr* chief petty officer
CPOM *abbr* master chief petty officer
CPOS *abbr* senior chief petty officer
CPS *abbr* **1** cards per second **2** certified professional secretary **3** characters per second **4** Civilian Public Service **5** cycles per second
CPT *abbr* captain
cpu *abbr* central processing unit
¹CQ \'sē-'kyü\ [abbr. for *call to quarters*] — communication code letters used at the beginning of radiograms of general information or safety notices or by shortwave amateurs as an invitation to talk to other shortwave amateurs
²CQ *abbr* **1** call to quarters **2** charge of quarters **3** commercial quality
CQT *abbr* College Qualification Test
cr *abbr* **1** center **2** circular **3** commander **4** cream **5** creased **6** credit; creditor **7** crescendo **8** cruzeiro
Cr *symbol* chromium
CR *abbr* **1** carrier's risk **2** cathode ray **3** class rate **4** conditioned reflex; conditioned response **5** current rate
¹crab \'krab\ *n, often attrib* [ME *crabbe*, fr. OE *crabba;* akin to OHG *krebiz* crab, OE *ceorfan* to carve] **1** : any of numerous chiefly marine broadly built crustaceans: **a** : any of a tribe (Brachyura) with a short broad usu. flattened carapace, a small abdomen that curls forward beneath the body, short antennae, and the anterior pair of limbs modified as grasping pincers **b** : any of various crustaceans (tribe Anomura) resembling true crabs in the more or less reduced condition of the abdomen **2** *cap* : CANCER 1 **3** : any of various machines for raising or hauling heavy weights **4** : failure to raise an oar clear of the water on recovery of a stroke or missing the water altogether when attempting a stroke ⟨catch a

~〉 **5** *pl* : infestation with crab lice **6** : apparent sideways motion of an airplane headed into a crosswind
²crab *vb* **crabbed; crab·bing** *vt* **1** : to cause to move sideways or in an indirect or diagonal manner; *specif* : to head (an airplane) by means of the rudder into a crosswind to counteract drift **2** : to subject to crabbing ~ *vi* **1 a** (1) : to move sideways indirectly or diagonally (2) : to crab an airplane **b** : to scuttle or scurry sideways **2** : to fish for crabs — **crab·ber** *n*
³crab *n* [ME *crabbe*, perh. fr. *crabbe* ¹crab] : CRAB APPLE
⁴crab *vb* **crabbed; crab·bing** [ME *crabben*, prob. back-formation fr. *crabbed*] *vt* **1** : to make sullen : SOUR 〈old age has *crabbed* his nature〉 **2** : to complain about peevishly **3** : SPOIL, RUIN ~ *vi* : CARP, GROUSE 〈always ~*s* about the weather〉 — **crab·ber** *n*
⁵crab *n* : an ill-tempered person : CROSSPATCH
crab apple *n* [³*crab*] **1** : a small wild sour apple **2** : a cultivated apple with small usu. highly colored acid fruit
crab·bed \'krab-əd\ *adj* [ME, partly fr. *crabbe* ¹crab, partly fr. *crabbe* ³crab] **1** : MOROSE, PEEVISH **2** : difficult to read or understand 〈~ handwriting〉 — **crab·bed·ly** *adv* — **crab·bed·ness** *n*
crab·by \'krab-ē\ *adj* **crab·bi·er; -est** [³*crab*] : CROSS, ILL-NATURED
crab cactus *n* : CHRISTMAS CACTUS
crab·grass \'krab-ˌgras\ *n* : a grass (esp. *Digitaria sanguinalis*) that has creeping or decumbent stems which root freely at the nodes and that is often a pest in turf or cultivated lands
crab louse *n* : a louse (*Phthirus pubis*) infesting the pubic region of the human body
crab·stick \'krab-ˌstik\ *n* **1** : a stick, cane, or cudgel of crab apple tree wood **2** : a crabbed ill-natured person
crab·wise \-ˌwīz\ *adv* **1** : SIDEWAYS **2** : in a sidling or cautiously indirect manner
¹crack \'krak\ *vb* [ME *crakken*, fr. OE *cracian*; akin to Skt *jarate* it crackles — more at CRANE] *vi* **1** : to make a very sharp explosive sound 〈the whip ~*s* through the air〉 **2** : to break, split, or snap apart 〈the friendly atmosphere began to ~〉 **3** : FAIL: as **a** : to lose control or effectiveness under pressure — often used with *up* **b** : to fail in tone 〈his voice ~*ed*〉 **4** : to go at good speed; *specif* : to proceed under full sail or steam **5** : to break up into simpler chemical compounds usu. as a result of heating ~ *vt* **1 a** : to break so that fissures appear on the surface 〈~ a mirror〉 **b** : to break with a sudden sharp sound 〈~ nuts〉 **2** : to utter esp. suddenly or strikingly 〈~ a joke〉 **3** : to strike with a sharp noise : RAP 〈then ~*s* him over the head〉 〈~*ed* a two-run homer in the fifth —*N. Y. Times*〉 **4 a** (1) : to open (as a bottle) for drinking (2) : to open (a book) for studying **b** : to puzzle out and expose, solve, or reveal the mystery of 〈~ a code〉 **c** : to break into 〈~ a safe〉 **d** : to open slightly 〈~ the throttle〉 **e** : to break through (as a barrier) so as to gain acceptance or recognition **5 a** : to impair seriously or irreparably : WRECK 〈~ a car up〉 **b** : to destroy the tone of (a voice) **c** : DISORDER, CRAZE **d** : to interrupt sharply or abruptly 〈the criticism ~*ed* our complacency〉 **6** : to cause to make a sharp noise 〈~ one's knuckles〉 **7 a** (1) : to subject (hydrocarbons) to cracking (2) : to produce by cracking 〈~*ed* gasoline〉 **b** : to break up (chemical compounds) into simpler compounds by means of heat
²crack *n* **1 a** : a loud roll or peal 〈a ~ of thunder〉 **b** : a sudden sharp noise 〈the ~ of rifle fire〉 **2** : a sharp witty remark : QUIP **3 a** : a narrow break : FISSURE 〈a ~ in the ice〉 **b** : a narrow opening 〈leave the door open a ~〉 **4 a** : a weakness or flaw caused by decay, age, or deficiency : UNSOUNDNESS **b** : a broken tone of the voice **c** : CRACKPOT **5** : MOMENT, INSTANT 〈the ~ of dawn〉 〈the ~ of doom〉 **6** : HOUSEBREAKING, BURGLARY **7** : a sharp resounding blow 〈gave him a ~ on the head〉 **8** : ATTEMPT, TRY 〈her first ~ at writing a novel〉
³crack *adj* : of superior excellence or ability 〈a ~ marksman〉
crack·back \'krak-ˌbak\ *n* : a blind-side block on a defensive back in football by a pass receiver who starts downfield and then cuts back to the middle of the line
crack·brain \-ˌbrān\ *n* : an erratic person : CRACKPOT — **crack-brained** \-'brānd\ *adj*
crack·down \-ˌdau̇n\ *n* : an act or instance of cracking down
crack down \-'dau̇n\ *vi* : to take positive regulatory or disciplinary action
cracked \'krakt\ *adj* **1 a** : broken (as by a sharp blow) so that the surface is fissured 〈~ china〉 **b** : broken into coarse particles 〈~ wheat〉 **c** : marked by harshness, dissonance, or failure to sustain a tone 〈a ~ voice〉 **2** : mentally disturbed : CRAZY
crack·er \'krak-ər\ *n* **1** *chiefly dial* : a bragging liar : BOASTER **2** : something that makes a cracking or snapping noise: as **a** : FIRECRACKER **b** : the snapping end of a whiplash : SNAPPER **c** : a paper holder for a party favor that pops when the ends are pulled sharply **3** *pl* : NUTCRACKER **4** : a dry thin crisp bakery product that may be leavened or unleavened and that is made in various shapes **5 a** : a poor usu. Southern white — usu. used disparagingly **b** *cap* : a native or resident of Florida or Georgia — used as a nickname **6** : the equipment in which cracking (as of petroleum) is carried out
crack·er–bar·rel \-ˌbar-əl\ *adj* [*cracker barrel*, a barrel in which crackers were kept in country stores and around which customers lounged for informal conversation] : suggestive of the friendly homespun character of a country store 〈a ~ philosopher〉
crack·er·jack \'krak-ər-ˌjak\ *also* **crack·a·jack** \-ə-ˌjak\ *n* [¹*crack* + *-er* + *jack*] : a person or thing of marked excellence — **crack-erjack** *adj*
Cracker Jack *trademark* — used for a candied popcorn confection
crack·ers \'krak-ərz\ *adj* [prob. alter. of *cracked*] *chiefly Brit* : CRAZY
¹crack·ing \'krak-iŋ\ *adj* : very impressive or effective : GREAT
²cracking *adv* : VERY, EXTREMELY 〈a ~ good book〉
³cracking *n* : a process in which relatively heavy hydrocarbons are broken up by heat into lighter products (as gasoline)
¹crack·le \'krak-əl\ *vb* **crack·led; crack·ling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [freq. of ¹*crack*] *vi* **1 a** : to make small sharp sudden repeated noises 〈the fire ~*s* on the hearth〉 **b** : to show animation : SPARKLE 〈the essays ~ with wit〉 **2** : to develop a surface network of fine cracks ~ *vt* : to crush or crack with snapping noises
²crackle *n* **1 a** : the noise of repeated small cracks or reports **b** : SPARKLE, EFFERVESCENCE **2** : a network of fine cracks on an otherwise smooth surface
crack·le·ware \'krak-əl-ˌwa(ə)r, -ˌwe(ə)r\ *n* : ceramic ware with a designedly crackled glaze
crack·ling *n* **1** \'krak-(ə-)liŋ\ : a series of small sharp cracks or reports 〈the ~ of frozen snow as we walk〉 **2** \'krak-lən, -liŋ\ : the crisp residue left after the rendering of lard from meat or the frying or roasting of the skin (as of pork or goose) — usu. used in pl.
crack·ly \'krak-(ə-)lē\ *adj* : inclined to crackle : CRISP
crack·nel \'krak-nᵊl\ *n* [ME *krakenelle*] **1** : a hard brittle biscuit **2** : CRACKLING 2 — usu. used in pl.
crack·pot \'krak-ˌpät\ *n* : one given to eccentric or lunatic notions — **crackpot** *adj*
cracks·man \'krak-smən\ *n* : BURGLAR; *also* : SAFECRACKER
crack–up \'krak-ˌəp\ *n* **1 a** : a mental collapse : NERVOUS BREAKDOWN 〈his wife's death brought on his ~〉 **b** : COLLAPSE, BREAKDOWN **2** : CRASH, WRECK 〈an automobile ~〉
crack up \-'əp\ *vi* : to smash up a vehicle (as by losing control) 〈*cracked up* on a curve〉 ~ *vt* **1** : EXTOL, PRAISE 〈wasn't all that it was *cracked up* to be〉 **2** : to cause much amusement to 〈that joke really *cracks* him *up*〉
-c·ra·cy \k-rə-sē\ *n comb form* [MF & LL; MF *-cratie*, fr. LL *-cratia*, fr. Gk *-kratia*, fr. *kratos* strength, power — more at HARD] **1** : form of government; *also* : state having such a form 〈mono*cracy*〉 **2** : social or political class (as of powerful persons) 〈mobo*cracy*〉 **3** : theory of social organization 〈techno*cracy*〉
¹cra·dle \'krād-ᵊl\ *n* [ME *cradel*, fr. OE *cradol*; akin to OHG *kratto* basket, Skt *grantha* knot] **1 a** : a bed or cot for a baby usu. on rockers or pivots **b** : a framework or support suggestive of a baby's cradle: as (1) : a framework of bars and rods (2) : the support for a telephone receiver or handset **c** (1) : an implement with rods like fingers attached to a scythe and used formerly for harvesting grain (2) : a low frame on casters on which mechanics lie while working under an automobile **d** : a frame to keep the bedclothes from contact with an injured part of the body **2 a** : the earliest period of life : INFANCY 〈from the ~ to the grave〉 **b** : a place of origin 〈believed that the Nile valley was the ~ of civilization〉 **3** : a rocking device used in panning for gold
²cradle *vb* **cra·dled; cra·dling** \'krād-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ *vt* **1 a** : to place or keep in or as if in a cradle **b** : SHELTER, REAR **c** : to support protectively or intimately 〈*cradling* the injured man's head in her arms〉 **2** : to cut (grain) with a cradle scythe **3** : to place, raise, support, or transport on a cradle **4** : to wash in a miner's cradle ~ *vi, obs* : to rest in or as if in a cradle
cra·dle·song \'krād-ᵊl-ˌsȯŋ\ *n* : LULLABY, BERCEUSE
¹craft \'kraft\ *n* [ME, strength, skill, fr. OE *cræft*; akin to OHG *kraft* strength] **1** : skill in planning, making, or executing : DEXTERITY — often used in combination 〈wine*craft*〉 **2** : an occupation or trade requiring manual dexterity or artistic skill 〈the carpenter's ~〉 **3** : skill in deceiving to gain an end 〈used ~ and guile to close the deal〉 **4** : the members of a trade or trade association **5** *pl usu* **craft** **a** : a boat esp. of small size **b** : AIRCRAFT **c** : SPACECRAFT ***syn*** see ART
²craft *vt* : to make by or as if by hand 〈is ~*ing* a new sculpture〉 〈a carefully ~*ed* story〉
crafts·man \'kraf(t)-smən\ *n* **1** : a workman who practices a trade or handicraft : ARTISAN **2** : one who creates or performs with skill or dexterity esp. in the manual arts 〈jewelry made by European *craftsmen*〉 — **crafts·man·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj* — **crafts·man·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
crafts·wom·an \'kraf(t)-ˌswu̇m-ən\ *n* : a female craftsman
craft union *n* : a labor union with membership limited to workmen of the same craft — compare INDUSTRIAL UNION
crafty \'kraf-tē\ *adj* **craft·i·er; -est** **1** *dial chiefly Brit* : SKILLFUL, CLEVER **2 a** : adept in the use of subtlety and cunning **b** : marked by subtlety and guile 〈a ~ scheme〉 ***syn*** see SLY — **craft·i·ly** \'kraf-tə-lē\ *adv* — **craft·i·ness** \-tē-nəs\ *n*
¹crag \'krag\ *n* [ME, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *crec* crag] **1** : a steep rugged rock or cliff **2** *archaic* : a sharp detached fragment of rock — **crag·ged** \'krag-əd\ *adj*
²crag *n* [ME, fr. MD *crāghe*] *chiefly Scot* : NECK, THROAT
crag·gy \'krag-ē\ *adj* **crag·gi·er; -est** **1** : full of crags 〈~ slopes〉 **2** : ROUGH, RUGGED 〈a ~ face〉 — **crag·gi·ly** \'krag-ə-lē\ *adv* — **crag·gi·ness** \'krag-ē-nəs\ *n*
crags·man \'kragz-mən\ *n* : one that is expert in climbing crags or cliffs
crake \'krāk\ *n* [ME, prob. fr. ON *krāka* crow or *krākr* raven; akin to OE *crāwan* to crow] **1** : any of various rails; *esp* : a short-billed rail (as the corncrake) **2** : the corncrake's cry
¹cram \'kram\ *vb* **crammed; cram·ming** [ME *crammen*, fr. OE *crammian*; akin to Gk *ageirein* to collect] *vt* **1** : to pack tight : JAM 〈~ a suitcase with clothes〉 **2 a** : to fill (as poultry) with food to satiety : STUFF **b** : to eat voraciously : BOLT 〈the child ~*s* his food〉 **3** : to thrust in or as if in a rough or forceful manner 〈*crammed* the letters angrily into his pocket〉 **4** : to prepare hastily for an examination 〈~ the students for the test〉 ~ *vi* **1** : to eat greedily or to satiety : STUFF **2** : to study hastily for an imminent examination — **cram·mer** *n*
²cram *n* **1** : a compressed multitude or crowd : CRUSH **2** : last-minute study for an examination
cram·be \'kram-(ˌ)bē\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, cabbage, fr. Gk *krambē*] : an annual Mediterranean crucifer (*Crambe abyssinica*) cultivated as an oilseed crop
cram·bo \'kram-(ˌ)bō\ *n, pl* **cramboes** [alter. of earlier *crambe*, fr. L, cabbage] **1** : a game in which one player gives a word or line of verse to be matched in rhyme by other players **2** : sloppy rhyme
cram·oi·sie *or* **cram·oi·sy** \'kram-ˌȯi-zē, 'kram-ə-zē\ *n, pl* **-sies** [ME *crammassy*, fr. MF *cramoisi*, fr. *cramoisi* crimson] : crimson cloth
¹cramp \'kramp\ *n* [ME *crampe*, fr. MF, of Gmc origin; akin to LG *krampe* hook] **1** : a painful involuntary spasmodic contraction of

a muscle **2** : a temporary paralysis of muscles from overuse — compare WRITER'S CRAMP **3** : sharp abdominal pain — usu. used in pl.

²cramp *n* [LG or obs. D *krampe* hook; akin to OE *cradol* cradle] **1 a** : a usu. iron device bent at the ends and used to hold timbers or blocks of stone together **b** : ¹CLAMP **2 a** : something that confines : SHACKLE **b** : the state of being confined — **cramp** *adj*

³cramp *vt* **1** : to affect with or as if with cramp **2 a** : CONFINE, RESTRAIN ⟨felt ~*ed* in the tiny apartment⟩ **b** : to restrain from free expression — used esp. in the phrase *cramp one's style* **3** : to turn (the front wheels of a vehicle) to right or left **4** : to fasten or hold with a cramp ~ *vi* : to suffer from cramps

cramp·fish \'kramp-ˌfish\ *n* : ELECTRIC RAY

cram·pit \'kram-pət\ *n* [alter. of *crampette* (chape), fr. ME, fr. MD *crampe* hook] : a sheet of iron on which a player stands to deliver his stone in curling

cram·pon \'kram-ˌpän\ *n* [MF *crampon*, of Gmc origin; akin to LG *krampe*] **1** : a hooked clutch or dog for raising heavy objects — usu. used in pl. **2** : CLIMBING IRON — usu. used in pl.

cran·ber·ry \'kran-ˌber-ē, -b(ə-)rē\ *n* [part trans. of LG *kraanbere*, fr. *kraan* crane + *bere* berry] **1** : the red acid berry produced by some plants (as *Vaccinium oxycoccos* and *V. macrocarpon*) of the heath family; *also* : a plant producing these **2** : any of various plants with a fruit that resembles a cranberry

cranberry bush *n* : a shrubby or arborescent viburnum (*Viburnum trilobum*) of No. America and Europe with prominently 3-lobed leaves and red fruit

cranch \'kränch\ *var of* CRAUNCH

¹crane \'krān\ *n* [ME *cran*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *krano* crane, Gk *geranos*, L *grus*, Skt *jarate* it crackles] **1** : any of a family (Gruidae of the order Gruiformes) of tall wading birds superficially resembling the herons but structurally more nearly related to the rails **2** : any of several herons **3** : an often horizontal projection swinging about a vertical axis: as **a** : a machine for raising, shifting, and lowering heavy weights by means of a projecting swinging arm or with the hoisting apparatus supported on an overhead track **b** : an iron arm in a fireplace for supporting kettles **c** : a boom for holding a motion-picture or television camera

²crane *vb* **craned; cran·ing** *vt* **1** : to raise or lift by or as if by a crane **2** : to stretch (as the neck) toward an object of attention ⟨*craning* her neck to get a better view⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to stretch one's neck toward an object of attention ⟨I *craned* out of the window of my compartment —Webb Waldron⟩ **2** : HESITATE

crane fly *n* : any of numerous long-legged slender two-winged flies (family Tipulidae) that resemble large mosquitoes but do not bite

cranes·bill \'krānz-ˌbil\ *n* : GERANIUM 1

crani- *or* **cranio-** *comb form* [ML *cranium*] : cranium ⟨*crani*ate⟩ : cranial and ⟨*cranio*sacral⟩

cra·ni·al \'krā-nē-əl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the skull or cranium **2** : CEPHALIC — **cra·ni·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*

cranial index *n* : the ratio of the maximum breadth of the skull to its maximum height multiplied by 100

cranial nerve *n* : any of the paired nerves that arise from the lower surface of the brain and pass through openings in the skull to the periphery of the body and that comprise 12 pairs in reptiles, birds, and mammals and usu. 10 in fishes and amphibians

cra·ni·ate \'krā-nē-ət, -ˌāt\ *adj* : having a cranium — **craniate** *n*

cra·nio·ce·re·bral \ˌkrā-nē-ō-sə-'rē-brəl, -'ser-ə-\ *adj* : involving both cranium and brain ⟨~ injury⟩

cra·nio·fa·cial \-'fā-shəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or involving both the cranium and the face

cra·ni·ol·o·gy \ˌkrā-nē-'äl-ə-jē\ *n* [prob. fr. G *kraniologie*, fr. *kranio-* crani- + *-logie* -logy] : a science dealing with variations in size, shape, and proportions of skulls among the races of men

cra·ni·om·e·try \-'äm-ə-trē\ *n* [ISV] : a science dealing with cranial measurement

cra·nio·sa·cral \-'sak-rəl, -'sā-krəl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the cranium and the sacrum **2** : PARASYMPATHETIC

cra·ni·um \'krā-nē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ni·ums** *or* **-nia** \-nē-ə\ [ML, fr. Gk *kranion*; akin to Gk *kara* head — more at CEREBRAL] : SKULL; *specif* : the part that encloses the brain

¹crank \'kraŋk\ *n* [ME *cranke*, fr. OE *cranc-* (as in *crancstæf*, a weaving instrument); akin to OE *cradol* cradle] **1** : a bent part of an axle or shaft or an arm keyed at right angles to the end of a shaft by which circular motion is imparted to or received from the shaft or by which reciprocating motion is changed into circular motion or vice versa **2 a** *archaic* : BEND **b** : a twist or turn of speech : CONCEIT — used esp. in the phrase *quips and cranks* **c** (1) : CAPRICE, CROTCHET (2) : an eccentric person; *also* : one that is overly enthusiastic about a particular subject or activity **d** : a bad-tempered person : GROUCH

²crank *vi* **1** : to move with a winding course : ZIGZAG **2 a** : to turn a crank (as in starting an automobile engine) **b** : to come into being or get started by or as if by the turning of a crank ⟨as the political season ~*s* up, with barbecues . . . in the offing —*Newsweek*⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to bend into the shape of a crank **2** : to furnish or fasten with a crank **3 a** : to move or operate by or as if by a crank ⟨~ the window down⟩ **b** : to start by use of a crank — often used with *up*

³crank *adj* [Sc, bent, distorted, prob. fr. ¹*crank*] : out of kilter : LOOSE ⟨~ machinery⟩

⁴crank *adj* [ME *cranke*, of unknown origin] **1** *chiefly dial* : MERRY, HIGH-SPIRITED **2** *chiefly dial* : COCKY, CONFIDENT

⁵crank *adj* [short for *crank-sided* (easily tipped)] *of a boat* : easily tipped by an external force

crank·case \'kraŋk-ˌkās\ *n* : the housing of a crankshaft

¹cran·kle \'kraŋ-kəl\ *vb* **cran·kled; cran·kling** \-k(ə-)liŋ\ [freq. of ²*crank*] *vt, obs* : to break into turns, bends, or angles : CRINKLE ~ *vi, archaic* : WIND, ZIGZAG

²crankle *n* : BEND, CRINKLE

crank out *vt* : to produce esp. in a mechanical manner ⟨*cranks out* two novels a year⟩

crank·pin \'kraŋk-ˌpin\ *n* : the cylindrical piece which forms the handle of a crank or to which the connecting rod is attached

crank·shaft \'kraŋk-ˌshaft\ *n* : a shaft driven by or driving a crank

¹cranky \'kraŋ-kē\ *adj* **crank·i·er; -est** [¹*crank* & ³*crank*] **1** *dial* : IMBECILE, CRAZY **2** : working erratically : UNPREDICTABLE ⟨a ~ old tractor⟩ **3 a** : marked by eccentricity **b** : given to fretful fussiness : readily angered when opposed : CROTCHETY **4** : full of twists and turns : TORTUOUS ⟨a ~ road⟩ ***syn*** see IRASCIBLE — **crank·i·ly** \-kə-lē\ *adv* — **crank·i·ness** \-kē-nəs\ *n*

²cranky *adj* [⁵*crank*] *of a boat* : liable to heel or tip

cran·nog \'kran-ˌȯg, kra-'nōg\ *n* [ScGael *crannag* & IrGael *crannōg*] : an artificial fortified island constructed in a lake or marsh orig. in prehistoric Ireland and Scotland

cran·ny \'kran-ē\ *n, pl* **crannies** [ME *crany*, fr. MF *cren, cran* notch] **1** : a small break or slit : CREVICE **2** : an obscure nook or corner — **cran·nied** \-ēd\ *adj*

cran·reuch \'kran-ˌrüx̲\ *n* [prob. modif. of ScGael *crannreotha*] *Scot* : HOARFROST, RIME

¹crap \'krap\ *n* [ME *crappe* chaff, residue from rendered fat, fr. MD, piece torn off, fr. *crappen* to break off] **1 a** : EXCREMENT — usu. considered vulgar **b** : DEFECATION — usu. considered vulgar **2** : NONSENSE, RUBBISH — sometimes considered vulgar

²crap *vi* **crapped; crap·ping** : DEFECATE — usu. considered vulgar

³crap *n* [back-formation fr. *craps*] **1** : a throw of 2, 3, or 12 in the game of craps losing the shooter his bet unless he has a point — called also *craps*; compare NATURAL **2** — used as an attributive form of *craps* ⟨~ game⟩ ⟨~ table⟩

⁴crap *vi* **crapped; crap·ping** **1** : to throw a crap **2** : to throw a seven while trying to make a point — usu. used with *out*

¹crape \'krāp\ *n* [alter. of F *crêpe*, fr. MF *crespe*, fr. *crespe* curly, fr. L *crispus* — more at CRISP] **1** : CREPE **2** : a band of crepe worn on a hat or sleeve as a sign of mourning

²crape *vt* **craped; crap·ing** : to cover or shroud with or as if with crape

³crape *vt* **craped; crap·ing** [F *crêper*, fr. L *crispare*, fr. *crispus*] : to make (the hair) curly

crape myrtle *n* : an East Indian shrub (*Lagerstroemia indica*) of the loosestrife family widely grown in warm regions for its flowers

crap·per \'krap-ər\ *n* [²*crap*] : TOILET — usu. considered vulgar

crap·pie \'kräp-ē\ *n* [CanF *crapet*] **1** : BLACK CRAPPIE **2** : WHITE CRAPPIE

crap·py \'krap-ē\ *adj* **crap·pi·er; -est** [¹*crap*] *slang* : markedly inferior in quality : LOUSY

craps \'kraps\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [LaF, fr. F *crabs, craps*, fr. E *crabs* lowest throw at hazard, fr. pl. of ¹*crab*] **1** : a gambling game played with two dice **2** : ³CRAP 1

crap·shoot·er \'krap-ˌshüt-ər\ *n* : one who plays craps

crap·u·lous \'krap-yə-ləs\ *adj* [LL *crapulosus*, fr. L *crapula* intoxication, fr. Gk *kraipalē*] **1** : marked by intemperance esp. in eating or drinking **2** : sick from excessive indulgence in liquor

¹crash \'krash\ *vb* [ME *crasschen*] *vt* **1 a** : to break violently and noisily : SMASH **b** : to damage (an airplane) in landing **2 a** : to cause to make a loud noise ⟨~ the cymbals together⟩ **b** : to force (as one's way) through with loud crashing noises **3** : to enter or attend without invitation or without paying ⟨~ the party⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to break or go to pieces with or as if with violence and noise **b** : to crash an airplane **2** : to make a smashing noise ⟨thunder ~*ing* overhead⟩ **3** : to move or force one's way with or as if with a crash ⟨~*es* into the room⟩ **4** *slang* : to spend the night in a particular place : SLEEP ⟨hippies who had . . . been up all night because they couldn't find a place to ~ —Nicholas Von Hoffman⟩ **5** *slang* : to return to a normal state after a drug-induced experience

²crash *n* **1** : a loud sound (as of things smashing) ⟨a ~ of thunder⟩ **2** : a breaking to pieces by or as if by collision; *also* : an instance of crashing ⟨a plane ~⟩ **3** : a sudden decline or failure (as of a business) ⟨a stockmarket ~⟩

³crash *adj* : marked by a concerted effort and effected in the shortest possible time ⟨a ~ program to teach dropouts how to read⟩

⁴crash *n* [prob. fr. Russ *krashenina* colored linen] : a coarse fabric used for draperies, toweling, and clothing

crash dive *n* : a dive made by a submarine in the least possible time — **crash-dive** *vi*

crash helmet *n* : a usu. plastic or leather helmet that is worn (as by motorcyclists) as protection for the head in the event of an accident

crash·ing \'krash-iŋ\ *adj* **1** : UTTER, ABSOLUTE ⟨a ~ bore⟩ **2** : SUPERLATIVE ⟨a ~ effect⟩

crash-land \'krash-'land\ *vt* : to land (an airplane) under emergency conditions usu. with damage to the craft ~ *vi* : to crash-land an airplane — **crash landing** *n*

crash pad *n* **1** : protective padding (as on the inside of an automobile or a military tank) **2** : a place where free temporary lodging is available ⟨a hippie *crash pad*⟩

crash·wor·thy \'krash-ˌwər-th̲ē\ *adj* : resistant to the effects of collision ⟨~ cars⟩ — **crash·wor·thi·ness** *n*

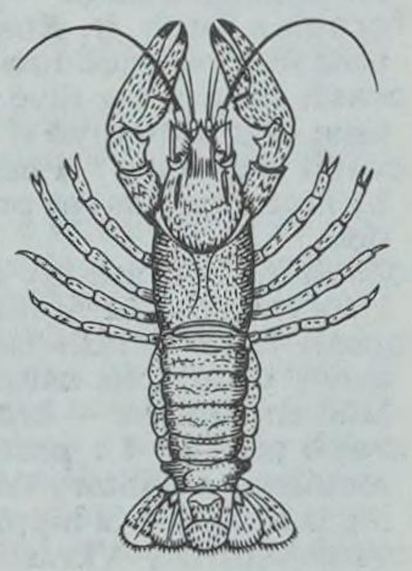
crass \'kras\ *adj* [L *crassus* thick, gross] : having such grossness of mind as precludes delicacy and discrimination : INSENSITIVE ***syn*** see STUPID ***ant*** brilliant — **crass·ly** *adv* — **crass·ness** *n*

cras·si·tude \'kras-ə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* : the quality or state of being crass : GROSSNESS; *also* : an instance of grossness

-crat \ˌkrat\ *n comb form* [F *-crate*, back-formation fr. *-cratie* -cracy] **1** : advocate or partisan of a (specified) theory of government ⟨theo*crat*⟩ **2** : member of a (specified) dominant class ⟨pluto*crat*⟩ — **-crat·ic** \'krat-ik\ *adj comb form*

cratch \'krach\ *n* [ME *cracche*, fr. OF *creche* manger — more at CRÈCHE] **1** *dial Brit* : a crib or rack esp. for fodder; *also* : FRAME **2** *archaic* : MANGER

[1]crate \'krāt\ *n* [L *cratis* wickerwork — more at HURDLE] **1** : an open box of wooden slats or a usu. wooden protective case or framework for shipping **2** : JALOPY
[2]crate *vt* **crated; crat·ing** : to pack in a crate
[1]cra·ter *n* [L, mixing bowl, crater, fr. Gk *kratēr*, fr. *kerannynai* to mix; akin to Skt *āśirta* mixed] **1** \'krāt-ər\ **a** : the bowl-shaped depression around the orifice of a volcano **b** : a depression formed by the impact of a meteorite **c** : a hole in the ground made by the explosion of a bomb or shell **d** : an eroded lesion **e** : a dimple in a painted surface **2** \'krāt-ər, krä-'te(ə)r\ : KRATER
[2]cra·ter \'krāt-ər\ *vi* : to exhibit or form craters ~ *vt* : to form craters in
cra·ter·let \'krāt-ər-lət\ *n* : a small crater
C ration *n* : a canned field ration of the U. S. Army
cra·ton \'krā-ˌtän, 'kra-\ *n* [G *kraton*, modif. of Gk *kratos* strength — more at HARD] : a stable relatively immobile area of the earth's crust that forms the nuclear mass of a continent or the central basis of an ocean — **cra·ton·ic** \krə-'tän-ik, krā-, kra-\ *adj*
craunch \'krȯnch, 'kränch\ *vb* [prob. imit.] : CRUNCH — **craunch** *n*
cra·vat \krə-'vat\ *n* [F *cravate*, fr. *Cravate* Croatian] **1** : a band or scarf formerly worn around the neck **2** : NECKTIE
crave \'krāv\ *vb* **craved; crav·ing** [ME *craven*, fr. OE *crafian;* akin to OHG *krāpfo* hook, OE *cradol* cradle] *vt* **1** : to ask for earnestly : BEG, DEMAND ⟨~ a pardon for neglect⟩ **2 a** : to want greatly : NEED ⟨~*s* drugs⟩ **b** : to yearn for ⟨she ~*s* her vanished youth⟩ ~ *vi* : to have a strong or inward desire ⟨~*s* after affection⟩ ***syn*** see DESIRE — **crav·er** *n*
cra·ven \'krā-vən\ *adj* [ME *cravant*] **1** *archaic* : DEFEATED, VANQUISHED **2** : lacking any courage : contemptibly fainthearted — **craven** *n* — **cra·ven·ly** *adv* — **cra·ven·ness** \-vən-nəs\ *n*
crav·ing \'krā-viŋ\ *n* : a great desire or longing; *esp* : an abnormal desire (as for a habit-forming drug)
craw \'krȯ\ *n* [ME *crawe*, fr. (assumed) OE *crawa;* akin to Gk *bronchos* trachea, throat, L *vorare* to devour — more at VORACIOUS] **1** : the crop of a bird or insect **2** : the stomach esp. of a lower animal
[1]craw·fish \'krȯ-ˌfish\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. ME *crevis, kraveys*] **1** : CRAYFISH **2** : SPINY LOBSTER
[2]crawfish *vi* : to retreat from a position : back out
[1]crawl \'krȯl\ *vb* [ME *crawlen*, fr. ON *krafla;* akin to OE *crabba* crab] *vi* **1** : to move slowly in a prone position without or as if without the use of limbs ⟨the snake ~*ed* into its hole⟩ **2** : to move or progress slowly or laboriously ⟨traffic ~*s* along at 10 miles an hour⟩ **3** : to advance by guile or servility ⟨~*ing* into favor by toadying to his boss⟩ **4** : to spread by extending stems or tendrils **5 a** : to be alive or swarming with or as if with creeping things ⟨a kitchen ~*ing* with ants⟩ **b** : to have the sensation of insects creeping over one ⟨the story made her flesh ~⟩ **6** : to fail to stay evenly spread — used of paint, varnish, or glaze ~ *vt* **1** : to move upon in or as if in a creeping manner ⟨the meanest man who ever ~*ed* the earth⟩ **2** *slang* : to reprove harshly ⟨they got no good right to ~ me for what I wrote —Marjorie K. Rawlings⟩ ***syn*** see CREEP
[2]crawl *n* **1 a** : the act or action of crawling **b** : slow or laborious progress **c** *chiefly Brit* : a going from one pub to another **2** : a prone speed swimming stroke consisting of alternating overarm strokes and a flutter kick
[3]crawl *n* [Afrik *kraal* pen —more at KRAAL] : an enclosure in shallow waters (as for confining lobsters)
crawl·er *n* **1** : one that crawls **2 a** : a Caterpillar tractor **b** : a vehicle (as a crane) that travels on endless chain belts like those of such a tractor
crawl·way \'krȯl-ˌwā\ *n* : a low passageway (as in a cave) that can be traversed only by crawling
crawly \'krȯ-lē\ *adj* : CREEPY
cray·fish \'krā-ˌfish\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. ME *crevis*, fr. MF *crevice*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *krebiz* crab — more at CRAB] **1** : any of numerous freshwater crustaceans (tribe Astacura) resembling the lobster but usu. much smaller **2** : SPINY LOBSTER


crayfish 1

[1]cray·on \'krā-ˌän, -ən; 'kran\ *n* [F, crayon, pencil, fr. dim. of *craie* chalk, fr. L *creta*] **1** : a stick of white or colored chalk or of colored wax used for writing or drawing **2** : a crayon drawing
[2]crayon *vt* : to draw with a crayon — **cray·on·ist** \'krā-ə-nəst\ *n*
[1]craze \'krāz\ *vb* **crazed; craz·ing** [ME *crasen* to crush, craze, of Scand origin; akin to OSw *krasa* to crush] *vt* **1** *obs* : BREAK, SHATTER **2** : to produce minute cracks on the surface or glaze of **3** : to make insane or as if insane ⟨*crazed* by pain and fear⟩ ~ *vi* **1** *archaic* : SHATTER, BREAK **2** : to become insane **3** : to develop a mesh of fine cracks
[2]craze *n* **1** *obs* **a** : BREAK, FLAW **b** : physical weakness : INFIRMITY **2** : an exaggerated and often transient enthusiasm : MANIA **3** : a crack in a surface or coating (as of glaze or enamel) ***syn*** see FASHION
[1]cra·zy \'krā-zē\ *adj* **cra·zi·er; -est** **1 a** : full of cracks or flaws : UNSOUND **b** : CROOKED, ASKEW **2 a** : MAD, INSANE **b** (1) : IMPRACTICAL (2) : ERRATIC **c** : being out of the ordinary : UNUSUAL ⟨a taste for ~ hats⟩ **3 a** : distracted with desire or excitement ⟨a thrill-*crazy* mob⟩ **b** : absurdly fond : INFATUATED ⟨he's ~ about the girl⟩ **c** : passionately preoccupied : OBSESSED ⟨~ about boats⟩ — **cra·zi·ly** \-zə-lē\ *adv* — **cra·zi·ness** \-zē-nəs\ *n* — **like crazy** : to an extreme degree ⟨everyone dancing *like crazy*⟩
[2]crazy *n, pl* **cra·zies** : one who is or acts crazy
crazy bone *n* : FUNNY BONE
crazy quilt *n* **1** : a patchwork quilt without a design **2** : JUMBLE, HODGEPODGE
cra·zy·weed \'krā-zē-ˌwēd\ *n* : LOCOWEED
CRC *abbr* Civil Rights Commission
C–re·ac·tive protein \ˌsē-rē-ˌak-tiv-\ *n* [*C-polysaccharide* (a polysaccharide found in the cell wall of pneumococci and precipitated by this protein), fr. *carbohydrate*] : a protein present in blood serum in various abnormal states (as inflammation or neoplasia)
[1]creak \'krēk\ *vi* [ME *creken* to croak, of imit. origin] : to make a prolonged grating or squeaking sound
[2]creak *n* : a rasping or grating noise
creaky \'krē-kē\ *adj* **creak·i·er; -est** **1** : marked by creaking : SQUEAKY ⟨~ shoes⟩ **2** : DILAPIDATED, DECREPIT ⟨a ~ old house⟩ — **creak·i·ly** \-kə-lē\ *adv*
[1]cream \'krēm\ *n, often attrib* [ME *creime, creme*, fr. MF *craime, cresme*, fr. LL *cramum*, of Celt origin; akin to W *cramen* scab] **1** : the yellowish part of milk containing from 18 to about 40 percent butterfat **2 a** : a food prepared with cream **b** : something having the consistency of cream; *esp* : a usu. emulsified medicinal or cosmetic preparation **3** : the choicest part ⟨the ~ of the crop⟩ **4** : CREAMER 2 **5 a** : a pale yellow **b** : a cream-colored animal — **cream·i·ly** \'krē-mə-lē\ *adv* — **cream·i·ness** \-mē-nəs\ *n* — **creamy** \-mē\ *adj*
[2]cream *vi* **1** : to form cream or a surface layer like the cream on standing milk **2** : to break into or cause something to break into a creamy froth; *also* : to move like froth ~ *vt* **1 a** : SKIM 1c **b** (1) : to take the choicest part of ⟨got in first with a new blade and ~*ed* the market⟩ (2) : to take off the choicest part of ⟨exporters ~*ed* consumer goods from the market⟩ **2** : to furnish, prepare, or treat with cream; *also* : to dress with a cream sauce **3 a** : to beat into a creamy froth **b** : to work or blend to the consistency of cream ⟨~ butter and sugar together⟩ **c** (1) : to drub thoroughly ⟨was ~*ed* in the first round⟩ (2) : WRECK ⟨~*ed* the car on the turnpike⟩ **4** : to cause to form a surface layer of or like cream
cream cheese *n* : a mild soft unripened cheese made from whole sweet milk enriched with cream
cream·cups \'krēm-ˌkəps\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : any of several California annuals (esp. *Platystemon californicus*) of the poppy family
cream·er \'krē-mər\ *n* **1** : a device for separating cream from milk **2** : a small vessel for serving cream
cream·ery \'krēm-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : an establishment where butter and cheese are made or where milk and cream are prepared or sold
cream of tartar : a white crystalline salt $C_4H_5KO_6$ used esp. in baking powder and in certain treatments of metals
cream puff *n* **1** : a round shell of light pastry filled with whipped cream or a cream filling **2** : an ineffectual person **3** : something of little or no consequence
cream soda *n* : a carbonated soft drink flavored with vanilla and sweetened with sugar
[1]crease \'krēs\ *n* [prob. alter. of earlier *creaste*, fr. ME *creste* crest] **1** : a line or mark made by or as if by folding a pliable substance **2** : a specially marked area in various sports; *esp* : an area surrounding or in front of a goal (as in lacrosse or hockey) forbidden to attacking players unless the ball or puck is in it — **crease·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
[2]crease *vb* **creased; creas·ing** *vt* **1** : to make a crease in or on : WRINKLE ⟨old age had *creased* her face⟩ **2** : to wound slightly esp. by grazing ~ *vi* : to become creased — **creas·er** *n*
[1]cre·ate \krē-'āt, 'krē-ˌ\ *adj, archaic* : CREATED
[2]create *vt* **cre·at·ed; cre·at·ing** [ME *createn*, fr. L *creatus*, pp. of *creare*] **1** : to bring into existence ⟨God *created* the heaven and the earth —Gen 1:1 (AV)⟩ **2 a** : to invest with a new form, office, or rank ⟨was *created* a lieutenant⟩ **b** : to produce or bring about by a course of action or behavior ⟨her arrival *created* a terrible fuss⟩ ⟨~ new jobs for the unemployed⟩ **3** : CAUSE, OCCASION ⟨famine ~*s* high food prices⟩ **4 a** : to produce through imaginative skill ⟨~ a painting⟩ **b** : DESIGN ⟨~*s* dresses⟩ ***syn*** see INVENT
cre·atine \'krē-ə-ˌtēn, -ət-ᵊn\ *n* [ISV, fr. Gk *kreat-, kreas* flesh — more at RAW] : a white crystalline nitrogenous substance $C_4H_9N_3O_2$ found esp. in the muscles of vertebrates free or as phosphocreatine
creatine phosphate *n* : PHOSPHOCREATINE
cre·at·i·nine \krē-'at-ᵊn-ˌēn, -ᵊn-ən\ *n* [G *kreatinin*, fr. *kreatin* creatine] : a white crystalline strongly basic compound $C_4H_7N_3O$ formed from creatine and found esp. in muscle, blood, and urine
cre·ation \krē-'ā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of creating; *esp* : the act of bringing the world into ordered existence **2** : the act of making, inventing, or producing: as **a** : the act of investing with a new rank or office **b** : the first representation of a dramatic role **3** : something that is created: as **a** : WORLD **b** : creatures singly or in aggregate **c** : an original work of art **d** : a new usu. striking article of clothing
cre·ative \krē-'āt-iv\ *adj* **1** : marked by the ability or power to create : given to creating ⟨the ~ impulse⟩ ⟨nature is a ~ agent⟩ **2** : PRODUCTIVE — used with *of* ⟨news ~ of alarm⟩ **3** : having the quality of something created rather than imitated : IMAGINATIVE ⟨the ~ arts⟩ — **cre·ative·ly** *adv* — **cre·ative·ness** *n*
creative evolution *n* [trans. of F *évolution créatrice*] : evolution that is a creative product of a vital force rather than a naturalistically explicable process
cre·ativ·i·ty \ˌkrē-(ˌ)ā-'tiv-ət-ē, ˌkrē-ə-\ *n* **1** : the quality of being creative **2** : the ability to create
cre·ator \krē-'āt-ər\ *n* : one that creates usu. by bringing something new or original into being; *esp, cap* : GOD 1 ***syn*** see MAKER
crea·ture \'krē-chər\ *n* **1** : something created: as **a** : a lower animal; *esp* : a farm animal **b** : a human being : PERSON **c** : a being of anomalous or uncertain aspect or nature ⟨~*s* of fantasy⟩ **2** : one who is the servile dependent or tool of another — **crea·tural** \'krēch-(ə-)rəl\ *adj* — **crea·ture·hood** \'krē-chər-ˌhůd\ *n* — **crea·ture·li·ness** \-chər-lē-nəs\ *n* — **crea·ture·ly** \-chər-lē\ *adj*
creature comfort *n* : something (as food or warmth) that gives bodily comfort
crèche \'kresh, 'krāsh\ *n* [F, fr. OF *creche* manger, crib, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *krippa* manger — more at CRIB] **1** : DAY

NURSERY **2** : a foundling hospital **3** : a representation of the Nativity scene



credence 3

cre·dence \'krēd-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or ML; MF, fr. ML *credentia*, fr. L *credent-, credens*, prp. of *credere* to believe, trust — more at CREED] **1** : mental acceptance as true or real ⟨give ~ to gossip⟩ **2** : CREDENTIALS — used in the phrase *letters of credence* **3** [MF, fr. OIt *credenza*] : a Renaissance sideboard used chiefly for valuable plate **4** : a small table where the bread and wine rest before consecration ***syn*** see BELIEF

cre·dent \'krēd-ᵊnt\ *adj* [L *credent-, credens*, prp.] **1** *archaic* : giving credence : CONFIDING **2** *obs* : CREDIBLE

¹cre·den·tial \kri-'den-chəl\ *adj* : warranting credit or confidence — used chiefly in the phrase *credential letters*

²credential *n* **1** : something that gives a title to credit or confidence **2** *pl* : testimonials showing that a person is entitled to credit or has a right to exercise official power **3** : CERTIFICATE, DIPLOMA

cre·den·za \kri-'den-zə\ *n* [It, lit., belief, confidence, fr. ML *credentia*] **1** : CREDENCE 3 **2** : a sideboard, buffet, or bookcase patterned after a Renaissance credence; *esp* : one without legs

credibility gap *n* **1 a** : lack of trust ⟨a special *credibility gap* is likely to open between the generations —Kenneth Keniston⟩ **b** : lack of believability ⟨a *credibility gap* created by contradictory official statements —Samuel Ellenport⟩ **2** : DISCREPANCY ⟨the *credibility gap* between the professed ideals . . . and their actual practices —Jeanne L. Noble⟩

cred·i·ble \'kred-ə-bəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *credibilis*, fr. *credere*] : offering reasonable grounds for being believed ⟨a ~ account of an accident⟩ ⟨~ witnesses⟩ ***syn*** see PLAUSIBLE ***ant*** incredible — **cred·i·bil·i·ty** \ˌkred-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **cred·i·bly** \'kred-ə-blē\ *adv*

¹cred·it \'kred-ət\ *n* [MF, fr. OIt *credito*, fr. L *creditum* something entrusted to another, loan, fr. neut. of *creditus*, pp. of *credere* to believe, entrust — more at CREED] **1 a** : the balance in a person's favor in an account **b** : an amount or sum placed at a person's disposal by a bank **c** : time given for payment for goods or services sold on trust ⟨long-term ~⟩ **d** (1) : an entry on the right-hand side of an account constituting an addition to a revenue, net worth, or liability account (2) : a deduction from an expense or asset account **e** : any one of or the sum of the items entered on the right-hand side of an account **f** : a deduction from an amount otherwise due **2** : reliance on the truth or reality of something ⟨too ready to give ~ to idle rumors⟩ **3 a** : influence or power derived from enjoying the confidence of another or others **b** : good name : ESTEEM; *also* : financial or commercial trustworthiness **4** *archaic* : CREDIBILITY **5** : a source of honor ⟨he was a ~ to his upbringing⟩ **6 a** : something that gains or adds to reputation or esteem : HONOR ⟨took no ~ for his kindly act⟩ **b** : RECOGNITION, ACKNOWLEDGMENT ⟨quite willing to accept undeserved ~⟩ **7** : recognition by name of a person contributing to a performance (as a film or telecast) **8 a** : recognition by a school or college that a student has fulfilled a requirement leading to a degree **b** : CREDIT HOUR ***syn*** **1** see BELIEF **2** see INFLUENCE ***ant*** discredit

²credit *vt* [partly fr. ¹*credit*; partly fr. L *creditus*, pp.] **1** : to supply goods on credit to **2** : to trust in the truth of : BELIEVE **3** *archaic* : to bring credit or honor upon **4** : to enter upon the credit side of an account **5 a** : to consider usu. favorably as the source, agent, or performer of an action or the possessor of a trait ⟨~s him with an excellent sense of humor⟩ **b** : to attribute to some person ⟨they ~ the invention to him⟩ ***syn*** see ASCRIBE

cred·it·able \'kred-ət-ə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : worthy of belief **2** : worthy of esteem or praise **3** : worthy of commercial credit **4** : capable of being assigned ⟨victory was directly ~ to his efforts⟩ — **cred·it·abil·i·ty** \ˌkred-ət-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **cred·it·able·ness** \'kred-ət-ə-bəl-nəs\ *n* —**cred·it·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

credit card *n* : a card authorizing purchases on credit

credit hour *n* : the unit of measuring educational credit based on a given number of classroom periods per week throughout a semester ⟨received three *credit hours* for freshman composition⟩

credit line *n* **1** : a line, note, or name that acknowledges the source of an item (as a news dispatch or television program) **2** : the maximum credit allowed a buyer or borrower

cred·i·tor \'kred-ət-ər\ *n* : one to whom a debt is owed; *esp* : a person to whom money or goods are due

credit union *n* : a cooperative association that makes small loans to its members at low interest rates

cre·do \'krēd-(ˌ)ō, 'krād-\ *n, pl* **credos** [ME, fr. L, I believe] : CREED

cre·du·li·ty \kri-'d(y)ü-lət-ē\ *n* : undue readiness of belief : GULLIBILITY

cred·u·lous \'krej-ə-ləs\ *adj* [L *credulus*, fr. *credere*] **1** : ready to believe esp. on slight or uncertain evidence **2** : proceeding from credulity — **cred·u·lous·ly** *adv* — **cred·u·lous·ness** *n*

Cree \'krē\ *n, pl* **Cree** *or* **Crees** [short for earlier *Christeno*, fr. CanF *Christino*, prob. modif. of Ojibwa *Kenistenoag*] **1** : a member of an Amerindian people of Manitoba and Saskatchewan **2** : the Algonquian language of the Cree Indians

creed \'krēd\ *n* [ME *crede*, fr. OE *crēda*, fr. L *credo* (first word of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds), fr. *credere* to believe, trust, entrust; akin to OIr *cretim* I believe, Skt *śrad-dadhāti* he believes] **1** : a brief authoritative formula of religious belief **2** : a set of fundamental beliefs — **creed·al** *or* **cre·dal** \'krēd-ᵊl\ *adj*

creek \'krēk, 'krik\ *n* [ME *crike, creke*, fr. ON *-kriki* bend; akin to ON *krōkr* hook — more at CROOK] **1** *chiefly Brit* : a small inlet or bay narrower and extending farther inland than a cove **2** : a natural stream of water normally smaller than and often tributary to a river **3** *archaic* : a narrow or winding passage — **up the creek** : in a difficult or perplexing situation

Creek \'krēk\ *n* **1** : an Amerindian confederacy of peoples chiefly of Muskogean stock of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida **2** : a member of any of the Creek peoples **3** : the Muskogean language of the Creek Indians

creel \'krē(ə)l\ *n* [ME *creille, crele*, prob. fr. (assumed) MF *creille* grill, fr. L *craticula* — more at GRILL] **1** : a wickerwork receptacle (as for newly caught fish) **2** : a bar with skewers for holding bobbins in a spinning machine

¹creep \'krēp\ *vi* **crept** \'krept\; **creep·ing** [ME *crepen*, fr. OE *crēopan*; akin to Gk *grypos* curved, bent] **1 a** : to move along with the body prone and close to the ground **b** : to move slowly on hands and knees **2 a** : to go very slowly ⟨the hours *crept* by⟩ **b** : to go timidly or cautiously so as to escape notice ⟨she *crept* away from the festive scene⟩ **c** : to enter or advance stealthily ⟨age ~s upon us⟩ ⟨a note of irritation *crept* into her voice⟩ **3 a** : to move or stir slightly by swelling or shrinking ⟨the thought makes his flesh ~⟩ **b** *of a plant* : to spread or grow over a surface rooting at intervals or clinging with tendrils, stems, or aerial roots **4 a** : to slip or gradually shift position **b** : to change shape permanently from prolonged stress or exposure to high temperatures

syn CREEP, CRAWL *shared meaning element* : to move along a surface in a prone or crouching position

²creep *n* **1** : a movement of or like creeping ⟨traffic moving at a ~⟩ **2** : a distressing sensation like that caused by the creeping of insects over one's flesh; *esp* : a feeling of apprehension or horror — usu. used in pl. **3** : an enclosure that young animals can enter while adults are excluded **4** : the slow change of dimensions of an object from prolonged exposure to high temperature or stress **5** : an obnoxious or insignificant person

creep·age \'krē-pij\ *n* : gradual movement : CREEP

creep·er \'krē-pər\ *n* **1** : one that creeps: as **a** : a creeping plant **b** : a bird (as of the family Certhiidae) that creeps about on trees or bushes searching for insects **c** : a creeping insect or reptile **2** : any of various tools or implements: as **a** : a fixture with iron points worn on the shoe to prevent slipping **b** : CLIMBING IRON **c** : a strip (as of sealskin) attachable to the bottom of a ski to prevent sliding backward in uphill climbing **d** : GRAPNEL **3** : a device for supplying or moving material in a steady flow

creep·ing \'krē-piŋ\ *adj* : developing or advancing by slow imperceptible degrees ⟨a period of ~ inflation⟩

creeping eruption *n* : a skin disorder marked by a spreading red line of eruption and caused esp. by larvae (as of hookworms not normally parasitic in man) burrowing beneath the human skin

creepy \'krē-pē\ *adj* **creep·i·er; -est** : producing a nervous shivery apprehension ⟨~ things were crawling over us⟩ ⟨a ~ horror story⟩ — **creep·i·ness** *n*

creese *var of* KRIS

cre·mains \kri-'mānz\ *n pl* [blend of *cremated* and *remains*] : the ashes of a cremated human body

cre·mate \'krē-ˌmāt, kri-'\ *vt* **cre·mat·ed; cre·mat·ing** [L *crematus*, pp. of *cremare* to burn up, cremate] : to reduce (as a dead body) to ashes by burning — **cre·ma·tion** \kri-'mā-shən\ *n*

cre·ma·to·ri·um \ˌkrē-mə-'tōr-ē-əm, ˌkrem-ə-, -'tȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ri·ums** *or* **-ria** \-ē-ə\ : CREMATORY

cre·ma·to·ry \'krē-mə-ˌtōr-ē, 'krem-ə-, -ˌtȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ries** : a furnace for cremating; *also* : an establishment containing such a furnace — **crematory** *adj*

crème \'krem, 'krēm\ *n, pl* **crèmes** \'krem(z), 'krēmz\ [F, fr. OF *cresme* — more at CREAM] **1** : cream or cream sauce as used in cookery **2** : a sweet liqueur **3** : CREAM 2b

crème de ca·cao \ˌkrēm-də-'kō-(ˌ)kō; ˌkrem-də-kə-'kaù, -kə-'kā-(ˌ)ō\ *n* [F, lit., cream of cacao] : a sweet liqueur flavored with cacao beans and vanilla

crème de la crème \ˌkrem-də-lä-'krem, -lə-\ *n* [F, lit., cream of the cream] : the very best

crème de menthe \ˌkrēm-də-'mint, -'men(t)th; ˌkrem-də-'mänt\ *n* [F, lit., cream of mint] : a sweet green or white mint-flavored liqueur

cre·nate \'krē-ˌnāt\ *or* **cre·nat·ed** \-ˌnāt-əd\ *adj* [NL *crenatus*, fr. ML *crena* notch] : having the margin cut into rounded scallops ⟨a ~ leaf⟩ — **cre·nate·ly** *adv*

cre·na·tion \kri-'nā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : a crenate formation; *esp* : one of the rounded projections on an edge (as of a coin) **b** : the quality or state of being crenate **2** : shrinkage of red blood cells in hypertonic solution resulting in crenate margins

¹cren·el \'kren-ᵊl\ *or* **cre·nelle** \krə-'nel\ *n* [MF *crenel*, fr. OF, dim. of *cren* notch, fr. *crener* to notch; akin to ML *crena* notch] : one of the embrasures alternating with merlons in a battlement — see BATTLEMENT illustration

²cren·el *vt* **-eled** *or* **-elled; -el·ing** *or* **-el·ling** : CRENELLATE

cren·el·late *or* **cren·el·ate** \'kren-ᵊl-ˌāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed** *or* **-at·ed; -lat·ing** *or* **-at·ing** : to furnish with battlements — **cren·el·late** \-ˌāt, -ət\ *adj* — **cren·el·la·tion** \ˌkren-ᵊl-'ā-shən\ *n*

cren·el·lat·ed \'kren-ᵊl-ˌāt-əd\ *adj* : having battlements

cren·u·late \'kren-yə-lət, -ˌlāt\ *also* **cren·u·lat·ed** \-ˌlāt-əd\ *adj* [NL *crenulatus*, fr. *crenula*, dim. of ML *crena*] : having an irregularly wavy or serrate outline ⟨a ~ shoreline⟩

cren·u·la·tion \ˌkren-yə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1** : a minute crenation **2** : the state of being crenulate

cre·ole \'krē-ˌōl\ *adj* **1** *often cap* : of or relating to Creoles or their language **2** : of, relating to, or being a domestic animal of a native breed or strain esp. in Latin America **3** : prepared with rice, okra, tomatoes, peppers, and high seasoning ⟨shrimp ~⟩

Cre·ole \'krē-ˌōl\ *n* [F *créole*, fr. Sp *criollo*, fr. Pg *crioulo* white person born in the colonies] **1** : a person of European descent born esp. in the West Indies or Spanish America **2** : a white person descended from early French or Spanish settlers of the U.S. Gulf

states and preserving their speech and culture **3** : a person of mixed French or Spanish and Negro descent speaking a dialect of French or Spanish **4 a** : the French dialect spoken by many Negroes in southern Louisiana **b** : HAITIAN **c** *not cap* : a language based on two or more languages that serves as the native language of its speakers

cre·o·sol \'krē-ə-ˌsȯl, -ˌsōl\ *n* [ISV *creosote* + *-ol*] : a colorless aromatic phenol $C_8H_{10}O_2$ obtained from guaiacum resin and the tar made from beech

[1]cre·o·sote \'krē-ə-ˌsōt\ *n* [G *kreosot*, fr. Gk *kreas* flesh + *sōtēr* preserver, fr. *sōzein* to preserve, fr. *sōs* safe; fr. its antiseptic properties — more at RAW, THUMB] **1** : a clear or yellowish oily liquid mixture of phenolic compounds obtained by the distillation of wood tar esp. from beech wood **2** : a brownish oily liquid consisting chiefly of aromatic hydrocarbons obtained by distillation of coal tar and used esp. as a wood preservative

[2]creosote *vt* **-sot·ed; -sot·ing** : to impregnate with creosote

creosote bush *n* : a resinous desert shrub (*Covillea mexicana* of the family Zygophyllaceae) found in the southwestern U.S. and Mexico

crepe *or* **crêpe** \'krāp\ *n* [F *crêpe*] **1** : a light crinkled fabric woven of any of various fibers **2** : CRAPE 2 **3** : a small very thin pancake — **crepe** *adj* — **crep·ey** *or* **crepy** \'krā-pē\ *adj*

crepe de chine \ˌkrāp-də-'shēn\ *n, often cap 2d C* [F *crêpe de Chine*, lit., China crepe] : a soft fine clothing crepe

crepe myrtle *or* **crêpe myrtle** *n* : CRAPE MYRTLE

crepe paper *n* : paper with a crinkled or puckered texture

crepe rubber *n* : crude rubber in the form of nearly white to brown crinkled sheets used esp. for shoe soles

crepe su·zette \ˌkrāp-sü-'zet\ *n, pl* **crepes suzette** \ˌkrāp(s)-sü-'zet\ *or* **crepe suzettes** \ˌkrāp-sü-'zets\ [F *crêpe Suzette*, fr. *crêpe* pancake + *Suzette* Susy] : a thin folded or rolled pancake in a hot orange-butter sauce that is sprinkled with a liqueur (as cognac or curaçao) and set ablaze for serving

crep·i·tant \'krep-ət-ənt\ *adj* : having or making a crackling sound

crep·i·tate \'krep-ə-ˌtāt\ *vi* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [L *crepitatus*, pp. of *crepitare* to crackle, fr. *crepitus*, pp. of *crepare* to rattle, crack — more at RAVEN] : to make a crackling sound : CRACKLE — **crep·i·ta·tion** \ˌkrep-ə-'tā-shən\ *n*

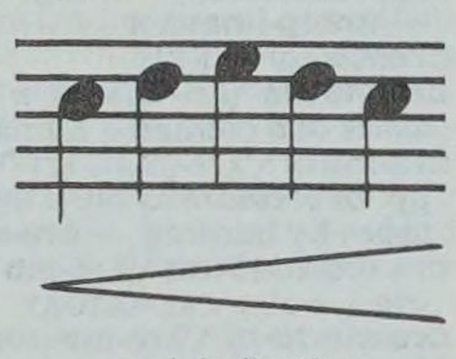
crept *past of* CREEP

cre·pus·cu·lar \kri-'pəs-kyə-lər\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or resembling twilight : DIM **2** : active in the twilight ⟨~ insects⟩

cre·pus·cule \kri-'pəs-(ˌ)kyü(ə)l\ *or* **cre·pus·cle** \-'pəs-əl\ *n* [L *crepusculum*, fr. *creper* dusky] : TWILIGHT

cresc *abbr* crescendo

[1]cre·scen·do \krə-'shen-(ˌ)dō\ *n, pl* **-dos** *or* **-does** **1 a** : a gradual increase; *esp* : a gradual increase in volume of a musical passage **b** : the peak of a gradual increase : CLIMAX ⟨complaints about stifling smog conditions reach a ~ — *Down Beat*⟩ **2** : a crescendo musical passage — **crescendo** *vi*



mark indicating crescendo 2

[2]crescendo *adv or adj* : with an increase in volume — used as a direction in music

[1]cres·cent \'kres-ᵊnt\ *n* [ME *cressant*, fr. MF *creissant*, fr. prp. of *creistre* to grow, increase, fr. L *crescere*; akin to OHG *hirsi* millet, L *creare* to create, Gk *koros* boy] **1 a** : the moon at any stage between new moon and first quarter and between last quarter and the succeeding new moon when less than half of the illuminated hemisphere is visible **b** : the figure of the moon at such a stage defined by a convex and a concave edge **2** : something shaped like a crescent — **cres·cen·tic** \kre-'sent-ik, krə-\ *adj*

[2]crescent *adj* [L *crescent-, crescens*, prp. of *crescere*] : marked by an increase

cres·cive \'kres-iv\ *adj* [L *crescere* to grow] : capable of growth : INCREASING — **cres·cive·ly** *adv*

cre·sol \'krē-ˌsȯl, -ˌsōl\ *n* [ISV, irreg. fr. *creosote*] : any of three poisonous colorless crystalline or liquid isomeric phenols C_7H_8O

cress \'kres\ *n* [ME *cresse*, fr. OE *cærse, cressa*; akin to OHG *kressa* cress] : any of numerous crucifers (esp. genera *Rorippa, Arabis*, and *Barbarea*) with moderately pungent leaves used in salads and garnishes

cres·set \'kres-ət\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OF *craisset*, fr. *craisse* grease — more at GREASE] : an iron vessel or basket used for holding an illuminant (as burning oil) and mounted as a torch or suspended as a lantern

Cres·si·da \'kres-əd-ə\ *n* : a Trojan woman of medieval legend who pledges herself to Troilus but while a captive of the Greeks gives herself to Diomedes

[1]crest \'krest\ *n* [ME *creste*, fr. MF, fr. L *crista*; akin to OE *hrisian* to shake, L *curvus* curved — more at CROWN] **1 a** : a showy tuft or process on the head of an animal and esp. a bird — see BIRD illustration **b** : the plume or identifying emblem worn on a knight's helmet **c** (1) : a heraldic representation of the crest (2) : a heraldic device depicted above the escutcheon but not upon a helmet (3) : COAT OF ARMS 2a **2** : something suggesting a crest esp. in being an upper prominence, edge, or limit: as **a** : PEAK; *esp* : the top line of a mountain or hill **b** : the ridge or top of a wave or roof **3 a** : a high point of an action or process **b** : CLIMAX, CULMINATION ⟨at the ~ of his fame⟩ — **crest·al** \'kres-tᵊl\ *adj*

[2]crest *vt* **1** : to furnish with a crest : CROWN **2** : to reach the crest of ⟨~*ed* the hill and looked about him⟩ ~ *vi* : to rise to a crest ⟨waves ~*ing* in the storm⟩

crest·ed \'kres-təd\ *adj* : having a crest ⟨a ~ bird⟩

crested wheatgrass *n* : either of two grasses (*Agropyron cristatum* or *A. desertorum*) that were introduced from Russia and are grown in the U.S. for forage and for erosion control

crest·fall·en \'krest-ˌfȯ-lən\ *adj* **1** : having a drooping crest or hanging head **2** : feeling shame or humiliation : DEJECTED — **crest·fall·en·ly** *adv* — **crest·fall·en·ness** \-lən-nəs\ *n*

crest·less \'krest-ləs\ *adj* : lacking a crest; *specif* : LOWBORN

cre·syl \'kres-əl, 'krē-ˌsil\ *n* [ISV *cresol* + *-yl*] : TOLYL

cre·syl·ic \kri-'sil-ik\ *adj* [ISV *cresyl* + *-ic*] : of or relating to cresol or creosote

cre·ta·ceous \kri-'tā-shəs\ *adj* [L *cretaceus*, fr. *creta* chalk] **1** : having the characteristics of or abounding in chalk **2** *cap* : of, relating to, or being the last period of the Mesozoic era or the corresponding system of rocks — **cretaceous** *n* — **cre·ta·ceous·ly** *adv*

cre·tin \'krēt-ᵊn\ *n* [F *crétin*, fr. F dial. *cretin* Christian, human being, kind of idiot found in the Alps, fr. L *christianus* Christian] : one afflicted with cretinism; *broadly* : a person with marked mental deficiency — **cre·tin·ous** \-ᵊn-əs\ *adj*

cre·tin·ism \-ᵊn-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : a usu. congenital abnormal condition marked by physical stunting and mental deficiency and caused by severe thyroid deficiency

cre·tonne \'krē-ˌtän, kri-'\ *n* [F, fr *Creton*, Normandy] : a strong unglazed cotton or linen cloth used esp. for curtains and upholstery

cre·val·le \kri-'val-ē\ *n* [by alter.] : CAVALLA 2; *esp* : JACK CREVALLE

cre·vasse \kri-'vas\ *n* [F, fr. OF *crevace*] **1** : a deep crevice or fissure (as in a glacier or the earth) **2** : a breach in a levee

crev·ice \'krev-əs\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *crevace*, fr. OF, fr. *crever* to break, fr. L *crepare* to crack — more at RAVEN] : a narrow opening resulting from a split or crack : FISSURE

[1]crew \'krü\ *chiefly Brit past of* CROW

[2]crew \'krü\ *n* [ME *crue*, lit., reinforcement, fr. MF *creue* increase, fr. *creistre* to grow — more at CRESCENT] **1** *archaic* : a band or force of armed men **2** : a company of people temporarily associated together : ASSEMBLAGE **3 a** : a group of people held together by common traits or interests ⟨a wily politician and his ~ of henchmen⟩ **b** : a company of men working on one job or under one foreman or operating a machine **4 a** : the whole company belonging to a ship sometimes including the officers and master **b** : the persons who man an aircraft in flight **c** : the body of men manning a racing shell; *also* : ROWING — **crew·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **crew·man** \-mən\ *n*

[3]crew *vi* : to act as a member of a crew ⟨~*ed* on the winning sailboat⟩ ~ *vt* : to serve as a crew member on (as a ship or aircraft)

crew cut *n* : a very short haircut in which the hair resembles the bristle surface of a brush

crew·el \'krü-əl\ *n* [ME *crule*] : slackly twisted worsted yarn used for embroidery

crew·el·work \-ˌwərk\ *n* : embroidery worked with crewel

[1]crib \'krib\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *cribb*; akin to OHG *krippa* manger, Gk *griphos* reed basket, OE *cradol* cradle] **1** : a manger for feeding animals **2** : an enclosure esp. of framework: as **a** : a stall for a stabled animal **b** : a small child's bedstead with high enclosing usu. slatted sides **c** : any of various devices resembling a crate or framework in structure **d** : a building for storage : BIN **3** : a small narrow room or dwelling : HUT, SHACK **4** : the cards discarded in cribbage for the dealer to use in scoring **5 a** : a small theft **b** : PLAGIARISM **c** : a literal translation; *esp* : PONY 3 **d** : something used for cheating in an examination **6** : CRÈCHE 3

[2]crib *vb* **cribbed; crib·bing** *vt* **1** : CONFINE, CRAMP **2** : to provide with or put into a crib; *esp* : to line or support with a framework of timber **3** : PILFER, STEAL; *esp* : PLAGIARIZE ~ *vi* **1 a** : STEAL, PLAGIARIZE **b** : to use a crib : CHEAT **2** : to have the vice of crib biting — **crib·ber** *n*

crib·bage \'krib-ij\ *n* [[1]*crib*] : a card game for two players in which each player attempts to form various counting combinations of cards

crib·bing \'krib-iŋ\ *n* : material for use in a crib

crib biting *n* : a vice of horses in which they gnaw (as at the manger) while slobbering and salivating

crib·ri·form \'krib-rə-ˌfȯrm\ *adj* [L *cribrum* sieve; akin to L *cernere* to sift — more at CERTAIN] : pierced with small holes

cri·ce·tid \krī-'sēt-əd, -'set-\ *n* [deriv. of NL *Cricetus*, genus name, of Slav origin; akin to Czech *křečk* hamster] : any of a family (Cricetidae) of small rodents including the hamsters — **cricetid** *adj*

[1]crick \'krik\ *n* [ME *cryk*] : a painful spasmodic condition of muscles (as of the neck or back)

[2]crick *vt* **1** : to cause a crick in (as the neck) **2** : to turn or twist (as the head) esp. into a strained position

[1]crick·et \'krik-ət\ *n* [ME *criket*, fr. MF *criquet*, of imit. origin] **1** : a leaping orthopteran insect (family Gryllidae) noted for the chirping notes produced by the male by rubbing together specially modified parts of the fore wings **2** : a low wooden footstool **3** : a small metal toy or signaling device that makes a sharp click or snap when pressed

[2]cricket *n* [MF *criquet* goal stake in a bowling game] **1** : a game played with a ball and bat by two sides of usu. 11 players each on a large field centering upon two wickets each defended by a batsman **2** : fair and honorable behavior

[3]cricket *vi* : to play the game of cricket — **crick·et·er** *n*

cri·coid \'krī-ˌkȯid\ *adj* [NL *cricoides*, fr. Gk *krikoeidēs* ring-shaped, fr. *krikos* ring — more at CIRCLE] : of, relating to, or being a cartilage of the larynx with which arytenoid cartilages articulate

cri·er \'krī(-ə)r\ *n* : one that cries: **a** : an officer who proclaims the orders of a court **b** : TOWN CRIER

crim con *abbr* criminal conversation

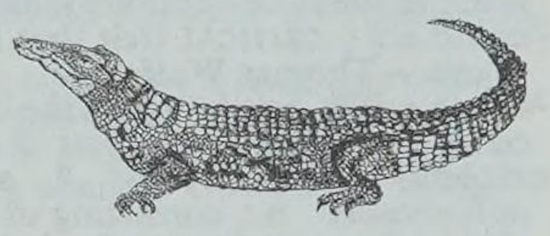
crime \'krīm\ *n* [ME, fr. L *crimen* accusation, fault, crime] **1** : an act or the commission of an act that is forbidden or the omission of a duty that is commanded by a public law and that makes the offender liable to punishment by that law; *esp* : a gross violation of law **2** : a grave offense esp. against morality **3** : criminal activity **4** : something reprehensible, foolish, or disgraceful ⟨it's a ~ to waste good food⟩ ***syn*** see OFFENSE

crime against humanity : atrocity (as extermination or enslavement) that is directed esp. against an entire population or part of a population on specious grounds and without regard to individual guilt or responsibility even on such grounds

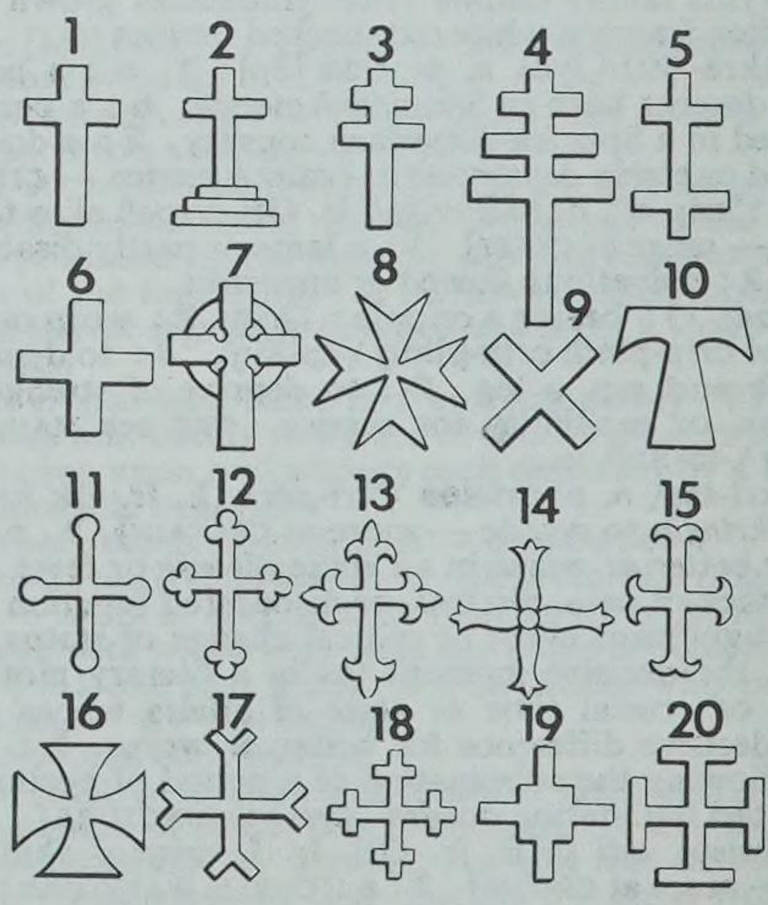
crime against nature : SODOMY

[1]crim·i·nal \'krim-ən-ᵊl, 'krim-nəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or LL; MF *criminel*, fr. LL *criminalis*, fr. L *crimin- crimen* crime] **1** : involving or being a crime **2** : relating to crime or its punishment **3** : guilty of crime **4** : DISGRACEFUL — **crim·i·nal·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
[2]criminal *n* **1** : one that has committed a crime : MALEFACTOR **2** : a person who has been convicted of a crime
criminal conversation *n* : adultery considered as a tort
criminal court *n* : a court that has jurisdiction to try and punish offenders against criminal law
crim·i·nal·i·ty \ˌkrim-ə-'nal-ət-ē\ *n* : the quality or state of being criminal
criminal law *n* : the law of crimes and their punishments
crim·i·nate \'krim-ə-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [L *criminatus*, pp. of *criminari*, fr. *crimin-, crimen* accusation] **1 a** : to accuse of a crime **b** : INCRIMINATE **2** : to represent as criminal : CONDEMN — **crim·i·na·tion** \ˌkrim-ə-'nā-shən\ *n*
criminol *abbr* criminologist; criminology
crim·i·nol·o·gy \ˌkrim-ə-'näl-ə-jē\ *n* [It *criminologia*, fr. L *crimin-, crimen* + It *-o-* + *-logia* -logy] : the scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon, of criminals, and of penal treatment — **crim·i·no·log·i·cal** \-ən-ᵊl-'äj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **crim·i·no·log·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **crim·i·nol·o·gist** \ˌkrim-ə-'näl-ə-jəst\ *n*
crim·i·nous \'krim-ə-nəs\ *adj* : CRIMINAL
[1]crimp \'krimp\ *vt* [D or LG *krimpen* to shrivel; akin to LG *krampe* hook — more at CRAMP] **1** : to cause to become wavy, bent, or warped: as **a** : to form (leather) into a desired shape **b** : to draw or pinch in or together in glass manufacturing ⟨~ the neck of a vase⟩ **c** : to roll the edge of **d** : to pinch or press together (as the margins of a pie crust) in order to seal **2** : to put a crimp in : INHIBIT ⟨dealers whose sales had been ~*ed* by credit controls — *Time*⟩
[2]crimp *n* **1** : something produced by or as if by crimping: as **a** : a section of hair artificially waved or curled **b** : a succession of waves (as in wool fiber) **2** : something that cramps or inhibits
[3]crimp *n* [perh. fr. [1]*crimp*] : a person who entraps or forces men into shipping as sailors or into enlisting in an army or navy
[4]crimp *vt* : to trap into military or sea service : IMPRESS
crimpy \'krim-pē\ *adj* **crimp·i·er; -est** : having a crimped appearance : FRIZZY
[1]crim·son \'krim-zən\ *n* [ME *crimisin*, fr. OSp *cremesín*, fr. Ar *qirmizī*, fr. *qirmiz* kermes] : any of several deep purplish reds
[2]crimson *adj* : of the color crimson
[3]crimson *vt* : to make crimson ~ *vi* : to become crimson
[1]cringe \'krinj\ *vi* **cringed; cring·ing** [ME *crengen;* akin to OE *cringan* to yield, *cradol* cradle] **1** : to draw in or contract one's muscles involuntarily **2** : to shrink in fear or servility **3** : to approach someone with fawning and self-abasement ***syn*** see FAWN — **cring·er** *n*
[2]cringe *n* : a cringing act; *specif* : a servile bow
crin·gle \'kriŋ-gəl\ *n* [LG *kringel*, dim. of *kring* ring; akin to OE *cradol* cradle] : a thimble, grommet, eyelet, or rope loop worked into or attached to the edge of a sail and used for making rope and lines fast
[1]crin·kle \'kriŋ-kəl\ *vb* **crin·kled; crin·kling** \-k(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *crynkelen;* akin to OE *cringan* to yield] *vi* **1 a** : to form many short bends or turns **b** : WRINKLE, RIPPLE **2** : to give forth a thin crackling sound : RUSTLE ⟨*crinkling* silks⟩ ~ *vt* : to cause to crinkle
[2]crinkle *n* **1** : WINDING, WRINKLE **2** : any of several plant diseases marked by crinkling of leaves — **crin·kly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adj*
cri·noid \'krī-ˌnȯid\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *krinon* lily] : any of a large class (Crinoidea) of echinoderms usu. having a somewhat cup-shaped body with five or more feathery arms — **crinoid** *adj*
crin·o·line \'krin-ᵊl-ən\ *n* [F, fr. It *crinolino*, fr. *crino* horsehair (fr. L *crinis* hair; akin to L *crista* crest) + *lino* flax, linen, fr. L *linum*] **1** : an open-weave fabric of horsehair or cotton that is usu. stiffened and used esp. for interlinings and millinery **2 a** : HOOPSKIRT **b** : a full stiff skirt or underskirt — **crinoline** *adj*
cri·num \'krī-nəm\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, lily, fr. Gk *krinon*] : any of a large genus (*Crinum*) of chiefly tropical bulbous herbs of the amaryllis family (family Amaryllidaceae) grown for their umbels of often fragrant white red-marked flowers
cri·o·llo \krē-'ō(l)-(ˌ)yō\ *n, pl* **-llos** [Sp] **1 a** : a person of pure Spanish descent born in Spanish America **b** : a person born and usu. raised in a Spanish-American country **2** : a domestic animal of a breed or strain developed in Latin America — **criollo** *adj*
[1]crip·ple \'krip-əl\ *n* [ME *cripel*, fr. OE *crypel;* akin to OE *crēopan* to creep — more at CREEP] **1** : a lame or partly disabled person or animal **2** : something flawed or imperfect
[2]cripple *adj* **1** : beaing a cripple : LAME **2** : worn out : INFERIOR
[3]cripple *vt* **crip·pled; crip·pling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ **1** : to deprive of the use of a limb and esp. a leg **2** : to deprive of strength, efficiency, wholeness, or capability for service ***syn*** see MAIM, WEAKEN — **crip·pler** \-(ə-)lər\ *n*
cri·sis \'krī-səs\ *n, pl* **cri·ses** \'krī-ˌsēz\ [L, fr. Gk *krisis*, lit., decision, fr. *krinein* to decide — more at CERTAIN] **1 a** : the turning point for better or worse in an acute disease or fever **b** : a paroxysmal attack of pain, distress, or disordered function **c** : an emotionally significant event or radical change of status in a person's life **2** : the decisive moment (as in a literary plot) **3 a** : an unstable or crucial time or state of affairs whose outcome will make a decisive difference for better or worse **b** : the period of strain following the culmination of a period of business prosperity when forced liquidation occurs ***syn*** see JUNCTURE
[1]crisp \'krisp\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE, fr. L *crispus;* akin to L *curvus* curved — more at CROWN] **1 a** : CURLY, WAVY; *also* : having close stiff or wiry curls or waves **b** : having the surface roughened into small folds or curling wrinkles **2 a** : easily crumbled : BRITTLE **b** *of pastry* : SHORT **c** : being desirably firm and fresh ⟨~ lettuce⟩ **3 a** : being sharp, clean-cut, and clear ⟨a ~ illustration⟩ **b** : noticeably neat **c** : SPRIGHTLY, LIVELY ⟨~ banter between the debating opponents⟩ **d** : FROSTY, SNAPPY ⟨~ winter weather⟩; *also* : FRESH, INVIGORATING ⟨~ autumn air⟩ ***syn*** see FRAGILE, INCISIVE — **crisp·ly** *adv* — **crisp·ness** *n*
[2]crisp *vt* **1** : CURL, CRIMP **2** : to cause to ripple : WRINKLE **3** : to make or keep crisp ~ *vi* **1** : CURL **2** : RIPPLE **3** : to become crisp — **crisp·er** *n*
[3]crisp *n* **1** : something crisp or brittle **2** *chiefly Brit* : POTATO CHIP
cris·pa·tion \kris-'pā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of curling : the state of being curled **2** : a slight spasmodic contraction
crisp·en \'kris-pən\ *vt* : to make crisp ⟨celery ~*ed* by refrigeration⟩ ~ *vi* : to become crisp ⟨a pastry shell ~*ing* in the oven⟩
crispy \'kris-pē\ *adj* **crisp·i·er; -est** : CRISP — **crisp·i·ness** *n*
[1]criss·cross \'kris-ˌkrȯs\ *n* [obs. *christcross, crisscross* (mark of a cross)] **1** : a crisscross pattern : NETWORK **2** : a confused state ⟨there was a ~ of comment in the room, all of it impatient — Eric Goldman⟩
[2]crisscross *vt* **1** : to mark with intersecting lines **2** : to pass back and forth through or over ~ *vi* : to go or pass back and forth
[3]crisscross *adj* : marked or characterized by crisscrossing
[4]crisscross *adv* **1** : in a way to cross something else **2** : AWRY
cris·ta \'kris-tə\ *n, pl* **cris·tae** \-ˌtē, -ˌtī\ [NL, fr. L, crest] : any of the inwardly projecting folds of the inner membrane of a mitochondrion
crit *abbr* critical; criticism; criticized
cri·te·ri·on \krī-'tir-ē-ən *also* krə-\ *n, pl* **-ria** \-ē-ə\ *also* **-rions** [Gk *kritērion*, fr. *krinein* to judge, decide — more at CERTAIN] **1** : a characterizing mark or trait **2** : a standard on which a judgment or decision may be based ***syn*** see STANDARD
[1]crit·ic \'krit-ik\ *n* [L *criticus*, fr. Gk *kritikos*, fr. *kritikos* able to discern or judge, fr. *krinein* to judge] **1 a** : one who expresses a reasoned opinion on any matter involving a judgment of its value, truth, or righteousness, an appreciation of its beauty or technique, or an interpretation **b** : one who engages often professionally in the analysis, evaluation, or appreciation of works of art **2** : one given to harsh or captious judgment : CARPER
[2]critic *adj* : CRITICAL ⟨felt that the world was looking at him with a ~ eye —Thomas Wolfe⟩
[3]critic *n* [Gk *kritikē* art of the critic, fr. fem. of *kritikos* able to discern] **1** *archaic* : CRITICISM **2** *archaic* : CRITIQUE
crit·i·cal \'krit-i-kəl\ *adj* **1 a** : inclined to criticize severely and unfavorably **b** : consisting of or involving criticism ⟨~ writings⟩; *also* : of or relating to the judgment of critics ⟨the play was a ~ success⟩ **c** : exercising or involving careful judgment or judicious evaluation **d** : including variant readings and scholarly emendations ⟨a ~ edition⟩ **2 a** : of, relating to, or being a turning point or specially important juncture ⟨~ phase⟩ **b** : relating to or being a state in which or a measurement or point at which some quality, property, or phenomenon suffers a definite change ⟨~ temperature⟩ **c** : CRUCIAL, DECISIVE ⟨~ test⟩ **d** : indispensable for the weathering, solution, or overcoming of a crisis ⟨the stockpiling of strategic and ~ materials —T. P. Neill⟩ **e** : being in or approaching a state of crisis esp. through economic disorders or by virtue of a disaster ⟨remedy a situation made ~ by the increase of the tax burden —Broadus Mitchell⟩ **3** : characterized by risk or uncertainty **4 a** : of sufficient size to sustain a chain reaction — used of a mass of fissionable material **b** : sustaining a chain reaction — used of a nuclear reactor — **crit·i·cal·i·ty** \ˌkrit-ə-'kal-ət-ē\ *n* — **crit·i·cal·ly** \'krit-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **crit·i·cal·ness** \-kəl-nəs\ *n*
syn **1** CRITICAL, HYPERCRITICAL, FAULTFINDING, CAPTIOUS, CARPING, CENSORIOUS *shared meaning element* : exhibiting the spirit of one who looks for and points out faults and defects ***ant*** uncritical
2 see ACUTE ***ant*** noncritical
critical angle *n* **1** : the least angle of incidence at which total reflection takes place **2** : the angle of attack at which the flow about an airfoil changes abruptly with corresponding abrupt changes in the lift and drag
critical point *n* : a point on the graph of a function where the derivative is zero or infinite
critical region *n* : the set of outcomes of a statistical test for which the null hypothesis is to be rejected
critical value *n* : the value of an independent variable corresponding to a critical point of a function
crit·ic·as·ter \'krit-i-ˌkas-tər\ *n* : an inferior or petty critic
crit·i·cism \'krit-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n* **1 a** : the act of criticizing usu. unfavorably **b** : a critical observation or remark **c** : CRITIQUE **2** : the art of evaluating or analyzing with knowledge and propriety works of art or literature **3** : the scientific investigation of literary documents (as the Bible) in regard to such matters as origin, text, composition, character, or history
crit·i·cize \'krit-ə-ˌsīz\ *vb* **-cized; -ciz·ing** *vi* : to act as a critic ~ *vt* **1** : to consider the merits and demerits of and judge accordingly : EVALUATE **2** : to stress the faults of : cavil at — **crit·i·ciz·able** \-ˌsī-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **crit·i·ciz·er** *n*
syn CRITICIZE, REPREHEND, BLAME, CENSURE, REPROBATE, CONDEMN, DENOUNCE *shared meaning element* : to find fault with openly
[1]cri·tique \krə-'tēk, kri-\ *n* [alter. of [3]*critic*] : an act of criticizing; *esp* : a critical estimate or discussion
[2]critique *vt* **cri·tiqued; cri·tiqu·ing** : CRITICIZE, REVIEW
crit·ter \'krit-ər\ *n* [by alter.] *dial* : CREATURE
[1]croak \'krōk\ *vb* [ME *croken*, of imit. origin] *vi* **1 a** : to make a deep harsh sound **b** : to speak in a hoarse throaty voice **2** : to grumble dourly : COMPLAIN **3** *slang* : DIE ~ *vt* **1** : to forebode or utter in a hoarse raucous voice **2** *slang* : KILL
[2]croak *n* : a hoarse harsh cry (as of a frog) — **croaky** \'krō-kē\ *adj*
croak·er \'krō-kər\ *n* **1** : an animal that croaks **2** : any of various fishes (esp. family Sciaenidae) that produce croaking or grunting noises **3** : one that habitually forbodes evil : GRUMBLER

Croat \'krōt, 'krō-ˌat\ *n* [NL *Croata,* fr. Serbo-Croatian *Hrvat*] : CROATIAN
Cro·atian \krō-'ā-shən\ *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Croatia **2** : a south Slavic language spoken by the Croatian people and distinct from Serbian chiefly in its use of the Latin alphabet — **Croatian** *adj*
¹cro·chet \krō-'shā\ *n* [F, hook, crochet, fr. MF, dim. of *croche* hook, of Scand origin; akin to ON *krōkr* hook — more at CROOK] : needlework consisting of the interlocking of looped stitches formed with a single thread and a hooked needle
²crochet *vt* : to make of crochet ⟨~*ed* a doily⟩ ~ *vi* : to work with crochet — **cro·chet·er** \-'shā-ər\ *n*
cro·cid·o·lite \krō-'sid-ᵊl-ˌīt\ *n* [G *krokydolith,* fr. Gk *krokyd-, krokys* nap on cloth + G *-lith* -lite] : a lavender-blue or leek-green mineral of the amphibole group that occurs in silky fibers and massively — compare TIGEREYE
¹crock \'kräk\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *crocc;* akin to MHG *krūche* crock] **1** : a thick earthenware pot or jar **2** [fr. its formation on cooking pots] *dial* : SOOT, SMUT **3** : coloring matter that rubs off from cloth or dyed leather
²crock *vt, dial* : to soil with crock : SMUDGE ~ *vi* : to transfer color under rubbing ⟨a suede that will not ~⟩
³crock *n* [ME *crok,* prob. of Scand origin; akin to Norw dial. *krokje* crock] **1** : one that is broken down, disabled, or impaired **2** : a complaining medical patient whose illness is largely imaginary or psychosomatic
⁴crock *vt* : to cause to become disabled ~ *vi* : to break down
crock·ery \'kräk-(ə-)rē\ *n* : EARTHENWARE
crock·et \'kräk-ət\ *n* [ME *croket,* fr. ONF *croquet* crook, dim. of *croc* hook, of Scand origin; akin to ON *krōkr* hook] : an ornament usu. in the form of curved and bent foliage used on the edge of a gable or spire — **crock·et·ed** \-ət-əd\ *adj*
croc·o·dile \'kräk-ə-ˌdīl\ *n* [ME & L; ME *cocodrille,* fr. OF, fr. ML *cocodrillus,* alter. of L *crocodilus,* fr. Gk *krokodilos* lizard, crocodile, fr. *krokē* pebble + *drilos* worm; akin to Skt *śarkara* pebble — more at SUGAR] **1 a** : any of several large voracious thick-skinned long-bodied aquatic reptiles (as of the genus *Crocodylus*) of tropical and subtropical waters; *broadly* : CROCODILIAN **b** : the skin or hide of a crocodile **2** *archaic* : one who hypocritically affects sorrow


crocodile 1a

crocodile bird *n* : an African plover (*Pluvianus aegypticus*) that lights on the crocodile and eats its insect parasites
crocodile tears *n pl* : false or affected tears : hypocritical sorrow
croc·o·dil·ian \ˌkräk-ə-'dil-ē-ən, -'dil-yən\ *n* : any of an order (Loricata) of reptiles including the crocodiles, alligators, and related extinct forms — **crocodilian** *adj*
croco·ite \'kräk-ə-ˌwīt\ *or* **croc·oi·site** \'kräk-wə-ˌzīt\ *n* [G *krokoisit, krokoit,* fr. F *crocoise,* fr. Gk *krokoeis* saffron-colored, fr. *krokos*] : a mineral $PbCrO_4$ consisting of lead chromate
cro·cus \'krō-kəs\ *n, pl* **cro·cus·es** [NL, genus name, fr. L, saffron, fr. Gk *krokos,* of Sem origin] **1** *pl also* **cro·ci** \-ˌkē, -ˌkī, -ˌsī\ : any of a large genus (*Crocus*) of herbs of the iris family having solitary long-tubed flowers and slender linear leaves **2 a** : a dark red ferric oxide used for polishing metals **b** : SAFFRON 2
croft \'krȯft\ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OE *crēopan* to creep — more at CREEP] **1** *chiefly Brit* : a small enclosed field usu. adjoining a house **2** *chiefly Brit* : a small farm worked by a tenant — **croft·er** \'krȯf-tər\ *n*
crois·sant \k(rə-ˌ)wä-'sänᵗ\ *n, pl* **croissants** \-'sänᵗ(z)\ [F, lit., crescent, fr. MF *creissant*] : a rich crescent-shaped roll
Croix de Guerre \k(rə-ˌ)wäd-i-'ge(ə)r\ *n* [F, lit., war cross] : a French military decoration awarded for gallant action in war
Cro–Ma·gnon \krō-'mag-nən, -'man-yən\ *n* [*Cro-Magnon,* a cave near Les Eyzies, France] : a tall erect race of men known from skeletal remains found chiefly in southern France and classified as the same species (*Homo sapiens*) as recent man
crom·lech \'kräm-ˌlek\ *n* [W, lit., bent stone] **1** : DOLMEN **2** : a circle of monoliths usu. enclosing a dolmen or mound
crone \'krōn\ *n* [ME, fr. ONF *carogne,* lit., carrion, fr. (assumed) VL *caronia* — more at CARRION] : a withered old woman
Cro·nus \'krō-nəs, 'krän-əs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kronos*] : a Titan dethroned by his son Zeus
cro·ny \'krō-nē\ *n, pl* **cronies** [perh. fr. Gk *chronios* long-lasting, fr. *chronos* time] : a close friend esp. of long standing : CHUM
cro·ny·ism \-nē-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : partiality to cronies esp. as evidenced in the appointment of political hangers-on to office without regard to their qualifications
¹crook \'krůk\ *n* [ME *crok,* fr. ON *krōkr* hook; akin to OE *cradol* cradle] **1** : an implement having a bent or hooked form: as **a** : POTHOOK **b** (1) : a shepherd's staff (2) : CROSIER 1 **2** : a person given to fraudulent practices : THIEF **3** : BEND, CURVE **4** : a part of something that is hook-shaped, curved, or bent ⟨the ~ of an umbrella handle⟩
²crook *vt* **1** : BEND ⟨~*ed* my neck so I could see⟩ **2** *slang* **a** : CHEAT **b** : STEAL ~ *vi* : CURVE, WIND ⟨a river ~*ing* through a valley⟩
crook·back \'krůk-ˌbak\ *n* **1** *obs* : a crooked back **2** *obs* : HUNCHBACK — **crook·backed** \-'bakt\ *adj*
crook·ed \'krůk-əd\ *adj* **1** : having or marked by a crook or curve : BENT **2** : deviating from rectitude ⟨~ dealings⟩; *also* : DISHONEST ⟨a ~ politician⟩ ⟨~ profits⟩ — **crook·ed·ly** *adv* — **crook·ed·ness** *n*
syn CROOKED, DEVIOUS, OBLIQUE *shared meaning element* : not straight or straightforward ***ant*** straight
Crookes tube \'krůks-\ *n* [Sir William *Crookes*] : a vacuum tube evacuated to a high degree for demonstrating the properties of cathode rays
crook·neck \'krůk-ˌnek\ *n* : a squash with a long recurved neck
croon \'krün\ *vb* [ME *croynen,* fr. MD *cronen;* akin to OE *cran* crane] *vi* **1** *chiefly Scot* **a** : BELLOW, BOOM **b** : WAIL, LAMENT **2 a** : to make a continued moaning sound **b** : to sing in a gentle murmuring manner **c** : to sing in half voice ~ *vt* : to sing in a crooning manner ⟨~ a lullaby⟩ — **croon** *n*
croon·er \'krü-nər\ *n* : one that croons; *esp* : a singer of popular songs who uses a soft-voice technique adapted to amplifying systems
¹crop \'kräp\ *n* [ME, craw, head of a plant, yield of a field, fr. OE *cropp* craw, head of a plant; akin to OHG *kropf* goiter, craw, OE *crēopan* to creep — more at CREEP] **1** : the stock or handle of a whip; *also* : a riding whip with a short straight stock and a loop **2** : a pouched enlargement of the gullet of many birds that serves as a receptacle for food and for its preliminary maceration; *also* : an enlargement of the gullet of another animal (as an insect) **3** [²*crop*] **a** : an earmark on an animal; *esp* : one made by a straight cut squarely removing the upper part of the ear **b** : a close cut of the hair **4 a** : a plant or animal or plant or animal product that can be grown and harvested extensively for profit or subsistence ⟨an apple ~⟩ ⟨a ~ of wool⟩ **b** : the product or yield of something formed together ⟨the ice ~⟩ **c** : a batch or lot of something produced during a particular cycle ⟨a whole new ~ of college freshmen⟩ **d** : COLLECTION ⟨a ~ of lies⟩ **5** : the total yearly production from a specified area ⟨the county's cotton ~ had never been better⟩
²crop *vb* **cropped; crop·ping** *vt* **1 a** : to remove the upper or outer parts of ⟨~ a hedge⟩ **b** : HARVEST ⟨~ trout⟩ **c** : to cut off short : TRIM ⟨~ a photograph⟩ **2** : to cause (land) to bear a crop ⟨planned to ~ another 40 acres⟩; *also* : to grow as a crop ~ *vi* **1** : to feed by cropping something **2** : to yield or make a crop **3** : to appear unexpectedly or casually ⟨problems ~ up daily⟩
crop–eared \'kräp-'i(ə)rd\ *adj* **1** : having the ears cropped **2** : having the hair cropped so that the ears are conspicuous
crop·land \-ˌland\ *n* : land that is suited to or used for crops
¹crop·per \'kräp-ər\ *n* **1** : one that crops **2** : one that raises crops; *specif* : SHARECROPPER
²cropper *n* [prob. fr. E dial. *crop* neck, fr. ¹*crop*] **1** : a severe fall **2** : a sudden or violent failure or collapse
crop rotation *n* : the practice of growing different crops in succession on the same land chiefly to preserve the productive capacity of the soil
cro·quet \krō-'kā\ *n* [F dial., hockey stick, fr. ONF, crook — more at CROCKET] **1** : a game in which players drive wooden balls with mallets through a series of wickets set out on a lawn **2** : the act of driving away an opponent's croquet ball by striking one's own ball placed against it — **croquet** *vt*
cro·quette \krō-'ket\ *n* [F, fr. *croquer* to crunch, of imit. origin] : a small cone-shaped or rounded mass consisting usu. of minced fowl, meat, or vegetable coated with egg and bread crumbs and fried in deep fat
cro·qui·gnole \'krō-kən-ˌ(y)ōl\ *n* [F, a kind of biscuit, fr. *croquer*] : a method used in waving the hair by winding it on curlers from the ends of the hair toward the scalp
cro·quis \krō-'kē\ *n, pl* **cro·quis** \-'kē(z)\ [F, fr. *croquer* to crunch, sketch] : a rough draft : SKETCH
crore \'krō(ə)r, 'krȯ(ə)r\ *n, pl* **crores** *also* **crore** [Hindi *karoṛ*] : ten million; *specif* : a unit of value equal to ten million rupees or 100 lakhs
cro·sier \'krō-zhər\ *n* [ME *croser* crosier bearer, fr. MF *crossier,* fr. *crosse* crosier, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *crycc* crutch — more at CRUTCH] **1** : a staff resembling a shepherd's crook carried by bishops and abbots as a symbol of office — see VESTMENT illustration **2** : a plant structure with a coiled end
¹cross \'krȯs\ *n* [ME, fr. OE, fr. ON or OIr; ON *kross,* fr. (assumed) OIr *cross,* fr. L *cruc-, crux* — more at RIDGE] **1 a** : a structure consisting of an upright with a transverse beam used esp. by the ancient Romans for execution **b** *often cap* : the cross on



crosses 4a: *1* Latin, *2* Calvary, *3* patriarchal, *4* papal, *5* Lorraine, *6* Greek, *7* Celtic, *8* Maltese, *9* Saint Andrew's, *10* tau, *11* pommée, *12* botonée, *13* fleury, *14* avellan, *15* moline, *16* formée, *17* fourchée, *18* crosslet, *19* quadrate, *20* potent

which Jesus was crucified **2 a** : CRUCIFIXION **b** : an affliction that tries one's virtue, steadfastness, or patience **3** : a cruciform sign made to invoke the blessing of Christ esp. by touching the forehead, breast, and shoulders **4 a** : a device composed of an upright bar traversed by a horizontal one; *specif* : one used as a Christian emblem **b** *cap* : the Christian religion **5** : a structure (as a monument) shaped like or surmounted by a cross **6** : a figure or mark formed by two intersecting lines crossing at their midpoints; *specif* : such a mark used as a signature **7** : a cruciform badge, emblem, or decoration **8** : the intersection of two ways or lines : CROSSING **9** : ANNOYANCE, THWARTING ⟨a ~ in love⟩ **10 a** : an act of crossing dissimilar individuals **10 b** : a crossbred individual or kind **c** : one that combines characteristics of two different types or individuals **11 a** : a fraudulent or dishonest contest **b** : dishonest or illegal practices — used esp. in the phrase *on the cross* **12** : a movement from one part of a theater stage to another **13** : a hook thrown over the opponent's lead in boxing **14** *cap* **a** : NORTHERN CROSS **b** : SOUTHERN CROSS **15** : a security transaction in which a broker acts for both buyer and seller (as in the placing of a large lot of common stock) — called also *cross-trade*

²cross *vt* **1 a** : to lie or be situated across **1 b** : INTERSECT **2** : to make the sign of the cross upon or over **3** : to cancel by marking a cross on or drawing a line through : strike out ⟨~ names off a list⟩ **4** : to place or fold crosswise one over the other ⟨~ the arms⟩ **5 a** (1) : to run counter to : OPPOSE (2) : to deny the validity of : CONTRADICT **b** : to confront in a troublesome manner : OBSTRUCT **c** (1) : to spoil completely : DISRUPT — used with *up* ⟨his failure to appear ~*ed* up the whole program⟩ (2) : to turn against : BETRAY ⟨~*ed* me up on the deal⟩ **6 a** : to extend across : TRAVERSE ⟨a highway ~*ing* the entire state⟩ **b** : REACH, ATTAIN ⟨only two ~*ed* the finish line⟩ **c** : to go from one side of to the other ⟨~ a street⟩ **7 a** : to draw a line across **b** : to mark or figure with lines : STREAK **8** : to cause (an animal or plant) to interbreed with one of a different kind : HYBRIDIZE **9** : to meet and pass on the way ⟨our letters must have ~*ed* each other⟩ **10** : to occur to ⟨it never ~*ed* my mind⟩ **11** : to carry or take across something ⟨~*ed* the children at the intersection⟩ **~** *vi* **1** : to move, pass, or extend across something; *specif* : to pass from one side of the theater stage to another — used with *over* **2** : to lie or be athwart each other **3** : to meet in passing esp. from opposite directions **4** : INTERBREED, HYBRIDIZE — **cross·er** *n* — **cross swords** : to come to grips

³cross *adj* **1 a** : lying across or athwart **b** : moving across ⟨~ traffic⟩ **2 a** : running counter : OPPOSITE ⟨~ winds⟩ **b** : mutually opposed ⟨~ purposes⟩ **3** : involving mutual interchange : RECIPROCAL **4** : marked by typically transitory bad temper : GRUMPY **5** : extending over or treating several groups or classes ⟨a ~ sample from 25 colleges⟩ **6** : CROSSBRED, HYBRID ***syn*** see IRASCIBLE — **cross·ly** *adv* — **cross·ness** *n*

⁴cross *prep* : ACROSS

⁵cross *adv* : not parallel : CRISSCROSS, CROSSWISE

cross·abil·i·ty \ˌkrȯ-sə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n* : the ability of different species or varieties to cross with each other

cross·able \ˈkrȯ-sə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being crossed

cross action *n* : a legal action brought by a defendant in a suit against the person who has sued him and on the same subject matter

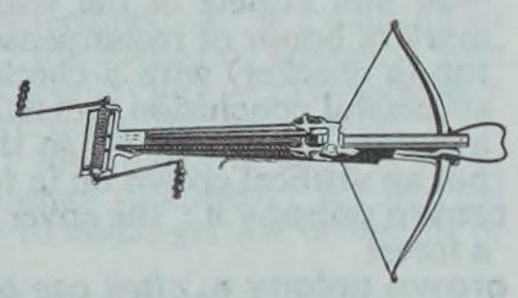
cross·bar \ˈkrȯs-ˌbär\ *n* : a transverse bar or stripe

cross·bear·er \ˈkrȯs-ˌbar-ər, -ˌber-\ *n* : CRUCIFER 1

cross·bill \-ˌbil\ *n* : any of a genus (*Loxia*) of finches with strongly curved mandibles that cross each other

cross·bones \-ˌbōnz\ *n pl* : two leg or arm bones placed or depicted crosswise — compare SKULL AND CROSSBONES

cross·bow \-ˌbō\ *n* : a weapon for discharging quarrels and stones that consists chiefly of a short bow mounted crosswise near the end of a wooden stock



crossbow

cross·bow·man \-mən\ *n* : one (as a soldier or a hunter) whose weapon is a crossbow

cross·bred \ˈkrȯs-ˈbred\ *adj* : HYBRID; *specif* : produced by interbreeding two pure but different breeds, strains, or varieties — **cross·bred** \-ˌbred\ *n*

¹cross·breed \ˈkrȯs-ˌbrēd, -ˈbrēd\ *vb* **-bred** \-ˈbred\; **-breed·ing** *vt* : HYBRIDIZE, CROSS; *esp* : to interbreed (two varieties or breeds) within the same species **~** *vi* : to engage in or undergo interbreeding

²cross·breed \-ˌbrēd\ *n* : HYBRID

¹cross–check \-ˈchek\ *vt* **1** : to obstruct in ice hockey or lacrosse by thrusting one's stick held in both hands across an opponent's face or body **2** : to check (as data or reports) from various angles or sources to determine validity or accuracy

²cross–check *n* : an act or instance of cross-checking

¹cross–coun·try \ˈkrȯ-ˈskən-trē\ *adj* **1** : extending or moving across a country ⟨a ~ concert tour⟩ **2** : proceeding over countryside (as across fields and through woods) and not by roads **3** : of or relating to racing over the countryside instead of over a track or run ⟨~ skiers⟩ — **cross–country** *adv*

²cross–country *n* : cross-country sports; *specif* : distance running over the countryside instead of on an oval track

cross·court \ˈkrȯ-ˈskō(ə)rt, -ˈskȯ(ə)rt\ *adv or adj* : to or toward the opposite side of a court (as in tennis or basketball)

cross–cul·tur·al \ˈkrȯ-ˈskəlch-(ə-)rəl\ *adj* : dealing with or offering comparison between two or more different cultures or cultural areas

cross·cur·rent \ˈkrȯ-ˈskər-ənt, -ˈskə-rənt\ *n* **1** : a current running counter to the general forward direction **2** : a conflicting tendency — usu. used in pl. ⟨political ~*s*⟩

¹cross·cut \ˈkrȯ-ˌskət, -ˈskət\ *vt* **1** : to cut with a crosscut saw **2** : to cut, go, or move across or through : INTERSECT

²crosscut *adj* **1** : made or used for cutting transversely ⟨a saw with ~ teeth⟩ **2** : cut across or transversely ⟨a ~ incision⟩

³cross·cut \ˈkrȯ-ˌskət\ *n* **1** : something that cuts across or through; *specif* : a mine working driven horizontally and at right angles to an adit, drift, or level **2** : CROSS SECTION

crosscut saw *n* : a saw designed chiefly to cut across the grain of wood — compare RIPSAW

crosse \ˈkrȯs\ *n* [F, lit., crosier — more at CROSIER] : the stick used in lacrosse

crosse–check \-ˌchek\ *vi* : to hit an opponent's stick in lacrosse with one's own stick in order to knock the ball loose or to prevent the opponent from picking up the ball

cross–ex·am·i·na·tion \ˌkrȯ-sig-ˌzam-ə-ˈnā-shən\ *n* : the act or process of cross-examining

cross–ex·am·ine \-ˈzam-ən\ *vt* : to examine by a series of questions designed to check or discredit the answers to previous questions — **cross–ex·am·in·er** \-ˈzam-(ə-)nər\ *n*

cross–eye \ˈkrȯ-ˌsī\ *n* **1** : strabismus in which the eye turns inward toward the nose **2** *pl* \-ˈsīz\ : eyes affected with cross-eye — **cross–eyed** \-ˈsīd\ *adj*

cross–fer·tile \ˈkrȯs-ˈfərt-ᵊl\ *adj* : fertile in a cross or capable of cross-fertilization

cross–fer·til·iza·tion \-ˌfərt-ᵊl-ə-ˈzā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : fertilization in which the gametes are produced by separate individuals or sometimes by individuals of different kinds **b** : CROSS-POLLINATION **2** : interchange or interaction (as between different ideas, cultures, or categories) esp. of a broadening or productive nature ⟨~ of practical expertise with theoretical learning⟩

cross–fer·til·ize \-ˈfərt-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vt* : to accomplish cross-fertilization of **~** *vi* : to undergo cross-fertilization

cross–file \-ˈfī(ə)l\ *vi* : to register as a candidate in the primary elections of more than one political party **~** *vt* : to register (a person) as a candidate for more than one party

cross fire *n* **1** : firing (as in combat) from two or more points so that the lines of fire cross; *also* : a situation wherein the forces of opposing factions meet or cross **2** : rapid or heated interchange

cross–grained \ˈkrȯs-ˈgrānd\ *adj* **1** : having the grain or fibers running diagonally, transversely, or irregularly **2** : difficult to deal with — **cross–grained·ness** \-ˈgrā-nəd-nəs, -ˈgrān(d)-nəs\ *n*

cross hair *n* : one of the fine wires or threads in the focus of the eyepiece of an optical instrument used as a reference line in the field or for marking the instrumental axis

cross·hatch \ˈkrȯs-ˌhach\ *vt* : to mark with two series of parallel lines that intersect — **crosshatch** *n* — **cross–hatch·ing** *n*

cross·head \-ˌhed\ *n* : a metal block to which one end of a piston rod is secured, which slides on parallel guides, and which has a pin for attachment of the connecting rod

cross–in·dex \ˈkrȯ-ˈsin-ˌdeks\ *vt* **1** : to refer by means of a note at one place to matter at another place **2** : to refer from (as a variant) to a main entry — **cross–index** *n*

cross·ing \ˈkrȯ-siŋ\ *n* **1** : the act or action of crossing: as **a** : a traversing or traveling across **b** : an opposing, blocking, or thwarting esp. in an unfair or dishonest manner **2 a** : a place or structure (as on a street or over a river) where pedestrians or vehicles cross; *esp* : CROSSWALK **b** : a place where a railroad track crosses a highway or street

cross·ing–over \ˌkrȯ-siŋ-ˈō-vər\ *n* : an interchange of genes or segments between homologous chromosomes

cross–legged \ˈkrȯ-ˈsleg(-ə)d, -ˈslāg(-ə)d\ *adv or adj* **1** : with legs crossed and knees spread wide apart **2** : with one leg placed over and across the other

cross·let \ˈkrȯ-slət\ *n* : a small cross; *esp* : one used as a heraldic bearing — see CROSS illustration

cross–link \ˈkrȯ-ˌsliŋk\ *n* : a crosswise connecting part (as an atom or group) that connects parallel chains in a complex chemical molecule (as a polymer) — **cross–link** *vb*

cross multiply *vi* : to find the two products obtained by multiplying the numerator of each of two fractions by the denominator of the other — **cross multiplication** *n*

cross–na·tion·al \ˈkrȯ-ˈsnash-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* : of or relating to two or more nations ⟨~ survey of the aged in the United Kingdom, Denmark, and the U.S.A. —Lenore E. Bixby⟩

cross of Lor·raine \-lə-ˈrān, -lȯ-\ [*Lorraine*, France] : a cross with two crossbars having the upper one intersecting the upright above its middle and the lower one which is longer than the upper one intersecting the upright below its middle — see CROSS illustration

cross·over \ˈkrȯ-ˌsō-vər\ *n* **1** : CROSSING 2a **2** : an instance or product of genetic crossing-over **3** : interchange of the control group and the experimental group during the course of an experiment **4** : one who votes in an election for a political party which is not the one he has usu. voted for in past elections

cross·patch \ˈkrȯ-ˌspach\ *n* [³*cross* + *patch* (fool)] : GROUCH 2

cross·piece \ˈkrȯ-ˌspēs\ *n* : a horizontal member (as of a structure)

cross–pol·li·nate \ˈkrȯ-ˈspäl-ə-ˌnāt\ *vt* : to subject to cross-pollination

cross–pol·li·na·tion \ˌkrȯ-ˌspäl-ə-ˈnā-shən\ *n* : the transfer of pollen from one flower to the stigma of another

cross–pol·li·nize \ˈkrȯ-ˈspäl-ə-ˌnīz\ *vt* : CROSS-POLLINATE

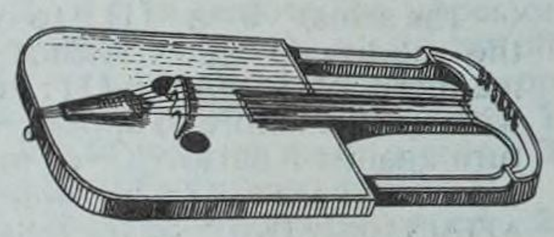
cross product *n* : VECTOR PRODUCT

cross–pur·pose \ˈkrȯ-ˈspər-pəs\ *n* : a purpose usu. unintentionally contrary to another purpose of oneself or of someone else ⟨the two men were always working at ~*s*⟩

cross–ques·tion \ˈkrȯ-ˈskwes(h)-chən\ *n* : a question asked in cross-examination — **cross–question** *vt*

cross–re·ac·tion \ˌkrȯs-rē-ˈak-shən\ *n* : reaction of one antigen with antibodies developed against another antigen

cross–re·fer \ˌkrȯs-ri-ˈfər\ *vt* : to refer (a reader) by a notation or direction from one place to another (as in a book, list, or catalog) ~ *vi* : to make a cross-reference
¹cross–ref·er·ence \ˈkrȯs-ˈref-ərn(t)s, -ˈref-(ə-)rən(t)s\ *n* : a notation or direction at one place (as in a book or filing system) to pertinent information at another place
²cross–reference *vb* : CROSS-REFER
cross–re·sis·tance \ˌkrȯs-ri-ˈzis-tən(t)s\ *n* : tolerance (as of an insect population) to a normally toxic substance (as an insecticide) that is acquired not as a result of direct exposure but by exposure to a related substance
cross·road \ˈkrȯs-ˌrōd, -ˈrōd\ *n* **1** : a road that crosses a main road or runs cross-country between main roads **2** *usu pl but sing or pl in constr* **a** : the place of intersection of two or more roads **b** (1) : a small community located at such a crossroads (2) : a central meeting place **c** : a crucial point esp. where a decision must be made
cross·ruff \ˈkrȯs-ˌrəf, -ˈrəf\ *n* : a series of plays in a card game in which partners alternately trump different suits and lead to each other for that purpose — **crossruff** *vb*
cross section *n* **1** : a cutting or piece of something cut off at right angles to an axis; *also* : a representation of such a cutting **2** : a measure of the probability of an encounter between particles such as will result in a specified effect (as ionization or capture) **3** : a composite representation typifying the constituents of a thing in their relations — **cross–sec·tion·al** *adj*
cross–ster·ile \ˈkrȯs-ˈ(s)ter-əl\ *adj* : mutually sterile — **cross–ste·ril·i·ty** \ˌkrȯs-(s)tə-ˈril-ət-ē\ *n*
cross–stitch \ˈkrȯs-ˌ(s)tich\ *n* **1** : a needlework stitch that forms an X **2** : work having cross-stitch — **cross–stitch** *vb*
cross talk *n* : unwanted signals in a communication channel that come from another channel or in one track of a tape recording that come from another track
cross·town \ˈkrȯ-ˈstaůn\ *adj* **1** : situated at opposite points of a town **2** : extending or running across a town ⟨a ~ street⟩ ⟨a ~ bus⟩
cross–trade \ˈkrȯ-ˌstrād\ *n* : CROSS 15
cross·trees \ˈkrȯ-ˌ()strēz\ *n* : two horizontal crosspieces of timber or metal supported by trestletrees at a masthead that spread the upper shrouds in order to support the mast
cross vault *n* : a vault formed by the intersection of two or more simple vaults — called also *cross vaulting*
cross·walk \ˈkrȯ-ˌswȯk\ *n* : a specially paved or marked path for pedestrians crossing a street or road
cross·way \ˈkrȯ-ˌswā\ *n* : CROSSROAD — often used in pl.
cross·ways \-ˌswāz\ *adv* : CROSSWISE, DIAGONALLY
cross·wind \ˈkrȯ-ˌswind\ *n* : a wind blowing in a direction not parallel to a course (as of an airplane)
¹cross·wise \ˈkrȯ-ˌswīz\ *adv* **1** *archaic* : in the form of a cross **2** : so as to cross something : ACROSS ⟨logs laid ~⟩
²crosswise *adj* : TRANSVERSE, CROSSING
cross·word puzzle \ˌkrȯ-ˌswərd-\ *n* : a puzzle in which words are filled into a pattern of numbered squares in answer to correspondingly numbered clues and in such a way that the words read across and down
crotch \ˈkräch\ *n* [prob. alter. of ¹*crutch*] **1** : a pole with a forked end used esp. as a prop **2** : an angle formed by the parting of two legs, branches, or members — **crotched** \ˈkrächt\ *adj*
crotch·et \ˈkräch-ət\ *n* [ME *crochet*, fr. MF — more at CROCHET] **1** *obs* **a** : a small hook or hooked instrument **b** : BROOCH **2 a** : a highly individual and usu. eccentric opinion or preference **b** : a peculiar trick, dodge, or device **3** : QUARTER NOTE ***syn*** see CAPRICE
crotch·ety \ˈkräch-ət-ē\ *adj* **1** : given to crotchets : subject to whims, crankiness, or ill temper ⟨a ~ old man⟩ **2** : full of or arising from crotchets — **crotch·et·i·ness** *n*
cro·ton \ˈkrōt-ᵊn\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *krotōn* castor-oil plant] **1** : any of a genus (*Croton*) of herbs and shrubs of the spurge family: as **a** : one (*C. eluteria*) of the Bahamas yielding cascarilla bark **b** : an East Indian plant (*C. tiglium*) yielding a viscid acrid fixed oil used as a drastic cathartic, a vesicant, or a pustulant **2** : any of a genus (*Codiaeum*) of shrubs related to the crotons
Cro·ton bug \ˈkrōt-ᵊn-\ *n* [*Croton* river, N.Y., used as a water supply for New York City] : GERMAN COCKROACH
crouch \ˈkraůch\ *vb* [ME *crouchen*] *vi* **1 a** : to lower the body stance esp. by bending the legs ⟨a sprinter ~*ed* and waited for the gun⟩ **b** : to lie close to the ground with the legs bent ⟨a pair of cats, ~*ing* on the brink of a fight —Aldous Huxley⟩ **2** : to bend or bow servilely : CRINGE ~ *vt* : to bow esp. in humility or fear : BEND — **crouch** *n*
¹croup \ˈkrüp\ *n* [ME *croupe*, fr. OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *kropf* craw — more at CROP] : the rump of a quadruped
²croup *n* [E dial. *croup* to cry hoarsely, cough, prob. of imit. origin] : a spasmodic laryngitis esp. of infants marked by episodes of difficult breathing and hoarse metallic cough — **croup·ous** \ˈkrü-pəs\ *adj* — **croupy** \-pē\ *adj*
crou·pi·er \ˈkrü-pē-ər, -pē-ˌā\ *n* [F, lit., rider on the croup of a horse, fr. *croupe* croup] : an employee of a gambling casino who collects and pays bets and assists at the gaming tables
crouse \ˈkrüs\ *adj* [ME] *chiefly Scot* : BRISK, LIVELY
crou·ton \ˈkrü-ˌtän, krü-ˈ\ *n* [F *croûton*, dim. of *croûte* crust, fr. MF *crouste*] : a small cube of toasted or crisply fried bread
¹crow \ˈkrō\ *n* [ME *crowe*, fr. OE *crāwe*; akin to OHG *krāwa* crow, OE *crāwan* to crow] **1** : any of various large usu. entirely glossy black oscine birds (family Corvidae and esp. genus *Corvus*) **2** : CROWBAR **3** *cap* **a** : a member of an Amerindian people of the region between the Platte and Yellowstone rivers **b** : the language of the Crow people **4** *cap* : CORVUS — **as the crow flies** : in a straight line
²crow *vi* **crowed** \ˈkrōd\ *also in sense 1 chiefly Brit* **crew** \ˈkrü\; **crow·ing** [ME *crowen*, fr. OE *crāwan*] **1** : to make the loud shrill sound characteristic of a cock **2** : to utter a sound expressive of pleasure **3 a** : to exult gloatingly esp. over the distress of another **b** : to brag exultantly or blatantly ***syn*** see BOAST
³crow *n* **1** : the cry of the cock **2** : a triumphant cry
crow·bar \ˈkrō-ˌbär\ *n* : an iron or steel bar that is usu. wedge-shaped at the working end for use as a pry or lever
crow·ber·ry \ˈkrō-ˌber-ē\ *n* **1** : any of several low shrubby evergreen plants (family Empetraceae); *esp* : an undershrub (*Empetrum nigrum*) of arctic and alpine regions with an insipid black berry **2** : the fruit of a crowberry
¹crowd \ˈkraůd\ *vb* [ME *crouden*, fr. OE *crūdan*; akin to MHG *kroten* to crowd, OE *crod* multitude, MIr *gruth* curds] *vi* **1 a** : to press on : HURRY **b** : to press close **2** : to collect in numbers ~ *vt* **1 a** : to fill by pressing or thronging together **b** : to press, force, or thrust into a small space **2** : PUSH, FORCE ⟨~*ed* us off the sidewalk⟩ **3 a** : to urge on **b** : to put on (sail) in excess of the usual for greater speed **4** : to put pressure on **5** : THRONG, JOSTLE **6** : to press close to
²crowd *n* **1** : a large number of persons esp. when collected into a somewhat compact body without order : THRONG **2** : the great body of the people : POPULACE **3** : a large number of things close together **4** : a group of people having something (as a habit, interest, or occupation) in common ⟨in with the wrong ~⟩
syn CROWD, THRONG, CRUSH, MOB, HORDE *shared meaning element* : an assembled multitude usu. of persons
³crowd \ˈkraůd, ˈkrüd\ *n* [ME *crowde*, fr. MW *crwth*] **1** : an ancient Celtic stringed instrument played by plucking or with a short bow — called also *crwth* **2** *dial Eng* : FIDDLE


crowd

crowd·ed·ness \ˈkraůd-əd-nəs\ *n* : the quality or state of being crowded
crow·foot \ˈkrō-ˌfůt\ *n, pl* **crow·feet** \-ˌfēt\ **1** *pl usu* **crowfoots** : any of numerous plants having leaves with cleft lobes; *esp* : any of a genus (*Ranunculus*) of plants of the buttercup family that are mostly yellow-flowered herbs **2** : CROW'S-FOOT 1 — usu. used in pl. **3** : a number of small lines of a boat rove through a long block
crow·keep·er \ˈkrō-ˌkē-pər\ *n, Brit* : a person employed to scare off crows
¹crown \ˈkraůn\ *n, often attrib* [ME *coroune, crowne*, fr. OF *corone*, fr. L *corona* wreath, crown, fr. Gk *korōnē*; akin to Gk *korōnos* curved, L *curvus*, MIr *cruind* round] **1** : a reward of victory or mark of honor; *esp* : the title representing the championship in a sport **2** : a royal or imperial headdress or cap of sovereignty : DIADEM **3** : the highest part: as **a** : the topmost part of the skull or head **b** : the summit of a mountain **c** : the head of foliage of a tree or shrub **d** : the part of a hat or other headgear covering the crown of the head **e** : the part of a tooth external to the gum or an artificial substitute for this — see TOOTH illustration **4** : a wreath, band, or circular ornament for the head **5** : something resembling a wreath or crown **6** *often cap* **a** (1) : imperial or regal power : SOVEREIGNTY (2) : the government under a constitutional monarchy **b** : MONARCH **7** : something that imparts splendor, honor, or finish : CULMINATION **8 a** (1) : any of several old gold coins with a crown as part of the device (2) : a former usu. silver British coin worth five shillings **b** : a size of paper usu. 15 x 20 in. **9 a** : KORUNA **b** : KRONA **c** : KRONE **10 a** : the region of a seed plant at which stem and root merge **b** : the thick arching end of the shank of an anchor where the arms join it — **crowned** \ˈkraůnd\ *adj*
²crown *vt* [ME *corounen*, fr. OF *coroner*, fr. L *coronare*, fr. *corona*] **1 a** : to place a crown or wreath on the head of; *specif* : to invest with regal dignity and power **b** : to recognize officially as ⟨they ~*ed* him athlete of the year⟩ **2** : to bestow something on as a mark of honor or recompense : ADORN **3** : SURMOUNT, TOP; *esp* : to top (a checker) with a checker to make a king **4** : to bring to a successful conclusion : CLIMAX **5** : to provide with something like a crown: as **a** : to fill so that the surface forms a crown **b** : to put an artifical crown on (a tooth) **6** : to hit on the head
crown canopy *n* : the cover formed by the top branches of trees in a forest
crown colony *n, often cap both Cs* : a colony of the British Commonwealth over which the Crown retains some control
crow·ner \ˈkrü-nər, ˈkraů-\ *n* [ME, alter. of *coroner*] *chiefly dial* : CORONER
crown·et \ˈkraů-nət\ *n, archaic* : CORONET
crown gall *n* : a plant disease that is esp. destructive to stone and pome fruits and that is caused by a bacterium (*Agrobacterium tumefaciens*) which forms tumorous enlargements just below the ground on the stem
crown glass *n* **1** : a glass blown and whirled into the form of a disk with a center lump left by the worker's rod **2** : alkali-lime silicate optical glass having relatively low index of refraction and low dispersion value
crown jewels *n pl* : the jewels (as crown and scepter) belonging to a sovereign's regalia
crown land *n* **1** : land belonging to the crown and yielding revenues that the reigning sovereign is entitled to **2** : public land in some British dominions or colonies
crown lens *n* : the crown glass component of an achromatic lens
crown of thorns : a starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) of the Pacific region that is covered with long spines and is destructive to the coral of coral reefs
crown prince *n* : an heir apparent to a crown or throne
crown princess *n* **1** : the wife of a crown prince **2** : a female heir apparent or heir presumptive to a crown or throne
crown rust *n* : a leaf rust of oats and other grasses that is caused by a fungus (*Puccinia coronata*) and is characterized by rounded light-orange uredinia and buried telia
crown saw *n* : a saw having teeth at the edge of a hollow cylinder

crown vetch *n* : a European herb (*Coronilla varia*) that is naturalized in the eastern U.S. and has umbels of pink-and-white flowers and sharp-angled pods
crow's-foot \'krōz-ˌfu̇t\ *n, pl* **crow's-feet** \-ˌfēt\ **1** : any of the wrinkles around the outer corners of the eyes — usu. used in pl. **2** : CROWFOOT 1
crow's nest *n* : a partly enclosed platform high on a ship's mast for use as a lookout; *also* : a similar lookout (as on a traffic-control tower)
cro·zier *var of* CROSIER
CRT *abbr* cathode-ray tube
cruces *pl of* CRUX
cru·cial \'krü-shəl\ *adj* [F, fr. L *cruc-, crux* cross — more at RIDGE] **1** *archaic* : CRUCIFORM **2 a** : important or essential as resolving a crisis : DECISIVE **b** : marked by final determination of a doubtful issue : TRYING **c** : marked by or possessing importance or significance ⟨what use we make of them will be the ~ question —Stanley Kubrick⟩ ***syn*** see ACUTE — **cru·cial·ly** \'krüsh-(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cru·cian carp \ˌkrü-shən-\ *n* [modif. of LG *karuse*, fr. MHG *karusse*, fr. Lith *karušis*] : a European carp (*Carassius carassius*) — called also *crucian*
cru·ci·ate \'krü-shē-ˌāt\ *adj* [NL *cruciatus*, fr. L *cruc-, crux*] : cross-shaped : CRUCIFORM — **cru·ci·ate·ly** *adv*
cru·ci·ble \'krü-sə-bəl\ *n* [ME *corusible*, fr. ML *crucibulum*, modif. of OF *croiseul*] **1** : a vessel of a very refractory material (as porcelain) used for melting and calcining a substance that requires a high degree of heat **2** : a severe test
crucible steel *n* : hard cast steel made in pots that are lifted from the furnace before the metal is poured into molds
cru·ci·fer \'krü-sə-fər\ *n* [deriv. of L *cruc-, crux* + *-fer*] **1** : one who carries a cross esp. at the head of an ecclesiastical procession **2** : any of a family (Cruciferae) of plants including the cabbage and mustard — **cru·cif·er·ous** \krü-'sif-(ə-)rəs\ *adj*
cru·ci·fix \'krü-sə-ˌfiks\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *crucifixus* the crucified Christ, fr. *crucifixus*, pp. of *crucifigere* to crucify, fr. L *cruc-, crux* + *figere* to fasten — more at DIKE] : a representation of Christ on the cross
cru·ci·fix·ion \ˌkrü-sə-'fik-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the act of crucifying **b** *cap* : the crucifying of Christ **2** : extreme and painful punishment, affliction, or suffering
cru·ci·form \'krü-sə-ˌfȯrm\ *adj* [L *cruc-, crux* + E *-form*] : forming or arranged in a cross — **cruciform** *n* — **cru·ci·form·ly** *adv*
cru·ci·fy \'krü-sə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** [ME *crucifien*, fr. OF *crucifier*, fr. LL *crucifigere*] **1** : to put to death by nailing or binding the hands and feet to a cross **2** : to destroy the power of : MORTIFY ⟨~ the flesh⟩ **3** : to treat cruelly : TORTURE, PERSECUTE
1crud \'krəd\ *n* [ME *curd, crudd*] **1** *dial* : 1CURD **2 a** : a deposit or incrustation of filth, grease, or refuse **b** *slang* : something disagreeable or contemptible : RUBBISH, CRAP **3** : a usu. ill-defined or imperfectly identified bodily disorder — **crud·dy** \'krəd-ē\ *adj*
2crud *vb* **crud·ded; crud·ding** *dial* : 2CURD
1crude \'krüd\ *adj* **crud·er; crud·est** [ME, fr. L *crudus* raw — more at RAW] **1** : existing in a natural state and unaltered by cooking or processing ⟨~ rubber⟩ **2** *archaic* : UNRIPE, IMMATURE **3** : marked by the primitive, gross, or elemental or by uncultivated simplicity or vulgarity **4** : rough or inexpert in plan or execution ⟨a ~ shelter⟩ **5** : lacking a covering, glossing, or concealing element : OBVIOUS ⟨~ facts⟩ **6** : tabulated without being broken down into classes ⟨~ death rate⟩ ***syn*** see RUDE ***ant*** finished — **crude·ly** *adv* — **crude·ness** *n*
2crude *n* : a substance in its natural unprocessed state; *esp* : unrefined petroleum
cru·di·ty \'krüd-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being crude **2** : something that is crude
cru·el \'krü-əl\ *adj* **cru·el·er** *or* **cru·el·ler; cru·el·est** *or* **cru·el·lest** [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *crudelis*, irreg. fr. *crudus*] **1** : disposed to inflict pain or suffering : devoid of humane feelings **2 a** : causing or conducive to injury, grief, or pain **b** : unrelieved by leniency ***syn*** see FIERCE ***ant*** pitiful — **cru·el·ly** \'krü-ə-lē\ *adv* — **cru·el·ness** *n*
cru·el·ty \'krü-əl-tē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *cruelte*, fr. OF *cruelté*, fr. L *crudelitat-, crudelitas*, fr. *crudelis*] **1** : the quality or state of being cruel **2 a** : a cruel action **b** : inhuman treatment **3** : marital conduct held (as in a divorce action) to endanger life or health or to cause mental suffering or fear
cru·et \'krü-ət\ *n* [ME, fr. AF, dim. of OF *crue*, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *crocc* crock] **1** : a vessel to hold wine or water for the Eucharist **2** : a usu. glass bottle used to hold a condiment (as oil or vinegar) for use at the table
1cruise \'krüz\ *vb* **cruised; cruis·ing** [D *kruisen* to make a cross, cruise, fr. MD *crucen*, fr. *crūce* cross, fr. L *cruc-, crux* — more at RIDGE] *vi* **1** : to sail about touching at a series of ports **2** : to be on one's way : GO ⟨I'll ~ over to her house to see if she's home⟩ **3** : to travel for the sake of traveling **4 a** : to go about the streets at random but on the lookout for possible developments ⟨the cabdriver *cruised* for an hour before being hailed⟩ **b** : to search (as in public places) for a sexual partner **5 a** *of an airplane* : to fly at the most efficient operating speed **b** *of an automobile* : to travel at a speed suitable for being maintained for a long distance ~ *vt* **1** : to cruise over or about **2** : to inspect (as land) with reference to possible lumber yield
2cruise *n* : an act or an instance of cruising; *esp* : a tour by ship
cruise missile *n* : a guided missile that has a terrain-seeking radar system and that flies at moderate speed and low altitude
cruis·er \'krü-zər\ *n* **1** : a boat or vehicle that cruises; *specif* : SQUAD CAR **2** : a large fast moderately armored and gunned warship usu. of 6000 to 15,000 tons displacement **3** : a motorboat with cabin, plumbing, and other arrangements necessary for living aboard — called also *cabin cruiser* **4** : a person who cruises; *specif* : one who estimates the volume and value of marketable timber on a tract of land and maps it out for logging
crul·ler \'krəl-ər\ *n* [D *krulle*, a twisted cake, fr. *krul* curly, fr. MD *crul*] **1** : a small sweet cake in the form of a twisted strip fried in deep fat **2** *North & Midland* : an unraised doughnut
1crumb \'krəm\ *n* [ME *crumme*, fr. OE *cruma*; akin to MHG *krume* crumb] **1** : a small fragment esp. of bread **2** : BIT **3** : the soft part of bread **4** *slang* : a worthless person
2crumb *vt* **1** : to break into crumbs **2** : to cover or thicken with crumbs **3** : to remove crumbs from ⟨~ a table⟩
crum·ble \'krəm-bəl\ *vb* **crum·bled; crum·bling** \-b(ə-)liŋ\ [alter. of ME *kremelen*, freq. of OE *gecrymian* to crumble, fr. *cruma*] *vt* : to break into small pieces ~ *vi* : to fall into small pieces : DISINTEGRATE — **crumble** *n*
crum·blings \'krəm-b(ə-)liŋz\ *n pl* : crumbled particles : CRUMBS
crum·bly \-b(ə-)lē\ *adj* **crum·bli·er; -est** : easily crumbled : FRIABLE ⟨~ soil⟩ — **crum·bli·ness** *n*
crum·mie *or* **crum·my** \'krəm-ē\ *n, pl* **crummies** [Sc *crumb* crooked, fr. ME, fr. OE] *chiefly Scot* : COW; *esp* : one with crumpled horns
crum·my *or* **crumby** \'krəm-ē\ *adj* **crum·mi·er** *or* **crumb·i·er; -est** [ME *crumme*] **1** *obs* : CRUMBLY **2 a** : MISERABLE, FILTHY **b** : CHEAP, WORTHLESS
1crump \'krəmp\ *vi* [imit.] **1** : CRUNCH **2** : to explode heavily
2crump *n* **1** : a crunching sound **2** : SHELL, BOMB
3crump *adj* [perh. alter. of *crimp* (friable)] *chiefly Scot* : BRITTLE
crum·pet \'krəm-pət\ *n* [perh. fr. ME *crompid* (*cake*) wafer, lit., curled-up cake, fr. *crumped*, pp. of *crumpen* to curl up, fr. *crump, crumb* crooked] : a small round cake of rich unsweetened batter cooked on a griddle and usu. split and toasted before serving
1crum·ple \'krəm-pəl\ *vb* **crum·pled; crum·pling** \-p(ə-)liŋ\ [(assumed) ME *crumplen*, freq. of ME *crumpen*] *vt* **1** : to press, bend, or crush out of shape : RUMPLE **2** : to cause to collapse ~ *vi* **1** : to become crumpled **2** : COLLAPSE
2crumple *n* : a wrinkle or crease made by crumpling
1crunch \'krənch\ *vb* [alter. of *craunch*] *vi* **1** : to chew or press with a crushing noise **2** : to make one's way with a crushing noise ~ *vt* : to chew, press, or grind with a crunching sound
2crunch *n* **1** : an act of crunching **2** : a sound made by crunching **3** : a tight or critical situation: as **a** : a critical point in the buildup of pressure between opposing elements **b** : a severe economic squeeze (as on credit)
crunch·er \'krən-chər\ *n* **1** : one that crunches **2** : a finishing blow
crunchy \'krən-chē\ *adj* **crunch·i·er; -est** : CRISP — **crunch·i·ness** *n*
crup·per \'krəp-ər, 'krùp-\ *n* [ME *cruper*, fr. OF *crupiere*, fr. *croupe* hindquarters] **1** : a leather loop passing under a horse's tail and buckled to the saddle **2** : 1CROUP; *broadly* : BUTTOCKS
cru·ral \'krù(ə)r-əl\ *adj* [L *crur-, crus* leg] : of or relating to the thigh or leg; *specif* : FEMORAL
crus \'krüs, 'krəs\ *n, pl* **cru·ra** \'krù(ə)r-ə\ [L *crur-, crus*; akin to Arm *srunk* shinbones] **1** : the part of the hind limb between the femur or thigh and the tarsus or ankle : SHANK **2** : any of various parts that resemble a leg or a pair of legs
1cru·sade \krü-'sād\ *n* [blend of MF *croisade* & Sp *cruzada*; both derivs. of L *cruc-, crux* cross] **1** *cap* : any of the military expeditions undertaken by Christian powers in the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries to win the Holy Land from the Muslims **2** : a remedial enterprise undertaken with zeal and enthusiasm
2crusade *vi* **cru·sad·ed; cru·sad·ing** : to engage in a crusade — **cru·sad·er** *n*
cru·sa·do \krü-'sād-(ˌ)ō\ *also* **cru·za·do** \-'zäd-(ˌ)ō, -(ˌ)ü\ *n, pl* **-does** *or* **-dos** [Pg *cruzado*, lit., marked with a cross] : an old gold or silver coin of Portugal having a cross on the reverse
cruse \'krüz, 'krüs\ *n* [ME; akin to OE *crūse* pitcher] : a small vessel (as a jar or pot) for holding a liquid (as water or oil)
1crush \'krəsh\ *vb* [ME *crusshen*, fr. MF *cruisir*, of Gmc origin; akin to MLG *krossen* to crush] *vt* **1 a** : to squeeze or force by pressure so as to alter or destroy structure **b** : to squeeze together into a mass **2** : HUG, EMBRACE **3** : to reduce to particles by pounding or grinding **4 a** : to suppress or overwhelm as if by pressure or weight **b** : to oppress or burden grievously **c** : to subdue completely **5** : CROWD, PUSH **6** *archaic* : DRINK ~ *vi* **1** *obs* : CRASH **2** : to become crushed **3** : to advance with or as if with crushing — **crush·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **crush·er** *n*
syn CRUSH, QUELL, EXTINGUISH, SUPPRESS, QUENCH, QUASH *shared meaning element* : to bring to an end by destroying or defeating
2crush *n* **1** : an act of crushing **2** : a crowding together esp. of many people **3** : an intense and usu. passing infatuation; *also* : the object of infatuation ***syn*** see CROWD
crust \'krəst\ *n* [ME, fr. L *crusta*; akin to OE *hrūse* earth, Gk *kryos* icy cold, *krystallos* ice, crystal] **1 a** : the hardened exterior or surface part of bread **b** : a piece of this or of bread grown dry or hard **2** : the pastry cover of a pie **3** : a hard or brittle external coat or covering: as **a** : a hard surface layer (as of soil or snow) **b** : the outer part of the earth composed essentially of crystalline rocks **c** : a deposit built up on the interior surface of a wine bottle during long aging **d** : an encrusting deposit of dried secretions or exudate; *esp* : SCAB **4** : IMPUDENCE, NERVE — **crust** *vb*
crus·ta·cea \ˌkrəs-'tā-sh(ē-)ə\ *n pl* [NL, group name, fr. neut. pl. of *crustaceus*] : arthropods that are crustaceans
crus·ta·cean \ˌkrəs-'tā-shən\ *n* : any of a large class (Crustacea) of mostly aquatic arthropods that have a chitinous or calcareous and chitinous exoskeleton, a pair of often much modified appendages on each segment, and two pairs of antennae and that include the lobsters, shrimps, crabs, wood lice, water fleas, and barnacles — **crustacean** *adj*
crus·ta·ceous \-shəs\ *adj* [NL *crustaceus*, fr. L *crusta* crust, shell] : of, relating to, having, or forming a crust or shell; *esp* : CRUSTOSE
crust·al \'krəs-tᵊl\ *adj* : relating to a crust (as of the earth)

crust·ifi·ca·tion \ˌkrəs-tə-fə-ˈkā-shən\ *n* : INCRUSTATION
crus·tose \ˈkrəs-ˌtōs\ *adj* [L *crustosus* crusted] : having a thin thallus adhering closely to the substratum of rock, bark, or soil ⟨~ lichens⟩ — compare FOLIOSE, FRUTICOSE
crusty \ˈkrəs-tē\ *adj* **crust·i·er; -est** **1** : having or being a crust **2** : giving an effect of surly incivility in address or disposition *syn* see BLUFF — **crust·i·ly** \-tə-lē\ *adv* — **crust·i·ness** \-tē-nəs\ *n*
¹crutch \ˈkrəch\ *n* [ME *crucche*, fr. OE *crycc*; akin to OHG *krucka* crutch, OE *cradol* cradle] **1 a** : a support typically fitting under the armpit for use by the disabled in walking **b** : PROP, STAY **2** : a forked leg rest constituting the pommel of a sidesaddle **3** : the crotch of a human being or an animal **4** : a forked support
²crutch *vt* : to support on crutches : prop up
crux \ˈkrəks, ˈkrüks\ *n, pl* **crux·es** *also* **cru·ces** \ˈkrü-ˌsēz\ [L *cruc-, crux* cross, torture — more at RIDGE] **1** : a puzzling or difficult problem : an unsolved question **2** : an essential point requiring resolution or resolving an outcome ⟨the ~ of the problem⟩ **3** : a main or central feature (as of an argument)
Cru·zan \krü-ˈzan\ *n* [(assumed) AmerSp *cruzano*, fr. *Santa Cruz* St. Croix] : a native or inhabitant of St. Croix — **Cruzan** *adj*
cru·zei·ro \krü-ˈze(ə)r-(ˌ)ō, -(ˌ)ü\ *n, pl* **-ros** [Pg] — see MONEY table
crwth \ˈkrüth\ *n* [W] : ³CROWD 1
¹cry \ˈkrī\ *vb* **cried; cry·ing** [ME *crien*, fr. OF *crier*, fr. L *quiritare* to cry out for help (from a citizen), to scream, fr. *Quirit-, Quiris* Roman citizen] *vi* **1** : to call loudly : SHOUT **2** : WEEP, SOB **3** : to utter a characteristic sound or call **4** : to require or suggest strongly a remedy or a disposition ⟨a hundred things which ~ out for planning —Roger Burlingame⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : BEG, BESEECH **2** : to utter loudly : SHOUT **3** : to proclaim publicly : ADVERTISE ⟨~ their wares⟩ — **cry havoc** : to sound an alarm — **cry over spilled milk** : to express vain regrets for what cannot be recovered or undone — **cry wolf** : to give alarm unnecessarily
²cry *n, pl* **cries** **1** : an instance of crying: as **a** : an inarticulate utterance of distress, rage, or pain **b** *obs* : OUTCRY, CLAMOR **2 a** *obs* : PROCLAMATION **b** *pl, Scot* : BANNS **3** : ENTREATY, APPEAL **4** : a loud shout **5** : WATCHWORD, SLOGAN ⟨"death to the invader" was the ~⟩ **6 a** : common report **b** : a general opinion **7** : the public voice raised in protest or approval **8 a** : a pack of hounds **b** : PURSUIT — used in the phrase *in full cry* **9** : DISTANCE — usu. used in the phrase *a far cry* ⟨but simple trading is a far ~ from running modern corporations —George Melloan⟩
cry- *or* **cryo-** *comb form* [G *kryo-*, fr. Gk, fr. *kryos* — more at CRUST] : cold : freezing ⟨*cry*anesthesia⟩ ⟨*cryo*gen⟩
cry·ba·by \ˈkrī-ˌbā-bē\ *n* : one who cries or complains easily or often
cry down *vt* : DISPARAGE, DEPRECIATE
cry·ing \ˈkrī-iŋ\ *adj* **1** : calling for notice ⟨a ~ need⟩ **2** : NOTORIOUS, HEINOUS ⟨a ~ shame⟩
cry·mo·ther·a·py \ˌkrī-mō-ˈther-ə-pē\ *n* [Gk *krymos, kryos* icy cold + ISV *therapy*] : CRYOTHERAPY
cryo·bi·ol·o·gy \ˌkrī-ō-bī-ˈäl-ə-jē\ *n* : the study of the effects of extremely low temperature on biological systems — **cryo·bi·o·log·i·cal** \-ˌbī-ə-ˈläj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **cryo·bi·o·log·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **cryo·bi·ol·o·gist** \-bī-ˈäl-ə-jəst\ *n*
cry off *vt* : to call off (as an agreement) ~ *vi, chiefly Brit* : to beg off
cryo·gen \ˈkrī-ə-jən\ *n* : a substance for obtaining low temperatures : REFRIGERANT — called also *cryogenic*
cryo·gen·ic \ˌkrī-ə-ˈjen-ik\ *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to the production of very low temperatures **b** : being or relating to very low temperatures **2 a** : requiring or involving the use of a cryogenic temperature **b** : requiring cryogenic storage **c** : suitable for storage of a cryogenic substance — **cryo·gen·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cryo·gen·ics \-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : a branch of physics that deals with the production and effects of very low temperatures
cry·og·e·ny \krī-ˈäj-ə-nē\ *n* : CRYOGENICS
cryo·lite \ˈkrī-ə-ˌlīt\ *n* [ISV] : a mineral Na_3AlF_6 consisting of sodium-aluminum fluoride found in Greenland usu. in white cleavable masses and used in making soda and aluminum
cry·on·ics \krī-ˈän-iks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [*cry-* + *-onics* (as in *electronics*)] : the practice of freezing a dead diseased human being in hopes of bringing him back to life at some future time when a cure for his disease has been developed — **cry·on·ic** \-ik\ *adj*
cryo·phil·ic \ˌkrī-ə-ˈfil-ik\ *adj* : thriving at low temperatures
cryo·probe \ˈkrī-ə-ˌprōb\ *n* : a blunt instrument used to apply cold to tissues in cryosurgery
cryo·pro·tec·tive \ˌkrī-ō-prə-ˈtek-tiv\ *adj* : serving to protect from freezing ⟨an extracellular ~ agent⟩
cryo·scope \ˈkrī-ə-ˌskōp\ *n* : an instrument for determining freezing points
cry·os·co·py \krī-ˈäs-kə-pē\ *n* [ISV] : the determination of the lowered freezing points produced in liquid by dissolved substances to determine molecular weights of solutes and various properties of solutions — **cryo·scop·ic** \ˌkrī-ə-ˈskäp-ik\ *adj*
cryo·stat \ˈkrī-ə-ˌstat\ *n* [ISV] : an apparatus for maintaining a constant low temperature
cryo·sur·gery \ˌkrī-ō-ˈsərj-(ə-)rē\ *n* : surgery in which extreme cold chilling (as by use of liquid nitrogen) produces the desired dissection — **cryo·sur·geon** \-ˈsər-jən\ *n* — **cryo·sur·gi·cal** \-ji-kəl\ *adj*
cryo·ther·a·py \-ˈther-ə-pē\ *n* : the therapeutic use of cold
cryo·tron \ˈkrī-ə-ˌträn\ *n* [*cry-* + *-tron*] : a device performing some of the functions of an electron tube and utilizing the fact that a changing magnetic field can cause a superconductive element to oscillate between a state of low and high resistance
crypt \ˈkript\ *n* [L *crypta*, fr. Gk *kryptē*, fr. fem. of *kryptos* hidden, fr. *kryptein* to hide; akin to ON *hreysar* heap of stones, Lith *krauti* to pile up] **1** : a chamber (as a vault) wholly or partly underground; *esp* : a vault under the main floor of a church **2** : a simple gland, glandular cavity, or tube : FOLLICLE — **crypt·al** \ˈkript-ᵊl\ *adj*
crypt- *or* **crypto-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *kryptos*] **1** : hidden : covered ⟨*crypto*genic⟩ **2** : unavowed ⟨*crypto*fascist⟩ **3** : CRYPTOGRAPHIC ⟨*crypto*system⟩ ⟨*crypto*security⟩
crypt·anal·y·sis \ˌkrip-tə-ˈnal-ə-səs\ *n* [*crypto*gram + *analysis*] **1** : the solving of cryptograms or cryptographic systems **2** : the theory of solving cryptograms or cryptographic systems : the art of devising methods for this — called also *cryptanalytics* — **crypt·an·a·lyt·ic** \ˌkrip-ˌtan-ᵊl-ˈit-ik\ *also* **crypt·an·a·lyt·i·cal** \-ˈit-i-kəl\ *adj* — **crypt·an·a·lyze** \krip-ˈtan-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vt*
crypt·an·a·lyst \krip-ˈtan-ᵊl-əst\ *n* : a specialist in cryptanalysis
cryp·tic \ˈkrip-tik\ *adj* [LL *crypticus*, fr. Gk *kryptikos*, fr. *kryptos*] **1** : SECRET, OCCULT **2** : intended to be obscure or mysterious ⟨a ~ policy⟩ **3** : serving to conceal ⟨~ coloration in animals⟩ **4** : UNRECOGNIZED **5** : employing cipher or code *syn* see OBSCURE — **cryp·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* — **cryp·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
¹cryp·to \ˈkrip-(ˌ)tō\ *n, pl* **cryptos** [*crypt-*] : one who adheres or belongs secretly to a party, sect, or other group
²crypto *adj* : CRYPTOGRAPHIC
cryp·to·coc·co·sis \ˌkrip-tə-(ˌ)kä-ˈkō-səs\ *n, pl* **-co·ses** \-(ˌ)sēz\ : an infectious disease that is caused by a fungus (*Cryptococcus neoformans*) and is characterized by the production of nodular lesions or abscesses in the lungs, subcutaneous tissues, joints, and esp. the brain and meninges
cryp·to·coc·cus \-ˈkäk-əs\ *n, pl* **-coc·ci** \-ˈkäk-ˌ(s)ī, -(ˌ)(s)ē\ [NL, genus name, fr. *crypt-* + *-coccus*] : any of a genus (*Cryptococcus*) of budding imperfect fungi that resemble yeasts and include a number of saprophytes and a few serious pathogens — **cryp·to·coc·cal** \-ˈkäk-əl\ *adj*
cryp·to·crys·tal·line \ˌkrip-tō-ˈkris-tə-lən\ *adj* [ISV] : having a crystalline structure so fine that no distinct particles are recognizable under the microscope
cryp·to·gam \ˈkrip-tə-ˌgam\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *kryptos* + *-gamia* -gamy] : a plant (as a fern, moss, alga, or fungus) reproducing by spores and not producing flowers or seed — **cryp·to·gam·ic** \ˌkrip-tə-ˈgam-ik\ *or* **cryp·tog·a·mous** \krip-ˈtäg-ə-məs\ *adj*
cryp·to·gen·ic \ˌkrip-tə-ˈjen-ik\ *adj* : of obscure or unknown origin ⟨a ~ disease⟩
cryp·to·gram \ˈkrip-tə-ˌgram\ *n* [F *cryptogramme*, fr. *crypt-* + *-gramme* -gram] **1** : a communication in cipher or code **2** : a figure or representation having a hidden significance — **cryp·to·gram·mic** \ˌkrip-tə-ˈgram-ik\ *adj*
¹cryp·to·graph \ˈkrip-tə-ˌgraf\ *n* **1** : CRYPTOGRAM **2** : a device for enciphering and deciphering
²cryptograph *vt* : ENCRYPT
cryp·tog·ra·pher \-fər\ *n* : a specialist in cryptography : as **a** : a clerk who enciphers and deciphers messages **b** : one who devises cryptographic methods or systems **c** : CRYPTANALYST
cryp·to·graph·ic \ˌkrip-tə-ˈgraf-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or using cryptography — **cryp·to·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cryp·tog·ra·phy \krip-ˈtäg-rə-fē\ *n* [NL *cryptographia*, fr. *crypt-* + *-graphia* -graphy] **1** : secret writing : cryptic symbolization **2** : the enciphering and deciphering of messages in secret code **3** : CRYPTANALYSIS
cryp·tol·o·gy \krip-ˈtäl-ə-jē\ *n* : the scientific study of cryptography and cryptanalysis — **cryp·to·log·ic** \ˌkrip-tə-ˈläj-ik\ *or* **cryp·to·log·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **cryp·tol·o·gist** \krip-ˈtäl-ə-jəst\ *n*
cryp·to·me·ria \ˌkrip-tə-ˈmir-ē-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. *crypt-* + Gk *meros* part] : an evergreen tree (*Cryptomeria japonica*) of the pine family that is a valuable timber tree of Japan
crypt·or·chid \krip-ˈtȯr-kəd\ *n* [NL *cryptorchid-, cryptorchis*, fr. *crypt-* + *orchid-, orchis* testicle, fr. Gk *orchis* — more at ORCHIS] : one affected with cryptorchidism — **cryptorchid** *adj*
crypt·or·chi·dism \-kə-ˌdiz-əm\ *also* **crypt·or·chism** \-ˌkiz-əm\ *n* : a condition in which one or both testes fail to descend normally
cryp·to·zo·ite \ˌkrip-tə-ˈzō-ˌīt\ *n* [*crypt-* + *-zoite* (as in *sporozoite*)] : a malaria parasite that develops in tissue cells and gives rise to the forms that invade blood cells
cryst *abbr* crystalline; crystallized
¹crys·tal \ˈkris-tᵊl\ *n* [ME *cristal*, fr. OF, fr. L *crystallum*, fr. Gk *krystallos* — more at CRUST] **1** : quartz that is transparent or nearly so and that is either colorless or only slightly tinged **2** : something resembling crystal in transparency and colorlessness **3** : a body that is formed by the solidification of a chemical element, a compound, or a mixture and has a regularly repeating internal arrangement of its atoms and often external plane faces **4** : a clear colorless glass of superior quality; *also* : objects or ware of such glass **5** : the glass or transparent plastic cover over a watch or clock dial **6** : a crystalline material used in electronics as a frequency-determining element or for rectification **7** : powdered methamphetamine
²crystal *adj* **1** : consisting of or resembling crystal : CLEAR, LUCID **2** : relating to or using a crystal ⟨a ~ radio receiver⟩
crystal ball *n* **1** : a sphere esp. of quartz crystal traditionally used by fortune-tellers **2** : a means or method of predicting future events
crystal detector *n* : a detector that depends for its operation on the rectifying action of the surface of contact between various crystals (as of galena) and a metallic electrode
crystal gazing *n* **1** : the art or practice of concentrating on a glass or crystal globe with the aim of inducing a psychic state in which divination can be performed **2** : the attempt to predict future events or make difficult judgments esp. without adequate data — **crystal gazer** *n*
crystall- *or* **crystallo-** *comb form* [Gk *krystallos*] : crystal ⟨*crystal*liferous⟩
crys·tal·lif·er·ous \ˌkris-tə-ˈlif-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* [ISV] : producing or bearing crystals
crys·tal·line \ˈkris-tə-lən *also* -ˌlīn, -ˌlēn\ *adj* [ME *cristallin*, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *crystallinus*, fr. Gk *krystallinos*, fr. *krystallos*] **1** : made of crystal : composed of crystals **2** : resembling crystal: as **a** : TRANSPARENT **b** : CLEAR-CUT **3** : constituting or relating to a crystal — **crys·tal·lin·i·ty** \ˌkris-tə-ˈlin-ət-ē\ *n*
crystalline lens *n* : the lens of the eye in vertebrates

crys·tal·lite \'kris-tə-ˌlīt\ *n* [G *kristallit*, fr. Gk *krystallos*] **1 a** : a minute mineral form like those common in glassy volcanic rocks usu. not referable to any mineral species but marking the first step in crystallization **b** : a single grain in a medium composed of many crystals **2** : MICELLE — **crys·tal·lit·ic** \ˌkris-tə-'lit-ik\ *adj*
crys·tal·li·za·tion \ˌkris-tə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n* : the process of crystallizing; *also* : a form resulting from this
crys·tal·lize *also* **crys·tal·ize** \'kris-tə-ˌlīz\ *vt* **-lized; -liz·ing** **1** : to cause to form crystals or assume crystalline form **2** : to cause to take a definite form ⟨tried to ~ his thoughts⟩ **3** : to coat with crystals esp. of sugar ⟨~ grapes⟩ ~ *vi* : to become crystallized — **crys·tal·liz·able** \-ˌlī-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **crys·tal·liz·er** *n*
crys·tal·lized *adj* **1** : formed into crystals **2** : coated with crystals esp. of sugar : CANDIED **3** : definite in form ⟨failure to distinguish between ~ and uncrystallized opinion — *Psychological Abstracts*⟩
crys·tal·log·ra·phy \ˌkris-tə-'läg-rə-fē\ *n* : the science dealing with the system of forms among crystals, their structure, and their forms of aggregation — **crys·tal·log·ra·pher** \-fər\ *n* — **crys·tal·lo·graph·ic** \-lə-'graf-ik\ *or* **crys·tal·lo·graph·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **crys·tal·lo·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
crys·tal·loid \'kris-tə-ˌlȯid\ *n* **1** : a substance that forms a true solution and is capable of being crystallized **2** : a particle of protein that has the properties of crystal and is found esp. in oily seeds — **crystalloid** *adj* — **crys·tal·loi·dal** \ˌkris-tə-'lȯid-ᵊl\ *adj*
crystal violet *n* : a triphenylmethane dye found in gentian violet
cry up *vt* : to enhance in value or repute by public praise : EXTOL
cs *abbr* **1** case; cases **2** census **3** consciousness **4** consul
¹Cs *abbr* cirrostratus
²Cs *symbol* cesium
CS *abbr* **1** capital stock **2** Christian Science practitioner **3** civil service **4** conditioned stimulus **5** county seat
C/S *abbr* cycles per second
CSA *abbr* Confederate States of America
csc *symbol* cosecant
CSC *abbr* **1** Civil Service Commission **2** [L *Congregatio a Sancta Cruce*] Congregation of Holy Cross
CSF *abbr* cerebrospinal fluid
CSM *abbr* command sergeant major
CSS *abbr* College Scholarship Service
CSsR *abbr* [L *Congregatio Sanctissimi Redemptoris*] Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer
CST *abbr* **1** central standard time **2** convulsive shock therapy
ct *abbr* **1** carat **2** cent **3** count **4** county **5** court
CT *abbr* **1** central time **2** certificated teacher; certified teacher **3** code telegram **4** Connecticut
CTC *abbr* centralized traffic control
cte·noid \'ten-ˌȯid, 'tē-ˌnȯid\ *adj* [ISV, fr. Gk *ktenoeidēs*, fr. *kten-, kteis* comb — more at PECTINATE] : having the margin toothed ⟨~ scale⟩; *also* : having or consisting of ctenoid scales ⟨~ fishes⟩
cte·noph·o·ran \ti-'näf-ə-rən\ *adj* : of or relating to a ctenophore — **ctenophoran** *n*
cteno·phore \'ten-ə-ˌfō(ə)r, -ˌfȯ(ə)r\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *kten-, kteis* + *pherein* to carry — more at BEAR] : any of a phylum (Ctenophora) of marine animals superficially resembling jellyfishes but having decided biradial symmetry and swimming by means of eight meridional bands of transverse ciliated plates — called also *comb jelly*
ctf *abbr* certificate
ctg *or* **ctge** *abbr* cartage
ctn *abbr* **1** carton **2** cotangent
cto *abbr* concerto
c to c *abbr* center to center
ctr *abbr* **1** center **2** counter
cu *abbr* **1** cubic **2** cumulative
¹Cu *abbr* cumulus
²Cu *symbol* [L *cuprum*] copper
CU *abbr* close-up
cua·dri·lla \kwä-'drē(l)-yə\ *n* [Sp, dim. of *cuadra* square, fr. L *quadra*] : the team assisting the matador in the bullring
cub \'kəb\ *n* [origin unknown] **1 a** : a young carnivorous mammal (as a bear or lion) **b** : a young shark **2** : a young person **3** : APPRENTICE; *esp* : an inexperienced newspaper reporter
cub·age \'kyü-bij\ *n* : cubic content, volume, or displacement
Cu·ban heel \ˌkyü-bən-\ *n* [*Cuba*, West Indies] : a broad medium-high heel with a moderately curved back
cu·ba·ture \'kyü-bə-ˌchu̇(ə)r, ˌ-chər, -ˌt(y)u̇(ə)r\ *n* [*cube* + *-ature* (as in *quadrature*)] **1** : determination of cubic contents **2** : cubic content
cub·by \'kəb-ē\ *n, pl* **cubbies** [obs. E *cub* pen, fr. D *kub* thatched roof; akin to OE *cofa* den — more at COVE] : a snug place : a cramped space
cub·by·hole \'kəb-ē-ˌhōl\ *n* **1** : CUBBY **2** : PIGEONHOLE 2
¹cube \'kyüb\ *n* [ME, fr. L *cubus*, fr. Gk *kybos* cube, vertebra — more at HIP] **1** : the regular solid of six equal square sides — see VOLUME table **2** : the product got by taking a number three times as a factor **3** *pl* : cubic inches — used of the displacement of an automobile engine
²cube *vt* **cubed; cub·ing** **1** : to raise to the third power **2** : to form into a cube **3** : to cut partly through (a steak) in a checkered pattern to increase tenderness by breaking the fibers — **cub·er** *n*
³cube *adj* : raised to the third power
⁴cu·be \'kyü-ˌbā, kyü-'\ *n* [AmerSp *cubé*] : any of several tropical American plants (genus *Lonchocarpus*) furnishing rotenone
cu·beb \'kyü-ˌbeb\ *n* [MF *cubebe*, fr. OF, fr. ML *cubeba*, fr. Ar *kubābah*] : the dried unripe berry of a tropical shrub (*Piper cubeba*) of the pepper family that is crushed and smoked in cigarettes for catarrh
cube root *n* : a number whose cube is a given number
cube steak *n* : a thin slice of beef that has been cubed
¹cu·bic \'kyü-bik\ *adj* **1** : having the form of a cube : CUBICAL **2 a** : relating to the cube considered as a crystal form **b** : ISOMETRIC 1b **3 a** : THREE-DIMENSIONAL **b** : being the volume of a cube whose edge is a specified unit ⟨~ inch⟩ **4** : of third degree, order, or power ⟨a ~ polynomial⟩ — **cu·bic·ly** *adv*
²cubic *n* : a cubic curve, equation, or polynomial
cu·bi·cal \'kyü-bi-kəl\ *adj* **1** : CUBIC; *esp* : shaped like a cube **2** : relating to volume — **cu·bi·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cubic equation *n* : a polynomial equation in which the highest sum of exponents of variables in any term is three
cu·bi·cle \'kyü-bi-kəl\ *n* [L *cubiculum*, fr. *cubare* to lie, recline — more at HIP] **1** : a sleeping compartment partitioned off from a large room **2** : a small partitioned space; *esp* : CARREL
cubic measure *n* : a unit (as cubic inch or cubic centimeter) for measuring volume — see METRIC SYSTEM table, WEIGHT table
cu·bi·form \'kyü-bə-ˌfȯrm\ *adj* [L *cubus* + E *-form*] : having the shape of a cube
cub·ism \'kyü-ˌbiz-əm\ *n* : a style of art that stresses abstract structure at the expense of other pictorial elements esp. by displaying several aspects of the same object simultaneously and by fragmenting the form of depicted objects — **cub·ist** \-bəst\ *n* — **cubist** *or* **cu·bis·tic** \kyü-'bis-tik\ *adj*
cu·bit \'kyü-bət\ *n* [ME, fr. L *cubitum* elbow, cubit — more at HIP] : any of various ancient units of length based on the length of the forearm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger and usu. equal to about 18 inches but sometimes to 21 or more
cu·boid \'kyü-ˌbȯid\ *adj* : approximately cubic in shape; *specif* : being the outermost of the distal row of tarsal bones of many higher vertebrates
cu·boi·dal \kyü-'bȯid-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : somewhat cubical **2** : composed of nearly cubical elements ⟨~ epithelium⟩
cub scout *n* : a member of the scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America for boys of the age range 8–10
cuck·ing stool \'kək-iŋ-\ *n* [ME *cucking stol*, lit., defecating chair] : a chair formerly used for punishing offenders (as dishonest tradesmen) by public exposure or ducking in water
¹cuck·old \'kək-əld, 'ku̇k-\ *n* [ME *cokewold*] : a man whose wife is unfaithful
²cuckold *vt* : to make a cuckold of
cuck·old·ry \-əl-drē\ *n* **1** : the practice of making cuckolds **2** : the state of being a cuckold
¹cuck·oo \'kük-(ˌ)ü, 'ku̇k-\ *n, pl* **cuckoos** [ME *cuccu*, of imit. origin] **1** : a largely grayish brown European bird (*Cuculus canorus*) that is a parasite given to laying its eggs in the nests of other birds which hatch them and rear the offspring; *broadly* : any of a large family (Cuculidae of the order Cuculiformes) to which this bird belongs **2** : the call of the cuckoo **3** : a silly or slightly crackbrained person
²cuckoo *vt* : to repeat monotonously as a cuckoo does its call
³cuckoo *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or resembling the cuckoo **2** : deficient in sense or intelligence : SILLY
cuckoo clock *n* : a wall or shelf clock that announces the hours by sounds resembling a cuckoo's call
cuck·oo·flow·er \'kük-(ˌ)ü-ˌflau̇(-ə)r, 'ku̇k-\ *n* **1** : a bitter cress (*Cardamine pratensis*) of Europe and America **2** : RAGGED ROBIN **3** : WOOD SORREL 1
cuck·oo·pint \-ˌpint\ *n* [ME *cuccupintel*, fr. *cuccu* + *pintel* pintle] : a European arum (*Arum maculatum*) with erect spathe and short purple spadix
cuckoo spit *n* **1** : a frothy secretion exuded on plants by the nymphs of spittle insects **2** : SPITTLE INSECT
cu·cul·late \'kyü-kə-ˌlāt, kyü-'kəl-ət\ *also* **cu·cul·lat·ed** \'kyü-kə-ˌlāt-əd\ *adj* [ML *cucullatus*, fr. L *cucullus* hood] : having the shape of a hood : HOODED ⟨a ~ leaf⟩
cu·cum·ber \'kyü-(ˌ)kəm-bər\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *cocombre*, fr. L *cucumer-, cucumis*] : the fruit of a vine (*Cucumis sativus*) of the gourd family cultivated as a garden vegetable; *also* : this vine
cucumber mosaic *n* : a virus disease esp. of cucumbers that is transmitted by an aphid and produces mottled foliage and often pale warty fruits
cucumber tree *n* : any of several American magnolias (esp. *Magnolia acuminata*) having fruit resembling a small cucumber
cu·cur·bit \kyü-'kər-bət\ *n* [ME *cucurbite*, fr. MF, fr. L *cucurbita* gourd] **1** : a vessel or flask for distillation used with or forming part of an alembic — see ALEMBIC illustration **2** : a plant of the gourd family
cud \'kəd, 'ku̇d\ *n* [ME *cudde*, fr. OE *cwudu*; akin to OHG *kuti* glue, Skt *jatu* gum] **1** : food brought up into the mouth by a ruminating animal from its first stomach to be chewed again **2** : ²QUID
cud·bear \'kəd-ˌba(ə)r, -ˌbe(ə)r\ *n* [irreg. fr. Dr. *Cuthbert* Gordon, 18th cent. Sc chemist] : a reddish coloring matter from lichens
¹cud·dle \'kəd-ᵊl\ *vb* **cud·dled; cud·dling** \'kəd-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ [origin unknown] *vt* : to hold close for warmth or comfort or in affection ~ *vi* : to lie close or snug : NESTLE, SNUGGLE ***syn*** see CARESS
²cuddle *n* : a close embrace
cud·dle·some \'kəd-ᵊl-səm\ *adj* : CUDDLY
cud·dly \'kəd-lē, -ᵊl-ē\ *adj* **cud·dli·er; -est** : fit for or inviting cuddling
¹cud·dy \'kəd-ē\ *n, pl* **cuddies** [origin unknown] **1 a** : a small cabin formerly under the poop deck **b** : the galley or pantry of a small ship **2** : a small room or cupboard
²cud·dy *or* **cud·die** \'ku̇d-ē, 'kəd-\ *n, pl* **cuddies** [perh. fr. *Cuddy*, nickname for *Cuthbert*] **1** *dial Brit* : DONKEY **2** *dial Brit* : BLOCKHEAD
¹cud·gel \'kəj-əl\ *n* [ME *kuggel*, fr. OE *cycgel*; akin to MHG *kugele* ball, OE *cot* hut — more at COT] : a short heavy club
²cudgel *vt* **-geled** *or* **-gelled; -gel·ing** *or* **-gel·ling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ : to beat with or as if with a cudgel — **cudgel one's brains** : to think hard (as for a solution to a problem)

cud·weed \'kəd-ˌwēd, 'kůd-\ *n* : any of several composite plants (as of the genus *Gnaphalium*) with silky or woolly foliage
[1]cue \'kyü\ *n* [ME *cu*] : the letter *q*
[2]cue *n* [prob. fr. *qu*, abbr. (used as a direction in actors' copies of plays) of L *quando* when] **1 a** : a signal (as a word, phrase, or bit of stage business) to a performer to begin a specific speech or action **b** : something serving a comparable purpose : HINT **2** : a feature indicating the nature of something perceived **3** : the part one has to perform in or as if in a play **4** *archaic* : MOOD, HUMOR
[3]cue *vt* **cued; cu·ing** *or* **cue·ing** **1** : to give a cue to : PROMPT **2** : to insert into a continuous performance ⟨~ in sound effects⟩
[4]cue *n* [F *queue*, lit., tail, fr. L *cauda*] **1** : QUEUE 2 **2 a** : a leather-tipped tapering rod for striking the cue ball (as in billiards and pool) **b** : a long-handled instrument with a concave head for shoving disks in shuffleboard
[5]cue *vb* **cued; cu·ing** *or* **cue·ing** *vt* **1** : QUEUE **2** : to strike with a cue ~ *vi* **1** : QUEUE **2** : to use a cue
cue ball *n* : the ball a player strikes with his cue in billiards and pool
cue bid *n* [*[2]cue*] : a bid in contract bridge that usu. indicates an ace or a void in the suit bid — **cue–bid** *vt*
cues·ta \'kwes-tə\ *n* [Sp, fr. L *costa* side, rib — more at COAST] : a hill or ridge with a steep face on one side and a gentle slope on the other
[1]cuff \'kəf\ *n* [ME] **1** : something (as a part of a sleeve or glove) encircling the wrist **2** : the turned-back hem of a trouser leg **3** : HANDCUFF — usu. used in pl. **4** : an inflatable band that is wrapped around an extremity to control the flow of blood through the part when recording blood pressure with a sphygmomanometer — **cuff·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **off the cuff** : SPONTANEOUS, INFORMAL — **on the cuff** : on credit
[2]cuff *vt* **1** : to furnish with a cuff **2** : HANDCUFF
[3]cuff *vb* [perh. fr. obs. E, glove, fr. ME] *vt* : to strike esp. with or as if with the palm of the hand : BUFFET ~ *vi* : FIGHT, SCUFFLE
[4]cuff *n* : a blow with the hand esp. when open : SLAP
cuff link *n* : a usu. ornamental device consisting of two parts joined by a shank, chain, or bar for passing through buttonholes to fasten shirt cuffs — usu. used in pl.
cui bo·no \(')kwē-'bō-(ˌ)nō\ *n* [L, to whose advantage?] **1** : a principle that probable responsibility for an act or event lies with one having something to gain **2** : usefulness or utility as a principle in estimating the value of an act or policy
[1]cui·rass \kwi-'ras, kyů-\ *n* [ME *curas*, fr. MF *curasse*, fr. LL *coreacea*, fem. of *coreaceus* leathern, fr. L *corium* skin, leather; akin to OE *heortha* deerskin, L *cortex* bark, Gk *keirein* to cut — more at SHEAR] **1** : a piece of armor covering the body from neck to waist; *also* : the breastplate of such a piece **2** : something (as bony plates covering an animal) resembling a cuirass
[2]cuirass *vt* : to cover or armor with a cuirass
cui·ras·sier \ˌkwir-ə-'si(ə)r, ˌkyůr-\ *n* : a mounted soldier wearing a cuirass
cui·sine \kwi-'zēn\ *n* [F, lit., kitchen, fr. LL *coquina* — more at KITCHEN] : manner of preparing food : style of cooking; *also* : the food prepared
cuisse \'kwis\ *also* **cuish** \'kwish\ *n* [ME *cusseis*, pl., fr. MF *cuissaux*, pl. of *cuissel*, fr. *cuisse* thigh, fr. L *coxa* hip — more at COXA] : a piece of plate armor for the front of the thigh — see ARMOR illustration
cuit·tle \'küt-ᵊl\ *vt* **cuit·tled; cuit·tling** \'küt-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ [origin unknown] *Scot* : COAX, WHEEDLE
cuke \'kyük\ *n* : CUCUMBER
cul–de–sac \ˌkəl-di-'sak, ˌkůl-\ *n, pl* **culs–de–sac** \ˌkəl(z)-, ˌkůl(z)-\ *also* **cul–de–sacs** \ˌkəl-də-'saks, ˌkůl-\ [F, lit., bottom of the bag] **1** : a blind diverticulum or pouch **2** : a street closed at one end
cu·let \'kyü-lət, 'kəl-ət\ *n* [F, fr. dim. of *cul* backside, fr. L *culus*; akin to OE *hȳdan* to hide] **1** : the small flat facet at the bottom of a brilliant parallel to the table — see BRILLIANT illustration **2** : plate armor covering the buttocks
cu·lex \'kyü-ˌleks\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, gnat; akin to OIr *cuil* gnat] : any of a large cosmopolitan genus (*Culex*) of mosquitoes that includes the common house mosquito (*C. pipiens*) of Europe and No. America — see MOSQUITO illustration — **cu·li·cine** \'kyü-lə-ˌsīn\ *adj or n*
cu·li·nary \'kəl-ə-ˌner-ē, 'kyü-lə-\ *adj* [L *culinarius*, fr. *culina* kitchen — more at KILN] : of or relating to the kitchen or cookery
[1]cull \'kəl\ *vt* [ME *cullen*, fr. MF *cuillir*, fr. L *colligere* to bind together — more at COLLECT] **1** : to select from a group : CHOOSE ⟨~ *ed* the best passages from the poet's work⟩ **2** : to identify and remove the culls from — **cull·er** *n*
[2]cull *n* : something rejected esp. as being inferior or worthless ⟨how to separate good-looking pecans from ~*s* —*Washington Post*⟩
cul·len·der *var of* COLANDER
cul·let \'kəl-ət\ *n* [perh. fr. F *cueillette* act of gathering, fr. L *collecta*, fr. fem. of *collectus*, pp. of *colligere*] : broken or refuse glass usu. added to new material to facilitate melting in making glass
cul·lion \'kəl-yən\ *n* [ME *coillon* testicle, fr. MF, fr. (assumed) VL *coleon-, coleo*, fr. L *coleus* scrotum] *archaic* : a mean or base fellow
[1]cul·ly \'kəl-ē\ *n, pl* **cullies** [perh. alter. of *cullion*] : one easily tricked or imposed on : DUPE
[2]cully *vt* **cul·lied; cul·ly·ing** *archaic* : CHEAT, DECEIVE
[1]culm \'kəlm\ *n* [ME] **1** : refuse coal screenings : SLACK **2** : a Lower Carboniferous formation in which marine fossil-bearing beds alternate with those containing plant remains
[2]culm *n* [L *culmus* stalk — more at HAULM] : a monocotyledonous stem
cul·mi·nant \'kəl-mə-nənt\ *adj* **1** : being at greatest altitude or on the meridian **2** : fully developed
cul·mi·nate \'kəl-mə-ˌnāt\ *vb* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [ML *culminatus*, pp. of *culminare*, fr. LL, to crown, fr. L *culmin-, culmen* top — more at HILL] *vi* **1** *of a celestial body* : to reach its highest altitude; *also* : to be directly overhead **2 a** : to rise to or form a summit **b** : to reach the highest or a climactic or decisive point ~ *vt* : to bring to a head or to the highest point
cul·mi·na·tion \ˌkəl-mə-'nā-shən\ *n* **1** : the action of culminating **2** : culminating position : CLIMAX ***syn*** see SUMMIT
cu·lotte \'kü-ˌlät, 'kyü-; k(y)ü-'lät\ *n* [F, breeches, fr. dim. of *cul* backside — more at CULET] : a divided skirt; *also* : a garment having a divided skirt — often used in pl.



culotte

cul·pa·ble \'kəl-pə-bəl\ *adj* [ME *coupable*, fr. MF, fr. L *culpabilis*, fr. *culpare* to blame, fr. *culpa* guilt] **1** *archaic* : GUILTY, CRIMINAL **2** : meriting condemnation or blame esp. as wrong or harmful ⟨~ negligence⟩ ***syn*** see BLAMEWORTHY — **cul·pa·bil·i·ty** \ˌkəl-pə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **cul·pa·ble·ness** \'kəl-pə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **cul·pa·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
cul·prit \'kəl-prət, -ˌprit\ *n* [AF *cul.* (abbr. of *culpable* guilty) + *prest, prit* ready (i.e. to prove it), fr. L *praestus* — more at PRESTO] **1** : one accused of or charged with a crime **2** : one guilty of a crime or a fault
cult \'kəlt\ *n* [F & L; F *culte*, fr. L *cultus* care, adoration, fr. *cultus*, pp. of *colere* to cultivate — more at WHEEL] **1** : formal religious veneration : WORSHIP **2** : a system of religious beliefs and ritual; *also* : its body of adherents **3** : a religion regarded as unorthodox or spurious; *also* : its body of adherents **4** : a system for the cure of disease based on dogma set forth by its promulgator **5 a** : great devotion to a person, idea, or thing; *esp* : such devotion regarded as a literary or intellectual fad **b** : a usu. small circle of persons united by devotion or allegiance to an artistic or intellectual movement or figure — **cul·tic** \'kəl-tik\ *adj* — **cult·ism** \'kəl-ˌtiz-əm\ *n* — **cult·ist** \'kəl-təst\ *n*
cultch *or* **culch** \'kəlch\ *n* [perh. fr. a F dial. form of F *couche* couch] **1** : material (as oyster shells) laid down on oyster grounds to furnish points of attachment for the spat **2** *chiefly NewEng* : CLUTTER, TRASH
cul·ti·gen \'kəl-tə-jən\ *n* [*cultivated* + *-gen*] **1** : a cultivated organism (as Indian corn) of a variety or species for which a wild ancestor is unknown **2** : CULTIVAR
cul·ti·va·ble \'kəl-tə-və-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being cultivated — **cul·ti·va·bil·i·ty** \ˌkəl-tə-və-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*
cul·ti·var \'kəl-tə-ˌvär, -ˌve(ə)r, -ˌva(ə)r\ *n* [*cultivated* + *variety*] : an organism of a kind originating and persistent under cultivation
cul·ti·vate \'kəl-tə-ˌvāt\ *vt* **-vat·ed; -vat·ing** [ML *cultivatus*, pp. of *cultivare*, fr. *cultivus* cultivable, fr. L *cultus*, pp.] **1** : to prepare or prepare and use for the raising of crops; *specif* : to loosen or break up the soil about (growing plants) **2 a** : to foster the growth of ⟨~ vegetables⟩ **b** : CULTURE 2a **c** : to improve by labor, care, or study : REFINE ⟨~ the mind⟩ **3** : FURTHER, ENCOURAGE ⟨~ the arts⟩ **4** : to seek the society of : make friends with — **cul·ti·vat·able** \-ˌvāt-ə-bəl\ *adj*
cul·ti·vat·ed *adj* : REFINED, EDUCATED ⟨~ speech⟩ ⟨~ tastes⟩
cul·ti·va·tion \ˌkəl-tə-'vā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or art of cultivating; *specif* : TILLAGE **2** : CULTURE, REFINEMENT ⟨a man of charm and ~⟩
cul·ti·va·tor \'kəl-tə-ˌvāt-ər\ *n* : one that cultivates; *esp* : an implement to loosen the soil while crops are growing
cul·tur·al \'kəlch(-ə)-rəl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to culture or culturing **2** : concerned with the fostering of plant or animal growth — **cul·tur·al·ly** \-rə-lē\ *adv*
cultural anthropology *n* : anthropology that deals with the study of culture and that uses the methods, concepts, and data of archaeology, ethnology, and ethnography, folklore and linguistics, and sometimes those of sociology and psychology — compare PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY — **cultural anthropologist** *n*
[1]cul·ture \'kəl-chər\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *cultura*, fr. *cultus*, pp.] **1** : CULTIVATION, TILLAGE **2** : the act of developing the intellectual and moral faculties esp. by education **3** : expert care and training ⟨beauty ~⟩ **4 a** : enlightenment and excellence of taste acquired by intellectual and aesthetic training **b** : acquaintance with and taste in fine arts, humanities, and broad aspects of science as distinguished from vocational and technical skills **5 a** : the integrated pattern of human behavior that includes thought, speech, action, and artifacts and depends upon man's capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations **b** : the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group **6** : cultivation of living material in prepared nutrient media; *also* : a product of such cultivation
[2]culture *vt* **cul·tured; cul·tur·ing** \'kəlch-(ə-)riŋ\ **1** : CULTIVATE **2 a** : to grow in a prepared medium **b** : to start a culture from
cul·tured \'kəl-chərd\ *adj* **1** : CULTIVATED **2** : produced under artificial conditions ⟨~ viruses⟩ ⟨~ pearls⟩
cul·tus \'kəl-təs\ *n* [L, adoration] : CULT
cul·ver \'kəl-vər, 'kůl-\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *culfer*, fr. (assumed) VL *columbra*, fr. L *columbula*, dim. of L *columba* dove — more at COLUMBINE] : PIGEON
cul·ver·in \'kəl-və-rən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *couleuvrine*, fr. *couleuvre* snake, fr. L *colubra*] : an early firearm: **a** : a rude musket **b** : a long cannon (as an 18-pounder) of the 16th and 17th centuries
cul·vert \'kəl-vərt\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : a transverse drain **2** : a conduit for a culvert **3** : a bridge over a culvert
[1]cum \(ˌ)kům, (ˌ)kəm\ *prep* [L; akin to L *com-* — more at CO-] : WITH : combined with : along with ⟨served as an office-*cum*-den⟩
[2]cum *abbr* cumulative
Cu·ma·na·go·to \(ˌ)kü-ˌmän-ə-'gōt-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **Cumanagoto** *or* **Cumanagotos** [Sp, of AmerInd origin] **1** : a member of a Cariban people of Venezuela **2** : the language of the Cumanagoto people
Cumb *abbr* Cumberland

[1]cum·ber \'kəm-bər\ *vt* **cum·bered; cum·ber·ing** \-b(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *cumbren*] **1** *archaic* : TROUBLE, HARASS **2 a** : to hinder by being in the way ⟨*~ed* with heavy clothing⟩ **b** : to clutter up ⟨rocks *~ing* the yard⟩ **c** : to burden needlessly ⟨*~* the memory with trival facts⟩

[2]cumber *n* : something that cumbers; *esp* : HINDRANCE

cum·ber·some \'kəm-bər-səm\ *adj* **1** *dial* : BURDENSOME, TROUBLESOME **2** : unwieldy because of heaviness and bulk ⟨trying to move a *~* old Victorian sideboard⟩ **3** : slow-moving : PONDEROUS ***syn*** see HEAVY — **cum·ber·some·ly** *adv* — **cum·ber·some·ness** *n*

cum·brous \'kəm-b(ə-)rəs\ *adj* : CUMBERSOME ***syn*** see HEAVY — **cum·brous·ly** *adv* — **cum·brous·ness** *n*

cum·in \'kəm-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *cymen;* akin to OHG *kumīn* cumin; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. L *cuminum*,fr. Gk *kyminon*, of Sem origin] : a low plant (*Cuminum cyminum*) of the carrot family long cultivated for its aromatic seeds

cum laude \kùm-'laùd-ə, -ē; ˌkəm-'lȯd-ē\ *adv or adj* [NL, with praise] : with distinction ⟨graduated *cum laude*⟩ — compare MAGNA CUM LAUDE, SUMMA CUM LAUDE

cum·mer·bund \'kəm-ər-ˌbənd\ *n* [Hindi *kamarband*, fr. Per, fr. *kamar* waist + *band* band] : a broad waistband usu. worn in place of a vest with men's dress clothes and adapted in various styles of women's clothes

cumquat *var of* KUMQUAT

cum·shaw \'kəm-ˌshȯ\ *n* [Chin (Amoy) *kam sia* grateful thanks (a phrase used by beggars)] : PRESENT, GRATUITY

cumul- *or* **cumuli-** *or* **cumulo-** *comb form* [NL, fr. L *cumulus*] : cumulus and ⟨*cumulo*cirrus⟩

cu·mu·late \'kyü-myə-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed, -lat·ing** [L *cumulatus*, pp. of *cumulare*, fr. *cumulus* mass] *vt* **1** : to gather or pile in a heap **2** : to combine into one **3** : to build up by addition of new material *~ vi* : to become massed — **cu·mu·late** \-lət, -ˌlāt\ *adj* — **cu·mu·la·tion** \ˌkyü-myə-'lā-shən\ *n*

cu·mu·la·tive \'kyü-myə-lət-iv, -ˌlāt-\ *adj* **1 a** : made up of accumulated parts **b** : increasing by successive additions **2 a** : tending to prove the same point ⟨*~* evidence⟩ **b** : additional rather than repeated ⟨*~* legacy⟩ **3 a** : taking effect upon completion of another sentence ⟨*~* sentence⟩ **b** : increasing in severity with repetition of the offense ⟨*~* penalty⟩ **4** : to be added if not paid when due to the next or a future payment ⟨*~* dividends⟩ **5** : formed by the addition of new material of the same kind ⟨*~* book index⟩ **6** : summing or integrating overall data or values of a random variable less than or less than or equal to a specified value ⟨*~* normal distribution⟩ ⟨*~* frequency distribution⟩ — **cu·mu·la·tive·ly** *adv* — **cu·mu·la·tive·ness** *n*

cumulative distribution function *n* : DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION

cumulative voting *n* : a system of voting for corporate directors in which each shareholder is entitled to a number of votes equal to the number of shares he holds multiplied by the number of directors to be elected and has the right to divide his votes among candidates in any way he chooses

cu·mu·lo·cir·rus \ˌkyü-myə-lō-'sir-əs\ *n* [NL] : a small cumulus cloud at a high altitude having the white delicacy of the cirrus

cu·mu·lo·nim·bus \-'nim-bəs\ *n* [NL] : cumulus cloud often spread out in the shape of an anvil extending to great heights — see CLOUD illustration

cu·mu·lo·stra·tus \-'strāt-əs, -'strat-\ *n* [NL] : a cumulus whose base extends horizontally as a stratus cloud

cu·mu·lous \'kyü-myə-ləs\ *adj* : resembling cumulus

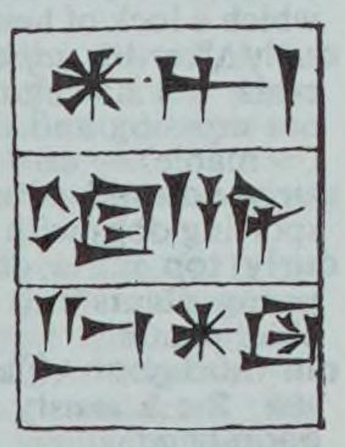
cu·mu·lus \-ləs\ *n, pl* **-li** \-ˌlī, -ˌlē\ [L] **1** : HEAP, ACCUMULATION **2** [NL, fr. L] : a massy cloud form having a flat base and rounded outlines often piled up like a mountain — see CLOUD illustration

cunc·ta·tion \ˌkəŋ(k)-'tā-shən\ *n* [L *cunctation-, cunctatio*, fr. *cunctatus*, pp. of *cunctari* to hesitate; akin to Skt *śaṅkate* he wavers] : DELAY — **cunc·ta·tive** \'keŋ(k)-ˌtāt-iv, -tət-\ *adj*

cu·ne·ate \'kyü-nē-ˌāt, -ət\ *adj* [L *cuneatus*, fr. *cuneus* wedge; akin to Skt *śūla* spear] : narrowly triangular with the acute angle toward the base ⟨a *~* leaf⟩ — **cu·ne·ate·ly** *adv*

[1]cu·ne·i·form \kyù-'nē-ə-ˌfȯrm, 'kyü-n(ē-)ə-\ *adj* [prob. fr. F *cunéiforme*, fr. MF, fr. L *cuneus* + MF *-iforme* -iform] **1** : having the shape of a wedge **2** : composed of or written in wedge-shaped characters ⟨*~* alphabet⟩

[2]cuneiform *n* **1** : cuneiform writing **2** : a cuneiform part; *specif* : a cuneiform bone or cartilage



cuneiform 1

cun·ner \'kən-ər\ *n* [origin unknown] : either of two wrasses: **a** : an English wrasse (*Crenilabrus melops*) **b** : a wrasse (*Tautogolabrus adspersus*) abundant on the New England shore

cun·ni·lin·gus \ˌkən-i-'liŋ-gəs\ *or* **cun·ni·linc·tus** \-'liŋ(k)-təs\ *n* [*cunnilingus*, NL, fr. L, one who licks the vulva, fr. *cunnus* vulva + *lingere* to lick; *cunnilinctus*, NL, fr. L *cunnus* + *linctus*, act of licking, fr. *linctus*, pp. of *lingere* — more at LICK] : oral stimulation of the vulva or clitoris

[1]cun·ning \'kən-iŋ\ *adj* [ME, fr. prp. of *can* know] **1** : dexterous or crafty in the use of special resources (as skill or knowledge) or in attaining an end ⟨a *~* plotter⟩ **2** : characterized by wiliness and trickery ⟨*~* schemes⟩ **3** : prettily appealing : CUTE ***syn*** **1** see CLEVER **2** see SLY ***ant*** ingenuous — **cun·ning·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv* — **cun·ning·ness** *n*

[2]cunning *n* **1** *obs* **a** : KNOWLEDGE, LEARNING **b** : magic art **2** : dexterous skill and subtlety (as in inventing, devising, or executing) ⟨high-ribbed vault . . . with perfect *~* framed — William Wordsworth⟩ **3** : CRAFT, SLYNESS ***syn*** see ART

cunt \'kənt\ *n* [ME *cunte;* akin to MLG *kunte* female pudenda, MHG *kotze* prostitute] : the female pudenda; *also* : COITUS — usu. considered obscene

[1]cup \'kəp\ *n* [ME *cuppe*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *kopf* cup; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. LL *cuppa* cup, alter. of L *cupa* tub; akin to OE *hȳf* hive] **1** : an open bowl-shaped drinking vessel **2 a** : a drinking vessel and its contents **b** : the consecrated wine of the Communion **3** : something that falls to one's lot **4** : an ornamental cup offered as a prize (as in a championship) **5 a** : something resembling a cup **b** : a cup-shaped plant organ **c** : an athletic supporter reinforced usu. with plastic to provide extra protection to the wearer **d** : either of two parts of a brassiere that are shaped like and fit over the breasts **e** : the metal case inside a hole in golf; *also* : the hole itself **6** : a usu. iced beverage resembling punch but served from a pitcher rather than a bowl **7** : a half pint : eight ounces **8** : a food served in a cup-shaped usu. footed vessel ⟨fruit *~*⟩ **9** : the symbol ∪ indicating the union of two sets — **cup·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj* — **in one's cups** : DRUNK

[2]cup *vt* **cupped; cup·ping** **1** : to treat by cupping **2 a** : to curve into the shape of a cup ⟨*cupped* his hands around his mouth⟩ **b** : to place in a cup

cup·bear·er \'kəp-ˌbar-ər, -ˌber-\ *n* : one who has the duty of filling and handing around the cups in which wine is served

cup·board \'kəb-ərd\ *n* : a closet with shelves where dishes, utensils, or food is kept; *also* : a small closet

cup·cake \'kəp-ˌkāk\ *n* : a small cake baked in a cuplike mold

[1]cu·pel \kyü-'pel, 'kyü-pəl\ *n* [F *coupelle*, dim. of *coupe* cup, fr. LL *cuppa*] : a small shallow porous cup esp. of bone ash used in assaying to separate precious metals from lead

[2]cupel *vt* **-pelled** *or* **-peled; -pel·ling** *or* **-pel·ing** : to refine by means of a cupel — **cu·pel·ler** *n*

cu·pel·la·tion \ˌkyü-pə-'lā-shən, -ˌpe-\ *n* : refinement (as of gold or silver) in a cupel by exposure to high temperature in a blast of air by which the lead, copper, tin, and other unwanted metals are oxidized and partly sink into the porous cupel

cup·ful \'kəp-ˌfúl\ *n, pl* **cup·fuls** \-ˌfülz\ *also* **cups·ful** \'kəps-ˌfül\ **1** : as much as a cup will hold **2** : CUP 7

cup fungus *n* : any of an order (Pezizales) of epigeal mostly saprophytic fungi with a fleshy or horny apothecium that is often colored and is typically shaped like a cup, saucer, or disk

Cu·pid \'kyü-pəd\ *n* [L *Cupido*] **1** : the Roman god of erotic love — compare EROS **2** *not cap* : a figure that represents Cupid as a naked usu. winged boy often holding a bow and arrow

cu·pid·i·ty \kyü-'pid-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *cupidite*, fr. MF *cupidité*, fr. L *cupiditat-, cupiditas* — more at COVET] **1** : strong desire : LUST **2** : inordinate desire for wealth : AVARICE, GREED

Cupid's bow *n* : a bow that consists of two convex curves usu. with recurved ends



Cupid's bow

cup of tea **1** : something one likes or excels in ⟨as for me, I see already that storytelling isn't my *cup of tea* — John Barth⟩ **2** : a thing to be reckoned with : MATTER ⟨poltergeists are a different *cup of tea* — D. B. W. Lewis⟩

cu·po·la \'kyü-pə-lə, -ˌlō\ *n* [It, fr. L *cupula*, dim. of *cupa* tub] **1 a** : a rounded vault resting on a circular or other base and forming a roof or a ceiling **b** : a small structure built on top of a roof **2** : a vertical cylindrical furnace for melting iron in the foundry that has tuyeres and tapping spouts near the bottom

cup·pa \'kəp-ə\ *n* [short for *cuppa tea*, pronunciation spelling of *cup of tea*] *chiefly Brit* : a cup of tea

cup·ping *n* : an operation of drawing blood to the surface of the body by use of a glass vessel evacuated by heat

cup·py \'kəp-ē\ *adj* **cup·pi·er; -est** **1** : resembling a cup **2** : full of small depressions ⟨a *~* racetrack⟩

cupr- *or* **cupri-** *or* **cupro-** *comb form* [LL *cuprum* — more at COPPER] **1** : copper ⟨*cupri*ferous⟩ **2** : copper and ⟨*cupro*nickel⟩

cu·pram·mo·nium rayon \ˌk(y)ù-prə-'mō-nē-əm-, -nyəm-\ *n* : a rayon made from cellulose dissolved in an ammoniacal copper solution

cu·pre·ous \'k(y)ü-prē-əs\ *adj* [LL *cupreus*, fr. *cuprum*] : containing or resembling copper : COPPERY

cu·pric \-prik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing copper with a valence of two

cu·prif·er·ous \k(y)ü-'prif-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* : containing copper

cu·prite \'k(y)ü-ˌprīt\ *n* [G *kuprit*, fr. LL *cuprum*] : a mineral Cu_2O consisting of copper oxide and constituting an ore of copper

cu·pro·nick·el \ˌk(y)ü-prō-'nik-əl\ *n* : an alloy of copper and nickel; *esp* : one containing about 70 percent copper and 30 percent nickel

cu·prous \'k(y)ü-prəs\ *adj* : of, relating to, or containing copper with a valence of one

cu·pu·late \'kyü-pyə-ˌlāt, -lət\ *also* **cu·pu·lar** \-lər\ *adj* : shaped like, having, or bearing a cupule

cu·pule \'kyü-(ˌ)pyü(ə)l\ *n* [NL *cupula*, fr. LL, dim. of L *cupa* tub — more at CUP] : a cup-shaped anatomical structure: as **a** : an involucre characteristic of the oak in which the bracts are indurated and coherent **b** : an outer integument partially enclosing the seed of some seed ferns

[1]cur \'kər\ *n* [ME, short for *curdogge*, fr. (assumed) ME *curren* to growl + ME *dogge* dog; akin to OE *cran* crane] **1** : a mongrel or inferior dog **2** : a surly or cowardly fellow

[2]cur *abbr* **1** currency **2** current

cur·able \'kyůr-ə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being cured — **cur·abil·i·ty** \ˌkyůr-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **cur·able·ness** \'kyůr-ə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **cur·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

cu·ra·çao \'k(y)ůr-ə-ˌsō, -ˌsaù, ˌk(y)ůr-ə-'\ *also* **cu·ra·çoa** *same, or* ˌk(y)ůr-ə-'sō-ə\ *n* [D *curaçao*, fr. *Curaçao*, Netherlands Antilles] : a liqueur flavored with the dried peel of the sour orange

cu·ra·cy \'kyůr-ə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** : the office or term of office of a curate

cu·ra·re *or* **cu·ra·ri** \k(y)u̇-'rär-ē\ *n* [Pg & Sp *curare*, fr. Carib *kurarí*] : a dried aqueous extract esp. of a vine (as *Strychnos toxifera* of the family Loganiaceae or *Chondodendron tomentosum* of the family Menispermaceae) used in arrow poisons by So. American Indians and in medicine to produce muscular relaxation
cu·ra·rine \-'rär-ən, -ˌēn\ *n* : any of several alkaloids from curare
cu·ra·rize \-'rär-ˌīz\ *vt* **-rized; -riz·ing** : to treat with curare — **cu·ra·ri·za·tion** \-ˌrär-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*
cu·ras·sow \'k(y)u̇r-ə-ˌsō\ *n* [alter. of *Curaçao*] : any of several large arboreal game birds (esp. genus *Crax*) of So. and Central America related to the domestic fowls
cu·rate \'kyu̇r-ət *also* 'kyu̇(ə)r-ˌāt\ *n* [ME, fr. ML *curatus*, fr. *cura* cure of souls, fr. L, care] **1** : a clergyman in charge of a parish **2** : a clergyman serving as assistant (as to a rector) in a parish
cu·ra·tive \'kyu̇r-ət-iv\ *adj* : relating to or used in the cure of diseases — **curative** *n* — **cu·ra·tive·ly** *adv*
cu·ra·tor \kyu̇-'rāt-ər, 'kyu̇r-ət-\ *n* [L, fr. *curatus*, pp. of *curare* to care, fr. *cura* care] : one that has the care and superintendence of something; *esp* : one in charge of a museum, zoo, or other place of exhibit — **cu·ra·to·ri·al** \ˌkyu̇r-ə-'tōr-ē-əl, -'tȯr-\ *adj* — **cu·ra·tor·ship** \kyu̇-'rāt-ər-ˌship, 'kyu̇r-ət-\ *n*
¹curb \'kərb\ *n* [MF *courbe* curve, curved piece of wood or iron, fr. *courbe* curved, fr. L *curvus*] **1** : a chain or strap on the upper part of the branches of a bit used to restrain a horse — see BIT illustration **2** : an enclosing frame, border, or edging **3** : CHECK, RESTRAINT ⟨a price ~⟩ **4** : a raised edge or margin to strengthen or confine **5** : an edging (as of concrete) built along a street to form part of a gutter **6** [fr. the fact that it orig. transacted its business on the street] : a market for trading in securities not listed on a stock exchange
²curb *vt* **1** : to furnish with a curb **2** : to check or control with or as if with a curb ⟨trying to ~ her curiosity⟩ **3** : to lead (a dog) to a suitable place (as a gutter) for defecation ***syn*** see RESTRAIN ***ant*** spur
curb·ing \'kər-biŋ\ *n* **1** : the material for a curb **2** : CURB
curb roof *n* : a roof with a ridge at the center and a double slope on each of its two sides
curb service *n* : service extended (as by a restaurant) to persons sitting in parked automobiles
¹curb·stone \'kərb-ˌstōn\ *n* : a stone or edging of concrete forming a curb
²curbstone *adj* **1** : operating on the street without maintaining an office ⟨a ~ broker⟩ **2** : not having the benefit of training or experience ⟨a ~ critic⟩
curch \'kərch\ *n* [ME] *Scot* : KERCHIEF 1
cur·cu·lio \(ˌ)kər-'kyü-lē-ˌō\ *n, pl* **-li·os** [L, grain weevil] : any of various weevils; *esp* : one that injures fruit
cur·cu·ma \'kər-kyə-mə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Ar *kurkum* saffron] : any of a genus (*Curcuma*) of Old World tropical herbs (as the turmeric) of the ginger family with tuberous roots
¹curd \'kərd\ *n* [ME] **1** : the thick casein-rich part of coagulated milk **2** : something suggesting the curd of milk — **curdy** \-ē\ *adj*
²curd *vb* : COAGULATE, CURDLE
cur·dle \'kərd-ᵊl\ *vb* **cur·dled; cur·dling** \'kərd-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ [freq. of ²*curd*] *vt* **1** : to cause curds to form in **2** : SPOIL, SOUR ~ *vi* **1** : to form curds : COAGULATE **2** : to go bad or wrong : SPOIL
¹cure \'kyu̇(ə)r\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. ML & L; ML *cura*, cure of souls, fr. L, care] **1 a** : spiritual charge : CARE **b** : pastoral charge of a parish **2 a** : recovery or relief from a disease **b** : something (as a drug or treatment) that cures a disease **c** : a course or period of treatment ⟨take the ~ for alcoholism⟩ **d** : SPA **3** : something that corrects, heals, or permanently alleviates a harmful or troublesome situation ⟨more money is not a certain ~ for the problem⟩ **4** : a process or method of curing — **cure·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
²cure *vb* **cured; cur·ing** *vt* **1 a** : to restore to health, soundness, or normality **b** : to bring about recovery from **2 a** : to deal with in a way that eliminates or rectifies ⟨nothing would ~ the unpleasant odor⟩ **b** : to free from something objectionable or harmful **3** : to prepare by chemical or physical processing for keeping or use ~ *vi* **1** : to undergo a curing process **2** : to effect a cure — **cur·er** *n*
syn CURE, HEAL, REMEDY *shared meaning element* : to rectify an unhealthy or undesirable condition
cu·ré \kyu̇-'rā, 'kyu̇(ə)r-ˌā\ *n* [OF, fr. ML *curatus* — more at CURATE] : a parish priest
cure-all \'kyu̇(ə)r-ˌȯl\ *n* : a remedy for all ills : PANACEA
cu·ret·tage \ˌkyu̇r-ə-'täzh\ *n* : a surgical scraping or cleaning by means of a curette
¹cu·rette *or* **cu·ret** \kyu̇-'ret\ *n* [F *curette*, fr. *curer* to cure, fr. L *curare*, fr. *cura*] : a scoop, loop, or ring used in performing curettage
²curette *or* **curet** *vt* **cu·rett·ed; cu·rett·ing** : to perform curettage on — **cu·rette·ment** \kyu̇-'ret-mənt\ *n*
cur·few \'kər-(ˌ)fyü\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *covrefeu*, signal given to bank the hearth fire, curfew, fr. *covrir* to cover + *feu* fire, fr. L *focus* hearth] **1** : a regulation enjoining the withdrawal of usu. specified persons (as juveniles or military personnel) from the streets or the closing of business establishments or places of assembly at a stated hour **2 a** : the sounding of a bell or other signal to announce the beginning of a time of curfew **b** : the signal used **3 a** : the hour at which a curfew becomes effective **b** : the period during which a curfew is in effect
cu·ria \'k(y)u̇r-ē-ə\ *n, pl* **cu·ri·ae** \'kyu̇r-ē-ˌē, 'ku̇r-ē-ˌī\ [L, fr. *co-* + *vir* man — more at VIRILE] **1 a** : a division of the ancient Roman people comprising several gentes of a tribe **b** : the place of assembly of one of these divisions **2 a** : the court of a medieval king **b** : a court of justice **3** *often cap* : the body of congregations, tribunals, and offices through which the pope governs the Roman Catholic Church — **cu·ri·al** \'kyu̇r-ē-əl\ *adj*
cu·rie \'kyu̇(ə)r-(ˌ)ē, kyu̇-'rē\ *n* [Mme. Marie *Curie*] **1** : a unit quantity of any radioactive nuclide in which 3.7×10^{10} disintegrations occur per second **2** : a unit of radioactivity equal to 3.7×10^{10} disintegrations per second
Curie point *n* [Pierre *Curie*] **1** : the temperature at which there is a transition between the ferromagnetic and paramagnetic phases **2** : a temperature at which the anomalies that characterize a ferroelectric substance disappear — called also *Curie temperature*
cu·rio \'kyu̇r-ē-ˌō\ *n, pl* **cu·ri·os** [short for *curiosity*] : something considered novel, rare, or bizarre : CURIOSITY
cu·ri·o·sa \ˌkyu̇r-ē-'ō-sə, -'ō-zə\ *n pl* [NL, fr. L, neut. pl. of *curiosus*] : CURIOSITIES, RARITIES; *esp* : strange or unusual books
cu·ri·os·i·ty \ˌkyu̇r-ē-'äs-ət-ē, -'äs-tē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : desire to know: **a** : inquisitive interest in others' concerns : NOSINESS **b** : interest leading to inquiry ⟨intellectual ~⟩ **2** *archaic* : undue nicety or fastidiousness **3 a** : one that arouses interest esp. for uncommon or exotic characteristics **b** : an unusual knickknack : CURIO **c** : a curious trait or aspect
cu·ri·ous \'kyu̇r-ē-əs\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *curios*, fr. L *curiosus* careful, inquisitive, fr. *cura* cure] **1 a** *archaic* : made carefully **b** *obs* : ABSTRUSE **c** *archaic* : precisely accurate **2 a** : marked by desire to investigate and learn **b** : marked by inquisitive interest in others' concerns : NOSY **3** : exciting attention as strange or novel : ODD — **cu·ri·ous·ly** *adv* — **cu·ri·ous·ness** *n*
syn CURIOUS, INQUISITIVE, PRYING *shared meaning element* : interested in what is not one's personal or proper concern. CURIOUS, the most general and the only neutral one of these words, basically implies a lively desire to learn or to know ⟨children are *curious* about everything⟩ ⟨*curious* onlookers got in the way of the firemen⟩ INQUISITIVE applies to impertinent and habitual curiosity and usually suggests quizzing and peering after information ⟨*inquisitive* old women watching from behind drawn curtains⟩ PRYING adds to *inquisitive* the implication of busy meddling and officiousness ⟨I will not bare my soul to their shallow *prying* eyes — Oscar Wilde⟩ ***ant*** incurious, uninterested
cu·rite \'kyu̇(ə)r-ˌīt\ *n* [F, fr. Pierre *Curie*] : a radioactive mineral $2PbO.5UO_3.4H_2O$ found in orange acicular crystals
cu·ri·um \'kyu̇r-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. Marie & Pierre *Curie*] : a metallic radioactive trivalent element artificially produced — see ELEMENT table
¹curl \'kər(-ə)l\ *vb* [ME *curlen*, fr. *crul* curly, prob. fr. MD; akin to OHG *krol* curly, OE *cradol* cradle] *vt* **1** : to form into coils or ringlets ⟨~ one's hair⟩ **2** : to form into a curved shape : TWIST ⟨~*ed* his lip in a sneer⟩ **3** : to furnish with curls ~ *vi* **1 a** : to grow in coils or spirals **b** : to form ripples or crinkles ⟨bacon ~*ing* in a pan⟩ **2** : to move or progress in curves or spirals : WIND ⟨the path ~*ed* along the mountainside⟩ **3** : TWIST, CONTORT **4** : to play the game of curling
²curl *n* **1** : a lock of hair that coils : RINGLET **2** : something having a spiral or winding form : COIL **3** : the action of curling : the state of being curled **4** : an abnormal rolling or curling of leaves **5** : a curved or spiral marking in the grain of wood **6** : TENDRIL **7** : a hollow arch of water formed when the crest of a breaking wave spills forward
curl·er \'kər-lər\ *n* **1** : one that curls; *esp* : a device on which hair is wound for curling **2** : a player of curling
cur·lew \'kərl-(ˌ)(y)ü\ *n, pl* **curlews** *or* **curlew** [ME, fr. MF *corlieu*, of imit. origin] : any of various largely brownish chiefly migratory birds (esp. genus *Numenius*) related to the woodcocks but distinguished by long legs and a long slender down-curved bill


curlew

¹curli·cue *also* **curly·cue** \'kər-li-ˌkyü\ *n* [*curly* + *cue* (a braid of hair)] : a fancifully curved or spiral figure (as a flourish in handwriting)
²curlicue *vb* **-cued; -cu·ing** *vi* : to form curlicues ~ *vt* : to decorate with curlicues
curl·ing \'kər-liŋ\ *n* : a game in which two teams of four men each slide curling stones over a stretch of ice toward a target circle
curling iron *n* : a rod-shaped usu. metal instrument which is heated and around which a lock of hair to be curled or waved is wound
curling stone *n* : an ellipsoid stone or occas. piece of iron with a gooseneck handle used in the game of curling
curl·pa·per \'kər(-ə)l-ˌpā-pər\ *n* : a strip or piece of paper around which a lock of hair is wound for curling
curly \'kər-lē\ *adj* **curl·i·er; -est** **1** : tending to curl; *also* : having curls **2** : having the grain composed of fibers that undulate without crossing and that often form alternating light and dark lines ⟨~ maple⟩ — **curl·i·ness** *n*
curly-coat·ed retriever \ˌkər-lē-ˌkōt-əd-\ *n* : any of a breed of sporting dogs with a short curly coat
curly top *n* : a destructive virus disease esp. of beets that kills young plants and causes curling and puckering of the leaves in older plants
cur·mud·geon \(ˌ)kər-'məj-ən\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** *archaic* : MISER **2** : a crusty, ill-tempered, and usu. old man — **cur·mud·geon·ly** *adj*
curn \'kərn\ *or* **cur·ran** \'kə-rən\ *n* [ME *curn*; akin to ME *corn*] **1** *Scot* : GRAIN **2** *Scot* : a small number : FEW
curr \'kər\ *vi* [imit.] : to make a murmuring sound (as of doves)
cur·ragh *or* **cur·rach** \'kə-rə(k)\ *n* [ScGael *curach* & IrGael *currach*; akin to MIr *curach* coracle] **1** *Irish* : marshy wasteland **2** *Irish & Scot* : CORACLE
cur·rant \'kər-ənt, 'kə-rənt\ *n* [ME *raison of Coraunte*, lit., raisin of Corinth] **1** : a small seedless raisin grown chiefly in the Levant **2** : the acid edible fruit of several shrubs (genus *Ribes*) of the saxifrage family; *also* : a plant bearing currants
cur·ren·cy \'kər-ən-sē, 'kə-rən-\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1 a** : circulation as a medium of exchange **b** : general use, acceptance, or prevalence **2 a** : something (as coins, government notes, and bank notes) that is in circulation as a medium of exchange **b** : paper money in circulation **c** : a common article for bartering
¹cur·rent \'kər-ənt, 'kə-rənt\ *adj* [ME *curraunt*, fr. OF *curant*, prp. of *courre* to run, fr. L *currere* — more at CAR] **1 a** *archaic* : RUN-

NING, FLOWING **b** (1) : presently elapsing (2) : occurring in or belonging to the present time (3) : most recent ⟨~ issue⟩ **2** : used as a medium of exchange **3** : generally accepted, used, practiced, or prevalent at the moment ***syn*** see PREVAILING — **cur·rent·ly** *adv* — **cur·rent·ness** *n*

²current *n* **1 a** : the part of a fluid body moving continuously in a certain direction **b** : the swiftest part of a stream **c** : a tidal or nontidal movement of lake or ocean water **d** : flow marked by force or strength **2** : a tendency or course of events that is usu. the resultant of an interplay of forces ⟨~s of public opinion that alter with the economic situation⟩ ⟨an increasing ~ of radicalism⟩ **3** : a flow of electric charge; *also* : the rate of such flow ***syn*** see TENDENCY

current assets *n pl* : assets of a short-term nature

cur·ri·cle \ˈkər-i-kəl, ˈkə-ri-\ *n* [L *curriculum* running, chariot] : a 2-wheeled chaise usu. drawn by two horses

cur·ric·u·lar \kə-ˈrik-yə-lər\ *adj* : of or relating to a curriculum

cur·ric·u·lum \-ləm\ *n, pl* **-la** \-lə\ *also* **-lums** [NL, fr. L, running, fr. *currere*] **1** : the courses offered by an educational institution or one of its branches **2** : a set of courses constituting an area of specialization

cur·ric·u·lum vi·tae \kə-ˌrik-ə-ləm-ˈwē-ˌtī, -yə-ləm-ˈvīt-ē\ *n, pl* **cur·ric·u·la vitae** \-lə-\ [L, course of (one's) life] : a short account of one's career and qualifications prepared typically by an applicant for a position

cur·ri·ery \ˈkər-ē-ə-rē, ˈkə-rē-\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1** : the trade of a currier of leather **2** : a place where currying is done

cur·rish \ˈkər-ish\ *adj* **1** : resembling a cur : MONGREL **2** : IGNOBLE — **cur·rish·ly** *adv*

¹cur·ry \ˈkər-ē, ˈkə-rē\ *vt* **cur·ried; cur·ry·ing** [ME *currayen*, fr. OF *correer* to prepare, curry, fr. (assumed) VL *conredare*, fr. L *com-* + a base of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *garaiths* arrayed — more at READY] **1** : to dress the coat of (as a horse) with a currycomb **2** : to treat (tanned leather) esp. by incorporating oil or grease **3** : BEAT, THRASH — **cur·ri·er** *n* — **curry fa·vor** \-fā-vər\ [ME *currayen favel* to curry a chestnut horse] : to seek to gain favor by flattery or attention

²cur·ry *also* **cur·rie** \ˈkər-ē, ˈkə-rē\ *n, pl* **curries** [Tamil-Malayalam *kaṟi*] **1** : CURRY POWDER **2** : a food or dish seasoned with curry powder ⟨shrimp ~⟩

³curry *vt* **cur·ried; cur·ry·ing** : to flavor or cook with curry powder

cur·ry·comb \-ˌkōm\ *n* : a comb made of rows of metallic teeth or serrated ridges and used esp. to curry horses — **currycomb** *vt*

curry powder *n* : a condiment consisting of several pungent ground spices (as cayenne pepper, fenugreek, and turmeric)

¹curse \ˈkərs\ *n* [ME *curs*, fr. OE] **1** : a prayer or invocation for harm or injury to come upon one : IMPRECATION **2** : something that is cursed or accursed **3** : evil or misfortune that comes as if in response to imprecation or as retribution **4** : a cause of great harm or misfortune : TORMENT **5** : MENSTRUATION — used with *the*

²curse *vb* **cursed; curs·ing** *vt* **1 a** : to call upon divine or supernatural power to send injury upon **b** : to execrate in fervent and often profane terms **2** : to use profanely insolent language against : BLASPHEME **3** : to bring great evil upon : AFFLICT ~ *vi* : to utter imprecations : SWEAR ***syn*** see EXECRATE ***ant*** bless

cursed \ˈkər-səd, ˈkərst\ *also* **curst** \ˈkərst\ *adj* : being under or deserving a curse — **cursed·ly** *adv* — **cursed·ness** *n*

¹cur·sive \ˈkər-siv\ *adj* [F or ML; F *cursif*, fr. ML *cursivus*, lit., running, fr. L *cursus*, pp. of *currere* to run] : RUNNING, COURSING: as **a** *of writing* : flowing often with the strokes of successive characters joined and the angles rounded **b** : having a flowing, easy, impromptu character — **cur·sive·ly** *adv* — **cur·sive·ness** *n*

²cursive *n* **1** : a manuscript written in cursive writing **2** : a style of printed letter resembling handwriting

cur·so·ri·al \ˌkər-ˈsōr-ē-əl, -ˈsȯr-\ *adj* : adapted to running

cur·so·ry \ˈkərs-(ə)-rē\ *adj* [LL *cursorius* of running, fr. L *cursus* running, fr. *cursus*, pp.] : rapidly and often superficially performed : HASTY ⟨a ~ glance⟩ ***syn*** see SUPERFICIAL ***ant*** painstaking — **cur·so·ri·ly** \-rə-lē\ *adv* — **cur·so·ri·ness** \-rē-nəs\ *n*

curt \ˈkərt\ *adj* [L *curtus* shortened — more at SHEAR] **1 a** : a sparing of words : TERSE **b** : marked by rude or peremptory shortness : BRUSQUE **2** : shortened in linear dimension ***syn*** see BLUFF ***ant*** voluble — **curt·ly** *adv* — **curt·ness** *n*

cur·tail \(ˌ)kər-ˈtā(ə)l\ *vt* [alter. of *curtal* to make a curtal of, fr. *curtal*, n.] : to make less by or as if by cutting off or away some part ⟨~ the power of the executive branch⟩ ⟨~ inflation⟩ ***syn*** see SHORTEN ***ant*** prolong, enlarge — **cur·tail·er** \-ˈtā-lər\ *n*

cur·tail·ment \-ˈtā(ə)l-mənt\ *n* : the act of curtailing : the state of being curtailed

¹cur·tain \ˈkərt-ᵊn\ *n* [ME *curtine*, fr. OF, fr. LL *cortina*, fr. L *cohort-, cohors* enclosure, court — more at COURT] **1** : a hanging screen usu. capable of being drawn back or up; *esp* : window drapery **2** : a device or agency that conceals or acts as a barrier — compare IRON CURTAIN **3 a** : the part of a bastioned front that connects two neighboring bastions **b** (1) : a similar stretch of plain wall (2) : a nonbearing exterior wall **4 a** : the movable screen separating the stage from the auditorium of a theater **b** : the ascent or opening (as at the beginning of a play) of a stage curtain; *also* : its descent or closing (as at the end of an act) **c** : the final situation, line, or scene of an act or play **d** : the time at which a theatrical performance begins **e** *pl* : END; *esp* : DEATH ⟨it was ~s for him when his treason was discovered⟩

²curtain *vt* **cur·tained; cur·tain·ing** \ˈkərt-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ **1** : to furnish with or as if with curtains **2** : to veil or shut off with or as if with a curtain

curtain call *n* : an appearance by a performer (as after the final curtain of a play) in response to the applause of the audience

curtain lecture *n* [fr. its orig. being given behind the curtains of a bed] : a private lecture by a wife to her husband

curtain raiser *n* **1** : a short play usu. of one scene that is presented before the main full-length drama **2** : a usu. short preliminary to a main event

¹cur·tal \ˈkərt-ᵊl\ *n, obs* : an animal with a docked tail

²curtal *adj* [MF *courtault*, fr. *court* short, fr. L *curtus*] **1** *obs* : having a docked tail **2** *obs* : BRIEF, CURTAILED **3** *archaic* : wearing a short frock

cur·tal ax *or* **cur·tle ax** \ˈkərt-ᵊl-\ *n* [modif. of MF *coutelas*] : CUTLASS

cur·te·sy \ˈkərt-ə-sē\ *n, pl* **-sies** [ME *corteisie* courtesy] : the future potential interest that a husband has in the real property of his wife arising upon the birth to them of a child alive and capable for at least an instant of inheriting from her — compare DOWER

cur·ti·lage \ˈkərt-ᵊl-ij\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *cortillage*, fr. *cortil* courtyard, fr. *cort* court] : a piece of ground (as a yard or courtyard) within the fence surrounding a house

¹curt·sy *or* **curt·sey** \ˈkərt-sē\ *n, pl* **curtsies** *or* **curtseys** [alter. of *courtesy*] : an act of civility, respect, or reverence made mainly by women and consisting of a slight lowering of the body with bending of the knees

²curtsy *or* **curtsey** *vi* **curt·sied** *or* **curt·seyed; curt·sy·ing** *or* **curt·sey·ing** : to make a curtsy

cu·rule \ˈkyu̇(ə)r-ˌül\ *adj* [L *curulis* alter. of *currulis* of a chariot, fr. *currus* chariot, fr. *currere* to run] **1** : of or relating to a seat reserved in ancient Rome for the use of the highest dignitaries and usu. made like a campstool with curved legs **2** : privileged to sit in a curule chair

cur·va·ceous *also* **cur·va·cious** \ˌkər-ˈvā-shəs\ *adj* : having a well-proportioned feminine figure marked by pronounced curves

cur·va·ture \ˈkər-və-ˌchu̇(ə)r, -chər, -ˌt(y)u̇(ə)r\ *n* **1** : the act of curving : the state of being curved **2** : a measure or amount of curving; *specif* : the rate of change of the angle through which the tangent to a curve turns in moving along the curve and which for a circle is equal to the reciprocal of the radius **3 a** : an abnormal curving (as of the spine) **b** : a curved surface of an organ

¹curve \ˈkərv\ *adj* [L *curvus* curved] *archaic* : bent or formed into a curve

²curve *vb* **curved; curv·ing** [L *curvare*, fr. *curvus*] *vi* : to have or take a turn, change, or deviation from a straight line without sharp breaks or angularity ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to curve **2** : to throw a curveball to (a batter) **3** : to grade (as an examination) on a curve ***syn*** CURVE, BEND, TURN, TWIST *shared meaning element* : to swerve or cause to swerve from a straight line or course

³curve *n* **1** : a curving line or surface : BEND **2** : something curved: as **a** : a curving line of the human body **b** *pl* : PARENTHESIS **3 a** : CURVEBALL **b** : TRICK, DECEPTION **4** : a graphical representation of a variable (as one measuring development of progress) affected by conditions **5 a** : a line that may be precisely defined by an equation in such a way that the coordinates of its points are functions of a single independent variable or parameter **b** (1) : the intersection of two geometrical surfaces (2) : the path of a moving point **6** : a distribution indicating the relative performance of individuals measured against each other that is used esp. in assigning good, medium, or poor grades to usu. predetermined proportions of students rather than in assigning grades based on predetermined standards of achievement — **curvy** \ˈkər-vē\ *adj*

curve·ball \ˈkərv-ˌbȯl\ *n* : a baseball pitch thrown so that it swerves from a normal or expected course; *esp* : one that curves to the left when thrown from the right hand or to the right when thrown from the left hand — **curveball** *vb*

¹cur·vet \(ˌ)kər-ˈvet\ *n* [It *corvetta*, fr. MF *courbette*, fr. *courber* to curve, fr. L *curvare*] : a prancing leap of a horse in which first the forelegs and then the hind are raised so that for an instant all the legs are in the air

²curvet *vi* **-vet·ted** *or* **-vet·ed; -vet·ting** *or* **-vet·ing** : to make a curvet; *also* : PRANCE, CAPER

cur·vi·lin·eal \ˌkər-və-ˈlin-ē-əl\ *adj* : CURVILINEAR

cur·vi·lin·ear \ˌkər-və-ˈlin-ē-ər\ *adj* [L *curvus* + *linea* line] **1** : consisting of or bounded by curved lines : represented by a curved line **2** : marked by flowing tracery ⟨~ Gothic⟩ — **cur·vi·lin·ear·i·ty** \-ˌlin-ē-ˈar-ət-ē\ *n* — **cur·vi·lin·ear·ly** \-ˈlin-ē-ər-lē\ *adv*

cu·sec \ˈkyü-ˌsek\ *n* [*cu*bic foot per *sec*ond] : a volumetric unit of flow equal to a cubic foot per second

cush·at \ˈkəsh-ət\ *n* [ME *cowschote*, fr. OE *cūscote*] *chiefly Scot* : RINGDOVE 1

cu·shaw \kù-ˈshȯ, ˈkü-ˌ\ *n* [perh. of Algonquian origin; akin to *escushaw* it is green (in some Algonquian language of Virginia)] : WINTER CROOKNECK

Cush·ing's disease \ˈku̇sh-iŋz-\ *n* [Harvey *Cushing*] : a disease characterized by obesity and muscular weakness associated with adrenal or pituitary dysfunction — called also *Cushing's syndrome*

¹cush·ion \ˈku̇sh-ən\ *n* [ME *cusshin*, fr. MF *coissin*, fr. (assumed) VL *coxinus*, fr. L *coxa* hip — more at COXA] **1** : a soft pillow or pad usu. used for sitting, reclining, or kneeling **2** : a bodily part resembling a pad **3** : something resembling a cushion: as **a** : PILLOW 3 **b** : RAT 3 **c** : a pad of springy rubber along the inside of the rim of a billiard table **d** : the head of a drill brace **e** : a padded insert in a shoe **f** : a strip of soft resilient rubber between the breaker and carcass of a pneumatic tire **g** : an artificial pool provided to absorb the kinetic energy of falling water and so prevent erosion **h** : an elastic body for reducing shock **i** : a mat laid under a large rug to ease the effect of wear **4** : something serving to mitigate the effects of disturbances or disorders: as **a** : a factor that lessens adverse developments in the economy **b** : a medical procedure or drug that eases a patient's discomfort — **cush·ion·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **cush·iony** \-ə-nē\ *adj*

²cushion *vt* **cush·ioned; cush·ion·ing** \-(ə-)niŋ\ **1** : to seat or place on a cushion **2** : to suppress by ignoring **3** : to furnish

with a cushion **4 a** : to mitigate the effects of **b** : to protect against force or shock **5** : to check gradually so as to minimize shock of moving parts

Cush·it·ic \ˌkəsh-ˈit-ik, kůsh-\ *n* [*Cush* (Kush), Africa] : a subfamily of the Afro-Asiatic language family comprising various languages spoken in East Africa and esp. in Ethiopia and Somaliland — **Cushitic** *adj*

cushy \ˈkůsh-ē\ *adj* **cushi·er; cushi·est** [Hindi *khush* pleasant, fr. Per *khūsh*] : entailing little hardship or difficulty : EASY ⟨a ~ job with a high salary⟩ — **cushi·ly** \ˈkůsh-ə-lē\ *adv*

cusk \ˈkəsk\ *n, pl* **cusk** *or* **cusks** [prob. alter. of *tusk* (a kind of codfish)] **1** : a large edible marine fish (*Brosme brosme*) related to the cod **2** : the New World burbot (*Lota lota maculosa*)

cusp \ˈkəsp\ *n* [L *cuspis* point] : POINT, APEX: as **a** : either horn of a crescent moon **b** : a fixed point on a mathematical curve at which a point tracing the curve would exactly reverse its direction of motion **c** : a pointed projection formed by or arising from the intersection of two arcs or foils **d** (1) : a point on the grinding surface of a tooth (2) : a fold or flap of a cardiac valve — **cus·pate** \ˈkəs-ˌpāt, -pət\ *also* **cus·pat·ed** \-ˌpāt-əd\ *adj*

cus·pid \ˈkəs-pəd\ *n* [back-formation fr. *bicuspid*] : a canine tooth

cus·pi·date \ˈkəs-pə-ˌdāt\ *or* **cus·pi·dat·ed** \-ˌdāt-əd\ *adj* [L *cuspidatus*, pp. of *cuspidare* to make pointed, fr. *cuspid-, cuspis* point] : having a cusp : terminating in a point ⟨a ~ leaf⟩

cus·pi·da·tion \ˌkəs-pə-ˈdā-shən\ *n* : decoration with cusps ⟨the ~ of an arch⟩

cus·pi·dor \ˈkəs-pə-ˌdȯ(ə)r, -ˌdō(ə)r\ *n* [Pg *cuspidouro* place for spitting, fr. *cuspir* to spit, fr. L *conspuere*, fr. *com-* + *spuere* to spit — more at SPEW] : SPITTOON

[1]cuss \ˈkəs\ *n* [alter. of *curse*] **1** : CURSE **2** : FELLOW ⟨an ornery old ~⟩

[2]cuss *vb* : CURSE ⟨~*ed* and decried the generally poor quality of TV newscasting —W. R. Williams⟩ — **cuss·er** *n*

cuss·ed \ˈkəs-əd\ *adj* **1** : CURSED **2** : OBSTINATE, CANTANKEROUS — **cuss·ed·ly** *adv*

cuss·ed·ness *n* : disposition to willful perversity : OBSTINACY

cuss·word \ˈkəs-ˌwərd\ *n* **1** : SWEARWORD **2** : a term of abuse : a derogatory term

cus·tard \ˈkəs-tərd\ *n* [ME, a kind of pie] : a pudding-like usu. sweetened mixture made of eggs and milk

custard apple *n* **1 a** : any of several chiefly tropical American soft-fleshed edible fruits **b** : any of a genus (*Annona* of the family Annonaceae, the custard-apple family) of trees or shrubs bearing this fruit; *esp* : a small West Indian tree (*A. reticulata*) **2** : PAPAW 2

cus·to·di·al \ˌkəs-ˈtōd-ē-əl\ *adj* : relating to guardianship; *specif* : marked by or given to watching and protecting rather than seeking to cure ⟨~ care⟩

cus·to·di·an \ˌkəs-ˈtōd-ē-ən\ *n* : one that guards and protects or maintains; *esp* : one entrusted with guarding and keeping property or records or with custody or guardianship of prisoners or inmates — **cus·to·di·an·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

cus·to·dy \ˈkəs-təd-ē\ *n, pl* **-dies** [ME *custodie*, fr. L *custodia* guarding, fr. *custod-, custos* guardian] : immediate charge and control exercised by a person or an authority (as over a ward or a suspect) : SAFEKEEPING

[1]cus·tom \ˈkəs-təm\ *n* [ME *custume*, fr. OF, fr. L *consuetudin-, consuetudo*, fr. *consuetus*, pp. of *consuescere* to accustom, fr. *com-* + *suescere* to accustom; akin to *suus* one's own — more at SUICIDE] **1 a** : a usage or practice common to many or to a particular place or class or habitual with an individual **b** : long-established practice considered as unwritten law **c** : repeated practice **d** : the whole body of usages, practices, or conventions that regulate social life **2** *pl* **a** : duties, tolls, or imposts imposed by the sovereign law of a country on imports or exports **b** *usu sing in constr* : the agency, establishment, or procedure for collecting such customs **3 a** : business patronage **b** : usu. habitual patrons : CUSTOMERS ***syn*** see HABIT

[2]custom *adj* **1** : made or performed according to personal order **2** : specializing in custom work or operation ⟨a ~ tailor⟩

cus·tom·ary \ˈkəs-tə-ˌmer-ē\ *adj* **1** : based on or established by custom **2** : commonly practiced, used, or observed ***syn*** see USUAL ***ant*** occasional — **cus·tom·ari·ly** \ˌkəs-tə-ˈmer-ə-lē\ *adv* — **cus·tom·ari·ness** \ˈkəs-tə-ˌmer-ē-nəs\ *n*

cus·tom–built \ˌkəs-təm-ˈbilt\ *adj* : built to individual specifications

cus·tom·er \ˈkəs-tə-mər\ *n* [ME *custumer*, fr. *custume*] **1 a** : one that purchases usu. systematically or frequently a commodity or service **b** : one that is a patron (as of a restaurant) or that uses the services (as of a store) **2** : an individual usu. having some specified distinctive trait ⟨a real tough ~⟩

cus·tom·house \ˈkəs-təm-ˌhaůs\ *also* **cus·toms·house** \-təmz-\ *n* : a building where customs and duties are paid or collected and where vessels are entered and cleared

cus·tom·ize \ˈkəs-tə-ˌmīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to build, fit, or alter according to individual specifications ⟨~ a car⟩ — **cus·tom·iz·er** *n*

cus·tom–made \ˌkəs-təm-ˈ(m)ād\ *adj* : made to individual specifications

cus·tom–tai·lor \-ˈtā-lər\ *vt* : to alter, plan, or build according to individual specifications or needs

[1]cut \ˈkət\ *vb* **cut; cut·ting** [ME *cutten*] *vt* **1 a** : to penetrate with or as if with an edged instrument **b** : to hurt the feelings of **c** : to strike sharply with a cutting effect **d** : to strike (a ball) with a glancing blow that imparts a reverse spin **e** : to experience the growth of (a tooth) through the gum **2 a** : TRIM, PARE ⟨~ one's nails⟩ **b** : to shorten by omissions **c** : DISSOLVE, DILUTE, ADULTERATE **d** : to reduce in amount ⟨~ costs⟩ **3 a** : MOW, REAP ⟨~ hay⟩ **b** (1) : to divide into parts with an edged tool ⟨~ bread⟩ (2) : FELL, HEW ⟨~ timber⟩ **c** : to separate from an organization : DETACH **d** : to change the direction of sharply **e** : to go or pass around or about **4 a** : to divide into segments **b** : INTERSECT, CROSS **c** : BREAK, INTERRUPT ⟨~ our supply lines⟩ **d** (1) : to divide (a deck of cards) into two portions (2) : to draw (a card) from the deck **e** : to divide into shares : SPLIT **5 a** : STOP, CEASE ⟨~ the nonsense⟩ **b** : to refuse to recognize (an acquaintance) : OSTRACIZE **c** : to absent oneself from (as a class) **d** : to stop (a motor) by opening a switch **e** : to terminate the filming of (a motion-picture scene) **6 a** : to make by or as if by cutting: as (1) : CARVE ⟨~ stone⟩ (2) : to shape by grinding ⟨~ a diamond⟩ (3) : ENGRAVE (4) : to shear or hollow out **b** : to record sounds (as speech or music) on (a phonograph record) **c** : to type on a stencil **7 a** : to engage in (a frolicsome or mischievous action) ⟨on summer nights strange capers are ~ under the thin guise of a Christian festival —D. C. Peattie⟩ ⟨in his sixty-seventh year with a heart that ~ didoes —H. R. Warfel⟩ **b** : to give the appearance or impression of ⟨~ a fine figure⟩ **8** : to be able to manage or handle a situation — usu. used in negative constructions ⟨can't ~ that kind of work anymore⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to function as or as if as an edged tool **b** : to undergo incision or severance ⟨cheese ~*s* easily⟩ **c** : to perform the operation of dividing, severing, incising, or intersecting **d** : to make a stroke with a whip, sword, or other weapon **e** : to wound feelings or sensibilities **f** : to cause constriction or chafing **g** : to be of effect, influence, or significance ⟨an analysis that ~*s* deep⟩ **2 a** (1) : to divide a pack of cards esp. in order to decide the deal or settle a bet (2) : to draw a card from the pack **b** : to divide spoils : SPLIT **3 a** : to proceed obliquely from a straight course ⟨~ across the yard⟩ **b** : to move swiftly ⟨a yacht *cutting* through the water⟩ **c** : to describe an oblique or diagonal line **d** : to change sharply in direction : SWERVE **e** : to make an abrupt transition from one sound or image to another in motion pictures, radio, or television **4** : to stop photographing motion pictures — **cut corners** : to perform some action in the quickest, easiest, or cheapest way — **cut ice** : to be of importance — usu. used in negative constructions ⟨his opinion *cuts* no *ice* with them⟩ — **cut one's teeth on** : to learn, do, or perform as a beginning or at the start of one's career — **cut short** **1** : to check abruptly : INTERRUPT **2** : to terminate usu. in a premature manner : END — **cut the mustard** : to achieve the standard of performance necessary for success

[2]cut *n* **1** : something that is cut or cut off: as **a** : a length of cloth varying from 40 to 100 yards in length **b** : the yield of products cut esp. during one harvest **c** : a segment or section of a meat carcass or a part of one **d** : a group of animals selected from a herd **e** : SHARE ⟨took his ~ of the profits⟩ **2** : a product of cutting: as **a** : a creek, channel, or inlet made by excavation or worn by natural action **b** (1) : an opening made with an edged instrument (2) : a wound made by something sharp : GASH **c** : a surface or outline left by cutting **d** : a passage cut as a roadway **e** : a grade or step esp. in a social scale ⟨a ~ above the ordinary person⟩ **f** : a subset of a set such that when it is subtracted from the set the remainder is not connected **g** : a pictorial illustration **3** : the act or an instance of cutting: as **a** : a gesture or expression that hurts the feelings ⟨made an unkind ~⟩ **b** : a straight passage or course **c** : a stroke or blow with the edge of a knife or other edged tool **d** : a lash with or as if with a whip **e** : the act of reducing or removing a part ⟨a ~ in pay⟩ **f** : an act or turn of cutting cards; *also* : the result of cutting **4** : a voluntary absence from a class **5 a** : a stroke that cuts a ball; *also* : the spin imparted by such a stroke **b** : a swing by a batter at a pitched baseball **c** : an exchange of captures in checkers **6** : an abrupt transition from one sound or image to another in motion pictures, radio, or television **7 a** : the shape and style in which a thing is cut, formed, or made ⟨clothes of the latest ~⟩ **b** : PATTERN, TYPE **c** : HAIRCUT **8** : BAND 7 — **cut of one's jib** : the appearance of one's face

cut·abil·i·ty \ˌkət-ə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n* : the proportion of lean salable meat yielded by a carcass

cut–and–dried \ˌkət-ᵊn-ˈdrīd\ *also* **cut–and–dry** \-ˈdrī\ *adj* : being or done according to a plan, set procedure, or formula : ROUTINE

cut–and–try \-ᵊn-ˈtrī\ *adj* : marked by experimental procedure : EMPIRICAL ⟨early development of ships and yachts was achieved by the ~ method —D. F. Hora⟩

cu·ta·ne·ous \kyů-ˈtā-nē-əs\ *adj* [NL *cutaneus*, fr. L *cutis* skin — more at HIDE] : of, relating to, or affecting the skin — **cu·ta·ne·ous·ly** *adv*

[1]cut·away \ˈkət-ə-ˌwā\ *adj* : having or showing parts cut away

[2]cutaway *n* **1** : a coat with skirts tapering from the front waistline to form tails at the back **2 a** : a cutaway picture or representation **b** : a shot that interrupts the main action of a film or television program to take up a related subject or to depict action supposed to be going on at the same time as the main action **3** : a back dive in which the head is lowered toward the board after the takeoff

cut·back \ˈkət-ˌbak\ *n* **1** : something cut back **2** : REDUCTION

cut back \ˌkət-ˈbak\ *vt* **1** : to shorten by cutting : PRUNE **2** : REDUCE, DECREASE ⟨*cut back* expenditures⟩ ~ *vi* : to interrupt the sequence of a plot (as of a movie) by introducing events prior to those last presented

cutch \ˈkəch\ *n* [modif. of Malay *kachu*] : CATECHU a

cut down *vt* **1 a** : to remodel by removing extras or unwanted furnishings and fittings **b** : to remake in a smaller size **2 a** : to strike down and kill or incapacitate **b** : to knock down **3** : REDUCE, CURTAIL ⟨*cut down* expenses⟩ ~ *vi* : to reduce or curtail volume or activity ⟨*cut down* on his smoking⟩ — **cut down to size** : to reduce from an inflated or exaggerated importance to true or suitable stature

cute \ˈkyůt\ *adj* **cut·er; cut·est** [short for *acute*] **1** : CLEVER, SHREWD **2** : attractive or pretty esp. in a dainty or delicate way **3** : obviously straining for effect — **cute·ly** *adv* — **cute·ness** *n*

cute·sy \ˈkyůt-sē\ *adj* **cute·si·er; -est** [*cute* + *-sy* (as in *folksy*)] : self-consciously cute : MANNERED ⟨here and there the script is ~, trying for a few mild laughs —H. C. Schonberg⟩

cut glass *n* : glass ornamented with patterns cut into its surface by an abrasive wheel and polished

cut–grass \ˈkət-ˌgras\ *n* : a grass (esp. genus *Leersia*) with minute hooked bristles along the edges of the leaf blade

cu·ti·cle \ˈkyůt-i-kəl\ *n* [L *cuticula*, dim. of *cutis* skin — more at HIDE] **1** : SKIN, PELLICLE: as **a** : an external investment secreted

usu. by epidermal cells **b** : the outermost layer of animal integument (as in man) when composed of epidermis **c** : a thin continuous fatty film on the external surface of many higher plants **2** : dead or horny epidermis — **cu·tic·u·lar** \kyü-'tik-yə-lər\ *adj*

cut·ie *or* **cut·ey** \'kyüt-ē\ *n, pl* **cuties** *or* **cuteys** [*cute* + *-ie*] : an attractive person; *esp* : a pretty girl

cu·tin \'kyüt-ᵊn\ *n* [ISV, fr. L *cutis*] : an insoluble mixture containing waxes, fatty acids, soaps, and resinous material that forms a continuous layer on the outer epidermal wall of a plant

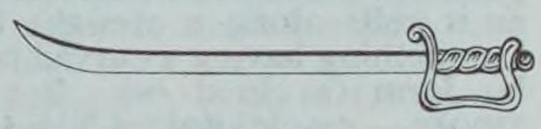
cut–in \'kət-ˌin\ *n* : something cut in — **cut–in** *adj*

cut in \ˌkət-'in\ *vi* **1** : to thrust oneself into a position between others or belonging to another **2** : to join in something suddenly ⟨*cut in* on the conversation⟩ **3** : to interrupt a dancing couple and take one as one's partner **4** : to become automatically connected or started in operation ~ *vt* **1** : to mix with cutting motions ⟨after sifting the flour into a mixing bowl, *cut* the lard *in*⟩ **2** : to introduce into a number, group, or sequence **3** : to connect into an electrical circuit to a mechanical apparatus so as to permit operation **4** : to include esp. among those benefiting or favored ⟨*cut* them *in* on the profits⟩

cu·tin·ized \'kyüt-ᵊn-ˌīzd\ *adj* : infiltrated with cutin ⟨~ epidermal cells⟩

cu·tis \'kyüt-əs\ *n, pl* **cu·tes** \'kyü-ˌtēz\ *or* **cu·tis·es** [L] : DERMIS

cut·lass *also* **cut·las** \'kət-ləs\ *n* [MF *coutelas*, aug. of *coutel* knife, fr. L *cultellus*, dim. of *culter* knife, plowshare] **1** : a short curving sword formerly used by sailors on warships **2** : MACHETE



cutlass 1

cut·ler \'kət-lər\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *coutelier*, fr. LL *cultellarius*, fr. L *cultellus*] : one who makes, deals in, or repairs cutlery

cut·lery \'kət-lə-rē\ *n* **1** : edged or cutting tools; *specif* : implements for cutting and eating food **2** : the business of a cutler

cut·let \'kət-lət\ *n* [F *côtelette*, fr. OF *costelette*, dim. of *coste* rib, side, fr. L *costa* — more at COAST] **1** : a small slice of meat for broiling or frying ⟨a veal ~⟩ **2** : a flat croquette of chopped meat or fish

cut·line \'kət-ˌlīn\ *n* : CAPTION, LEGEND

cut·off \'kət-ˌȯf\ *n* **1** : the act or action of cutting off **2** **a** : the new and relatively short channel formed when a stream cuts through the neck of an oxbow **b** : SHORTCUT 1 **c** : a channel made to straighten a stream **3** : a device for cutting off **4** : something cut off **5** : the point, date, or period for a cutoff — **cutoff** *adj*

cut off \ˌkət-'ȯf\ *vt* **1** : to strike off : SEVER **2** : to bring to an untimely end **3** : to stop the passage of **4** : to shut off : BAR **5** : to break off : TERMINATE **6** : SEPARATE, ISOLATE **7** : DISINHERIT **8** **a** : to stop the operation of : turn off **b** : to stop or interrupt while in communication ⟨the operator *cut* me *off*⟩ ~ *vi* : to cease operating

cut·out \'kət-ˌau̇t\ *n* **1** : something cut out or off from something else **2** : one that cuts out — **cutout** *adj*

¹cut out \ˌkət-'au̇t\ *vt* **1** : to form by erosion **2** : to form or shape by cutting **3** : to determine or assign through necessity ⟨his work is *cut out* for him⟩ **4** : to take the place of : SUPPLANT **5** : to put an end to : desist from ⟨wasteful expenditures that must be *cut out*⟩ **6** : DEPRIVE, DEFRAUD **7** **a** : to remove from a series or circuit : DISCONNECT **b** : to make inoperative ~ *vi* **1** : to depart in haste **2** : to cease operating **3** : to swerve out of a traffic line

²cut out *adj* : naturally fitted or suited ⟨not *cut out* to be a lawyer⟩

cut·over \ˌkət-ˌō-vər\ *adj* : having most of the salable timber cut ⟨~ land⟩

cut·purse \'kət-ˌpərs\ *n* : PICKPOCKET

cut–rate \'kət-'rāt\ *adj* **1** : marked by, offering, or making use of a reduced rate or price ⟨~ stores⟩ **2** : SECOND-RATE, CHEAP

cut·ta·ble \'kət-ə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being cut : ready for cutting

cut·ter \'kət-ər\ *n* **1** : one that cuts: **a** : one whose work is cutting or involves cutting **b** (1) : an instrument, machine, machine part, or tool that cuts (2) : a device for vibrating a cutting stylus in disc recording (3) : the cutting stylus or its point **2** **a** : a ship's boat for carrying stores or passengers **b** : a fore-and-aft rigged sailing boat with a jib, forestaysail, mainsail, and single mast **c** : a small armed boat in government service **3** : a light sleigh

¹cut·throat \'kət-ˌthrōt\ *n* **1** : one likely to cut throats **2** : a cruel unprincipled person

²cutthroat *adj* **1** : MURDEROUS, CRUEL **2** : marked by unprincipled practices : RUTHLESS ⟨~ competition⟩ **3** : characterized by each player playing for himself rather than having a permanent partner — used esp. of partnership games adapted for three players ⟨~ bridge⟩

cutthroat contract *n* : contract bridge in which partnerships are determined by the bidding

cutthroat trout *n* : a large trout (*Salmo clarki*) native to cold lakes and rivers from northern California to southern Alaska — called also *cutthroat*

cut time *n* : duple or quadruple time with the beat represented by a half note

¹cut·ting *n* **1** : something cut or cut off, out, or over: as **a** : a plant section originating from stem, leaf, or root and capable of developing into a new plant **b** : HARVEST **2** : something made by cutting; *esp* : RECORDING

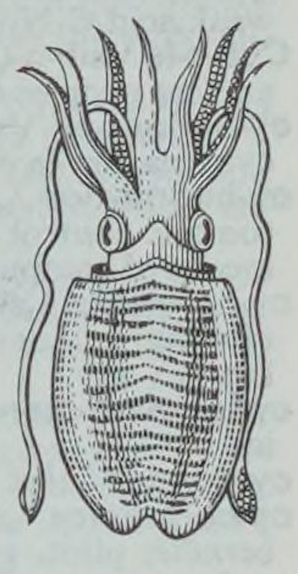
²cutting *adj* **1** : given to or designed for cutting; *esp* : SHARP, EDGED **2** : marked by sharp piercing cold **3** : inclined or likely to wound the feelings of others esp. because of a ruthlessly incisive quality ⟨a ~ remark⟩ **4** : INTENSE, PIERCING ⟨a ~ pain⟩ ***syn*** see INCISIVE — **cut·ting·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

cutting board *n* : a board on which something (as food or cloth) is placed for cutting

cutting horse *n* : a quick light saddle horse trained for use in separating cattle from a herd

cut·tle·bone \'kət-ᵊl-ˌbōn\ *n* [ME *cotul* cuttlefish (fr. OE *cudele*) + E *bone*] : the shell of cuttlefishes used for polishing powder or for supplying cage birds with lime and salts

cut·tle·fish \-ˌfish\ *n* [ME *cotul* + E *fish*] : a 10-armed marine cephalopod mollusk (family Sepiidae) differing from the related squid in having a calcified internal shell



cuttlefish

cut·ty sark \'kət-ē-ˌsärk\ *n* [E dial. *cutty* (short) + *sark*] **1** *chiefly Scot* : a short garment; *esp* : a woman's short undergarment **2** *chiefly Scot* : WOMAN, HUSSY

cutty stool *n* **1** *chiefly Scot* : a low stool **2** : a seat in a Scottish church where offenders formerly sat for public rebuke

cut·up \'kət-ˌəp\ *n* : one that clowns or acts boisterously

cut up \ˌkət-'əp\ *vt* **1** **a** : to cut into parts or pieces **b** : to injure or damage by or as if by cutting : GASH, SLASH **2** : to subject to hostile criticism : CENSURE ~ *vi* **1** : to undergo being cut up **2** : to behave in a comic, boisterous, or unruly manner : CLOWN

cut·wa·ter \'kət-ˌwȯt-ər, -ˌwät-\ *n* : the forepart of a ship's stem

cut·work \-ˌwərk\ *n* : embroidery usu. on linen in which a design is outlined in buttonhole stitch and the intervening material then cut away

cut·worm \-ˌwərm\ *n* : any of various smooth-bodied chiefly nocturnal caterpillars (family Noctuidae) many of which feed on plant stems near ground level

cu·vette \kyü-'vet\ *n* [F, dim. of *cuve* tub, fr. L *cupa* — more at HIVE] : a small often transparent laboratory vessel (as a tube)

cv *or* **cvt** *abbr* convertible

CV *abbr* **1** cardiovascular **2** chief value

CVA *abbr* Columbia Valley Authority

cw *abbr* clockwise

CW *abbr* **1** chemical warfare **2** chief warrant officer **3** continuous waves

cwm \'küm\ *n* [W, valley] : CIRQUE 3

CWO *abbr* **1** cash with order **2** chief warrant officer

CWS *abbr* Chemical Warfare Service

cwt *abbr* hundredweight

CY *abbr* calendar year

-cy \sē\ *n suffix* [ME *-cie*, fr. OF, fr. L *-tia*, partly fr. *-t-* (final stem consonant) + *-ia* -y, partly fr. Gk *-tia*, *-teia*, fr. *-t-* (final stem consonant) + *-ia*, *-eia* -y] : action : practice ⟨mendicancy⟩ : rank : office ⟨baronetcy⟩ ⟨chaplaincy⟩ : body : class ⟨magistracy⟩ : state : quality ⟨accuracy⟩ ⟨bankruptcy⟩ ⟨normalcy⟩ — often replacing a final *-t* or *-te* of the base word

cy·an \'sī-ˌan, -ən\ *n* [Gk *kyanos*] : a greenish blue color — used in photography of one of the primary colors

cyan- *or* **cyano-** *comb form* [G, fr. Gk *kyan-*, *kyano-*, fr. *kyanos* dark blue enamel] **1** : dark blue : blue ⟨*cyano*type⟩ **2** : cyanogen ⟨*cyan*ide⟩ **3** : cyanide ⟨*cyano*genetic⟩

cy·an·a·mide \sī-'an-ə-məd\ *n* [ISV] **1** : a caustic acidic compound CH_2N_2 **2** : CALCIUM CYANAMIDE

cy·a·nate \'sī-ə-ˌnāt, -nət\ *n* [ISV] : a salt (as ammonium cyanate) or ester of cyanic acid

cy·an·ic \sī-'an-ik\ *adj* [ISV] **1** : relating to or containing cyanogen **2** : of a blue or bluish color

cyanic acid *n* : a strong acid HOCN used to prepare cyanates

¹cy·a·nide \'sī-ə-ˌnīd, -nəd\ *n* [ISV] : a compound (as potassium cyanide) of cyanogen usu. with a more electropositive element or radical

²cy·a·nide \-ˌnīd\ *vt* **-nid·ed; -nid·ing** : to treat with a cyanide; *specif* : to treat (iron or steel) with molten cyanide to produce a hard surface

cyanide process *n* : a method of extracting gold and silver from ores by treatment with a sodium cyanide or calcium cyanide solution

cy·a·nine \'sī-ə-ˌnēn, -nən\ *n* [ISV] : any of various dyes that sensitize photographic film to light from the green, yellow, red, and infrared regions of the spectrum

cy·a·nite \'sī-ə-ˌnīt\ *var of* KYANITE

cy·a·no \'sī-ə-(ˌ)nō, sī-'an-(ˌ)ō\ *adj* [*cyan-*] : relating to or containing the cyanogen group

cy·a·no·ac·ry·late \ˌsī-ə-nō-'ak-rə-ˌlāt, sī-ˌan-ō-\ *n* : any of several liquid acrylate monomers that readily polymerize anionically and are used as adhesives in industry and on living tissue in medicine to close wounds as an adjunct to surgery

cy·a·no·co·bal·a·min \-kō-'bal-ə-mən\ *also* **cy·a·no·co·bal·a·mine** \-ˌmēn\ *n* [*cyan-* + *cobalt* + vit*amin*] : VITAMIN B_{12}

cy·a·no·eth·yl·ate \-'eth-ə-ˌlāt\ *vt* : to introduce a cyano-ethyl group CNC_2H_4 into (a compound) usu. by means of acrylonitrile ⟨~ cotton⟩ — **cy·a·no·eth·yl·ation** \-ˌeth-ə-'lā-shən\ *n*

cy·ano·gen \sī-'an-ə-jən\ *n* [F *cyanogène*, fr. *cyan-* + *gène* -gen] **1** : a univalent radical CN present in simple and complex cyanides **2** : a colorless flammable poisonous gas $(CN)_2$

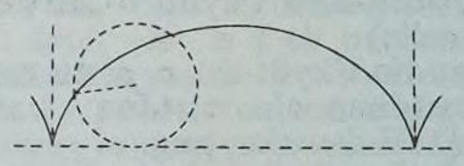
cy·a·no·gen·e·sis \ˌsī-ə-nō-'jen-ə-səs, sī-ˌan-ō-\ *n* : production of cyanide (as by plants) — **cy·a·no·ge·net·ic** \-jə-'net-ik\ *adj* — **cy·a·no·gen·ic** \-'jen-ik\ *adj*

cy·a·no·hy·drin \-'hī-drən\ *n* [ISV] : any of various compounds containing both cyano and alcoholic hydroxyl groups

cy·a·nosed \'sī-ə-ˌnōst, -ˌnōzd\ *adj* : affected with cyanosis

cy·a·no·sis \ˌsī-ə-'nō-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *kyanōsis* dark blue color, fr. *kyan-* cyan-] : a bluish or purplish discoloration (as of skin) due to deficient oxygenation of the blood — **cy·a·not·ic** \-'nät-ik\ *adj*

cy·an·urate \ˌsī-ə-ˈn(y)u̇(ə)r-ˌāt, -ˈn(y)u̇r-ət\ *n* : a salt or ester of cyanuric acid
cy·an·uric acid \ˌsī-ə-ˌn(y)u̇r-ik-\ *n* [*cyan-* + *urea*] : a crystalline weak acid $C_3N_3(OH)_3$ yielding cyanic acid when heated
Cyb·e·le \ˈsib-ə-(ˌ)lē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kybelē*] : a nature goddess of the ancient peoples of Asia Minor
cy·ber·nat·ed \ˈsī-bər-ˌnāt-əd\ *adj* : characterized by or involving cybernation ⟨a ~ bakery⟩ ⟨a ~ society⟩
cy·ber·na·tion \ˌsī-bər-ˈnā-shən\ *n* [*cyberne*tics + *-ation*] : the automatic control of a process or operation (as in manufacturing) by means of computers
cy·ber·net·ic \ˌsī-bər-ˈnet-ik\ *also* **cy·ber·net·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or involving cybernetics — **cy·ber·net·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cy·ber·ne·ti·cian \ˌsī-(ˌ)bər-nə-ˈtish-ən\ *n* : a specialist in cybernetics
cy·ber·net·i·cist \ˌsī-bər-ˈnet-ə-səst\ *n* : CYBERNETICIAN
cy·ber·net·ics \ˌsī-bər-ˈnet-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [Gk *kybernētēs* pilot, governor (fr. *kybernan* to steer, govern) + E *-ics*] : the science of communication and control theory that is concerned esp. with the comparative study of automatic control systems (as the nervous system and brain and mechanical-electrical communication systems)
cy·borg \ˈsī-ˌbȯ(ə)rg\ *n* [*cyb*ernetic + *org*anism] : a human being who is linked (as for temporary adaptation to a hostile space environment) to one or more mechanical devices upon which some of his vital physiological functions depend
cyc *or* **cycl** *abbr* cyclopedia
cy·cad \ˈsī-kəd\ *n* [NL *Cycad-, Cycas*] : any of an order (Cycadales) of gymnosperms that are represented by a single surviving family (Cycadaceae) of tropical plants resembling palms but reproducing by means of spermatozoids
cy·cad·e·oid \sī-ˈkad-ē-ˌȯid\ *n* [NL *Cycadeoidales,* group name, deriv. of *Cycad-, Cycas*] : any of an extinct order (Cycadeoidales or Bennettitales) of cycadophytes that differ from the cycads chiefly in having the reproductive organs on the trunk embedded in a thick external covering of persistent leaf bases
cy·cado·phyte \sī-ˈkad-ə-ˌfīt\ *n* [NL *Cycadophytae,* group name, irreg. fr. *Cycad-, Cycas* + *phyton* plant — more at -PHYTE] : any of a subclass (Cycadophytae) of unbranched gymnosperms with pinnate leaves, large pith, little xylem, and a thick cortex that includes the cycads, cycadeoids, and seed ferns
cy·cas \ˈsī-kəs\ *n* [NL *Cycad-, Cycas* genus name] : any of a genus (*Cycas*) of cycads between tree ferns and palms in appearance
cy·ca·sin \ˈsī-kə-sən\ *n* [*cycas* + *-in*] : a glucoside $C_8H_{16}N_2O_7$ that occurs in cycads and results in toxic and carcinogenic effects when introduced into mammals
cycl- *or* **cyclo-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *kykl-, kyklo-,* fr. *kyklos*] **1** : circle ⟨*cyclo*meter⟩ **2** : cyclic ⟨*cyclo*hexane⟩
cy·cla·mate \ˈsī-klə-ˌmāt, -mət\ *n* [*cyclo*hexyl-sulf*amate*] : an artificially prepared salt of sodium or calcium used esp. formerly as a sweetener — compare CYCLOHEXYLAMINE
cy·cla·men \ˈsī-klə-mən, ˈsik-lə-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *kyklaminos*] : any of a genus (*Cyclamen*) of plants of the primrose family having showy nodding flowers
cy·clase \ˈsī-ˌklās, -ˌklāz\ *n* [*cycl-* + *-ase*] : an enzyme (as adenyl cyclase) that catalyzes cyclization of a compound
cy·claz·o·cine \sī-ˈklaz-ə-ˌsēn, -sən\ *n* [*cycl-* + *azocine* (C_7H_7N), of unknown origin] : an analgesic $C_{18}H_{25}NO$ that inhibits the effect of morphine and related addictive drugs and is used in the treatment of drug addiction
¹cy·cle \ˈsī-kəl, *6 is also* ˈsik-əl\ *n* [F or LL; F, fr. LL *cyclus,* fr. Gk *kyklos* circle, wheel, cycle — more at WHEEL] **1** : an interval of time during which a sequence of a recurring succession of events or phenomena is completed **2 a** : a course or series of events or operations that recur regularly and usu. lead back to the starting point **b** : one complete performance of a vibration, electric oscillation, current alternation, or other periodic process **c** : a permutation of a set of ordered elements in which each element takes the place of the next and the last becomes first **3** : a circular or spiral arrangement: as **a** : an imaginary circle or orbit in the heavens **b** : WHORL **c** : RING 10 **4** : a long period of time : AGE **5 a** : a group of poems, plays, novels, or songs treating the same theme **b** : a series of narratives dealing typically with the exploits of a legendary hero **6 a** : BICYCLE **b** : TRICYCLE **c** : MOTORCYCLE **7** : the series of a single, double, triple, and home run hit by one player during one baseball game ⟨hit for the ~⟩ — **cy·clic** \ˈsī-klik *also* ˈsik-lik\ *or* **cy·cli·cal** \ˈsī-kli-kəl, ˈsik-li-\ *adj* — **cy·cli·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *or* **cy·clic·ly** \ˈsī-kli-klē, ˈsik-li-\ *adv*
²cy·cle \ˈsī-kəl, *2 is also* ˈsik-əl\ *vb* **cy·cled; cy·cling** \ˈsī-k(ə-)liŋ, ˈsik(-ə)-\ *vi* **1 a** : to pass through a cycle **b** : to recur in cycles **2** : to ride a cycle; *specif* : BICYCLE ~ *vt* : to cause to go through a cycle — **cy·cler** \ˈsī-k(ə-)lər, ˈsik(-ə)-\ *n*
cyclic AMP *n* : a cyclic mononucleotide of adenosine that has been implicated in control mechanisms regulating metabolism and function in the nervous system — called also *adenosine monophosphate;* compare ACRASIN
cyclic group *n* : a mathematical group that has an element such that every element of the group can be expressed as one of its powers
cyclic poets *n pl* [*Epic Cycle,* the series of epics dealing with the causes, events, and aftermath of the Trojan War] : the poets after Homer who composed epics on the Trojan War and its heroes
cy·clist \ˈsī-k(ə-)ləst, ˈsik(-ə)-\ *n* : one who rides a cycle
cy·cli·tol \ˈsī-klə-ˌtȯl, ˈsik-lə-ˌtōl\ *n* [*cycl-* + *-itol* (as in *inositol*)] : an alicyclic polyhydroxy compound (as inositol)
cy·cli·za·tion \ˌsīk-(ə-)lə-ˈzā-shən, ˌsik-\ *n* : formation of one or more rings in a chemical compound
cy·clize \ˈsīk-(ə-)ˌlīz, ˈsik-\ *vb* **cy·clized; cy·cliz·ing** *vt* : to subject to cyclization ~ *vi* : to undergo cyclization
cy·clo \ˈsē-(ˌ)klō, ˈsik-(ˌ)lō\ *n, pl* **cyclos** [prob. fr. F, short for (assumed) *cyclotaxi,* fr. moto*cyclette* motorcycle + *-o-* + *taxi*] : a 3-wheeled motor-driven taxi
cy·clo·ad·di·tion \-ə-ˈdish-ən\ *n* : a chemical reaction leading to ring formation in a compound
cy·clo·al·i·phat·ic \ˌsī-klō-ˌal-ə-ˈfat-ik\ *adj* : ALICYCLIC
cy·clo·di·ene \-ˈdī-ˌēn, -dī-ˈ\ *n* [*cycl-* + *diene*] : an organic insecticide (as aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, or endosulfan) with a chlorinated methylene group forming a bridge across a 6-membered carbon ring
cy·clo·gen·e·sis \-ˈjen-ə-səs\ *n* [*cyclo*ne + *genesis*] : the development or intensification of a cyclone
cy·clo·hex·ane \ˌsī-klō-ˈhek-ˌsān\ *n* [ISV] : a pungent saturated cyclic hydrocarbon C_6H_{12} found in petroleum or made synthetically and used chiefly as a solvent and in organic synthesis
cy·clo·hex·a·none \-ˈhek-sə-ˌnōn\ *n* [*cyclohexane* + *-one*] : a liquid ketone $C_6H_{10}O$ used esp. as a solvent and in organic synthesis
cy·clo·hex·i·mide \-ˈhek-sə-ˌmīd, -məd\ *n* [*cyclohex*ane + *imide*] : an agricultural fungicide $C_{15}H_{23}NO_4$ that is obtained from a soil bacterium (*Streptomyces griseus*)
cy·clo·hex·yl·a·mine \-hek-ˈsil-ə-ˌmēn\ *n* [*cyclohex*ane + *-yl* + *amine*] : an amine ($C_6H_{11}NH_2$) of cyclohexane that is a probably harmful metabolic breakdown product of cyclamate
¹cy·cloid \ˈsī-ˌklȯid\ *n* [F *cycloïde,* fr. Gk *kykloeidēs* circular, fr. *kyklos*] **1 a** : a curve that is generated by a point on the circumference of a circle as it rolls along a straight line **b** : something having a curved or circular form ⟨a cloud ~⟩ **2** : CYCLOTHYME — **cy·cloi·dal** \sī-ˈklȯid-ᵊl\ *adj*


cycloid 1a

²cycloid *adj* **1** : CIRCULAR; *esp* : arranged or progressing in circles **2** : smooth with concentric lines of growth ⟨~ scales⟩; *also* : having or consisting of cycloid scales **3** : CYCLOTHYMIC
cy·clom·e·ter \sī-ˈkläm-ət-ər\ *n* : a device made for recording the revolutions of a wheel and often used for registering distance traversed by a wheeled vehicle
cy·clone \ˈsī-ˌklōn\ *n* [modif. of Gk *kyklōma* wheel, coil, fr. *kykloun* to go around, fr. *kyklos* circle] **1 a** : a storm or system of winds that rotates about a center of low atmospheric pressure clockwise in the southern hemisphere and counterclockwise in the northern, advances at a speed of 20 to 30 miles an hour, and often brings abundant rain **b** : TORNADO **c** : LOW 1b **2** : any of various centrifugal devices for separating materials (as solid particles from gases or liquids) — **cy·clon·ic** \sī-ˈklän-ik\ *adj* — **cy·clon·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cyclone cellar *n* : a cellar or covered excavation designed for protection from dangerous windstorms (as tornadoes)
cy·clo·ole·fin \ˌsī-klō-ˈō-lə-fən\ *n* [ISV] : a hydrocarbon (as of the formula C_nH_{2n-2}) containing an unsaturated ring — **cy·clo·ole·finic** \-ˌō-lə-ˈfin-ik\ *adj*
cy·clo·par·af·fin \-ˈpar-ə-fən\ *n* : a saturated cyclic hydrocarbon of the formula C_nH_{2n}
cy·clo·pe·an \ˌsī-klə-ˈpē-ən, sī-ˈklō-pē-\ *adj* **1** *often cap* : of, relating to, or characteristic of a Cyclops **2** : HUGE, MASSIVE **3** : of or relating to a style of stone construction marked typically by the use of large irregular blocks without mortar
cy·clo·pe·dia *or* **cy·clo·pae·dia** \ˌsī-klə-ˈpēd-ē-ə\ *n* : ENCYCLOPEDIA — **cy·clo·pe·dic** \-ˈpēd-ik\ *adj*
cy·clo·phos·pha·mide \ˌsī-klō-ˈfäs-fə-ˌmīd\ *n* : an immunosuppressive and antineoplastic agent $C_7H_{15}Cl_2N_2O_2P$ used esp. against lymphomas and some leukemias
cy·clo·pro·pane \ˌsī-klə-ˈprō-ˌpān\ *n* [ISV] : a saturated cyclic gaseous hydrocarbon C_3H_6 used esp. as an anesthetic
cy·clops \ˈsī-ˌkläps\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kyklōps,* fr. *kykl-* cycl- + *ōps* eye] **1** *pl* **cy·clo·pes** \sī-ˈklō-(ˌ)pēz\ *cap* : one of a race of giants in Greek mythology with a single eye in the middle of the forehead **2** *pl* **cyclops** [NL, genus name, fr. L] : WATER FLEA
cy·clo·ra·ma \ˌsī-klə-ˈram-ə, -ˈräm-\ *n* [*cycl-* + *-orama* (as in *panorama*)] **1** : a large pictorial representation encircling the spectator and often having real objects as a foreground **2** : a curved curtain or wall used as a background of a stage set to suggest unlimited space — **cy·clo·ram·ic** \-ˈram-ik\ *adj*
cy·clo·ser·ine \ˌsī-klō-ˈse(ə)r-ˌēn\ *n* : an amino antibiotic $C_3H_6N_2O_2$ produced by an actinomycete (*Streptomyces orchidaceus*)
cy·clo·sis \sī-ˈklō-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *kyklōsis* encirclement, fr. *kykloun* to go around] : the streaming of protoplasm within a cell
cy·clos·to·mate \sī-ˈkläs-tə-mət\ *also* **cy·clo·sto·ma·tous** \ˌsī-klə-ˈstäm-ət-əs, -ˈstōm-\ *adj* [*cycl-* + Gk *stomat-, stoma* mouth] **1** : having a circular mouth **2** : CYCLOSTOME
cy·clo·stome \ˈsī-klə-ˌstōm\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *kykl-* + *stoma* mouth — more at STOMACH] : any of a class (Cyclostomi or Cyclostomata) of lowly craniate vertebrates having a large sucking mouth with no jaws and comprising the hagfishes and lampreys — **cyclostome** *adj*
¹cy·clo·style \-ˌstīl\ *n* [fr. *Cyclostyle,* a trademark] : a machine for making multiple copies that utilizes a stencil cut by a graver whose tip is a small rowel
²cyclostyle *vt* : to make multiple copies of by cyclostyle
cy·clo·thyme \ˈsī-klə-ˌthīm\ *n* [back-formation fr. *cyclothymia*] : a cyclothymic individual
cy·clo·thy·mia \ˌsī-klə-ˈthī-mē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. G *zyklothymie,* fr. *zykl-* cycl- + *-thymie* -thymia] : a temperament marked by alternate lively and depressed moods — **cy·clo·thy·mic** \-ˈthī-mik\ *adj*
cy·clo·tom·ic \-ˈtäm-ik\ *adj* [*cyclotomy* (mathematical theory of the division of the circle into equal parts), fr. *cycl-* + *-tomy*] : relating to, being, or containing a polynomial of the form $x^{p-1} + x^{p-2} + \ldots + x + 1$ where p is a prime number
cy·clo·tron \ˈsī-klə-ˌträn\ *n* [*cycl-* + *-tron;* fr. the circular movement of the particles] : an accelerator in which particles (as protons, deuterons, or ions) are propelled by an alternating electric field in a constant magnetic field
cy·der *Brit var of* CIDER
cyg·net \ˈsig-nət\ *n* [ME *sygnett,* fr. MF *cygne* swan, fr. L *cycnus, cygnus,* fr. Gk *kyknos*] : a young swan

Cyg·nus \'sig-nəs\ *n* [L (gen. *Cygni*), lit., swan] : a northern constellation between Lyra and Pegasus in the Milky Way
cyl *abbr* cylinder
cyl·in·der \'sil-ən-dər\ *n* [MF or L; MF *cylindre*, fr. L *cylindrus*, fr. Gk *kylindros*, fr. *kylindein* to roll; akin to OE *sceol* squinting, L *scelus* crime, Gk *skelos* leg, *skolios* crooked] **1 a** : the surface traced by a straight line moving parallel to a fixed straight line and intersecting a fixed curve **b** : the space bounded by a cylinder and two parallel planes cutting all its elements — see VOLUME table **2** : a cylindrical body: as **a** : the turning chambered breech of a revolver **b** (1) : the piston chamber in an engine (2) : a chamber in a pump from which the piston expels the fluid **c** : any of various rotating members in printing presses; *esp* : one that impresses paper on an inked form **d** : a cylindrical clay object inscribed with cuneiform inscriptions — **cyl·in·dered** \-dərd\ *adj*
cylinder seal *n* : a cylinder (as of stone) engraved in intaglio and used esp. in ancient Mesopotamia to roll an impression on wet clay
cy·lin·dri·cal \sə-'lin-dri-kəl\ *or* **cy·lin·dric** \-drik\ *adj* : relating to or having the form or properties of a cylinder — **cy·lin·dri·cal·ly** \-dri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cylindrical coordinate *n* : any of the coordinates in space obtained by constructing in a plane a polar coordinate system and on a line perpendicular to the plane a linear coordinate system
cy·ma \'sī-mə\ *n* [Gk *kyma*, lit., wave] **1** : a projecting molding whose profile is a double curve **2** : a double curve formed by the union of a concave line and a convex line
cy·ma·tium \sī-'mā-sh(ē-)əm\ *n, pl* **-tia** \-sh(ē-)ə\ [L, fr. Gk *kymation*, dim. of *kymat-, kyma*] : a crowning molding in classic architecture; *esp* : CYMA
cym·bal \'sim-bəl\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *cymbal* & MF *cymbale*, fr. L *cymbalum*, fr. Gk *kymbalon*, fr. *kymbē* bowl — more at HUMP] : a concave brass plate that produces a brilliant clashing tone and that is struck with a drumstick or is used in pairs struck glancingly together — **cym·bal·ist** \-bə-ləst\ *n*
cym·bid·i·um \sim-'bid-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L *cymba* boat, fr. Gk *kymbē* bowl, boat] : any of a genus (*Cymbidium*) of tropical Old World orchids with showy boat-shaped flowers
cyme \'sīm\ *n* [NL *cyma*, fr. L, cabbage sprout, fr. Gk *kyma* swell, wave, cabbage sprout, fr. *kyein* to be pregnant] : an inflorescence in which all floral axes terminate in a single flower; *esp* : a determinate inflorescence of this type containing several flowers with the first-opening central flower terminating the main axis and subsequent flowers developing from lateral buds — see INFLORESCENCE illustrated
cy·mene \'sī-ˌmēn\ *n* [F *cymène*, fr. Gk *kyminon* cumin + F *-ène* -ene — more at CUMIN] : any of three liquid isomeric hydrocarbons $C_{10}H_{14}$; *esp* : a colorless liquid of pleasant odor from essential oils
cym·ling \'sim-lən, -liŋ\ *n* [prob. alter. of *simnel*] : a summer squash having a scalloped edge
cy·mo·gene \'sī-mə-ˌjēn\ *n* [ISV *cyme*ne + *-o-* + *-gen*] : a flammable gaseous petroleum product consisting chiefly of butane
cy·mo·phane \-ˌfān\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *kyma* wave + F *-phane*] : CHRYSOBERYL; *esp* : an opalescent chrysoberyl
cy·mose \'sī-ˌmōs\ *adj* : of, relating to, being, or bearing a cyme — **cy·mose·ly** *adv*
1Cym·ric \'kim-rik, 'kəm-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of the non-Gaelic Celtic people of Britain or their language; *specif* : WELSH
2Cymric *n* : BRYTHONIC; *specif* : the Welsh language
Cym·ry \-rē\ *n pl* [W] : the Brythonic Celts; *specif* : WELSH
cyn·ic \'sin-ik\ *n* [MF or L, MF *cynique*, fr. L *cynicus*, fr. Gk *kynikos*, lit., like a dog, fr. *kyn-, kyōn* dog — more at HOUND] **1** *cap* : an adherent of an ancient Greek school of philosophers who held the view that virtue is the only good and that its essence lies in self-control and independence **2** : a faultfinding captious critic; *esp* : one who believes that human conduct is motivated wholly by self-interest — **cynic** *adj*
cyn·i·cal \'sin-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** : CAPTIOUS, PEEVISH **2** : having the attitude or temper of a cynic; *esp* : contemptuously distrustful of human nature and motives ⟨provide a smashing answer for those ~ men who say that democracy cannot be honest and efficient— F.D. Roosevelt⟩ — **cyn·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
syn CYNICAL, MISANTHROPIC, PESSIMISTIC, MISOGYNIC *shared meaning element* : deeply distrustful
cyn·i·cism \'sin-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n* **1** *cap* : the doctrine of the Cynics **2 a** : cynical character or quality **b** : an expression of such quality
cy·no·mol·gus \ˌsī-nə-'mäl-gəs\ *n, pl* **-gi** \-ˌgī, -ˌjī\ [NL, alter. of *cynamolgus*, fr. L, member of an ancient tribe in Africa, fr. Gk *Kynamolgoi*, lit., dog milkers] : MACAQUE; *esp* : one (*Macaca irus*) of southeastern Asia, Borneo, and the Philippines that is used esp. in medical research
cy·no·sure \'sī-nə-ˌshu̇(ə)r, 'sin-ə-\ *n* [MF & L; MF, Ursa Minor, guide, fr. L *cynosura* Ursa Minor, fr. Gk *kynosoura*, fr. *kynos oura* dog's tail] **1** *cap* : the northern constellation Ursa Minor; *also* : NORTH STAR **2** : a center of attraction or attention
Cyn·thia \'sin(t)-thē-ə\ *n* [L, fr. fem. of *Cynthius* of Cynthus, fr. *Cynthus*, mountain on Delos where she was born] **1** : ARTEMIS **2** : MOON
CYO *abbr* Catholic Youth Organization
cy·pher *chiefly Brit var of* CIPHER
1cy pres \(')sī-'prā, (')sē-\ *adv* : in accordance with the rule of cy pres
2cy pres *n* [AF, so near, as near (as may be)] : a rule providing for the interpretation of instruments in equity as nearly as possible in conformity to the intention of the testator when literal construction is illegal, impracticable, or impossible — called also *cy pres doctrine*
1cy·press \'sī-prəs\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *ciprès*, fr. L *cyparissus*, fr. Gk *kyparissos*] **1 a** (1) : any of a genus (*Cupressus*) of symmetrical mostly evergreen trees of the pine family with overlapping leaves resembling scales (2) : any of several coniferous trees other than the cypresses; *esp* : BALD CYPRESS 1 **b** : the wood of a cypress tree **2** : branches of cypress used as a symbol of mourning
2cypress *n* [ME *ciprus, cipres*, fr. *Cyprus*, Mediterranean island] : a silk or cotton usu. black gauze formerly used for mourning
cypress vine *n* : a tropical American vine (*Quamoclit pennata*) of the morning-glory family with red or white tubular flowers and finely dissected leaves
cyp·ri·an \'sip-rē-ən\ *n, often cap* [L *cyprius* of Cyprus, fr. Gk *kyprios*, fr. *Kypros* Cyprus, birthplace of Aphrodite] : PROSTITUTE
cyp·ri·nid \'sip-rə-nəd\ *n* [deriv. of L *cyprinus* carp, fr. Gk *kyprinos*] : any of a family (Cyprinidae) of soft-finned freshwater fishes including the carps and minnows — **cyprinid** *adj*
cy·prin·odont \sə-'prin-ə-ˌdänt\ *n* [deriv. of L *cyprinus* + Gk *odont-, odous* tooth — more at TOOTH] : any of an order (Microcyprini) of soft-finned fishes including the topminnows and killifishes — **cyprinodont** *adj*
cyp·ri·pe·di·um \ˌsip-rə-'pēd-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. LL *Cypris*, a name for Venus + Gk *pedilon* sandal] : any of a genus (*Cypripedium* or *Paphiopedalum*) of leafy-stemmed terrestrial orchids having large usu. showy drooping flowers with the lip inflated or pouched
cy·pro·hep·ta·dine \ˌsī-prō-'hep-tə-ˌdēn\ *n* [*cyclic* + *propyl* + *hepta-* + piperi*dine*] : a drug $C_{21}H_{21}N$ that acts antagonistically to histamine and serotonin and is used esp. in the treatment of asthma
cy·prot·er·one \sī-'prät-ə-ˌrōn\ *n* [prob. fr. *cycl-* + *progesterone*] : a synthetic steroid that inhibits androgenic secretions (as testosterone)
cyp·se·la \'sip-sə-lə\ *n, pl* **-lae** \-ˌlē\ [NL, fr. Gk *kypselē* vessel, box] : an achene with two carpels and adherent calyx tube
Cy·re·na·ic \ˌsir-ə-'nā-ik, ˌsī-rə-\ *n* [L *cyrenaicus*, fr. Gk *kyrēnaikos*, fr. *Kyrēnē* Cyrene, Africa, home of Aristippus, author of the doctrine] : an adherent or advocate of the doctrine that pleasure is the chief end of life — **Cyrenaic** *adj* — **Cy·re·na·icism** \-'nā-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n*
Cy·ril·lic \sə-'ril-ik\ *adj* [St. *Cyril* †869, apostle of the Slavs, reputed inventor of the Cyrillic alphabet] : of, relating to, or constituting an alphabet used for writing Old Church Slavonic and for Russian and various other Slavic languages
cyst \'sist\ *n* [NL *cystis*, fr. Gk *kystis* bladder, pouch] **1** : a closed sac having a distinct membrane and developing abnormally in a cavity or structure of the body **2** : a body resembling a cyst: as **a** : a resting spore of many algae **b** : an air vesicle (as of a rockweed) **c** : a capsule formed about a minute organism going into a resting or spore stage; *also* : this capsule with its contents **d** : a resistant cover about a parasite produced by the parasite or the host
cyst- *or* **cysti-** *or* **cysto-** *comb form* [F, fr. Gk *kyst-, kysto-*, fr. *kystis*] : bladder ⟨*cysti*tis⟩ : sac ⟨*cysto*carp⟩
-cyst \ˌsist\ *n comb form* [NL *-cystis*, fr. Gk *kystis*] : bladder : sac ⟨blasto*cyst*⟩
cys·ta·mine \'sis-tə-ˌmēn\ *n* [*cyst*ine + *amine*] : a cystine derivative $C_4H_{12}N_2S_2$ used in the prevention of radiation sickness (as of cancer patients)
cys·ta·thi·o·nine \ˌsis-tə-'thī-ə-ˌnēn\ *n* [irreg. fr. *cyst*eine + me*thionine*] : a sulfur-containing amino acid $C_7H_{14}N_2O_4S$ formed as an intermediate in the conversion of methionine to cysteine in animal organisms
cys·te·amine \sis-'tē-ə-mən\ *n* [*cyste*ine + *amine*] : a cysteine derivative C_2H_7NS used in the prevention of radiation sickness (as of cancer patients)
cys·te·ine \'sis-tə-ˌēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. *cystine* + *-ein*] : a crystalline sulfur-containing amino acid $C_3H_7NO_2S$ readily oxidizable to cystine
cys·tic \'sis-tik\ *adj* **1** : relating to, composed of, or containing cysts **2** : of or relating to the urinary bladder or the gallbladder **3** : enclosed in a cyst
cys·ti·cer·coid \ˌsis-tə-'sər-ˌkȯid\ *n* : a tapeworm larva having an invaginated scolex and solid tailpiece
cys·ti·cer·co·sis \ˌsis-tə-(ˌ)sər-'kō-səs\ *n, pl* **-co·ses** \-'kō-ˌsēz\ [NL] : infestation with or disease caused by cysticerci
cys·ti·cer·cus \-'sər-kəs\ *n, pl* **-cer·ci** \-'sər-ˌsī, -ˌkī\ [NL, fr. *cyst-* + Gk *kerkos* tail] : a tapeworm larva consisting of a scolex invaginated in a fluid-filled sac in tissues of an intermediate host
cystic fibrosis *n* : a common hereditary disease esp. in Caucasian populations that appears usu. in early childhood, involves generalized disorder of exocrine glands, and is marked esp. by deficiency of pancreatic enzymes, respiratory symptoms, and excessive loss of salt in the sweat
cys·tine \'sis-ˌtēn\ *n* [fr. its discovery in bladder stones] : a crystalline amino acid $C_6H_{12}N_2O_4S_2$ that is widespread in proteins (as keratins) and is a major metabolic sulfur source
cys·tin·uria \ˌsis-tə-'n(y)u̇r-ē-ə\ *n* [NL] : a familial metabolic defect characterized by excretion of excessive amounts of cystine in the urine
cys·ti·tis \sis-'tīt-əs\ *n* [NL] : inflammation of the urinary bladder
cys·to·carp \'sis-tə-ˌkärp\ *n* [ISV] : the fruiting structure produced in the red algae after fertilization
1cys·toid \'sis-ˌtȯid\ *adj* [ISV] : resembling a bladder
2cystoid *n* : a cystoid structure; *specif* : a mass resembling a cyst but lacking a membrane
cys·to·lith \'sis-tə-ˌlith\ *n* [G *zystolith*, fr. *zyst-* cyst- + *-lith*] **1** : a calcium carbonate concretion arising from the cellulose wall of cells of higher plants **2** : a urinary calculus
cys·to·scope \'sis-tə-ˌskōp\ *n* [ISV] : an instrument for the visual examination of the bladder and the passage of instruments under visual control — **cys·to·scop·ic** \ˌsis-tə-'skäp-ik\ *adj*
cyt- *or* **cyto-** *comb form* [G *zyt-, zyto-*, fr. Gk *kytos* hollow vessel — more at HIDE] **1** : cell ⟨*cyto*logy⟩ **2** : cytoplasm ⟨*cyto*kinesis⟩
cyt·as·ter \'sīt-ˌas-tər\ *n* [ISV] : ASTER 2

-cyte \ˌsīt\ *n comb form* [NL *-cyta*, fr. Gk *kytos* hollow vessel] : cell ⟨leuk*ocyte*⟩
Cyth·er·ea \ˌsith-ə-ˈrē-ə\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Kythereia*, fr. *Kythēra* Cythera, island associated with Aphrodite] : APHRODITE
Cyth·er·e·an \-ˈrē-ən\ *adj* : of or relating to the planet Venus
cy·ti·dine \ˈsit-ə-ˌdēn, ˈsīt-\ *n* [*cyto*sine + *-idine*] : a nucleoside containing cytosine
cy·ti·dyl·ic acid \ˌsit-ə-ˌdil-ik-, ˌsīt-\ *n* [*cytid*ine + *-yl* + *-ic*] : a nucleotide containing cytosine
cy·to·ar·chi·tec·ture \ˌsīt-ō-ˈär-kə-ˌtek-chər\ *n* : the cellular makeup of a bodily tissue or structure
cy·to·chem·is·try \-ˈkem-ə-strē\ *n* **1** : microscopical biochemistry **2** : the chemistry of cells — **cy·to·chem·i·cal** \-ˈkem-i-kəl\ *adj*
cy·to·chrome \ˈsīt-ə-ˌkrōm\ *n* : any of several intracellular hemoprotein respiratory pigments that are enzymes functioning as transporters of electrons to molecular oxygen by undergoing alternate oxidation and reduction
cytochrome c *n, often ital 2d c* : the most abundant and stable of the cytochromes
cytochrome oxidase *n* : an iron-porphyrin enzyme important in cell respiration because of its ability to catalyze the oxidation of reduced cytochrome c in the presence of oxygen
cy·to·dif·fer·en·ti·a·tion \ˈsīt-ō-ˌdif-ə-ˌren-chē-ˈā-shən\ *n* : the development of specialized cells (as muscle, blood, or nerve cells) from undifferentiated precursors
cy·to·ge·net·ic \ˌsīt-ō-jə-ˈnet-ik\ *adj* [ISV] : of or relating to cytogenetics — **cy·to·ge·net·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **cy·to·ge·net·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **cy·to·ge·net·i·cist** \-ˈnet-ə-səst\ *n*
cy·to·ge·net·ics \-jə-ˈnet-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [ISV] : a branch of biology that deals with the study of heredity and variation by the methods of both cytology and genetics
cy·to·ki·ne·sis \ˌsīt-ō-kə-ˈnē-səs, -kī-\ *n* [NL, fr. *cyt-* + Gk *kinēsis* motion] **1** : cytoplasmic changes accompanying karyokinesis **2** : cleavage of the cytoplasm into daughter cells following nuclear division — **cy·to·ki·net·ic** \-ˈnet-ik\ *adj*
cy·to·ki·nin \ˌsīt-ə-ˈkī-nən\ *n* [*cyt-* + *kinin*] : any of various plant growth substances that are usu. derivatives of adenine
cytol *abbr* cytological; cytology
cy·tol·o·gy \sī-ˈtäl-ə-jē\ *n* [ISV] **1** : a branch of biology dealing with the structure, function, multiplication, pathology, and life history of cells **2** : the cytological aspects of a process or structure — **cy·to·log·i·cal** \ˌsīt-ᵊl-ˈäj-i-kəl\ *or* **cy·to·log·ic** \-ˈäj-ik\ *adj* — **cy·to·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **cy·tol·o·gist** \sī-ˈtäl-ə-jəst\ *n*
cy·to·ly·sin \ˌsīt-ᵊl-ˈīs-ᵊn\ *n* [ISV] : a substance (as an antibody that lyses bacteria) producing cytolysis
cy·tol·y·sis \sī-ˈtäl-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] : the usu. pathologic dissolution or disintegration of cells — **cy·to·lyt·ic** \ˌsīt-ᵊl-ˈit-ik\ *adj*
cy·to·me·gal·ic \ˌsīt-ō-mi-ˈgal-ik\ *adj* [NL *cytomegalia* condition of having enlarged cells (fr. *cyt-* + *megal-* + *-ia*) + E *-ic*] : characterized by or causing the formation of enlarged cells
cy·to·meg·a·lo·vi·rus \ˌsīt-ə-ˌmeg-ə-lō-ˈvī-rəs\ *n* [NL, fr. *cytomegalia* + *-o-* + *virus*] : any of several viruses that cause cellular enlargement and formation of eosinophilic inclusion bodies esp. in the nucleus and include the causative agent of a severe disease esp. of newborns that usu. affects the salivary glands, brain, kidneys, liver, and lungs
cy·to·mor·phol·o·gy \ˌsīt-ə-mȯr-ˈfäl-ə-jē\ *n* : the morphology of cells — **cy·to·mor·pho·log·i·cal** \-ˌmȯr-fə-ˈläj-i-kəl\ *adj*
cy·to·path·ic \ˌsīt-ə-ˈpath-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, characterized by, or producing pathological changes in cells
cy·to·patho·gen·ic \-ˌpath-ə-ˈjen-ik\ *adj* [*cyt-* + *pathogenic*] : pathologic for or destructive to cells — **cy·to·patho·ge·nic·i·ty** \-jə-ˈnis-ət-ē\ *n*
cy·to·phil·ic \ˌsīt-ə-ˈfil-ik\ *adj* : having an affinity for cells ⟨~ antibodies⟩
cy·to·pho·tom·e·try \-fō-ˈtäm-ə-trē\ *n* : photometry applied to the study of the cell or its constituents — **cy·to·pho·to·met·ric** \-ˌfōt-ə-ˈme-trik\ *adj*
cy·to·plasm \ˈsīt-ə-ˌplaz-əm\ *n* [ISV] : the protoplasm of a cell external to the nuclear membrane — see CELL illustration — **cy·to·plas·mic** \ˌsīt-ə-ˈplaz-mik\ *adj* — **cy·to·plas·mi·cal·ly** \mi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cy·to·sine \ˈsīt-ə-ˌsēn\ *n* [ISV *cyt-* + *-ose* + *-ine*] : a pyrimidine base $C_4H_5N_3O$ that codes genetic information in the polynucleotide chain of DNA or RNA — compare ADENINE, GUANINE, THYMINE, URACIL
cy·to·sol \ˈsīt-ə-ˌsäl, -ˌsȯl\ *n* : the fluid portion of the cytoplasm exclusive of organelles and membranes that is usu. obtained as the supernatant fraction from high-speed centrifugation of a tissue homogenate
cy·to·stat·ic \ˌsīt-ə-ˈstat-ik\ *adj* : tending to retard cellular activity and multiplication ⟨~ treatment of tumor cells⟩ — **cytostatic** *n* — **cy·to·stat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cy·to·tax·on·o·my \ˌsīt-ō-(ˌ)tak-ˈsän-ə-mē\ *n* **1** : study of the relationships and classification of organisms using both classical systematic techniques and comparative studies of chromosomes **2** : the nuclear cytologic makeup of a kind of organism — **cy·to·tax·o·nom·ic** \-ˌtak-sə-ˈnäm-ik\ *adj* — **cy·to·tax·o·nom·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
cy·to·tech·nol·o·gist \ˌsīt-ə-tek-ˈnäl-ə-jəst\ *n* : a medical technician trained in the identification of cells and cellular abnormalities (as in cancer)
cy·to·tox·ic \ˌsīt-ə-ˈtäk-sik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a cytotoxin **2** : toxic to cells ⟨~ properties of platinum⟩ — **cy·to·tox·ic·i·ty** \-(ˌ)täk-ˈsis-ət-ē\ *n*
cy·to·tox·in \-ˈtäk-sən\ *n* : a substance (as a toxin or antibody) having a toxic effect on cells
cy·to·tro·pic \ˌsīt-ə-ˈtrō-pik, -ˈträp-ik\ *adj* : attracted to cells ⟨a ~ virus⟩
CZ *abbr* Canal Zone
czar \ˈzär\ *n* [NL *czar*, fr. Russ *tsar'*, fr. Goth *kaisar*, fr. Gk or L; Gk, fr. L *Caesar* — more at CAESAR] **1** : EMPEROR: *specif* : the ruler of Russia until the 1917 revolution **2** : one having great power or authority ⟨retained the title of undisputed ~ over taxation —Marjorie Hunter⟩ — **czar·dom** \ˈzärd-əm\ *n*
czar·das \ˈchär-ˌdash, -ˌdäsh\ *n, pl* **czardas** *same*\ [Hung *csárdás*] : a Hungarian dance to music in duple time in which the dancers start slowly and finish with a rapid whirl
czar·e·vitch \ˈzär-ə-ˌvich\ *n* [Russ *tsarevich*, fr. *tsar'* + *-evich*, patronymic suffix] : an heir apparent of a Russian czar
cza·ri·na \zä-ˈrē-nə\ *n* [prob. modif of G *zarin*, fr. *zar* czar, fr. Russ *tsar'*] : the wife of a czar
czar·ism \ˈzär-ˌiz-əm\ *n* **1** : the government of Russia under the czars **2** : autocratic rule — **czar·ist** \ˈzär-əst\ *n or adj*
cza·ri·tza \zä-ˈrit-sə, -ˈrēt-\ *n* [Russ *tsaritsa*, fem. of *tsar'*] : CZARINA
Czech \ˈchek\ *n* [Czech *Čech*] **1** : a native or inhabitant of Czechoslovakia; *esp* : a native or inhabitant of Bohemia, Moravia, or Silesia provinces **2** : the Slavic language of the Czechs — **Czech** *adj* — **Czech·ish** \-ish\ *adj*

D

[1]d \'dē\ *n, pl* **d's** *or* **ds** \'dēz\ *often cap, often attrib* **1 a** : the 4th letter of the English alphabet **b** : a graphic representation of this letter **c** : a speech counterpart of orthographic *d* **2** : 500 — see NUMBER table **3** : the 2d tone of a C-major scale **4** : a graphic device for reproducing the letter *d* **5** : one designated *d* esp. as the 4th in order or class **6 a** : a grade rating a student's work as poor in quality **b** : one graded or rated with a D **7** : something shaped like the letter D; *specif* : a semicircle on a pool table about 22 inches in diameter for use esp. in snooker

[2]d *abbr, often cap* **1** date **2** daughter **3** day **4** dead **5** deceased **6** deci- **7** degree **8** [L *denarius, denarii*] penny; pence **9** depart; departure **10** diameter **11** dimensional **12** distance **13** dorsal **14** drive; driving **15** Dutch

[3]d *symbol* differential

D *symbol* **1** derivative **2** deuterium

d- \dē, 'dē\ *prefix* [ISV, fr. *dextr-*] **1** : dextrorotatory ⟨*d*- tartaric acid⟩ **2** : having a similar configuration at a selected carbon atom to the configuration of dextrorotatory glyceraldehyde — usu. printed as a small capital ⟨D-fructose⟩

-d *symbol* — used after the figure 2 or 3 to indicate the ordinal number second or third ⟨2*d*⟩ ⟨53*d*⟩

'd \d, əd\ *vb* **1** : HAD **2** : WOULD **3** : DID

DA *abbr* **1** days after acceptance **2** delayed action **3** deposit account **4** Dictionary of Americanisms **5** district attorney **6** doctor of arts **7** documents against acceptance **8** documents for acceptance **9** don't answer

[1]dab \'dab\ *n* [ME *dabbe*] **1** : a sudden blow or thrust : POKE **2** : a gentle touch or stroke : PAT

[2]dab *vb* **dabbed; dab·bing** *vt* **1** : to strike or touch lightly : PAT **2** : to apply lightly or irregularly : DAUB ~ *vi* : to make a dab

[3]dab *n* **1** : DAUB **2** : a small amount

[4]dab *n* [AF *dabbe*] : FLATFISH; *esp* : any of several flounders (genus *Limanda*)

[5]dab *n* [perh. alter. of *adept*] *chiefly Brit* : a skillful person : EXPERT

DAB *abbr* Dictionary of American Biography

dab·ber \'dab-ər\ *n* **1** : one that dabs **2** : a pad, brush, or ball used to ink type or engraving plates

dab·ble \'dab-əl\ *vb* **dab·bled; dab·bling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [perh. freq. of *dab*] *vt* : to wet by splashing or by little dips or strokes : SPATTER ~ *vi* **1 a** : to paddle, splash, or play in or as if in water **b** : to reach with the bill to the bottom of shallow water in order to obtain food **2** : to work or concern oneself superficially ⟨~*s* in art⟩

dab·bler \-(ə-)lər\ *n* : one that dabbles: as **a** : one not deeply engaged in or concerned with something **b** : a duck (as a mallard or shoveler) that feeds by dabbling — called also *dabbling duck, puddle duck, river duck, surface feeder* ***syn*** see AMATEUR

dab·bling \-(ə-)liŋ\ *n* : a superficial or intermittent interest, investigation, or experiment ⟨his ~*s* in philosophy and art⟩

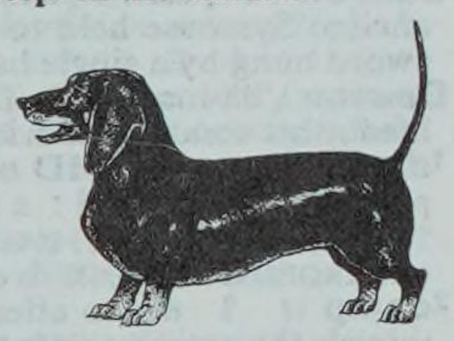
dab·chick \'dab-ˌchik\ *n* [prob. irreg. fr. obs. E *dop* (to dive) + E *chick*] : any of several small grebes

da ca·po \dä-'käp-(ˌ)ō, də-\ *adv or adj* [It] : from the beginning — used as a direction in music to repeat

dace \'dās\ *n, pl* **dace** [ME, fr. MF *dars*, fr. ML *darsus*] **1** : a small freshwater European cyprinid fish (*Leuciscus leuciscus*) **2** : any of various small No. American freshwater cyprinid fishes

da·cha \'däch-ə\ *n* [Russ, lit., gift; fr. its frequently being the gift of a ruler] : a Russian country cottage used esp. in the summer

dachs·hund \'däks-ˌhu̇nt, 'däk-sənt\ *n, pl* **dachshunds** *or* **dachs·hun·de** \'däks-ˌhu̇n-də\ [G, fr. *dachs* badger + *hund* dog] : a small dog of a breed of German origin with a long body, short legs, and long drooping ears



dachshund

Da·cron \'dā-ˌkrän, 'dak-ˌrän\ *trademark* — used for a synthetic polyester textile fiber

dac·tyl \'dak-tᵊl\ *n* [ME *dactile*, fr. L *dactylus*, fr. Gk *daktylos*, lit., finger; fr. the fact that the three syllables have the first one longest like the joints of the finger] : a metrical foot consisting of one long and two short syllables or of one stressed and two unstressed syllables (as in *tenderly*) — **dac·tyl·ic** \dak-'til-ik\ *adj or n*

dactyl- *or* **dactylo-** *comb form* [Gk *daktyl-, daktylo-*, fr. *daktylos*] : finger : toe : digit ⟨*dactyl*itis⟩

dac·ty·lol·o·gy \ˌdak-tə-'läl-ə-jē\ *n* : the art of communicating ideas by signs made with the fingers

-dac·ty·lous \'dak-tə-ləs\ *adj comb form* [Gk *-daktylos*, fr. *daktylos*] : having (such or so many) fingers or toes ⟨di*dactylous*⟩

dac·ty·lus \'dak-tə-ləs\ *n, pl* **-li** \-ˌlī, -ˌlē\ [NL, fr. Gk *daktylos* finger, toe] : one or more joints of the tarsus of some insects following the enlarged and modified first joint

dad \'dad\ *n* [prob. baby talk] : FATHER

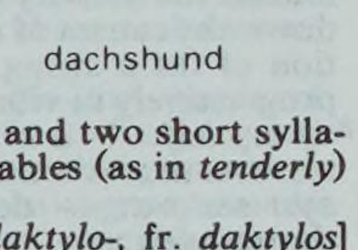
da·da \'däd-(ˌ)ä\ *n, often cap* [F] : a movement in art and literature based on deliberate irrationality and negation of traditional artistic values; *also* : the art and literature produced by this movement

da·da·ism \-ˌiz-əm\ *n, often cap* : DADA — **da·da·ist** \-ˌist\ *n, often cap* — **da·da·is·tic** \ˌdäd-ä-'is-tik\ *adj, often cap*

dad·dy \'dad-ē\ *n, pl* **daddies** : FATHER

dad·dy long·legs \ˌdad-ē-'lȯŋ-ˌlegz, -ˌlāgz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : any of various animals with long slender legs: as **a** : CRANE FLY **b** : HARVESTMAN

[1]da·do \'dād-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **dadoes** [It, die, plinth] **1 a** : the part of a pedestal of a column between the base and the surbase **b** : the lower part of an interior wall when specially decorated or faced; *also* : the decoration adorning this part of a wall **2** : a groove made by dadoing **3** : a tool (as a plane) for dadoing



dado 1a: *1* surbase, *2* dado, *3* base

[2]dado *vt* **da·doed; da·do·ing** **1** : to provide with a dado **2 a** : to set into a groove **b** : to cut a rectangular groove in (as a plank)

DAE *abbr* Dictionary of American English

dae·dal \'dēd-ᵊl\ *adj* [L *daedalus*, fr. Gk *daidalos*] **1 a** : INTRICATE ⟨the computer's ~ circuitry⟩ **b** : SKILLFUL, ARTISTIC ⟨words made accessible in a novel and ~ way —*Publisher's Weekly*⟩ **2** : adorned with many things ⟨visions of cloud and light and ~ earth are the airman's daily scene —Laurence Binyon⟩

Dae·da·lus \'ded-ᵊl-əs, 'dēd-\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Daidalos*] : the legendary builder of the Cretan labyrinth and the inventor of wings whereby he flew to escape imprisonment — **Dae·da·lian** \di-'dāl-yən\ *or* **Dae·da·lean** \di-'dāl-yən; ˌded-ᵊl-'ē-ən, ˌdēd-\ *adj*

dae·mon *var of* DEMON

daff \'daf\ *vt* [alter. of *doff*] **1** *archaic* : to thrust aside **2** *obs* : to put off (as with an excuse)

daf·fo·dil \'daf-ə-ˌdil\ *n* [prob. fr. D *de affodil* the asphodel, fr. *de* the (fr. MD) + *affodil* asphodel, fr. MF *afrodille*, fr. L *asphodelus*; akin to OHG *thaz* the — more at THAT, ASPHODEL] : any of various bulbous herbs (genus *Narcissus*); *esp* : a plant whose flowers have a large corona elongated into a trumpet — compare JONQUIL

daf·fy \'daf-ē\ *adj* **daf·fi·er; -est** [obs. E *daff*, n. (fool)] : CRAZY, FOOLISH ⟨the story is slight, but it has a ~ kind of logic —*N.Y. Times Bk. Rev.*⟩

daft \'daft\ *adj* [ME *dafte* gentle, stupid; akin to OE *gedæfte* mild, gentle, ME *defte* deft, L *faber* smith] **1 a** : SILLY, FOOLISH **b** : MAD, INSANE **2** *Scot* : frivolously gay — **daft·ly** *adv* — **daft·ness** \'daf(t)-nəs\ *n*

[1]dag \'dag\ *n* [ME *dagge*] **1** : a hanging end or shred **2** : matted or manure-coated wool

[2]dag *abbr* dekagram

dag·ger \'dag-ər\ *n* [ME] **1** : a short weapon for stabbing **2 a** : something that resembles a dagger **b** : a character † used as a reference mark or to indicate a death date

da·go \'dā-(ˌ)gō\ *n, pl* **dagos** *or* **dagoes** [alter. of earlier *diego*, fr. *Diego*, a common Sp given name] : a person of Italian or Spanish birth or descent — usu. used disparagingly

da·guerre·o·type \də-'ger-(ē-)ə-ˌtīp\ *n* [F *daguerréotype*, fr. L. J. M. *Daguerre* †1851 F painter + F *-o-* + *type*] : an early photograph produced on a silver or a silver-covered copper plate; *also* : the process of producing such photographs — **daguerreotype** *vt* — **da·guerre·o·typy** \-ˌtī-pē\ *n*

dah \'dä\ *n* [imit.] : a dash in radio or telegraphic code

DAH *abbr* Dictionary of American History

dahl·ia \'dal-yə, 'däl-, *U.S. also & Brit usu* 'dāl-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Anders *Dahl* †1789 Sw botanist] : any of a genus (*Dahlia*) of American tuberous-rooted composite herbs having opposite pinnate leaves and rayed flower heads and including many that are cultivated as ornamentals

[1]dai·ly \'dā-lē\ *adj* **1 a** : occurring, made, or acted upon every day **b** : issued every day or every weekday **c** : of or providing for every day **2 a** : reckoned by the day ⟨average ~ wage⟩ **b** : covering the period of or based on a day ⟨~ statistics⟩ — **dai·li·ness** *n*

syn DAILY, DIURNAL, QUOTIDIAN, CIRCADIAN *shared meaning element* : of each or every day. DAILY is used with reference to the ordinary concerns of the day or daytime ⟨*daily* food⟩ ⟨a *daily* duty⟩ Distinctively, it may refer to weekdays as contrasted with holidays and Sundays and sometimes also Saturdays, and it may imply an opposition to *nightly* ⟨the *daily* anodyne, the nightly draught —Alexander Pope⟩ DIURNAL is used in contrast to *nocturnal* and occurs chiefly in poetic or technical contexts ⟨rolled round in earth's *diurnal* course —William Wordsworth⟩ ⟨*diurnal* mammals, active only by day⟩ QUOTIDIAN emphasizes the quality of daily recurrence ⟨a *quotidian* fever⟩ and may attribute a commonplace, routine, or everyday quality to what it describes ⟨*quotidian* routine⟩ CIRCADIAN, a chiefly technical word of recent coinage, differs from *daily* or *quotidian* in implying only approximate equation with the twenty-four hour day ⟨*circadian* rhythms in insect behavior⟩

[2]daily *adv* : every day : every weekday

[3]daily *n, pl* **dailies** **1** : a newspaper published every weekday **2** *Brit* : a servant who works on a daily basis

daily double *n* : a system of betting (as on horse races) in which the bettor must pick the winners of two stipulated races in order to win

daily dozen *n* **1** : a series of physical exercises to be performed daily : WORKOUT **2** : a set of routine duties or tasks

dai·mon \'dī-ˌmōn\ *n, pl* **dai·mo·nes** \'dī-mə-ˌnēz\ *or* **daimons** [Gk *daimōn*] : DEMON 1, 3 — **dai·mon·ic** \dī-'män-ik\ *adj*

dai·myo *or* **dai·mio** \'dī-mē-ˌō, (')dī-'myō\ *n, pl* **-myos** *or* **-mios** [Jap *daimyō*] : a Japanese feudal baron

[1]dain·ty \'dānt-ē\ *n, pl* **dainties** [ME *deinte*, fr. OF *deintié*, fr. L *dignitat-, dignitas* dignity, worth] **1 a** : something delicious to the taste **b** : something choice or pleasing **2** *obs* : FASTIDIOUSNESS

[2]dainty *adj* **dain·ti·er; -est** **1 a** : tasting good : TASTY **b** : attractively prepared and served **2** : of a kind to appeal to a fastidious taste esp. because of fragile beauty or diminutive charm and grace **3** *obs* : CHARY, RELUCTANT **4 a** : marked by fastidious discrimination or finical taste **b** : showing avoidance of anything rough ***syn*** **1** see CHOICE ***ant*** gross **2** see NICE — **dain·ti·ly** \'dānt-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **dain·ti·ness** \'dānt-ē-nəs\ *n*

dai·qui·ri \'dī-kə-rē, 'dak-ə-\ *n* [*Daiquirí*, Cuba] : a cocktail made of rum, lime juice, and sugar

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ə abut ᵊ kitten ər further a back ā bake ä cot, cart
au̇ out ch chin e less ē easy g gift i trip ī life
j joke ŋ sing ō flow ȯ flaw ȯi coin th thin t͟h this
ü loot u̇ foot y yet yü few yu̇ furious zh vision

dairy \'de(ə)r-ē, 'da(ə)r-\ *n, pl* **dair·ies** [ME *deyerie,* fr. *deye* dairymaid, fr. OE *dǣge* kneader of bread; akin to OE *dāg* dough — more at DOUGH] **1** : a room, building, or establishment where milk is kept and butter or cheese is made **2 a** : the department of farming or of a farm that is concerned with the production of milk, butter, and cheese **b** : a farm devoted to such production **3** : an establishment for the sale or distribution chiefly of milk and milk products

dairy breed *n* : a cattle breed developed chiefly for milk production

dairy cattle *n pl* : cattle of one of the dairy breeds

dairy·ing \'der-ē-iŋ\ *n* : the business of operating a dairy

dairy·maid \-ē-ˌmād\ *n* : a woman employed in a dairy

dairy·man \-ē-mən, -ˌman\ *n* : one who operates a dairy farm or works in a dairy

da·is \'dā-əs, 'dī-\ *n* [ME *deis,* fr. OF, fr. L *discus* dish, quoit — more at DISH] : a raised platform in a hall or large room

dai·shi·ki \dī-'shē-kē\ *var of* DASHIKI

dai·sy \'dā-zē\ *n, pl* **daisies** [ME *dayeseye,* fr. OE *dægesēage,* fr. *dæg* day + *ēage* eye] **1** : a composite plant (as of the genera *Bellis* or *Chrysanthemum*) having a flower head with well-developed ray flowers usu. arranged in one or a few whorls: as **a** : a low European herb (*Bellis perennis*) with white or pink ray flowers — called also *English daisy* **b** : a leafy-stemmed perennial herb (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) that has long white ray flowers and a yellow disk and is often a troublesome weed in parts of the U.S. — called also *oxeye daisy* **2** : the flower head of a daisy **3** : a first-rate person or thing

daisy ham *n* : a boned and smoked piece of pork from the shoulder

Da·ko·ta \də-'kōt-ə\ *n, pl* **Dakotas** *also* **Dakota** **1** : a member of an Amerindian people of the northern Mississippi valley **2** : the language of the Dakota people

dal *abbr* dekaliter

Da·lai La·ma \ˌdäl-ˌī-'läm-ə, ˌdäl-ˌā-, ˌdal-\ *n* [Mongolian *dalai* ocean] : the spiritual head of Lamaism

dal·a·pon \'dal-ə-ˌpän\ *n* [perh. fr. *di-* + *alpha* + *propionic* acid] : an herbicide that kills monocotyledonous plants selectively and is used esp. on unwanted grasses

da·la·si \dä-'läs-ē\ *n, pl* **dalasi** [native name in The Gambia] — see MONEY table

dale \'dā(ə)l\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *dæl;* akin to OHG *tal* valley, Gk *tholos* rotunda] : VALE, VALLEY ⟨went riding over hill and ~⟩

dales·man \'dā(ə)lz-mən\ *n, Brit* : one living or born in a dale

da·leth \'däl-ˌeth, -ˌet\ *n* [Heb *dāleth,* fr. *deleth* door] : the 4th letter of the Hebrew alphabet — see ALPHABET table

dal·li·ance \'dal-ē-ən(t)s\ *n* : an act of dallying: as **a** : FOREPLAY **b** : frivolous action : TRIFLING

Dal·lis grass \'dal-əs-\ *n* [perh. alter. of *Dallas,* Texas] : a tall tufted tropical perennial grass (*Paspalum dilatatum*) introduced as a pasture and forage grass in the southern U.S.

Dall sheep \'dȯl-\ *or* **Dall's sheep** \'dȯlz-\ *n* [William H. *Dall* †1927 Am naturalist] : a large white wild sheep (*Ovis montana dalli* or *O. dalli*) of northwestern No. America

dal·ly \'dal-ē\ *vi* **dal·lied; dal·ly·ing** [ME *dalyen,* fr. AF *dalier*] **1 a** : to act playfully; *esp* : to play amorously **b** : to deal lightly : TOY ⟨accused him of ~*ing* with a serious problem⟩ **2 a** : to waste time **b** : LINGER, DAWDLE ***syn*** see TRIFLE — **dal·li·er** *n*

dal·ma·tian \dal-'mā-shən\ *n, often cap* [fr. the supposed origin of the breed in Dalmatia] : any of a breed of large dogs having a white short-haired coat with black or brown spots

dal·mat·ic \dal-'mat-ik\ *n* [LL *dalmatica,* fr. L, fem. of *dalmaticus* Dalmatian, fr. *Dalmatia*] : a wide-sleeved overgarment with slit sides worn by a deacon or prelate; *also* : a similar robe worn by a British sovereign at his coronation



dalmatic

dal segno \däl-'sān-(ˌ)yō\ *adv* [It, from the sign] — used as a direction in music to return to the sign that marks the beginning of a repeat

¹dam \'dam\ *n* [ME *dam, dame* lady, dam — more at DAME] : a female parent — used esp. of a domestic animal

²dam *n* [ME] **1 a** : a barrier preventing the flow of water or of loose solid materials (as soil or snow); *esp* : a barrier built across a watercourse for impounding water **b** : a barrier to check the flow of liquid, gas, or air **2** : a body of water confined by a dam

³dam *vt* **dammed; dam·ming** **1** : to provide or restrain with a dam **2** : to stop up : BLOCK

⁴dam *abbr* dekameter

¹dam·age \'dam-ij\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. *dam* damage, fr. L *damnum*] **1** : loss or harm resulting from injury to person, property, or reputation **2** *pl* : compensation in money imposed by law for loss or injury **3** : EXPENSE, COST ⟨"What's the ~?" he said, asking how much his bill was⟩

²damage *vt* **dam·aged; dam·ag·ing** : to cause damage to ***syn*** see INJURE — **dam·ag·er** *n*

dam·ag·ing *adj* : causing or able to cause damage : INJURIOUS ⟨has a ~ effect on wildlife⟩ — **dam·ag·ing·ly** \'dam-ij-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

¹dam·a·scene \'dam-ə-ˌsēn, ˌdam-ə-'\ *n* **1** *cap* : a native or inhabitant of Damascus **2** : DAMASK 2b

²damascene *adj* **1** *cap* : of, relating to, or characteristic of Damascus or the Damascenes **2** : of or relating to damask or the art of damascening

³damascene *vt* **-scened; -scen·ing** [MF *damasquiner,* fr. *damasquin* of Damascus] : to ornament (as iron or steel) with wavy patterns like those of watered silk or with inlaid work of precious metals

Da·mas·cus steel \də-ˌmas-kə(s)-\ *n* : hard elastic steel ornamented with wavy patterns and used esp. for sword blades

¹dam·ask \'dam-əsk\ *n* [ME *damaske,* fr. ML *damascus,* fr. *Damascus*] **1** : a firm lustrous fabric (as of linen, cotton, silk, or rayon) made with flat patterns in a satin weave on a plain-woven ground on jacquard looms **2 a** : DAMASCUS STEEL **b** : the characteristic markings of this steel **3** : a grayish red

²damask *adj* **1** : made of or resembling damask **2** : of the color damask

damask rose *n* [obs. *Damask* of Damascus, fr. obs. *Damask* Damascus] : a large hardy fragrant pink rose (*Rosa damascena*) that is cultivated in Asia Minor as a source of attar of roses and is a parent of many hybrid perpetual roses

dame \'dām\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *domina,* fem. of *dominus* master; akin to L *domus* house — more at TIMBER] **1** : a woman of rank, station, or authority: as **a** *archaic* : the mistress of a household **b** : the wife or daughter of a lord **c** : a female member of an order of knighthood — used as a title prefixed to the given name **2 a** : an elderly woman **b** : WOMAN

dame school *n* : a school in which the rudiments of reading and writing were taught by a woman in her own home

dame's violet *n* : a Eurasian perennial plant (*Hesperis matronalis*) widely cultivated for its spikes of showy, single or double, and fragrant white or purple flowers — called also *dame's rocket*

dam·mar *or* **dam·ar** *also* **dam·mer** \'dam-ər\ *n* [Malay *damar*] **1** : any of various hard resins derived esp. from evergreen trees (genus *Agathis*) of the pine family **2** : a clear to yellow resin obtained in Malaya from several timber trees (family Dipterocarpaceae) and used in varnishes and inks

dam·mit \'dam-ət\ : damn it

¹damn \'dam\ *vb* **damned; damn·ing** \'dam-iŋ\ [ME *dampnen,* fr. OF *dampner,* fr. L *damnare,* fr. *damnum* damage, loss, fine] *vt* **1** : to condemn to a punishment or fate; *esp* : to condemn to hell **2 a** : to condemn vigorously and often irascibly for some real or fancied fault or defect ⟨~*ed* the storm for their delay⟩ **b** : to condemn as a failure by public criticism **3** : to bring ruin on **4** : to swear at : CURSE ~ *vi* : CURSE, SWEAR ***syn*** see EXECRATE

²damn *n* **1** : the utterance of the word *damn* as a curse **2** : a minimum amount or degree (as of care or consideration) : the least bit

³damn *adj or adv* : DAMNED ⟨a ~ nuisance⟩ ⟨ran ~ fast⟩ — **damn well** : beyond doubt or question : CERTAINLY ⟨knew *damn well* what would happen⟩

dam·na·ble \'dam-nə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : liable to or deserving condemnation **2** : very bad : DETESTABLE ⟨~ weather⟩ — **dam·na·ble·ness** *n* — **dam·na·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

dam·na·tion \dam-'nā-shən\ *n* : the act of damning : the state of being damned

dam·na·to·ry \'dam-nə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : expressing, imposing, or causing condemnation : CONDEMNATORY

¹damned \'dam(d)\ *adj* **damned·er** \'dam-dər\; **damned·est** *or* **damnd·est** \-dəst\ **1** : DAMNABLE ⟨hoping to get away from this ~ smog⟩ **2** : COMPLETE, UTTER **3** : EXTRAORDINARY — used in the superlative ⟨the ~*est* contraption he ever saw⟩

²damned \'dam(d)\ *adv* : EXTREMELY, VERY ⟨a ~ good job⟩

damned·est *or* **damnd·est** \'dam-dəst\ *n* : UTMOST, BEST — used chiefly in the phrase *do one's damnedest* ⟨doing his ~ to succeed⟩

dam·ni·fy \'dam-nə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** [MF *damnifier,* fr. OF, fr. LL *damnificare,* fr. L *damnificus* injurious, fr. *damnum* damage] : to cause loss or damage to ⟨intimidation — the freedom to ~ another person with impunity —Henry Hazlitt⟩

damn·ing \'dam-iŋ\ *adj* **1** : bringing damnation ⟨a ~ sin⟩ **2** : causing or leading to condemnation or ruin ⟨presented some ~ testimony⟩ — **damn·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

Dam·o·cles \'dam-ə-ˌklēz\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Damoklēs*] : a courtier of ancient Syracuse held to have been seated at a banquet beneath a sword hung by a single hair — **Dam·o·cle·an** \ˌdam-ə-'klē-ən\ *adj*

Da·mon \'dā-mən\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Damōn*] : a Sicilian who pledges his life for his condemned friend Pythias

¹damp \'damp\ *n* [MD or MLG, vapor; akin to OHG *damph* vapor, OE *dim* dim] **1** : a noxious gas esp. in a coal mine **2** : MOISTURE: **a** : HUMIDITY, DAMPNESS **b** *archaic* : FOG, MIST **3 a** : DISCOURAGEMENT, CHECK **b** *archaic* : DEPRESSION, DEJECTION

²damp *vt* **1 a** : to affect with a noxious gas : CHOKE **b** : to diminish the activity or intensity of — often used with *down* ⟨~*ing* down the causes of inflation⟩ **c** : to check the vibration or oscillation of (as a string or voltage) **2** : DAMPEN ~ *vi* : to diminish progressively in vibration or oscillation

³damp *adj* **1 a** *archaic* : being confused, bewildered, or shocked : STUPEFIED **b** : DEPRESSED, DULL **2** : slightly or moderately wet ***syn*** see WET — **damp·ish** \'dam-pish\ *adj* — **damp·ly** *adv* — **damp·ness** *n*

damp·en \'dam-pən\ *vb* **damp·ened; damp·en·ing** \'damp-(ə-)niŋ\ *vt* **1** : to check or diminish the activity or vigor of : DEADEN ⟨the heat ~*ed* our spirits⟩ **2** : to make damp ⟨the shower barely ~*ed* the ground⟩ **3** : DAMP 1c ~ *vi* **1** : to become damp **2** : to become deadened or depressed — **damp·en·er** \'damp-(ə-)nər\ *n*

damp·er \'dam-pər\ *n* **1** : a device that damps: as **a** : a valve or plate (as in the flue of a furnace) for regulating the draft **b** : a small felted block to stop the vibration of a piano string **c** : a device designed to bring a mechanism to rest with minimum oscillation **2** : a dulling or deadening influence ⟨put a ~ on the celebration⟩

damp·ing–off \ˌdam-piŋ-'ȯf\ *n* : a diseased condition of seedlings or cuttings caused by fungi and marked by wilting or rotting

dam·sel \'dam-zəl\ *also* **dam·o·sel** *or* **dam·o·zel** \'dam-ə-ˌzel\ *n* [ME *damesel,* fr. OF *dameisele,* fr. (assumed) VL *domnicella* young noblewoman, dim. of L *domina* lady] : a young woman: **a** *archaic* : a young unmarried woman of noble birth **b** : GIRL

dam·sel·fly \'dam-zəl-ˌflī\ *n* : any of numerous odonate insects (suborder Zygoptera) distinguished from dragonflies by laterally projecting eyes and petiolate wings folded above the body when at rest

dam·son \'dam-zən\ *n* [ME, fr. L *prunum damascenum,* lit., plum of Damascus] : an Asiatic plum (*Prunus insititia* or *P. domestica insititia*) cultivated for its small acid purple fruit; *also* : its fruit

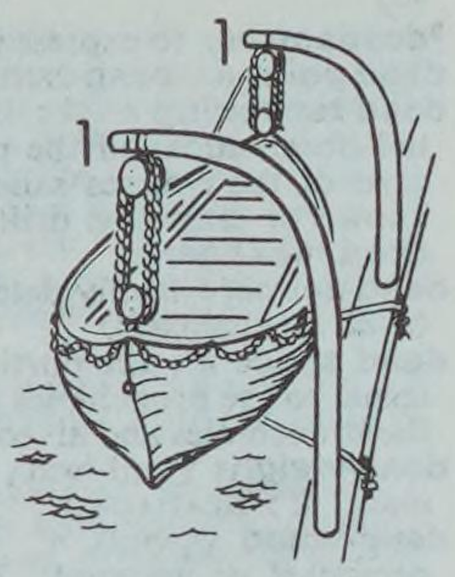
[1]Dan \'dan\ *n* [Heb *Dān*] : a son of Jacob and the traditional eponymous ancestor of one of the tribes of Israel
[2]Dan \(')dan\ *n* [ME, title of members of religious orders, fr. MF, fr. ML *domnus*, fr. L *dominus* master] *archaic* : MASTER, SIR
[3]Dan *abbr* **1** Daniel **2** Danish
Dan·ae \'dan-ə-ˌē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Danaē*] : a princess of Argos visited by Zeus in the form of a shower of gold and by him the mother of Perseus
[1]dance \'dan(t)s\ *vb* **danced; danc·ing** [ME *dauncen*, fr. OF *dancier*] *vi* **1** : to engage in or perform a dance **2** : to move quickly up and down or about ~ *vt* **1** : to perform or take part in as a dancer **2** : to cause to dance **3** : to bring into a specified condition by dancing — **dance·able** \'dan(t)-sə-bəl\ *adj* — **danc·er** *n*
[2]dance *n, often attrib* **1** : an act or instance of dancing **2** : a series of rhythmic and patterned bodily movements usu. performed to music **3** : a social gathering for dancing **4** : a piece of music by which dancing may be guided **5** : the art of dancing
D & C *abbr* dilatation and curettage
dan·de·li·on \'dan-dᵊl-ˌī-ən\ *n* [MF *dent de lion*, lit., lion's tooth] : any of a genus (*Taraxacum*) of yellow-flowered composite plants; *esp* : an herb (*T. officinale*) sometimes grown as a potherb and nearly cosmopolitan as a weed
dan·der \'dan-dər\ *n* [alter. of *dandruff*] **1** : minute scales from hair, feathers, or skin that may be allergenic **2** : ANGER, TEMPER ⟨got his ~ up and shouted at his wife⟩
dan·di·a·cal \dan-'dī-ə-kəl\ *adj* [*[1]dandy* + *-acal* (as in *demoniacal*)] : of, relating to, or suggestive of a dandy — **dan·di·a·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
Dan·die Din·mont terrier \ˌdan-dē-'din-ˌmänt-\ *n* [*Dandie Dinmont*, character owning 2 such dogs in the novel *Guy Mannering* by Sir Walter Scott] : a terrier of a breed characterized by short legs, a long body, pendulous ears, a rough coat, and a full silky topknot
dan·di·fy \'dan-di-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** : to cause to resemble a dandy — **dan·di·fi·ca·tion** \ˌdan-di-fə-'kā-shən\ *n*
dan·dle \'dan-dᵊl\ *vt* **dan·dled; dan·dling** \-(d)liŋ, -dᵊl-iŋ\ [origin unknown] **1** : to move (as a baby) up and down in one's arms or on one's knee in affectionate play **2** : PAMPER, PET
dan·druff \'dan-drəf\ *n* [prob. fr. *dand-* (origin unknown) + *-ruff*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *hrūfa* scab; akin to OHG *hruf* scurf, Lith *kraupus* rough] : a scurf that forms on the scalp and comes off in small white or grayish scales — **dan·druffy** \-ē\ *adj*
[1]dan·dy \'dan-dē\ *n, pl* **dandies** [prob. short for *jack-a-dandy*, fr. *[1]jack* + *a* (of) + *dandy* (origin unknown)] **1** : a man who gives exaggerated attention to dress **2** : something excellent in its class **3** : a small 2-masted sailboat with a modified ketch rig — **dan·dy·ish** \-dē-ish\ *adj* — **dan·dy·ish·ly** *adv*
[2]dandy *adj* **dan·di·er; -est** **1** : of, relating to, or suggestive of a dandy : FOPPISH **2** : very good : FIRST-RATE ⟨a ~ place to stay⟩
dan·dy·ism \'dan-dē-ˌiz-əm\ *n* **1** : the style or conduct of a dandy **2** : a literary and artistic style of the latter part of the 19th century marked by artificiality and excessive refinement
Dane \'dān\ *n* [ME *Dan*, fr. ON *Danr*] **1** : a native or inhabitant of Denmark **2** : a person of Danish descent
dane·geld \'dān-ˌgeld\ *n, often cap* : an annual tax believed to have been imposed orig. to buy off Danish invaders in England or to maintain forces to oppose them but continued as a land tax
Dane·law \'dān-ˌlȯ\ *n* **1** : the law in force in the part of England held by the Danes before the Norman Conquest **2** : the part of England under the Danelaw
[1]dan·ger \'dān-jər\ *n* [ME *daunger*, fr. OF *dangier*, alter. of *dongier*, fr. (assumed) VL *dominiarium*, fr. L *dominium* ownership] **1 a** *archaic* : JURISDICTION **b** *obs* : REACH, RANGE **2** *obs* : HARM, DAMAGE **3** : exposure or liability to injury, pain, or loss ⟨a place where children could play without ~⟩ **4** : a case or cause of danger ⟨the ~s of mining⟩
[2]danger *vt, archaic* : ENDANGER
dan·ger·ous \'dānj-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* **1** : exposing to or involving danger **2** : able or likely to inflict injury — **dan·ger·ous·ly** *adv* — **dan·ger·ous·ness** *n*
syn DANGEROUS, HAZARDOUS, PRECARIOUS, PERILOUS, RISKY *shared meaning element* : bringing or involving the chance of loss or injury ***ant*** safe, secure
[1]dan·gle \'daŋ-gəl\ *vb* **dan·gled; dan·gling** \-g(ə-)liŋ\ [prob. of Scand origin; akin to Dan *dangle* to dangle] *vi* **1** : to hang loosely and usu. so as to be able to swing freely **2** : to be a hanger-on or a dependent **3** : to occur in a sentence without having a normally expected syntactic relation to the rest of the sentence ⟨the word *climbing* in "Climbing the mountain the cabin came into view" is *dangling*⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to dangle : SWING **2** : to keep hanging uncertainly — **dan·gler** \-g(ə-)lər\ *n* — **dan·gling·ly** \-g(ə-)liŋ-lē\ *adv*
[2]dangle *n* **1** : the action of dangling **2** : something that dangles
Dan·iel \'dan-yəl *also* 'dan-ᵊl\ *n* [Heb *Dānī'ēl*] **1** : the Jewish hero of the Book of Daniel who as an exile in Babylon interprets dreams, gives accounts of apocalyptic visions, and is divinely delivered from a den of lions **2** : a book of narratives, visions, and prophecies in canonical Jewish and Christian Scripture — see BIBLE table
da·nio \'dā-nē-ˌō\ *n, pl* **da·ni·os** [NL, genus name] : any of several small brightly colored Asiatic cyprinid fishes
[1]Dan·ish \'dā-nish\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of Denmark, the Danes, or the Danish language
[2]Danish *n* **1** : the Germanic language of the Danes **2** *pl* **Danish** : a piece of Danish pastry
Danish pastry *n* : a pastry made of a rich yeast-raised dough
dank \'daŋk\ *adj* [ME *danke*] : unpleasantly moist or wet ***syn*** see WET — **dank·ly** *adv* — **dank·ness** *n*
dan·seur \dä[n]-'sər, dän-\ *n* [F, fr. *danser* to dance] : a male ballet dancer
dan·seuse \dä[n]-'sə(r)z, dän-'süz\ *n* [F, fem. of *danseur*] : a female ballet dancer
Dan·te·an \'dant-ē-ən\ *n* : a student or admirer of Dante
daph·ne \'daf-nē\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, laurel, fr. Gk *daphnē*] : any of a genus (*Daphne*) of Eurasian shrubs of the mezereon family with apetalous flowers whose colored calyx resembles a corolla
Daph·ne \'daf-nē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Daphnē*] : a nymph transformed into a laurel tree and thus enabled to escape the pursuing Apollo
daph·nia \'daf-nē-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name] : any of a genus (*Daphnia*) of minute freshwater branchiopod crustaceans with biramous antennae used as locomotor organs — compare WATER FLEA
Daph·nis \'daf-nəs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk] : a son of Hermes who gained renown as a musician and a reputation for being the father of pastoral poetry
dap·per \'dap-ər\ *adj* [ME *dapyr*, fr. MD *dapper* quick, strong; akin to OHG *tapfar* heavy, OSlav *debelŭ* thick] **1 a** : neat and trim in appearance **b** : excessively spruce and stylish **2** : alert and lively in movement and manners — **dap·per·ly** *adv* — **dap·per·ness** *n*
[1]dap·ple \'dap-əl\ *n* [ME *dappel-gray*, adj., gray variegated with spots of a different color] **1** : any of numerous usu. cloudy and rounded spots or patches of a color or shade different from their background **2** : the quality or state of being dappled ⟨the ~ of the leaf-filtered light —Anthony West⟩ **3** : a dappled animal
[2]dapple *vb* **dap·pled; dap·pling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* : to mark with dapples ~ *vi* : to become marked with dapples
DAR *abbr* Daughters of the American Revolution
darb \'därb\ *n* [perh. alter. of *[5]dab*] : one that is extremely attractive or desirable
Dar·by and Joan \ˌdär-bē-ən-'jō(-ə)n, -jō-'an\ *n* [prob. fr. *Darby & Joan*, couple in an 18th cent. song] : a happily married usu. elderly couple
Dard \'därd\ *n* : a complex of Indic languages spoken in the upper valley of the Indus — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table
Dar·dan \'därd-ᵊn\ *adj or n* [L *Dardanus*, fr. Gk *Dardanos*] *archaic* : TROJAN
Dar·da·ni·an \där-'dā-nē-ən\ *adj* : TROJAN
Dar·dic \'därd-ik\ *n* : DARD
[1]dare \'da(ə)r, 'de(ə)r\ *vb* **dared; dar·ing** [ME *dar* (1st & 3d sing. pres. indic.), fr. OE *dear;* akin to OHG *gitar* (1st & 3d sing. pres. indic.) dare, L *infestus* hostile] *verbal auxiliary* : to be sufficiently courageous to ⟨no one *dared* say a word⟩ ~ *vi* : to have sufficient courage ⟨try it if you ~⟩ ~ *vt* **1 a** : to challenge to perform an action esp. as a proof of courage ⟨*dared* him to jump⟩ **b** : to confront boldly : DEFY ⟨*dared* the anger of his family⟩ **2** : to have the courage to contend against, venture, or try ⟨the actress *dared* a new interpretation of this classic role⟩ — **dar·er** \'dar-ər, 'der-\ *n*
[2]dare *n* **1** : an act or instance of daring : CHALLENGE ⟨foolishly took a ~⟩ **2** : imaginative or vivacious boldness : DARING
[1]dare·dev·il \'da(ə)r-ˌdev-əl, 'de(ə)r-\ *n* : a recklessly bold person — **dare·dev·il·ry** \-əl-rē\ *n* — **dare·dev·il·try** \-əl-trē\ *n*
[2]daredevil *adj* : recklessly and often ostentatiously daring ***syn*** see ADVENTUROUS
dareful *adj, obs* : DARING
dare·say \(')da(ə)r-'sā, (')de(ə)r-\ *vt* : venture to say : think probable — used in pres. 1st sing. ~ *vi* : SUPPOSE, AGREE — used in pres. 1st sing.
[1]dar·ing *adj* : venturesomely bold in action or thought ***syn*** see ADVENTUROUS — **dar·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv* — **dar·ing·ness** *n*
[2]daring *n* : venturesome boldness
Dar·jee·ling \där-'jē-liŋ\ *n* [*Darjeeling*, India] : a tea of high quality grown esp. in the mountainous districts of northern India
[1]dark \'därk\ *adj* [ME *derk*, fr. OE *deorc;* akin to OHG *tarchannen* to hide, Gk *thrassein* to trouble] **1 a** : devoid or partially devoid of light : not receiving, reflecting, transmitting, or radiating light **b** : transmitting only a portion of light **2 a** : wholly or partially black **b** *of a color* : of low or very low lightness **3 a** : arising from or showing evil traits or desires : EVIL ⟨the ~ powers that lead to war⟩ **b** : DISMAL, SAD ⟨had a ~ view of the future⟩ **c** : lacking knowledge or culture **4** : not clear to the understanding **5** : not fair : SWARTHY ⟨her ~ good looks⟩ **6** : SECRET ⟨kept his plans ~⟩ **7** : possessing depth and richness ⟨the ~, voluminous abundance of his voice —Irving Kolodin⟩ **8** : closed to the public ⟨the theater is ~ in the summer⟩ — **dark·ish** \'där-kish\ *adj* — **dark·ly** *adv* — **dark·ness** *n*
syn **1** DARK, DIM, DUSKY, MURKY, GLOOMY *shared meaning element* : more or less destitute of light ***ant*** light
2 see OBSCURE ***ant*** lucid
[2]dark *n* **1 a** : absence of light : DARKNESS **b** : a place or time of little or no light : NIGHT, NIGHTFALL **2** : a dark or deep color — **in the dark** **1** : in secrecy ⟨most of his dealings were done *in the dark*⟩ **2** : in ignorance ⟨kept the public *in the dark* about the agreement⟩
[3]dark *vi, obs* : to grow dark ~ *vt* : to make dark
dark adaptation *n* : the phenomena including dilatation of the pupil, increase in retinal sensitivity, shift of the region of maximum luminosity toward the blue, and regeneration of visual purple by which the eye adapts to conditions of reduced illumination — **dark–adapt·ed** \ˌdär-kə-'dap-təd\ *adj*
Dark Ages *n pl* : the period from about A.D. 476 to about 1000; *broadly* : MIDDLE AGES
dark·en \'där-kən\ *vb* **dark·ened; dark·en·ing** \'därk-(ə-)niŋ\ *vi* : to grow dark : become obscured ~ *vt* **1** : to make dark **2** : to make less clear : OBSCURE ⟨the financial crisis ~*ed* the future of the company⟩ **3** : TAINT, TARNISH **4** : to cast a gloom over **5** : to make of darker color — **dark·en·er** \'därk-(ə-)nər\ *n*
dark field *n* : the dark area that serves as the background for objects viewed in an ultramicroscope
dark–field microscope *n* : ULTRAMICROSCOPE

dark horse *n* **1** : a usu. little known contestant (as a racehorse) that makes an unexpectedly good showing **2** : a political candidate unexpectedly nominated usu. as a compromise between factions
dark lantern *n* : a lantern that can be closed to conceal the light
dar·kle \'där-kəl\ *vi* **dar·kled; dar·kling** \-k(ə-)liŋ\ [back= formation fr. *darkling*] **1** : to become concealed in the dark **2 a** : to grow dark **b** : to become clouded or gloomy
¹dark·ling \'därk-liŋ\ *adv* [ME *derkelyng*, fr. *derk* dark + *-lyng* -ling] : in the dark
²dark·ling *adj* **1** : DARK **2** : done or taking place in the dark
darkling beetle *n* : a usu. hard-bodied black sluggish terrestrial plant-eating beetle (family Tenebrionidae)
dark reaction *n* : the synthetic phase of photosynthesis that does not require the presence of light and that involves the reduction of carbon dioxide to form carbohydrate
dark·room \'därk-ˌkrüm, -ˌkru̇m\ *n* : a room with no light or with a safelight for handling and processing light-sensitive photographic materials
dark·some \'därk-səm\ *adj* : gloomily somber : DARK
¹dar·ling \'där-liŋ\ *n* [ME *derling*, fr. OE *dēorling*, fr. *dēore* dear] **1** : a dearly loved person **2** : FAVORITE
²darling *adj* **1** : dearly loved : FAVORITE **2** : very pleasing : CHARMING — **dar·ling·ly** \-liŋ-lē\ *adv* — **dar·ling·ness** *n*
¹darn \'därn\ *vb* [prob. fr. F dial. *darner*] *vt* **1** : to mend with interlacing stitches **2** : to embroider by filling in with long running or interlacing stitches ~ *vi* : to do darning — **darn·er** *n*
²darn *n* : a place that has been darned ⟨a sweater full of ~*s*⟩
³darn *vb* [euphemism] : DAMN — **darned** \'därn(d)\ *adj or adv*
⁴darn *adj or adv* : DAMNED
⁵darn *n* : DAMN
dar·nel \'därn-ᵊl\ *n* [ME] : any of several usu. weedy grasses (genus *Lolium*)
darning needle *n* **1** : a long needle with a large eye for use in darning **2** : DRAGONFLY, DAMSELFLY
¹dart \'därt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *tart* dart] **1 a** *archaic* : a light spear **b** (1) : a small missile usu. with a pointed shaft at one end and feathers at the other (2) *pl but sing in constr* : a game in which darts are thrown at a target **2 a** : something projected with sudden speed; *esp* : a sharp glance **b** : something causing sudden pain or distress ⟨~*s* of sarcasm⟩ **3** : something with a slender pointed shaft or outline; *specif* : a stitched tapering fold in a garment **4** : a quick movement ⟨made a ~ for the door⟩
²dart *vt* **1** : to throw with a sudden movement **2** : to thrust or move with sudden speed ~ *vi* : to move suddenly or rapidly ⟨~*ed* across the street⟩
dart board *n* : a usu. circular board (as of cork) used as a target in the game of darts
dart·er \'därt-ər\ *n* **1** : SNAKEBIRD **2** : any of numerous small American freshwater percoid fishes (esp. genera *Ammocrypta*, *Etheostoma*, and *Percina* of the family Percidae)
Dar·win·ian \där-'win-ē-ən\ *adj* : of or relating to Charles Darwin, his theories, or his followers — **Darwinian** *n*
Dar·win·ism \'där-wə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* : a theory of the origin and perpetuation of new species of animals and plants that offspring of a given organism vary, that natural selection favors the survival of some of these variations over others, that new species have arisen and may continue to arise by these processes, and that widely divergent groups of plants and animals have arisen from the same ancestors; *broadly* : biological evolutionism — **Dar·win·ist** \-wə-nəst\ *n* — **darwinist** *or* **dar·win·is·tic** \ˌdär-wə-'nis-tik\ *adj, often cap*
Dar·win's finches \ˌdär-wənz-\ *n pl* [Charles *Darwin*] : finches of a subfamily (Geospizinae) having great variation in bill shape and confined mostly to the Galapagos islands
Dar·win tulip \ˌdär-wən-\ *n* : a tall late-flowering tulip with the flowers single and of one color
das *abbr* dekastere
¹dash \'dash\ *vb* [ME *dasshen*] *vt* **1** : to knock, hurl, or thrust violently **2** : to break by striking or knocking **3** : SPLASH, SPATTER **4 a** : DESTROY, RUIN ⟨the news ~*ed* his hopes⟩ **b** : DEPRESS, SADDEN **c** : to make ashamed **5** : to affect by mixing in something different ⟨milk ~*ed* with brandy⟩ ⟨his delight was ~*ed* with bitterness over the delay⟩ **6** : to complete, execute, or finish off hastily — used with *down* or *off* ⟨~*ed* down a drink ⟩ ⟨~ off a letter⟩ **7** [euphemism]: ¹DAMN 4 ~ *vi* **1** : to move with sudden speed ⟨~*ed* through the rain⟩ **2** : SMASH
²dash *n* **1 a** *archaic* : BLOW **b** (1) : a sudden burst or splash (2) : the sound produced by such a burst **2 a** : a stroke of a pen **b** : a punctuation mark — used esp. to indicate a break in the thought or structure of a sentence **3** : a small usu. distinctive addition ⟨a ~ of salt⟩ **4** : flashy display **5** : animation in style and action **6 a** : a sudden onset, rush, or attempt **b** : a short fast race **7** : a long click or buzz forming a letter or part of a letter (as in Morse code) **8** : DASHBOARD 2
dash·board \'dash-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* **1** : a screen on the front of a vehicle to intercept water, mud, or snow **2** : a panel extending across an automobile, airplane, or motorboat below the windshield and usu. containing dials and controls
dash·er \'dash-ər\ *n* **1** : a dashing person **2** : one that dashes; *specif* : a device having blades for agitating a liquid or semisolid
da·shi·ki \də-'shē-kē\ *n* [alter. of Yoruba *danshiki*] : a usu. brightly colored loose-fitting pullover garment
dash·ing *adj* **1** : marked by vigorous action : SPIRITED ⟨a ~ young horse⟩ **2** : marked by smartness esp. in dress and manners — **dash·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
dash·pot \'dash-ˌpät\ *n* : a device for cushioning or damping a movement (as of a mechanical part) to avoid shock
das·sie \'däs-ē\ *n* [Afrik] : a hyrax (genus *Procavia*) of southern Africa
das·tard \'das-tərd\ *n* [ME] : COWARD; *esp* : one who commits malicious acts
das·tard·ly \-lē\ *adj* : despicably mean or cowardly — **das·tard·li·ness** *n*
dasy·ure \'das-ē-ˌ(y)u̇(ə)r\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *dasys* thick with hair + *oura* tail] : any of a genus (*Dasyurus*) of arboreal carnivorous marsupial mammals of Australia and Tasmania resembling martens
dat *abbr* dative
DAT *abbr* differential aptitude test
da·ta \'dāt-ə, 'dat-, 'dät-\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [pl. of *datum*] : factual information (as measurements or statistics) used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation ⟨the ~ is plentiful and easily available —H. A. Gleason, Jr.⟩ ⟨comprehensive ~ on economic growth have been published —N. H. Jacoby⟩
data bank *n* **1** : a collection of data organized esp. for rapid search and retrieval (as by computer) **2** : an institution whose chief concern is building and maintaining a data bank
data base *n* : DATA BANK 1
data processing *n* : the converting of raw data to machine= readable form and its subsequent processing (as storing, updating, combining, rearranging, or printing out) by a computer — **data processor** *n*
¹date \'dāt\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, deriv. of L *dactylus*, fr. Gk *daktylos*, lit., finger] **1** : the oblong edible fruit of a palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) **2** : the tall palm with pinnate leaves that yields the date
²date *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. LL *data*, fr. *data* (as in *data Romae* given at Rome), fem. of L *datus*, pp. of *dare* to give; akin to Gk *didonai* to give] **1 a** : the time at which an event occurs ⟨the ~ of his birth⟩ **b** : a statement of the time of execution or making ⟨the ~ on the letter⟩ **2** : DURATION **3** : the period of time to which something belongs **4 a** : an appointment for a specified time; *esp* : a social engagement between two persons of opposite sex **b** : a person of the opposite sex with whom one has a social engagement **5** : an engagement for a professional performance (as of a dance band) — **to date** : up to the present moment
³date *vb* **dat·ed; dat·ing** *vt* **1** : to determine the date of ⟨~ an antique⟩ **2** : to record the date of **3 a** : to mark with characteristics typical of a particular period **b** : to show up plainly the age of **4** : to make or have a date with ~ *vi* **1** : to reckon chronologically **2** : to become dated and written **3 a** : ORIGINATE **b** : EXTEND ⟨a friendship *dating* from college days⟩ — **dat·able** *or* **date·able** \'dāt-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **dat·er** \'dāt-ər\ *n*
dat·ed *adj* **1** : provided with a date ⟨a ~ document⟩ **2** : OUT-OF= DATE, OLD-FASHIONED ⟨~ formalities⟩ — **dat·ed·ly** *adv* — **dat·ed·ness** *n*
date·less \'dāt-ləs\ *adj* **1** : ENDLESS **2** : having no date **3** : too ancient to be dated **4** : TIMELESS ⟨the play's ~ theme⟩
date·line \'dāt-ˌlīn\ *n* **1** : a line in a written document or a printed publication giving the date and place of composition or issue **2** *usu* **date line** : a hypothetical line approximately along the 180th meridian designated as the place where each calendar day begins — **dateline** *vt*
dating bar *n* : a bar that caters esp. to young unmarried men and women
¹da·tive \'dāt-iv\ *adj* [ME *datif*, fr. L *dativus*, lit., relating to giving, fr. *datus*] : of, relating to, or being the grammatical case that marks typically the indirect object of a verb, the object of some prepositions, or a possessor
²dative *n* : a dative case or form
dative bond *n* [fr. the donation of electrons by one of the atoms] : COORDINATE BOND
da·tum \'dāt-əm, 'dat-, 'dät-\ *n* [L, fr. neut. of *datus*] **1** *pl* **da·ta** \-ə\ : something given or admitted esp. as a basis for reasoning or inference **2** *pl* **datums** : something used as a basis for calculating or measuring
da·tu·ra \də-'t(y)u̇r-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Hindi *dhatūrā* jimsonweed] : any of a genus (*Datura*) of widely distributed strong= scented herbs, shrubs, or trees of the nightshade family
¹daub \'dȯb, 'däb\ *vb* [ME *dauben*, fr. OF *dauber*] *vt* **1** : to cover or coat with soft adhesive matter : PLASTER **2** : to coat with a dirty substance **3 a** : to apply coloring material crudely to **b** : to apply (as paint) crudely ~ *vi* **1** *archaic* : to put on a false exterior **2** : to apply colors crudely — **daub·er** *n*
²daub *n* **1** : material used to daub walls **2** : an act or instance of daubing **3** : something daubed on : SMEAR **4** : a crude picture
¹daugh·ter \'dȯt-ər\ *n* [ME *doughter*, fr. OE *dohtor*; akin to OHG *tohter* daughter, Gk *thygatēr*] **1 a** (1) : a human female having the relation of child to parent (2) : a female offspring of a lower animal **b** : a human female having a specified ancestor or belonging to a group of common ancestry **2** : something considered as a daughter ⟨the United States is a ~ of Great Britain⟩ **3** : an atomic species that is the immediate product of the radioactive decay of a given element — **daugh·ter·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
²daughter *adj* **1** : having the characteristics or relationship of a daughter **2** : belonging to the first generation of offspring, organelles, or molecules produced by reproduction, division, or replication ⟨~ cell⟩ ⟨~ DNA molecules⟩
daugh·ter–in–law \'dȯt-ə-rən-ˌlȯ, -ərn-ˌlȯ\ *n, pl* **daugh·ters–in–law** \-ər-zən-\ : the wife of one's son
dau·no·my·cin \ˌdȯ-nə-'mīs-ᵊn, ˌdau̇-\ *n* [(assumed) It *daunomicina*, fr. *Daun*ia, ancient region of Apulia, Italy + It *-o-* + *-micina* (as in *streptomicina* streptomycin)] : an antibiotic $C_{27}H_{29}NO_{10}$ that is a nitrogenous glycoside and is used experimentally as an antineoplastic agent
daunt \'dȯnt, 'dänt\ *vt* [ME *daunten*, fr. OF *danter*, alter. of *donter*, fr. L *domitare* to tame, fr. *domitus*, pp. of *domare* — more at TAME] : to lessen the courage of : COW, SUBDUE ***syn*** see DISMAY
daunt·less \-ləs\ *adj* : FEARLESS, UNDAUNTED ⟨a ~ hero⟩ — **daunt·less·ly** *adv* — **daunt·less·ness** *n*
dau·phin \'dȯ-fən\ *n, often cap* [MF *dalfin*, fr. OF, title of lords of the Dauphiné, fr. *Dalfin*, a surname] : the eldest son of a king of France
dau·phine \dȯ-'fēn\ *n, often cap* [F] : the wife of the dauphin
DAV *abbr* Disabled American Veterans
da·ven \'däv-ən\ *vi* [Yiddish *davnen*] : to utter Jewish prayers esp. of a ritual character

dav·en·port \'dav-ən-ˌpō(ə)rt, 'dav-ᵊm-, -ˌpȯ(ə)rt\ *n* [prob. fr. the name *Davenport*] **1** : a small compact writing desk **2** : a large upholstered sofa often convertible into a bed

Da·vid \'dā-vəd\ *n* [Heb *Dāwīdh*] : a Hebrew shepherd who became the second king of Israel in succession to Saul according to Biblical accounts — **Da·vid·ic** \də-'vid-ik, dā-\ *adj*

da·vit \'dā-vət, 'dav-ət\ *n* [prob. fr. the name *David*] : a crane that projects over the side of a ship or a hatchway and is used esp. for boats, anchors, or cargo



1 davits

Da·vy Jones \ˌdā-vē-'jōnz\ *n* : the bottom of the sea personified

Da·vy Jones's locker \ˌdā-vē-ˌjōnz(-əz)-\ *n* : the bottom of the ocean

¹daw \'dȯ, 'dȧ\ *vi* [ME *dawen*, fr. OE *dagian*; akin to OHG *tagēn* to dawn, OE *dæg* day] *chiefly Scot* : DAWN

²daw \'dȯ\ *n* [ME *dawe*; akin to OHG *taha* jackdaw] : JACKDAW

daw·dle \'dȯd-ᵊl\ *vb* **daw·dled; daw·dling** \'dȯd-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ [origin unknown] *vi* **1** : to spend time idly ⟨*dawdled* over my coffee waiting for him —Max Steele⟩ **2** : to move lackadaisically ⟨*dawdled* up the hill⟩ ~ *vt* : to spend fruitlessly or lackadaisically : WASTE — **daw·dler** \'dȯd-lər, -ᵊl-ər\ *n*

¹dawn \'dȯn, 'dän\ *vi* [ME *dawnen*, prob. back-formation fr. *dawning* daybreak, alter. of *dawing*, fr. OE *dagung*, fr. *dagian*] **1** : to begin to grow light as the sun rises **2** : to begin to appear or develop **3** : to begin to be perceived or understood ⟨the truth finally ~*ed* on him⟩

²dawn *n* **1** : the first appearance of light in the morning followed by sunrise **2** : a first appearance : BEGINNING ⟨the ~ of the space age⟩

day \'dā\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *dæg*; akin to OHG *tag* day] **1 a** : the time of light between one night and the next **b** : DAYLIGHT **2 a** : the period of the earth's rotation on its axis **b** : the time required by a celestial body to turn once on its axis **3** : the mean solar day of 24 hours beginning at mean midnight **4** : a specified day or date **5** : a specified time or period : AGE ⟨in grandfather's ~⟩ **6** : the conflict or contention of the day ⟨played hard and won the ~⟩ **7** : the time established by usage or law for work, school, or business **8** : a period of existence or prominence of a person or thing ⟨a new ~ for black people⟩ — **day after day** : for an indefinite or seemingly endless number of days — **day in, day out** : for an indefinite number of successive days

Day·ak \'dī-ˌak\ *n* [Malay, up-country] **1** : a member of any of several Indonesian peoples of the interior of Borneo **2** : the language of the Dayak peoples

day·bed \'dā-ˌbed\ *n* **1** : a chaise longue of a type made 1680–1780 **2** : a couch that can be converted into a bed

day·book \-ˌbu̇k\ *n* **1** : DIARY, JOURNAL **2** : a book formerly used in accounting for recording the transactions of the day

day·break \-ˌbrāk\ *n* : DAWN

day–care \'dā-ˌke(ə)r, -ˌka(ə)r\ *adj* : of, relating to, or providing supervision and facilities for preschool children during the day ⟨~ centers⟩

¹day·dream \'dā-ˌdrēm\ *n* : a pleasant visionary usu. wishful creation of the imagination — **day·dream·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj*

²daydream *vi* : to have a daydream — **day·dream·er** *n*

day·glow \'dā-ˌglō\ *n* : airglow seen during the day

day in court **1** : a day or opportunity for appearance in a lawsuit **2** : an opportunity to present one's point of view

day laborer *n* : one who works for daily wages esp. as an unskilled laborer

day letter *n* : a telegram sent during the day that has a lower priority than a regular telegram

¹day·light \'dā-ˌlīt\ *n* **1** : the light of day **2** : DAWN **3 a** : knowledge or understanding of something that has been obscure ⟨began to see ~ on the problem⟩ **b** : the quality or state of being open : OPENNESS **4** *pl* **a** : CONSCIOUSNESS **b** : mental soundness or stability : WITS ⟨scared the ~*s* out of him⟩

²daylight *vt* **1** : to provide with daylight **2** : to remove obstructions (as trees and brush) from in order to provide greater visibility ⟨~ an intersection⟩ ~ *vi* : to supply daylight

daylight saving time *n* : time usu. one hour ahead of standard time — called also *daylight time*

day lily *n* **1** : any of various Eurasian plants (genus *Hemerocallis*) of the lily family that have short-lived flowers resembling lilies and are widespread in cultivation and as escapes **2** : PLANTAIN LILY

day·long \ˌdā-ˌlȯŋ\ *adj* : lasting all day ⟨a ~ tour⟩

day·mare \'dā-ˌma(ə)r, -ˌme(ə)r\ *n* [*day* + *-mare* (as in *nightmare*)] : a nightmarish fantasy experienced while awake

day–neutral *adj* : developing and maturing regardless of relative length of alternating exposures to light and dark periods — compare LONG-DAY, SHORT-DAY

day nursery *n* : a public center for the care and training of young children; *specif* : NURSERY SCHOOL

Day of Atonement : YOM KIPPUR

day of reckoning : a time when the consequences of a course of mistakes or misdeeds are felt

day·room \'dā-ˌrüm, -ˌru̇m\ *n* : a room (as in a military barracks) equipped for reading, writing, and recreation

days \'dāz\ *adv* : in the daytime repeatedly : on any day

day school *n* : an elementary or secondary school held on weekdays; *specif* : a private school without boarding facilities

days of grace : the days allowed for payment of a note or an insurance premium after it becomes due

day·star \'dā-ˌstär\ *n* **1** : MORNING STAR **2** : SUN 1a

day student *n* : a student who attends regular classes at a college or preparatory school but does not live at the institution

¹day·time \'dā-ˌtīm\ *n* : the time during which there is daylight

²daytime *adj* : taking place, existing, or presented during the daytime ⟨~ flights⟩ ⟨~ soap operas⟩

day–to–day \ˌdāt-ə-ˌdā\ *adj* **1** : taking place, made, or done in the course of successive days ⟨~ problems⟩ **2** : providing for a day at a time with little thought for the future ⟨lived an aimless ~ existence⟩

day-trip·per \'dā-ˌtrip-ər\ *n* : one who takes a trip that does not last overnight

daze \'dāz\ *vt* **dazed; daz·ing** [ME *dasen*, fr. ON *dasa* (in *dasask* to become exhausted)] **1** : to stupefy esp. by a blow : STUN **2** : to dazzle with light — **daze** *n* — **dazed·ness** \'dā-zəd-nəs, 'dāz(d)-\ *n*

daz·zle \'daz-əl\ *vb* **daz·zled; daz·zling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [freq. of *daze*] *vi* **1** : to lose clear vision esp. from looking at bright light **2 a** : to shine brilliantly **b** : to arouse admiration by an impressive display ~ *vt* **1** : to overpower with light **2** : to impress deeply, overpower, or confound with brilliance ⟨*dazzled* the crowd with his oratory⟩ — **dazzle** *n* — **daz·zler** \-(ə-)lər\ *n* — **daz·zling·ly** \-(ə-)liŋ-lē\ *adv*

db *abbr* **1** debenture **2** decibel

DB *abbr* daybook

DBA *abbr* **1** doctor of business administration **2** doing business as

DBE *abbr* Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire

DBH *abbr* diameter at breast height

dbl *abbr* double

DC *abbr* **1** [It *da capo*] from the beginning **2** decimal classification **3** direct current **4** District of Columbia **5** doctor of chiropractic **6** double crochet

DChE *abbr* doctor of chemical engineering

DCL *abbr* **1** doctor of canon law **2** doctor of civil law

dd *abbr* **1** dated **2** delivered

DD *abbr* **1** days after date **2** demand draft **3** dishonorable discharge **4** doctor of divinity **5** due date

D day *n* [*D*, abbr. for *day*] : a day set for launching an operation; *specif* : June 6, 1944, on which the Allies began the invasion of France in World War II

DDC *abbr* Dewey Decimal Classification

DDD \ˌdēd-(ˌ)ē-'dē\ *n* [*d*ichloro-*d*iphenyl-*d*ichloro-ethane] : an insecticide $(ClC_6H_4)_2CHCHCl_2$ closely related chemically and similar in properties to DDT

DDS *abbr* **1** doctor of dental science **2** doctor of dental surgery

DDT \ˌdēd-(ˌ)ē-'tē\ *n* [*d*ichloro-*d*iphenyl-*t*richloro-ethane] : a colorless odorless water-insoluble crystalline insecticide $C_{14}H_9Cl_5$ that tends to accumulate in ecosystems and has toxic effects on many vertebrates

DDVP \ˌdēd-(ˌ)ē-ˌvē-'pē\ *n* [*d*imethyl + *d*ichlor- + *v*inyl + *p*hosphate] : DICHLORVOS

DE *abbr* **1** defensive end **2** Delaware **3** doctor of engineering

de- *prefix* [ME, fr. OF *de-*, *des-*, partly fr. L *de-* from, down, away (fr. *de*) and partly fr. L *dis-*; L *de* akin to OIr *di* from, OE *tō* to — more at TO, DIS-] **1 a** : do the opposite of ⟨*de*vitalize⟩ ⟨*de*activate⟩ **b** : reverse of ⟨*de*-emphasis⟩ **2 a** : remove (a specified thing) from ⟨*de*louse⟩ ⟨*de*hydrogenate⟩ **b** : remove from (a specified thing) ⟨*de*throne⟩ **3** : reduce ⟨*de*value⟩ **4** : something derived from (a specified thing) ⟨*de*compound⟩ : derived from something (of a specified nature) ⟨*de*nominative⟩ **5** : get off of (a specified thing) ⟨*de*train⟩ **6** : having a molecule characterized by the removal of one or more atoms (of a specified element) ⟨*de*oxy-⟩

de·acid·i·fy \ˌdē-ə-'sid-ə-ˌfī\ *vt* : to remove acid from : reduce the acidity of (as by neutralization) — **de·acid·i·fi·ca·tion** \-ˌsid-ə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n*

dea·con \'dē-kən\ *n* [ME *dekene*, fr. OE *dēacon*, fr. LL *diaconus*, fr. Gk *diakonos*, lit., servant, fr. *dia-* + *-konos* (akin to en*konein* to be active); akin to L *conari* to attempt] : a subordinate officer in a Christian church: as **a** : a Roman Catholic cleric ranking below a priest and above a subdeacon **b** : one of the laymen elected by a church with congregational polity to serve in worship, in pastoral care, and on administrative committees **c** : a Mormon in the lowest grade of the Aaronic priesthood

dea·con·ess \'dē-kə-nəs\ *n* : a woman chosen to assist in the church ministry; *specif* : one in a Protestant order

deacon's bench *n* : a bench with usu. spindled arms and back

de·ac·ti·vate \(ˈ)dē-'ak-tə-ˌvāt\ *vt* : to make inactive or ineffective — **de·ac·ti·va·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌak-tə-'vā-shən\ *n* — **de·ac·ti·va·tor** \(ˈ)dē-'ak-tə-ˌvāt-ər\ *n*

¹dead \'ded\ *adj* [ME *deed*, fr. OE *dēad*; akin to ON *dauthr* dead, *deyja* to die — more at DIE] **1** : deprived of life : having died **2 a** (1) : having the appearance of death : DEATHLY ⟨in a ~ faint⟩ (2) : lacking power to move, feel, or respond : NUMB **b** : very tired **c** (1) : incapable of being stirred emotionally or intellectually : UNRESPONSIVE ⟨~ to pity⟩ (2) : grown cold : EXTINGUISHED ⟨~ coals⟩ **3 a** : INANIMATE, INERT ⟨~ matter⟩ **b** : BARREN, INFERTILE ⟨~ soil⟩ **c** : no longer producing or functioning : EXHAUSTED ⟨a ~ battery⟩ **4 a** (1) : lacking power or effect ⟨a ~ law⟩ (2) : no longer having interest, relevance, or significance ⟨a ~ issue⟩ **b** : no longer in use : OBSOLETE ⟨a ~ language⟩ **c** : no longer active : EXTINCT ⟨a ~ volcano⟩ **d** : lacking in gaiety or animation ⟨a ~ party⟩ **e** (1) : lacking in commercial activity : QUIET (2) : commercially idle or unproductive ⟨~ capital⟩ **f** : lacking elasticity ⟨a ~ tennis ball⟩ **g** : being out of action or out of use; *specif* : free from any connection to a source of voltage and free from electric charges **h** (1) : being out of play ⟨a ~ ball⟩ ⟨~ cards⟩ (2) *croquet* : temporarily forbidden to play or to make a certain play **5 a** : not running or circulating : STAGNANT ⟨~ water⟩ **b** : not turning ⟨a ~ lathe center⟩ **c** : not imparting

motion or power although otherwise functioning ⟨a ~ rear axle⟩ **d** : lacking warmth, vigor, or taste **6 a** : absolutely uniform ⟨a ~ level⟩ **b** (1) : UNERRING (2) : EXACT ⟨~ center of the target⟩ (3) : DOOMED ⟨a ~ duck⟩ (4) : IRREVOCABLE ⟨a ~ loss⟩ **c** : ABRUPT ⟨brought to a ~ stop⟩ **d** : COMPLETE, ABSOLUTE ⟨a ~ silence⟩ **7** : DESERTED ⟨~ villages⟩ — **dead·ness** *n*

syn DEAD, DEFUNCT, DECEASED, DEPARTED, LATE *shared meaning element* : devoid of life ***ant*** alive

²dead *n, pl* **dead** **1** : one that is dead — usu. used collectively **2** : the state of being dead ⟨raised him from the ~ —Col 2:12(RSV)⟩ **3** : the time of greatest quiet ⟨the ~ of night⟩

³dead *adv* **1** : ABSOLUTELY, UTTERLY ⟨~ certain ⟩ **2** : suddenly and completely ⟨stopped ~⟩ **3** : DIRECTLY ⟨~ ahead⟩

dead air *n* : a period of silence esp. during a radio or television broadcast

dead–air space *n* : a sealed or unventilated air space

¹dead·beat \'ded-ˌbēt\ *adj* : having a pointer that gives a reading with little or no oscillation

²deadbeat *n* **1** : one who persistently fails to pay his debts or his way **2** : LOAFER

dead center *n* : either of the two positions at the ends of a stroke in a crank and connecting rod when the crank and rod are in the same straight line — called also *dead point*

dead·en \'ded-ᵊn\ *vb* **dead·ened; dead·en·ing** \'ded-niŋ, -ᵊn-iŋ\ *vt* **1** : to impair in vigor or sensation : BLUNT ⟨~*ed* his enthusiasm⟩ **2 a** : to deprive of brilliance **b** : to make vapid or spiritless **c** : to make (as a wall) impervious to sound **3** : to deprive of life : KILL ~ *vi* : to become dead : lose life or vigor — **dead·en·er** \'ded-nər, -ᵊn-ər\ *n* — **dead·en·ing·ly** \-niŋ-lē, -ᵊn-iŋ-\ *adv*

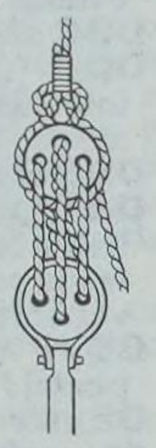
¹dead–end \ˌded-ˈend\ *adj* **1 a** : lacking opportunities for advancement ⟨a ~ job⟩ **b** : lacking an exit ⟨a ~ street⟩ **2** : TOUGH ⟨~ kids⟩ — **dead–end·ed·ness** \(ˈ)ded-ˈen-dəd-nəs\ *n*

²dead–end \'ded-'end\ *vi* : to come to a dead end : TERMINATE

dead end \'ded-'end\ *n* **1** : an end (as of a street) without an exit **2** : a position, situation, or course of action that leads to nothing further

dead·en·ing *n* : material used to soundproof walls or floors

dead·eye \'ded-ˌī\ *n* **1** : a rounded wood block that is encircled by a rope or an iron band and pierced with holes to receive the lanyard and that is used esp. to set up shrouds and stays **2** : an unerring marksman



deadeyes 1

dead·fall \-ˌfȯl\ *n* : a trap so constructed that a weight (as a heavy log) falls on an animal and kills or disables it

dead hand *n* **1** : MORTMAIN 2 **2** : the oppressive influence of the past

¹dead·head \'ded-ˌhed\ *n* **1** : one who has not paid for a ticket **2** : a dull or stupid person

²deadhead *vi* : to make a return trip without a load — used esp. of a truck

dead heat *n* : a tie with no single winner of a race

dead horse *n* [fr. the proverbial futility of flogging a dead horse to make him go] : an exhausted or profitless topic or issue

dead letter *n* **1** : something that has lost its force or authority without being formally abolished **2** : a letter that is undeliverable and unreturnable by the post office

dead·light \'ded-ˌlīt\ *n* **1 a** : a metal cover or shutter fitted to a port to keep out light and water **b** : a heavy glass set in a ship's deck or hull to admit light **2** : a skylight made so as not to open

dead·line \-ˌlīn\ *n* **1** : a line drawn within or around a prison that a prisoner passes at the risk of being shot **2** : a date or time before which something must be done; *specif* : the time after which copy is not accepted for a particular issue of a publication

dead load *n* : a constant load that in structures (as a bridge, building, or machine) is due to the weight of the members, the supported structure, and permanent attachments or accessories

dead·lock \'ded-ˌläk\ *n* **1** : a state of inaction or neutralization resulting from the opposition of equally powerful uncompromising persons or factions : STANDSTILL **2** : a tie score — **deadlock** *vt*

¹dead·ly \'ded-lē\ *adj* **dead·li·er; -est** **1** : likely to cause or capable of producing death ⟨a ~ disease⟩ ⟨a ~ instrument⟩ **2 a** : aiming to kill or destroy : IMPLACABLE ⟨a ~ enemy⟩ **b** : highly effective ⟨a ~ exposé⟩ **c** : UNERRING ⟨a ~ marksman⟩ **d** : marked by determination or extreme seriousness **3 a** : tending to deprive of force or vitality ⟨a ~ habit⟩ **b** : suggestive of death esp. in dullness or lack of animation ⟨~ bores⟩ ⟨a ~ conversation⟩ **4** : very great : EXTREME — **dead·li·ness** *n*

syn DEADLY, MORTAL, FATAL, LETHAL *shared meaning element* : causing or capable of causing death. DEADLY applies to whatever is certain or extremely likely to cause death ⟨a *deadly* poison⟩ ⟨*deadly* weapons⟩ MORTAL applies distinctively to what has caused or is about to cause death ⟨a *mortal* wound⟩ FATAL, which stresses the inevitability of eventual death, may be preferred when considerable time intervenes between the causative event and death ⟨his injuries were ultimately *fatal*⟩ and is regularly used in predictions ⟨there is little doubt that his injuries will prove *fatal*⟩ LETHAL applies to something that by its very nature is bound to cause death or which exists for the purpose of destroying life ⟨took a *lethal* dose of poison⟩ ⟨a *lethal* weapon⟩ All these terms are capable of extension in which they are less weighty and typically imply a disconcerting, oppressing, or disturbing that may cause fear, dread, or distress rather than physical or spiritual death; thus, a *deadly* shaft of irony causes complete discomfiture; *mortal* terror is the most extreme terror; a *fatal* error is one that leads to the destruction of one's plans or hopes; a *lethal* verbal attack is utterly devastating to one's composure or position

²deadly *adv* **1** *archaic* : in a manner to cause death : MORTALLY **2** : suggesting death **3** : EXTREMELY ⟨~ serious⟩

deadly nightshade *n* : BELLADONNA 1

deadly sin *n* : one of seven sins of pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth held to be fatal to spiritual progress — called also *capital sin*

dead man's float *n* : a prone floating position with the arms extended forward

dead march *n* : a solemn march for a funeral

dead metaphor *n* : a word or phrase (as *time is running out*) that has lost its metaphoric force through common usage

¹dead·pan \'ded-ˌpan\ *adj* : marked by an impassive matter-of-fact manner, style, or expression ⟨a ~ commentary⟩

²deadpan *adv* : in a deadpan manner ⟨played the role completely ~⟩

³deadpan *vt* : to express in a deadpan manner — **dead·pan·ner** *n*

dead point *n* : DEAD CENTER

dead reckoning *n* **1** : the determination without the aid of celestial observations of the position of a ship or aircraft from the record of the courses sailed or flown, the distance made, and the known or estimated drift **2** : GUESSWORK — **dead reckon** *vb* — **dead reckoner** *n*

dead set *adj* : firmly determined : RESOLUTE ⟨*dead set* on winning⟩ ⟨*dead set* against it⟩

dead space *n* : the portion of the respiratory system which is external to the bronchioles and through which air must pass to reach the bronchioles and alveoli

dead·weight \'ded-'wāt\ *n* **1** : the unrelieved weight of an inert mass **2** : DEAD LOAD

dead·wood \-ˌwůd\ *n* **1** : wood dead on the tree **2** : useless personnel or material **3** : solid timbers built in at the extreme bow and stern of a ship when too narrow to permit framing **4** : bowling pins that have been knocked down but remain on the alley

de·aer·ate \(ˈ)dē-'a(-ə)r-ˌāt, -'e(-ə)r-\ *vt* : to remove air or gas from — **de·aer·a·tion** \ˌdē-ˌa(-ə)r-'ā-shən, -ˌe(-ə)r-\ *n*

deaf \'def\ *adj* [ME *deef*, fr. OE *dēaf;* akin to Gk *typhlos* blind, *typhein* to smoke, L *fumus* smoke — more at FUME] **1** : lacking or deficient in the sense of hearing **2** : unwilling to hear or listen : not to be persuaded ⟨was overwrought and ~ to reason⟩ — **deaf·ish** \'def-ish\ *adj* — **deaf·ly** *adv* — **deaf·ness** *n*

deaf·en \'def-ən\ *vb* **deaf·ened; deaf·en·ing** \-(ə-)niŋ\ *vt* **1** : to make deaf **2** : to make (as a wall) soundproof ~ *vi* : to cause deafness or stun one with noise — **deaf·en·ing·ly** \-(ə-)niŋ-lē\ *adv*

deaf–mute \'def-ˌmyüt\ *n* : a deaf person who cannot speak — **deaf–mute** *adj*

¹deal \'dē(ə)l\ *n* [ME *deel*, fr. OE *dǣl;* akin to OE *dāl* division, portion, OHG *teil* part] **1** *obs* : PART, PORTION **2** : a usu. large or indefinite quantity or degree ⟨the search was thorough . . . and a ~ of money was spent —J. F. Dobie⟩ ⟨a great ~ of support⟩ ⟨a good ~ faster⟩ **3 a** : the act or right of distributing cards to players in a card game **b** : HAND 9b **4 a** : an extensive governmental program — compare NEW DEAL **b** : the period of such a program

²deal *vb* **dealt** \'delt\; **deal·ing** \'dē-liŋ\ *vt* **1 a** : to give as one's portion : APPORTION ⟨tried to ~ justice to all men⟩ ⟨*dealt* out three sandwiches apiece⟩ **b** : to distribute (playing cards) to players in a game **2** : ADMINISTER, BESTOW ⟨*dealt* him a blow⟩ **3** : SELL ⟨~*s* marijuana⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to distribute the cards in a card game **2** : to concern oneself or itself ⟨the book ~*s* with education⟩ **3 a** : to engage in bargaining : TRADE **b** : to sell or distribute something as a business ⟨~ in insurance⟩ **4** : to take action with regard to someone or something ⟨~ with an offender⟩ ***syn*** see DISTRIBUTE, TREAT — **deal·er** \'dē-lər\ *n*

³deal *n* **1** : an act of dealing : TRANSACTION **2** : PACKAGE DEAL **3** : treatment received ⟨a dirty ~⟩ **4** : an arrangement for mutual advantage

⁴deal *n* [MD or MLG *dele* plank; akin to OHG *dili* plank — more at THILL] **1 a** *Brit* : a board of fir or pine **b** : sawed yellow-pine lumber nine inches or wider and three, four, or five inches thick **2** : pine or fir wood — **deal** *adj*

de·alate \(ˈ)dē-'ā-ˌlāt\ *n* : a dealated insect

de·alat·ed \-ˌlāt-əd\ *adj* : divested of the wings — used of postnuptial adults of insects (as ants) that drop their wings after a nuptial flight — **de·ala·tion** \ˌdē-(ˌ)ā-'lā-shən\ *n*

deal·er·ship \'dē-lər-ˌship\ *n* : an authorized sales agency ⟨an automobile ~⟩

deal·fish \'dē(ə)l-ˌfish\ *n* [⁴*deal*] : any of several long thin fishes (genus *Trachipterus* of the family Trachipteridae) inhabiting the deep sea

deal·ing *n* **1** *pl* : friendly or business interactions **2** : method of business : manner of conduct

dealing box *n* : a case that holds a deck of playing cards so that they may be dealt one by one

de·am·i·nase \(ˈ)dē-'am-ə-ˌnās, -ˌnāz\ *n* [*de-* + *amino* + *-ase*] : an enzyme that hydrolyzes amino compounds (as amino acids) with removal of the amino group

de·am·i·nate \-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** : to remove the amino group from (a compound) — **de·am·i·na·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌam-ə-'nā-shən\ *n*

de·am·i·nize \(ˈ)dē-'am-ə-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-nized; -niz·ing** : DEAMINATE

dean \'dēn\ *n* [ME *deen*, fr. MF *deien*, fr. LL *decanus*, lit., chief of ten, fr. L *decem* ten — more at TEN] **1 a** : the head of the chapter of a collegiate or cathedral church **b** : a Roman Catholic priest who supervises one district of a diocese **2 a** : the head of a division, faculty, college, or school of a university **b** : a college or secondary school administrator in charge of counseling and disciplining students ⟨~ of men⟩ **3** : DOYEN 1 — **dean** *vi* — **dean·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

dean·ery \'dēn-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : the office, jurisdiction, or official residence of a clerical dean

dean's list *n* : a list of students receiving special recognition from the dean of a college because of superior scholarship

¹dear \'di(ə)r\ *adj* [ME *dere*, fr. OE *dēor*] : SEVERE, SORE ⟨in our ~ peril —Shak.⟩

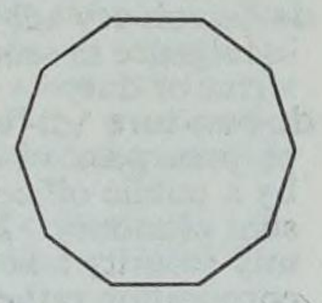
²dear *adj* [ME *dere*, fr. OE *dēore*] **1** *obs* : NOBLE **2** : highly valued : PRECIOUS ⟨a ~ friend⟩ **3** : AFFECTIONATE, FOND **4** : high or exorbitant in price : exceedingly expensive ⟨eggs are very ~ just now⟩ **5** : HEARTFELT ***syn*** see COSTLY ***ant*** cheap — **dear** *adv* — **dear·ly** *adv* — **dear·ness** *n*

³dear *n* **1** : a loved one : SWEETHEART **2** : a lovable person

Dear John \-'jän\ *n* : a letter (as to a soldier) in which a wife asks for a divorce or a girl friend breaks off an engagement or a friendship
dearth \'dərth\ *n* [ME *derthe*, fr. *dere* dear, costly] **1** : scarcity that makes dear; *specif* : FAMINE **2** : an inadequate supply : LACK
dea·sil \'dē-zəl\ *adv* [ScGael *deiseil;* akin to L *dexter*] : CLOCKWISE — compare WIDDERSHINS
death \'deth\ *n* [ME *deeth*, fr. OE *dēath;* akin to ON *dauthi* death, *deyja* to die — more at DIE] **1** : a permanent cessation of all vital functions : the end of life **2** : the cause or occasion of loss of life ⟨drinking was the ~ of him⟩ **3** *cap* : the destroyer of life represented usu. as a skeleton with a scythe **4** : the state of being dead **5 a** : the passing or destruction of something inanimate ⟨the ~ of vaudeville⟩ **b** : EXTINCTION **6** : CIVIL DEATH **7** : SLAUGHTER **8** *Christian Science* : the lie of life in matter : that which is unreal and untrue : ILLUSION — **to death** : beyond endurance : EXCESSIVELY
death·bed \'deth-'bed\ *n* **1** : the bed in which a person dies **2** : the last hours of life — **on one's deathbed** : near the point of death
death benefit *n* : money payable to the beneficiary of a deceased
death·blow \'deth-'blō\ *n* : a destructive or killing stroke or event
death camas *n* : any of several plants (genus *Zigadenus*) of the lily family that cause poisoning of livestock in the western U. S.
death camp *n* : a camp where large numbers of persons (as prisoners) are put to death
death cup *n* : a destroying angel (*Amanita phalloides*)
death duty *n, chiefly Brit* : DEATH TAX
death instinct *n* : an innate and unconscious tendency toward self-destruction postulated in psychoanalytic theory to explain aggressive and destructive behavior not satisfactorily explained by the pleasure principle
death·less \'deth-ləs\ *adj* : IMMORTAL, IMPERISHABLE ⟨~ fame⟩ — **death·less·ly** *adv* — **death·less·ness** *n*
death·ly \'deth-lē\ *adj* **1** : FATAL **2** : of, relating to, or suggestive of death ⟨a ~ pallor⟩ — **deathly** *adv*
death mask *n* : a cast taken from the face of a dead person
death point *n* : a limit (as of degree of heat or cold) beyond which an organism or living protoplasm cannot survive
death rattle *n* : a rattling or gurgling sound produced by air passing through mucus in the lungs and air passages of a dying person
death's–head \'deths-ˌhed\ *n* : a human skull emblematic of death
deaths·man \'deth-smən\ *n, archaic* : EXECUTIONER
death tax *n* : a tax arising on the transmission of property after the owner's death; *esp* : ESTATE TAX
death trap *n* : a structure or situation that is potentially very dangerous to life ⟨the risk of going on in a boat that was a *death trap* —Ken Gardner⟩
death warrant *n* **1** : a warrant for the execution of a death sentence **2** : DEATHBLOW
¹death·watch \'deth-ˌwäch\ *n* [*death* + *watch* (timepiece); fr. the superstition that its ticking presages death] : a small insect that makes a ticking sound: as **a** : any of various small beetles (family Anobiidae) that are common in old houses where they bore in woodwork and furniture — called also *deathwatch beetle* **b** : BOOK LOUSE
²deathwatch *n* [*death* + *watch* (vigil)] **1** : a vigil kept with the dead or dying **2** : the guard set over a criminal before his execution
death wish *n* : the conscious or unconscious desire for the death of another or of oneself
deb *abbr* debenture
de·ba·cle \di-'bäk-əl, -'bak-; dā-'bäk(l²), 'dā-ˌ ; *also* 'deb-i-kəl\ *n* [F *débâcle*, fr. *débâcler* to unbar, fr. MF *desbacler*, fr. *des-* de- + *bacler* to bar, fr. OProv *baclar*, fr. (assumed) VL *bacculare*, fr. L *baculum* staff — more at BACTERIUM] **1** : a tumultuous breakup of ice in a river **2** : a violent disruption (as of an army) : ROUT **3 a** : a great disaster **b** : a complete failure : FIASCO
de·bar \di-'bär\ *vt* [ME *debarren*, fr. MF *desbarrer* to unbar, fr. *des-* de- + *barrer* to bar] : to bar from having or doing something : PRECLUDE ***syn*** see EXCLUDE — **de·bar·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
de·bark \di-'bärk\ *vb* [MF *debarquer*, fr. *de-* + *barque* bark] : DISEMBARK — **de·bar·ka·tion** \ˌdē-ˌbär-'kā-shən\ *n*
de·base \di-'bās\ *vt* **1** : to lower in status, esteem, quality, or character **2 a** : to reduce the intrinsic value of (a coin) by increasing the base-metal content **b** : to reduce the exchange value of (a monetary unit) — **de·base·ment** \-'bā-smənt\ *n* — **de·bas·er** \-'bā-sər\ *n*
syn **1** DEBASE, VITIATE, DEPRAVE, CORRUPT, DEBAUCH, PERVERT *shared meaning element* : to cause to become lowered or impaired in quality or character ***ant*** elevate (*as taste*), amend (*as morals*) **2** see ABASE
de·bat·able \di-'bāt-ə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : claimed by more than one country ⟨~ border territory⟩ **2 a** : open to dispute : QUESTIONABLE ⟨a ~ conclusion⟩ **b** : open to debate **3** : capable of being debated
¹de·bate \di-'bāt\ *n* : a contention by words or arguments: as **a** : the formal discussion of a motion before a deliberative body according to the rules of parliamentary procedure **b** : a regulated discussion of a proposition between two matched sides
²debate *vb* **de·bat·ed; de·bat·ing** [ME *debaten*, fr. MF *debatre*, fr. OF, fr. *de-* + *batre* to beat, fr. L *battuere* — more at BATTLE] *vi* **1** *obs* : FIGHT, CONTEND **2 a** : to contend in words **b** : to discuss a question by considering opposed arguments **3** : to participate in a debate ~ *vt* **1 a** : to argue about **b** : to engage (an opponent) in debate **2** : to turn over in one's mind ***syn*** see DISCUSS — **de·bate·ment** \-'bāt-mənt\ *n* — **de·bat·er** *n*
¹de·bauch \di-'bȯch, -'bäch\ *vt* [MF *debaucher*, fr. OF *desbauchier* to scatter, rough-hew (timber), fr. *des-* de- + *bauch* beam, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *balko* beam — more at BALK] **1 a** *archaic* : to make disloyal **b** : to seduce from chastity **2 a** : to lead away from virtue or excellence **b** : to corrupt by intemperance or sensuality ***syn*** see DEBASE — **de·bauch·er** *n*
²debauch *n* **1** : an act or occasion of debauchery **2** : ORGY
de·bauch·ee \di-ˌbȯch-'ē, -ˌbäch-; ˌdeb-ə-'shē, -'shā\ *n* [F *débauché*, fr. pp. of *débaucher*] : one given to debauchery
de·bauch·ery \di-'bȯch-(ə-)rē, -'bäch-\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1 a** : extreme indulgence in sensuality **b** *pl* : ORGIES **2** *archaic* : seduction from virtue or duty
de·ben·ture \di-'ben-chər\ *n* [ME *debentur*, fr. L, they are due, 3d pl. pres. pass. of *debēre* to owe] **1** : a writing or certificate signed by a public officer as evidence of a debt or of a right to demand a sum of money **2 a** *Brit* : a corporate security other than an equity security : BOND **b** : a bond backed by the general credit of a corporation rather than a specific lien on particular assets
de·bil·i·tate \di-'bil-ə-ˌtāt\ *vt* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [L *debilitatus*, pp. of *debilitare* to weaken, fr. *debilis*] : to impair the strength of : ENFEEBLE ***syn*** see WEAKEN ***ant*** invigorate — **de·bil·i·ta·tion** \-ˌbil-ə-'tā-shən\ *n*
de·bil·i·ty \di-'bil-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [MF *debilité*, fr. L *debiltat-, debilitas*, fr. *debilis* weak] : WEAKNESS, INFIRMITY
¹deb·it \'deb-ət\ *n* [L *debitum* debt] **1** : a record of an indebtedness; *specif* : an entry on the left-hand side of an account constituting an addition to an expense or asset account or a deduction from a revenue, net worth, or liability account **2** : the sum of the items so entered **3** : a charge against a bank deposit account **4** : DRAWBACK, SHORTCOMING ⟨a film of almost equally divided merits and ~s —Richard Corliss⟩
²debit *vt* : to enter on the left-hand side of an account : charge with a debit
deb·o·nair \ˌdeb-ə-'na(ə)r, -'ne(ə)r\ *adj* [ME *debonere*, fr. OF *debonaire*, fr. *de bonne aire* of good family or nature] **1** *archaic* : GENTLE, COURTEOUS **2 a** : SUAVE, URBANE **b** : LIGHTHEARTED, NONCHALANT — **deb·o·nair·ly** *adv* — **deb·o·nair·ness** *n*
de·bone \(')dē-'bōn\ *vt* : BONE ⟨*deboned* the meat⟩ — **de·bon·er** *n*
Deb·o·rah \'deb-(ə-)rə\ *n* [Heb *Dĕbhōrāh*] : a Hebrew prophetess who rallied the Israelites in their early struggles against the Canaanites
de·bouch \di-'baůch, -'büsh\ *vb* [F *déboucher*, fr. *dé-* de- + *bouche* mouth, fr. L *bucca* cheek — more at POCK] *vi* **1** : to march out (as from a defile) into open ground **2** : EMERGE, ISSUE ~ *vt* : to cause to emerge : let out
de·bouch·ment \-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act or process of debouching **2** : a mouth or outlet esp. of a river
de·bou·chure \di-ˌbü-'shů(ə)r\ *n* : DEBOUCHMENT 2
de·bride·ment \di-'brēd-mənt, dā-, -ˌmänt, -ˌmäⁿ\ *n* [F *débridement*, fr. *débrider* to remove unhealthy tissue, lit., to unbridle, fr. MF *desbrider*, fr. *des-* de- + *bride* bridle, fr. MHG *brīdel* — more at BRIDLE] : the surgical removal of lacerated, devitalized, or contaminated tissue
de·brief \di-'brēf, 'dē-\ *vt* **1** : to interrogate (as a pilot) in order to obtain useful information **2** : to instruct not to reveal any classified information after release from a senstive position
de·bris \də-'brē, dā-', 'dā-ˌ, *Brit usu* 'deb-(ˌ)rē\ *n, pl* **de·bris** \-'brēz, -ˌbrēz, -(ˌ)rēz\ [F *débris*, fr. MF, fr. *debriser* to break to pieces, fr. OF *debrisier*, fr. *de-* + *brisier* to break — more at BRISANCE] **1** : the remains of something broken down or destroyed : RUINS **2** : an accumulation of fragments of rock
debt \'det\ *n* [ME *dette, debte*, fr. OF *dette* something owed, fr. (assumed) VL *debita*, fr. L, pl. of *debitum* debt, fr. neut. of *debitus*, pp. of *debēre* to owe, fr. *de-* + *habēre* to have — more at HABIT] **1** : SIN, TRESPASS **2** : a state of owing **3** : something owed : OBLIGATION **4** : the common-law action for the recovery of money held to be due — **debt·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
debt·or \'det-ər\ *n* **1** : one guilty of neglect or violation of duty **2** : one who owes a debt
de·bug \(')dē-'bəg\ *vt* **1** : to eliminate errors in or malfunctions of ⟨~ a computer program⟩ **2** : to remove a concealed microphone or wiretapping device from
de·bunk \(')dē-'bəŋk\ *vt* : to expose the sham or falseness of ⟨~ a hero legend⟩ — **de·bunk·er** *n*
de·but \'dā-ˌbyü, dā-'\ *n* [F *début*, fr. *débuter* to begin, fr. MF *desbuter* to play first, fr. *des-* de- + *but* starting point, goal — more at BUTT] **1** : a first public appearance **2** : a formal entrance into society — **debut** *vi*
deb·u·tant \'deb-yů-ˌtänt\ *n* [F *débutant*, fr. prp. of *débuter*] : one making a debut
deb·u·tante \'deb-yů-ˌtänt\ *n* [F *débutante*, fem. of *débutant*] : a young woman making her formal entrance into society
dec *abbr* **1** deceased **2** declaration **3** declared **4** declination **5** decorated **6** decorative **7** decrease **8** decrescendo
Dec *abbr* December
deca- *or* **dec-** *or* **deka-** *or* **dek-** *comb form* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk *deka-, dek-*, fr. *deka* — more at TEN] : ten ⟨*deca*merous⟩ ⟨*deka*volt⟩
de·cade \'dek-ˌād, -əd; de-'kād; *3 is usually* 'dek-əd\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *décade*, fr. LL *decad-, decas*, fr. Gk *dekad-, dekas*, fr. *deka*] **1** : a group or set of 10 **2** : a period of 10 years **3** : a division of the rosary that consists primarily of 10 Hail Marys
dec·a·dence \'dek-əd-ən(t)s *also* di-'kād-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* [MF, fr. ML *decadentia*, fr. LL *decadent-, decadens*, prp. of *decadere* to fall, sink — more at DECAY] **1** : the process of becoming decadent : the quality or state of being decadent **2** : a period of decline ***syn*** see DETERIORATION ***ant*** rise, flourishing
dec·a·den·cy \-ən-sē, -ᵊn-sē\ *n* : DECADENCE 1
¹dec·a·dent \'dek-əd-ənt *also* di-'kād-ᵊnt\ *adj* [back-formation fr. *decadence*] **1** : marked by decay or decline **2** : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of the decadents — **dec·a·dent·ly** *adv*
²decadent *n* **1** : one that is decadent **2** : one of a group of late 19th century French and English writers tending toward artificial and unconventional subjects and subtilized style

de·caf·fein·ate \(ˈ)dē-ˈkaf-(ē-)ə-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** : to remove caffeine from ⟨*decaffeinated* coffee⟩

deca·gon \ˈdek-ə-ˌgän\ *n* [NL *decagonum*, fr. Gk *dekagōnon*, fr. *deka-* deca- + *-gōnon* -gon] : a plane polygon of 10 angles and 10 sides



decagon

deca·gram \-ˌgram\ *n* [F *décagramme*, fr. *déca-* deca- + *gramme* gram] : DEKAGRAM

deca·he·dron \ˌdek-ə-ˈhē-drən\ *n* [ISV] : a polyhedron of 10 faces

de·cal \ˈdē-ˌkal, di-ˈkal, ˈdek-əl\ *n* [short for *decalcomania*] : a picture, design, or label made to be transferred (as to glass) from specially prepared paper

de·cal·ci·fi·ca·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌkal-sə-fə-ˈkā-shən\ *n* : the removal or loss of calcium or calcium compounds (as from bones or soil)

de·cal·ci·fy \(ˈ)dē-ˈkal-sə-ˌfī\ *vt* [ISV] : to remove calcium or calcium compounds from

de·cal·co·ma·nia \di-ˌkal-kə-ˈmā-nē-ə\ *n* [F *décalcomanie*, fr. *décalquer* to copy by tracing (fr. *dé-* de- + *calquer* to trace, fr. It *calcare*, lit., to trample, fr. L) + *manie* mania, fr. LL *mania* — more at CAULK] **1** : the art or process of transferring pictures and designs from specially prepared paper (as to glass) **2** : DECAL

de·ca·les·cence \ˌdē-kə-ˈles-ᵊn(t)s, ˌdek-ə-\ *n* [ISV *de-* + *-calescence* (as in *recalescence*)] : a decrease in temperature that occurs while heating metal through a range in which change in structure occurs

deca·li·ter \ˈdek-ə-ˌlēt-ər\ *n* [F *décalitre*, fr. *déca-* + *litre* liter] : DEKALITER

deca·logue \ˈdek-ə-ˌlȯg, -ˌläg\ *n* [ME *decaloge*, fr. LL *decalogus*, fr. Gk *dekalogos*, fr. *deka-* + *logos* word — more at LEGEND] **1** *cap* : TEN COMMANDMENTS **2** : a basic set of rules carrying binding authority

¹de·cam·e·ter \de-ˈkam-ət-ər, də-\ *n* [Gk *dekametron*, fr. *deka-* + *metron* measure, meter] : a line of verse consisting of 10 metrical feet

²deca·me·ter \ˈdek-ə-ˌmēt-ər\ *n* [F *décamètre*, fr. *déca-* + *mètre* meter] : DEKAMETER

deca·me·tho·ni·um \ˌdek-ə-mə-ˈthō-nē-əm\ *n* [*decamethonium* (an ammonium ion), fr. *deca-* + *methylene* + *-onium*] : any of several halogen salts of a synthetic ion whose curarizing effect produces relaxation of skeletal muscles

deca·met·ric \ˌdek-ə-ˈme-trik\ *adj* [*decameter* + *-ic*; fr. the wavelength range being between 1 and 10 dekameters] : of, relating to, or being a radio wave of high frequency

de·camp \di-ˈkamp\ *vi* [F *décamper*, fr. MF *descamper*, fr. *des-* de- + *camper* to camp] **1** : to break up a camp **2** : to depart suddenly : ABSCOND — **de·camp·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dec·ane \ˈdek-ˌān\ *n* [ISV *deca-*] : any of several isomeric liquid hydrocarbons $C_{10}H_{22}$ of the methane series

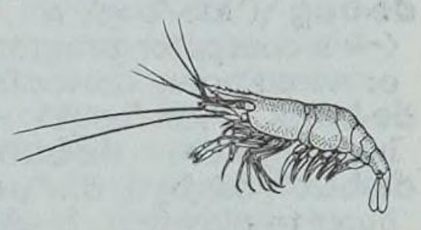
dec·a·no·ic acid \ˌdek-ə-ˌnō-ik-\ *n* [ISV, fr. *decane*] : CAPRIC ACID

de·cant \di-ˈkant\ *vt* [NL *decantare*, fr. L *de-* + ML *cantus* side, fr. L, iron ring round a carriage wheel — more at CANT] **1** : to pour from one vessel into another **2** : to draw off without disturbing the sediment or the lower liquid layers — **de·can·ta·tion** \ˌdē-ˌkan-ˈtā-shən\ *n*

de·cant·er \di-ˈkant-ər\ *n* : a vessel used to decant or to receive decanted liquids; *esp* : an ornamental glass bottle used for serving wine

de·cap·i·tate \di-ˈkap-ə-ˌtāt\ *vt* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [LL *decapitatus*, pp. of *decapitare*, fr. L *de-* + *capit-*, *caput* head — more at HEAD] : to cut off the head of : BEHEAD — **de·cap·i·ta·tion** \-ˌkap-ə-ˈtā-shən\ *n* — **de·cap·i·ta·tor** \-ˈkap-ə-ˌtāt-ər\ *n*

deca·pod \ˈdek-ə-ˌpäd\ *n* [NL *Decapoda*, order name] **1** : any of an order (Decapoda) of highly organized crustaceans (as shrimps, lobsters, and crabs) with five pairs of thoracic appendages one or more of which are modified into pincers, stalked eyes, and the head and thorax fused into a cephalothorax and covered by a carapace **2** : any of an order (Decapoda) of cephalopod mollusks including the cuttlefishes, squids, and related forms that have 10 arms — **decapod** *adj* — **de·cap·o·dal** \di-ˈkap-əd-ᵊl\ *adj* — **de·cap·o·dan** \-əd-ən\ *adj or n* — **de·cap·o·dous** \-əd-əs\ *adj*



decapod 1: a prawn of the Atlantic coast of America

de·car·bon·ate \(ˈ)dē-ˈkär-bə-ˌnāt\ *vt* : to remove carbon dioxide or carbonic acid from — **de·car·bon·ation** \(ˌ)dē-ˌkär-bə-ˈnā-shən\ *n* — **de·car·bon·ator** \(ˈ)dē-ˈkär-bə-ˌnāt-ər\ *n*

de·car·bon·ize \(ˈ)dē-ˈkär-bə-ˌnīz\ *vt* [ISV] : to remove carbon from — **de·car·bon·iz·er** *n*

de·car·box·yl·ase \ˌdē-kär-ˈbäk-sə-ˌlās, -ˌlāz\ *n* : any of a group of enzymes that accelerate decarboxylation esp. of amino acids

de·car·box·yl·ate \-sə-ˌlāt\ *vt* : to remove carboxyl from — **de·carbox·yl·ation** \-ˌbäk-sə-ˈlā-shən\ *n*

de·car·bu·rize \(ˈ)dē-ˈkär-b(y)ə-ˌrīz\ *vt* : DECARBONIZE — **de·carbu·ri·za·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌkär-b(y)ə-rə-ˈzā-shən\ *n*

dec·are \ˈdek-ˌa(ə)r, -ˌe(ə)r, -ˌär\ *n* [F *décare*, fr. *déca-* deca- + *are*] : a metric unit of area equal to 10 ares or 0.2471 acre

deca·stere \ˈdek-ə-ˌsti(ə)r, -ˌste(ə)r\ *n* [F *décastère*, fr. *déca-* + *stère* stere] : DEKASTERE

de·ca·su·al·iza·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌkazh-(ə-)wə-lə-ˈzā-shən, -ˌkazh-ə-lə-\ *n* : the process of eliminating the employment of casual workers in order to stabilize the work force

deca·syl·lab·ic \ˌdek-ə-sə-ˈlab-ik\ *adj* [prob. fr. F *décasyllabique*, fr. Gk *dekasyllabos* decasyllabic, fr. *deka-* deca- + *syllabē* syllable] : consisting of 10 syllables or composed of verses of 10 syllables — **decasyllabic** *n* — **deca·syl·la·ble** \ˈdek-ə-ˌsil-ə-bəl, ˌdek-ə-ˈ\ *n*

de·cath·lon \di-ˈkath-lən, -ˌlän\ *n* [F *décathlon*, fr. *déca-* deca- + Gk *athlon* contest — more at ATHLETE] : a 10-event composite athletic contest consisting of the 100-meter, 400-meter, and 1500-meter runs, the 110-meter high hurdles, the javelin and discus throws, shot put, pole vault, high jump, and long jump

¹de·cay \di-ˈkā\ *vb* [ME *decayen*, fr. ONF *decaïr*, fr. LL *decadere* to fall, sink, fr. L *de-* + *cadere* to fall — more at CHANCE] *vi* **1** : to decline from a sound or prosperous condition **2** : to decrease gradually in quantity, activity, or force **3** : to fall into ruin **4** : to decline in health, strength, or vigor **5** : to undergo decomposition ~ *vt* **1** *obs* : to cause to decay : IMPAIR ⟨infirmity that ~*s* the wise —Shak.⟩ **2** : to destroy by decomposition — **de·cay·er** *n*
syn DECAY, DECOMPOSE, ROT, PUTREFY, SPOIL *shared meaning element* : to undergo destructive changes

²decay *n* **1** : gradual decline in strength, soundness, or prosperity or in degree of excellence or perfection **2** : a wasting or wearing away : RUIN **3** *obs* : DESTRUCTION, DEATH **4** **a** : ROT; *specif* : aerobic decomposition of proteins chiefly by bacteria **b** : the product of decay **5** : a decline in health or vigor **6** : decrease in quantity, activity, or force: as **a** : spontaneous decrease in the number of radioactive atoms in radioactive material **b** : spontaneous disintegration (as of an atom or a meson)

Dec·ca \ˈdek-ə\ *n* [*Decca* Co., British firm which developed it] : a system of long-range navigation utilizing the phase differences of continuous-wave signals from synchronized ground transmitters

decd *abbr* deceased

de·cease \di-ˈsēs\ *n* [ME *deces*, fr. MF, fr. L *decessus* departure, death, fr. *decessus*, pp. of *decedere* to depart, die, fr. *de-* + *cedere* to go — more at CEDE] : departure from life : DEATH — **decease** *vi*

¹de·ceased \-ˈsēst\ *adj* : no longer living; *esp* : recently dead — used of persons ***syn*** see DEAD

²deceased *n, pl* **deceased** : a dead person ⟨the will of the ~⟩

de·ce·dent \di-ˈsēd-ᵊnt\ *n* [L *decedent-*, *decedens*, prp. of *decedere*] : a deceased person — used chiefly in law

de·ceit \di-ˈsēt\ *n* [ME *deceite*, fr. OF, fr. L *decepta*, fem. of *deceptus*, pp. of *decipere*] **1** : the act or practice of deceiving : DECEPTION **2** : an attempt or device to deceive : TRICK **3** : the quality of being deceitful : DECEITFULNESS

de·ceit·ful \-fəl\ *adj* : having a tendency or disposition to deceive: **a** : not honest ⟨a ~ child⟩ **b** : DECEPTIVE, MISLEADING ***syn*** see DISHONEST ***ant*** trustworthy — **de·ceit·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **de·ceit·ful·ness** *n*

de·ceiv·able \di-ˈsē-və-bəl\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : DECEITFUL, DECEPTIVE **2** *archaic* : capable of being deceived — **de·ceiv·able·ness** *n, archaic*

de·ceive \di-ˈsēv\ *vb* **de·ceived; de·ceiv·ing** [ME *deceiven*, fr. OF *deceivre*, fr. L *decipere*, fr. *de-* + *capere* to take — more at HEAVE] *vt* **1** *archaic* : ENSNARE **2** **a** *obs* : to be false to **b** *archaic* : to fail to fulfill **3** *obs* : CHEAT **4** : to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid **5** *archaic* : to while away ~ *vi* : to practice deceit — **de·ceiv·er** *n* — **de·ceiv·ing·ly** \-ˈsē-viŋ-lē\ *adv*
syn DECEIVE, MISLEAD, DELUDE, BEGUILE *shared meaning element* : to lead astray ***ant*** undeceive, enlighten

de·cel·er·ate \(ˈ)dē-ˈsel-ə-ˌrāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [*de-* + *accelerate*] *vt* **1** : to reduce the speed of : slow down **2** : to decrease the rate of progress of ~ *vi* : to move at decreasing speed — **de·cel·er·a·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌsel-ə-ˈrā-shən\ *n* — **de·cel·er·a·tor** \(ˈ)dē-ˈsel-ə-ˌrāt-ər\ *n*

De·cem·ber \di-ˈsem-bər\ *n* [ME *Decembre*, fr. OF, fr. L *December* (tenth month), fr. *decem* ten — more at TEN] : the 12th month of the Gregorian calendar

De·cem·brist \-brəst\ *n* : one taking part in the unsuccessful uprising against the Russian emperor Nicholas I in December 1825

de·cem·vir \di-ˈsem-vər\ *n* [L, back-formation fr. *decemviri*, pl., fr. *decem* + *viri*, pl. of *vir* man — more at VIRILE] : one of a ruling body of 10; *specif* : one of a body of 10 magistrates in ancient Rome — **de·cem·vi·ral** \-və-rəl\ *adj* — **de·cem·vi·rate** \-rət\ *n*

de·cen·cy \ˈdēs-ᵊn-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** *archaic* **a** : FITNESS **b** : ORDERLINESS **2** **a** : the quality or state of being decent : PROPRIETY **b** : conformity to standards of taste, propriety, or quality **3** : standard of propriety — usu. used in pl. **4** *pl* : conditions or services considered essential for a proper standard of living **5** : literary decorum

de·cen·ni·al \di-ˈsen-ē-əl\ *adj* **1** : consisting of or lasting for 10 years **2** : occurring or being done every 10 years — **decennial** *n* — **de·cen·ni·al·ly** \-ē-ə-lē\ *adv*

de·cen·ni·um \-ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ni·ums** *or* **-nia** \-ē-ə\ [L, fr. *decem* + *annus* year — more at ANNUAL] : a period of 10 years : DECADE

de·cent \ˈdēs-ᵊnt\ *adj* [MF or L; MF, fr. L *decent-*, *decens*, prp. of *decēre* to be fitting; akin to L *decus* honor, *dignus* worthy, Gk *dokein* to seem, seem good] **1** *archaic* **a** : APPROPRIATE **b** : well-formed : HANDSOME **2** **a** : conforming to standards of propriety, good taste, or morality **b** : modestly clothed **3** : free from immodesty or obscenity **4** : conforming to current standards of living ⟨~ wages⟩ ⟨~ housing⟩ **5** : having praiseworthy qualities ***syn*** see CHASTE ***ant*** indecent, obscene — **de·cent·ly** *adv*

de·cen·tral·iza·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌsen-trə-lə-ˈzā-shən\ *n* **1** : the dispersion or distribution of functions and powers from a central authority to regional and local authorities **2** : the redistribution of population and industry from urban centers to outlying areas — **de·cen·tral·iza·tion·ist** \(ˌ)dē-ˌsen-trə-lə-ˈzā-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n*

de·cen·tral·ize \(ˈ)dē-ˈsen-trə-ˌlīz\ *vt* : to bring about the decentralization of ~ *vi* : to undergo decentralization

de·cep·tion \di-ˈsep-shən\ *n* [ME *decepcioun*, fr. MF *deception*, fr. LL *deception-*, *deceptio*, fr. L *deceptus*, pp. of *decipere* to deceive] **1** **a** : the act of deceiving **b** : the fact or condition of being deceived **2** : something that deceives : TRICK — **de·cep·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

de·cep·tive \di-ˈsep-tiv\ *adj* : tending or having power to deceive : MISLEADING — **de·cep·tive·ly** *adv* — **de·cep·tive·ness** *n*

¹de·cer·e·brate \(ˈ)dē-ˈser-ə-ˌbrāt\ *vt* : to remove the cerebrum from; *also* : to make incapable of cerebral activity — **de·cer·e·bration** \(ˌ)dē-ˌser-ə-ˈbrā-shən\ *n*

²de·cer·e·brate \(ˈ)dē-ˈser-ə-brət, -ˌbrāt; ˌdē-sə-ˈrē-brət\ *adj* **1** : having the cerebrum removed or made inactive **2** : characteristic of decerebration ⟨~ rigidity⟩

de·cer·ti·fy \(ˈ)dē-ˈsərt-ə-ˌfī\ *vt* : to withdraw or revoke the certification of — **de·cer·ti·fi·ca·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌsərt-ə-fə-ˈkā-shən\ *n*

de·chlo·ri·nate \(')dē-'klōr-ə-ˌnāt, -'klȯr-\ *vt* : to remove chlorine from ⟨~ water⟩ — **de·chlo·ri·na·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌklōr-ə-'nā-shən, -ˌklȯr-\ *n*

deci- *comb form* [F *déci-*, fr. L *decimus* tenth, fr. *decem* ten — more at TEN] : tenth part ⟨*deci*normal⟩

deci·are \'des-ē-ˌa(ə)r, -ˌe(ə)r, -ˌär\ *n* [F *déciare*, fr. *déci-* + *are*] : a metric unit of area equal to 10 square meters or 11.96 square yards

deci·bel \'des-ə-ˌbel, -bəl\ *n* [ISV *deci-* + *bel*] **1 a** : a unit for expressing the ratio of two amounts of electric or acoustic signal power equal to 10 times the common logarithm of this ratio **b** : a unit for expressing the ratio of the magnitudes of two electric voltages or currents or analogous acoustic quantities equal to 20 times the common logarithm of the voltage or current ratio **2** : a unit for expressing the relative intensity of sounds on a scale from zero for the average least perceptible sound to about 130 for the average pain level

de·cide \di-'sīd\ *vb* **de·cid·ed; de·cid·ing** [ME *deciden*, fr. MF *decider*, fr. L *decidere*, lit., to cut off, fr. *de-* + *caedere* to cut — more at CONCISE] *vt* **1** : to arrive at a solution that ends uncertainty or dispute about ⟨important . . . that we ~ borderline cases in favor of individual freedom —Milton Friedman⟩ **2** : to bring to a definitive end ⟨one blow *decided* the fight⟩ **3** : to induce to come to a choice ⟨her pleas *decided* him to help⟩ ~ *vi* : to make a choice or judgment — **de·cid·abil·i·ty** \-ˌsīd-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **de·cid·able** \-'sīd-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·cid·er** *n*

syn DECIDE, DETERMINE, SETTLE, RULE, RESOLVE *shared meaning element* : to come or cause to come to a conclusion

de·cid·ed *adj* **1** : UNQUESTIONABLE ⟨a ~ advantage⟩ **2** : free from doubt or wavering — **de·cid·ed·ly** *adv* — **de·cid·ed·ness** *n*

de·cid·ing *adj* : that decides : DECISIVE ⟨drove in the ~ run⟩

de·cid·ua \di-'sij-ə-wə\ *n, pl* **-u·ae** \-ə-ˌwē\ [NL, fr. L, fem. of *deciduus*] **1** : the part of the mucous membrane lining the uterus that in higher placental mammals undergoes special modifications in preparation for and during pregnancy and is cast off at parturition **2** : the part of the mucous membrane of the uterus cast off in the process of menstruation — **de·cid·u·al** \-wəl\ *adj*

de·cid·u·ate \-wət\ *adj* : having the fetal and maternal tissues firmly interlocked so that a layer of maternal tissue is torn away at parturition and forms a part of the afterbirth

de·cid·u·ous \di-'sij-ə-wəs\ *adj* [L *deciduus*, fr. *decidere* to fall off, fr. *de-* + *cadere* to fall — more at CHANCE] **1** : falling off or shed seasonally or at a certain stage of development in the life cycle ⟨~ leaves⟩ ⟨~ teeth⟩ **2** : having deciduous parts ⟨~ trees⟩ **3** : EPHEMERAL — **de·cid·u·ous·ly** *adv* — **de·cid·u·ous·ness** *n*

deci·gram \'des-ə-ˌgram\ *n* [F *décigramme*, fr. *déci-* + *gramme* gram] — see METRIC SYSTEM table

dec·ile \'des-ˌīl, -əl\ *n* [L *decem* ten — more at TEN] : any one of nine numbers in a series dividing the distribution of the individuals in the series into 10 groups of equal frequency; *also* : any one of these 10 groups — **decile** *adj*

deci·li·ter \'des-ə-ˌlēt-ər\ *n* [F *décilitre*, fr. *déci-* + *litre* liter] — see METRIC SYSTEM table

de·cil·lion \di-'sil-yən\ *n, often attrib* [L *decem* + E *-illion* (as in *million*)] — see NUMBER table

1dec·i·mal \'des(-ə)-məl\ *adj* [(assumed) NL *decimalis*, fr. ML, of a tithe, fr. L *decima* tithe — more at DIME] : numbered or proceeding by tens: **a** : based on the number 10 **b** : subdivided into 10th or 100th units **c** : expressed in a decimal fraction — **dec·i·mal·ly** \-mə-lē\ *adv*

2decimal *n* : a proper fraction in which the denominator is a power of 10 usu. not expressed but signified by a point placed at the left of the numerator (as $.2 = {}^{2}/_{10}$, $.25 = {}^{25}/_{100}$, $.025 = {}^{25}/_{1000}$) — called also *decimal fraction*

dec·i·mal·ize \'des(-ə)-mə-ˌlīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to convert to a decimal system ⟨~ currency⟩ — **dec·i·mal·iza·tion** \ˌdes(-ə)-mə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n*

decimal point *n* : the dot at the left of a decimal fraction

dec·i·mate \'des-ə-ˌmāt\ *vt* **-mat·ed; -mat·ing** [L *decimatus*, pp. of *decimare*, fr. *decimus* tenth, fr. *decem* ten] **1** : to select by lot and kill every tenth man of **2** : to take a tenth from : TITHE **3** : to destroy a large part of — **dec·i·ma·tion** \ˌdes-ə-'mā-shən\ *n*

deci·me·ter \'des-ə-ˌmēt-ər\ *n* [F *décimètre*, fr. *déci-* deci- + *mètre* meter] — see METRIC SYSTEM table

de·ci·pher \di-'sī-fər\ *vt* **1 a** : to convert into intelligible form **b** : DECODE **2** *obs* : DEPICT **3** : to make out the meaning of despite indistinctness or obscurity — **de·ci·pher·able** \-f(ə-)rə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·ci·pher·er** \-fər-ər\ *n* — **de·ci·pher·ment** \-fər-mənt\ *n*

de·ci·sion \di-'sizh-ən\ *n* [MF, fr. L *decision-*, *decisio*, fr. *decisus*, pp. of *decidere* to decide] **1 a** : the act or process of deciding **b** : a determination arrived at after consideration : CONCLUSION **2** : a report of a conclusion **3** : promptness and firmness in deciding : DETERMINATION ⟨a man of courage and ~⟩ — **de·ci·sion·al** \-'sizh-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj*

de·ci·sive \di-'sī-siv\ *adj* **1** : having the power or quality of deciding **2** : marked by or indicative of determination or firmness : RESOLUTE **3** : UNMISTAKABLE, UNQUESTIONABLE ⟨a ~ superiority⟩ ***syn*** see CONCLUSIVE ***ant*** indecisive — **de·ci·sive·ly** *adv* — **de·ci·sive·ness** *n*

deci·stere \'des-ə-ˌsti(ə)r, -ˌste(ə)r\ *n* [F *décistère*, fr. *déci-* + *stère* stere] — see METRIC SYSTEM table

1deck \'dek\ *n* [prob. modif. of (assumed) LG *verdeck* (whence G *verdeck*), fr. (assumed) MLG *vordeck*, fr. MLG *vordecken* to cover, fr. *vor-* (akin to OHG *fur-* for-) + *decken* to cover; akin to OHG *decken* to cover — more at THATCH] **1** : a platform in a ship serving usu. as a structural element and forming the floor for its compartments **2** : something resembling the deck of a ship: as **a** : a story or tier of a building **b** : the roadway of a bridge **c** : a flat floored roofless area adjoining a house **d** : the lid of the compartment at the rear of the body of an automobile; *also* : the compartment **e** : a layer of clouds **f** : TAPE DECK 1b **3 a** : a pack of playing cards **b** : a packet of narcotics **c** : a group of usu. punched data processing cards — **on deck** **1** : ready for duty **2** : next in line

2deck *vt* [D *dekken* to cover; akin to OHG *decken*] **1** *obs* : COVER **2 a** : to clothe elegantly : ARRAY ⟨~*ed* out in furs⟩ **b** : DECORATE ⟨~ the halls with boughs of holly —*English carol*⟩ **3** [1*deck*] : to furnish with or as if with a deck **4** [1*deck*] : to knock down forcibly : FLOOR ⟨~*ed* his opponent with a left hook⟩ ***syn*** see ADORN

deck chair *n* : a folding chair often having an adjustable leg rest

deck·er \'dek-ər\ *n* : something having a deck or a specified number of levels, floors, or layers — often used in combination ⟨many of the city's buses are double-*deckers*⟩

deck·hand \'dek-ˌhand\ *n* : a seaman who performs manual duties

deck·house \-ˌhaůs\ *n* : a superstructure on a ship's upper deck

deck·ing \'dek-iŋ\ *n* : DECK; *also* : material for a deck

deck·le \'dek-əl\ *n* [G *deckel*, lit., cover, fr. *decken* to cover, fr. OHG] **1** : a detachable wooden frame around the outside edges of a hand mold used in making paper **2** : either of the bands that run longitudinally on the edges of the wire of a paper machine and determine the width of the web

deckle edge *n* : the rough untrimmed edge of paper left by a deckle or produced artificially — **deck·le-edged** \ˌdek-ə-'lejd\ *adj*

deck tennis *n* [fr. its being played chiefly on the decks of ocean liners] : a game in which players toss a ring or quoit back and forth over a net stretched across a small court

de·claim \di-'klām\ *vb* [ME *declamen*, fr. L *declamare*, fr. *de-* + *clamare* to cry out; akin to L *calare* to call — more at LOW] *vi* **1** : to speak rhetorically; *specif* : to recite something as an exercise in elocution **2** : to speak pompously or bombastically : HARANGUE ~ *vt* : to deliver rhetorically; *specif* : to recite in elocution — **de·claim·er** *n* — **dec·la·ma·tion** \ˌdek-lə-'mā-shən\ *n*

de·clam·a·to·ry \di-'klam-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or marked by declamation or rhetorical display

de·clar·ant \di-'klar-ənt, -'kler-\ *n* : one that makes a declaration; *specif* : an alien who has declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the U.S. by signing his first papers

dec·la·ra·tion \ˌdek-lə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of declaring : ANNOUNCEMENT **2 a** : the first pleading in a common-law action **b** : a statement made by a party to a legal transaction usu. not under oath **3 a** : something that is declared **b** : the document containing such a declaration

de·clar·a·tive \di-'klar-ət-iv, -'kler-\ *adj* : making a declaration : DECLARATORY ⟨~ sentence⟩ — **de·clar·a·tive·ly** *adv*

de·clar·a·to·ry \-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* **1** : serving to declare, set forth, or explain **2 a** : declaring what is the existing law ⟨~ statute⟩ **b** : declaring a legal right or interpretation ⟨a ~ judgment⟩

de·clare \di-'kla(ə)r, -'kle(ə)r\ *vb* **de·clared; de·clar·ing** [ME *declaren*, fr. MF *declarer*, fr. L *declarare*, fr. *de-* + *clarare* to make clear, fr. *clarus* clear — more at CLEAR] *vt* **1** *obs* : to make clear **2** : to make known formally or explicitly **3** : to make evident : SHOW **4** : to state emphatically : AFFIRM ⟨~*s* his innocence⟩ **5** : to make a full statement of (one's taxable or dutiable property) **6 a** : to announce (as a trump suit) in a card game **b** : MELD **7** : to make payable ~ *vi* **1** : to make a declaration **2** : to avow one's support — **de·clar·able** \-'klar-ə-bəl, -'kler-\ *adj*

syn **1** DECLARE, ANNOUNCE, PUBLISH, ADVERTISE, PROCLAIM, PROMULGATE *shared meaning element* : to make known publicly **2** see ASSERT

de·clar·er \di-'klar-ər, -'kler-\ *n* : one that declares; *specif* : the bridge player who names the trump and plays both his own hand and that of the dummy

de·class \(')dē-'klas\ *vt* : to remove from a class; *esp* : to assign to a lower social status ***syn*** see DEGRADE

dé·clas·sé \ˌdā-ˌklas-'ā, -ˌkläs-\ *adj* [F, fr. pp. of *déclasser* to declass] **1** : fallen or lowered in class, rank, or social position **2** : of inferior status

de·clas·si·fy \(')dē-'klas-ə-ˌfī\ *vt* : to remove or reduce the security classification of ⟨~ a secret document⟩

de·clen·sion \di-'klen-chən\ *n* [prob. alter. of earlier *declenson*, modif. of MF *declinaison*, fr. LL *declination-*, *declinatio*, fr. L, grammatical inflection, turning aside, fr. *declinatus*, pp. of *declinare* to inflect, turn aside] **1 a** : noun, adjective, or pronoun inflection esp. in some prescribed order of the forms **b** : a class of nouns or adjectives having the same type of inflectional forms **2** : a falling off or away : DETERIORATION **3** : DESCENT, SLOPE — **de·clen·sion·al** \-'klench-nəl, -'klen-chən-ᵊl\ *adj*

dec·li·nate \'dek-lə-ˌnāt, -nət\ *adj* : bent or curved down or aside

dec·li·na·tion \ˌdek-lə-'nā-shən\ *n* [ME *declinacioun*, fr. MF *declination*, fr. L *declination-*, *declinatio* turning aside, altitude of the pole] **1** : angular distance north or south from the celestial equator measured along a great circle passing through the celestial poles **2** : a turning aside or swerving **3** : DETERIORATION ⟨moral ~⟩ **4** : a bending downward : INCLINATION **5** : a formal refusal **6** : the angle formed between a magnetic needle and the geographical meridian — **dec·li·na·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

1de·cline \di-'klīn\ *vb* **de·clined; de·clin·ing** [ME *declinen*, fr. MF *decliner*, fr. L *declinare* to turn aside, inflect, fr. *de-* + *clinare* to incline — more at LEAN] *vi* **1** : to turn from a straight course : STRAY **2 a** : to slope downward : DESCEND **b** : to bend down : DROOP **c** : to stoop to what is unworthy **3 a** *of a celestial body* : to sink toward setting **b** : to draw toward a close : WANE **4** : to withhold consent ~ *vt* **1** : to give in prescribed order the grammatical forms of (a noun, pronoun, or adjective) **2** *obs* **a** : AVERT **b** : AVOID **3** : to cause to bend or bow downward **4 a** : to refuse to undertake, engage in, or comply with **b** : to refuse courteously ⟨~ an invitation⟩ — **de·clin·able** \-'klī-nə-bəl\ *adj*

syn DECLINE, REFUSE, REJECT, REPUDIATE, SPURN *shared meaning element* : to turn away by not accepting, receiving, or considering ***ant*** accept

²decline *n* **1** : the process of declining: **a** : a gradual physical or mental sinking and wasting away **b** : a change to a lower state or level **2** : the period during which something is approaching its end **3** : a downward slope : DECLIVITY **4** : a wasting disease; *esp* : pulmonary tuberculosis ***syn*** see DETERIORATION

de·cliv·i·tous \di-'kliv-ət-əs\ *adj* : moderately steep

de·cliv·i·ty \-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [L *declivitat-, declivitas,* fr. *declivis* sloping down, fr. *de-* + *clivus* slope, hill; akin to L *clinare*] **1** : downward inclination **2** : a descending slope

de·coct \di-'käkt\ *vt* [L *decoctus,* pp. of *decoquere,* fr. *de-* + *coquere* to cook — more at COOK] **1** : to extract the flavor of by boiling **2** : to boil down : CONCENTRATE

de·coc·tion \di-'käk-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of decocting **2** : an extract obtained by decocting

de·code \(')dē-'kōd\ *vt* : to convert (a coded message) into intelligible language — **de·cod·er** *n*

de·col·late \di-'käl-ˌāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *decollatus,* pp. of *decollare,* fr. *de-* + *collum* neck — more at COLLAR] : BEHEAD — **de·col·la·tion** \ˌdē-ˌkä-'lā-shən\ *n*

dé·col·le·tage \(ˌ)dā-ˌkäl-ə-'täzh, ˌdek-(ə-)lə-\ *n* [F, action of cutting or wearing a low neckline, fr. *décolleter*] **1** : the low-cut neckline of a dress **2** : a décolleté dress



décolletage 1

dé·col·le·té \-'tā\ *adj* [F, fr. pp. of *décolleter* to give a low neckline to, fr. *dé-* de- + *collet* collar, fr. OF *colet,* fr. *col* collar, neck, fr. L *collum* neck] **1** : wearing a strapless or low-necked dress **2** : having a low-cut neckline

de·col·o·nize \(')dē-'käl-ə-ˌnīz\ *vt* : to free from colonial status — **de·col·o·ni·za·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌkäl-ə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n*

de·col·or·ize \(')dē-'kəl-ə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to remove color from ⟨~ vinegar by adsorption of impurities on activated charcoal⟩ — **de·col·or·iza·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌkəl-ə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **de·col·or·iz·er** \(')dē-'kəl-ə-ˌrī-zər\ *n*

de·com·mis·sion \ˌdē-kə-'mish-ən\ *vt* : to remove (as a ship) from service

de·com·pen·sate \(')dē-'käm-pən-ˌsāt, -ˌpen-\ *vi* [prob. back= formation fr. *decompensation*] : to undergo decompensation — **de·com·pen·sa·to·ry** \ˌdē-kəm-'pen(t)-sə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

de·com·pen·sa·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌkäm-pən-'sā-shən, -ˌpen-\ *n* [ISV] : loss of compensation; *esp* : inability of the heart to maintain adequate circulation

de·com·pose \ˌdē-kəm-'pōz\ *vb* [F *décomposer,* fr. *dé-* de + *composer* to compose] *vt* **1** : to separate into constituent parts or elements or into simpler compounds ⟨~ water by electrolysis⟩ **2** : ROT ~ *vi* : to undergo chemical breakdown : DECAY, ROT ⟨fruit ~*s*⟩ ***syn*** see DECAY — **de·com·pos·abil·i·ty** \-ˌpō-zə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **de·com·pos·able** \-'pō-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·com·po·si·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌkäm-pə-'zish-ən\ *n* — **de·com·po·si·tion·al** \-'zish-nəl, -'zish-ən-ᵊl\ *adj*

de·com·pos·er \ˌdē-kəm-'pō-zər\ *n* : any of various organisms (as many bacteria and fungi) that return constituents of organic substances to ecological cycles by feeding on and breaking down dead protoplasm

de·com·pound \'dē-'käm-ˌpau̇nd; ˌdē-ˌkäm-', -kəm-'\ *adj, of a leaf* : having divisions that are themselves compound

de·com·press \ˌdē-kəm-'pres\ *vt* : to release from pressure or compression — **de·com·pres·sion** \-'presh-ən\ *n*

de·con·cen·trate \(')dē-'kän(t)-sən-ˌtrāt, -ˌsen-\ *vt* : DECENTRALIZE

de·con·di·tion \ˌdē-kən-'dish-ən\ *vt* **1** : to cause to lose physical fitness ⟨inactivity ~*s* a bedridden person⟩ **2** : to cause extinction of (a conditioned response)

de·con·gest \ˌdē-kən-'jest\ *vt* : to relieve the congestion of — **de·con·ges·tion** \-'jes(h)-chən\ *n* — **de·con·ges·tive** \-'jes-tiv\ *adj*

de·con·ges·tant \ˌdē-kən-'jes-tənt\ *n* : an agent that relieves congestion (as of mucous membranes)

de·con·se·crate \(')dē-'kän(t)-sə-ˌkrāt\ *vt* : to remove the sacred character of ⟨~ a church⟩ — **de·con·se·cra·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌkän(t)-sə-'krā-shən\ *n*

de·con·tam·i·nate \ˌdē-kən-'tam-ə-ˌnāt\ *vt* : to rid of contamination — **de·con·tam·i·na·tion** \-ˌtam-ə-'nā-shən\ *n* — **de·con·tam·i·na·tor** \-'tam-ə-ˌnāt-ər\ *n*

de·con·trol \ˌdē-kən-'trōl\ *vt* : to end control of — **decontrol** *n*

de·cor *or* **dé·cor** \dā-'kȯ(ə)r, di-'; 'dek-ˌȯ(ə)r, 'dāk-ˌ\ *n* [F *décor,* fr. *décorer* to decorate, fr. L *decorare*] **1 a** : DECORATION **b** : the style and layout of interior furnishings **2** : a stage setting

dec·o·rate \'dek-ə-ˌrāt\ *vt* **-rat·ed; -rat·ing** [L *decoratus,* pp. of *decorare,* fr. *decor-, decus* ornament — more at DECENT] **1** : to add honor to **2** : to furnish with something ornamental **3** : to award a mark of honor to ***syn*** see ADORN

dec·o·ra·tion \ˌdek-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of decorating **2** : ORNAMENT **3** : a badge of honor (as a U.S. military award)

Decoration Day *n* [fr. the custom of decorating graves on this day] : MEMORIAL DAY

dec·o·ra·tive \'dek-(ə-)rət-iv, 'dek-ə-ˌrāt-\ *adj* : serving to decorate; *esp* : purely ornamental — **dec·o·ra·tive·ly** *adv* — **dec·o·ra·tive·ness** *n*

¹dec·o·ra·tor \'dek-ə-ˌrāt-ər\ *n* : one that decorates; *esp* : one that designs or executes interiors and their furnishings

²decorator *adj* : suitable for interior decoration ⟨~ fabrics⟩

dec·o·rous \'dek-ə-rəs *also* di-'kōr-əs *or* -'kȯr-\ *adj* [L *decorus,* fr. *decor* beauty, grace; akin to L *decēre* to be fitting — more at DECENT] : marked by propriety and good taste : CORRECT ⟨~ conduct⟩ — **dec·o·rous·ly** *adv* — **dec·o·rous·ness** *n*

de·cor·ti·cate \(')dē-'kȯrt-ə-ˌkāt\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *decorticatus,* pp. of *decorticare* to remove the bark from, fr. *de-* + *cortic-, cortex* bark — more at CORTEX] **1** : to peel the outer covering from **2** : to remove all or part of the cortex from (as the brain) — **de·cor·ti·ca·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌkȯrt-ə-'kā-shən\ *n* — **de·cor·ti·ca·tor** \(')dē-'kȯrt-ə-ˌkāt-ər\ *n*

de·co·rum \di-'kōr-əm, -'kȯr-\ *n* [L, fr. neut. of *decorus*] **1** : literary and dramatic propriety : FITNESS **2** : propriety and good taste in conduct or appearance **3** : ORDERLINESS **4** *pl* : the conventions of polite behavior

de·cou·page *or* **dé·cou·page** \ˌdā-(ˌ)kü-'päzh\ *n* [F *découpage,* lit., act of cutting out, fr. MF, fr. *decouper* to cut out, fr. *de-* + *couper* to cut — more at COPE] **1** : the art of decorating surfaces by applying cutouts (as of paper) and then coating with usu. several layers of finish (as lacquer or varnish) **2** : work produced by decoupage

¹de·coy \'dē-ˌkȯi, di-'\ *n* [prob. fr. D *de kooi,* lit., the cage, fr. *de,* masc. def. art. (akin to OE *thæt,* neut. def. article) + *kooi* cage, fr. L *cavea* — more at THAT, CAGE] **1** : a pond into which wildfowl are lured for capture **2** : one that is used to lure or lead another into a trap; *esp* : an artificial bird used to attract live birds within shot

²de·coy \di-'kȯi, 'dē-ˌ\ *vt* : to lure by or as if by a decoy : ENTICE ***syn*** see LURE

¹de·crease \di-'krēs, 'dē-ˌ\ *vb* **de·creased; de·creas·ing** [ME *decreessen,* fr. (assumed) AF *decreistre,* fr. L *decrescere,* fr. *de-* + *crescere* to grow — more at CRESCENT] *vi* : to grow progressively less (as in size, amount, number, or intensity) ~ *vt* : to cause to decrease — **de·creas·ing·ly** \di-'krē-siŋ-lē\ *adv*

syn DECREASE, LESSEN, DIMINISH, REDUCE, ABATE, DWINDLE *shared meaning element* : to grow or make less ***ant*** increase

²de·crease \'dē-ˌkrēs, di-'\ *n* **1** : the process of decreasing **2** : an amount of diminution : REDUCTION

¹de·cree \di-'krē\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *decré,* fr. L *decretum,* fr. neut. of *decretus,* pp. of *decernere* to decide, fr. *de-* + *cernere* to sift, decide — more at CERTAIN] **1** : an order usu. having the force of law **2 a** : a religious ordinance enacted by council or titular head **b** : a foreordaining will **3 a** : a judicial decision of the Roman emperor **b** : a judicial decision esp. in an equity or probate court

²decree *vb* **de·creed; de·cree·ing** *vt* **1** : to command or enjoin by decree ⟨~ an amnesty⟩ **2** : to determine or order judicially ⟨~ a punishment⟩ ~ *vi* : ORDAIN — **de·cre·er** \-'krē-ər\ *n*

de·cree–law \di-'krē-ˌlȯ\ *n* : a decree of a ruler or ministry having the force of a law enacted by the legislature

dec·re·ment \'dek-rə-mənt\ *n* [L *decrementum,* fr. *decrescere*] **1** : a gradual decrease in quality or quantity **2 a** : the quantity lost by diminution or waste **b** : a negative mathematical increment — **dec·re·men·tal** \ˌdek-rə-'ment-ᵊl\ *adj*

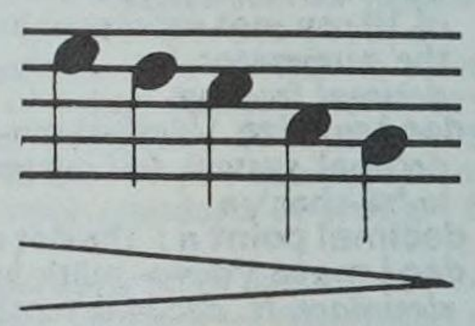
de·crep·it \di-'krep-ət\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *decrepitus*] **1** : wasted and weakened by or as if by the infirmities of old age **2 a** : impaired by use or wear : WORN-OUT **b** : fallen into ruin or disrepair **3** : DILAPIDATED, RUN-DOWN ***syn*** see WEAK ***ant*** sturdy — **de·crep·it·ly** *adv*

de·crep·i·tate \di-'krep-ə-ˌtāt\ *vb* [prob. fr. (assumed) NL *decrepitatus,* pp. of *decrepitare,* fr. L *de-* + *crepitare* to crackle — more at CREPITATE] *vt* : to roast or calcine (as salt) so as to cause crackling or until crackling stops ~ *vi* : to become decrepitated — **de·crep·i·ta·tion** \-ˌkrep-ə-'tā-shən\ *n*

de·crep·i·tude \di-'krep-ə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* : the quality or state of being decrepit

¹de·cre·scen·do \ˌdā-krə-'shen-(ˌ)dō\ *adv or adj* [It, lit., decreasing, fr. L *decrescendum,* gerund of *decrescere*] : with a decrease in volume — used as a direction in music

²decrescendo *n, pl* **-dos** **1** : a gradual decrease in volume of a musical passage **2** : a decrescendo musical passage



mark indicating decrescendo 2

de·cres·cent \di-'kres-ᵊnt\ *adj* [alter. of earlier *decressant,* prob. fr. AF, prp. of (assumed) AF *decreistre* to decrease] : becoming less by gradual diminution : DECREASING, WANING

de·cre·tal \di-'krēt-ᵊl\ *n* [ME *decretale,* fr. MF, fr. LL *decretalis* of a decree, fr. L *decretum* decree] : DECREE; *esp* : a papal letter giving an authoritative decision on a point of canon law

de·cre·tive \-'krēt-iv\ *adj* : having the force of a decree : DECRETORY

de·cre·to·ry \'dek-rə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-; di-'krēt-ə-rē\ *adj* : relating to or fixed by a decree or decision

de·cry \di-'krī\ *vt* [F *décrier,* fr. OF *descrier,* fr. *des-* de- + *crier* to cry] **1** : to depreciate (as a coin) officially or publicly **2** : to express strong disapproval of ⟨~ the emphasis on sex⟩ — **de·cri·er** \-'krī(-ə)r\ *n*

syn DECRY, DEPRECIATE, DISPARAGE, BELITTLE, MINIMIZE *shared meaning element* : to give expression to one's low opinion of something ***ant*** extol

de·crypt \(')dē-'kript\ *vt* [ISV *de-* + *crypt*ogram, *crypt*ograph] **1** : DECIPHER **2** : DECODE — **de·cryp·tion** \-'krip-shən\ *n*

de·cryp·to·graph \-'krip-tə-ˌgraf\ *vt* : DECRYPT

de·cum·bent \di-'kəm-bənt\ *adj* [L *decumbent-, decumbens,* prp. of *decumbere* to lie down, fr. *de-* + *-cumbere* to lie down — more at SUCCUMB] **1** : lying down **2** *of a plant* : reclining on the ground but with ascending apex or extremity

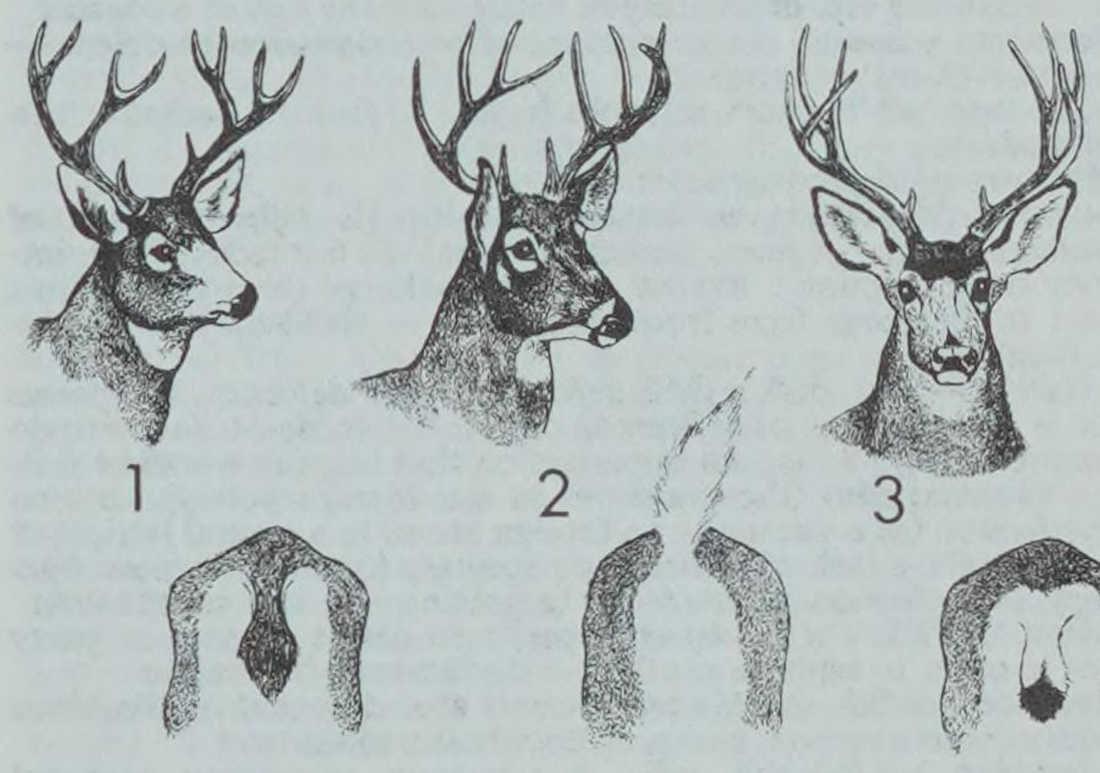
dec·u·ple \'dek-yə-pəl\ *adj* [F *décuple,* fr. MF, fr. LL *decuplus,* fr. L *decem* ten + *-plus* multiplied by — more at TEN, DOUBLE] **1** : TENFOLD **2** : taken in groups of 10

de·cu·ri·on \di-'kyu̇r-ē-ən\ *n* [ME *decurioun,* fr. L *decurion-, decurio,* fr. *decuria* division of ten, fr. *decem*] **1** : a Roman cavalry officer in command of 10 men **2** : a member of a Roman senate

de·curved \(')dē-'kərvd\ *adj* [part trans. of LL *decurvatus,* fr. L *de-* + *curvatus* curved] : curved downward : bent down

¹de·cus·sate \'dek-ə-ˌsāt, di-'kəs-ˌāt\ *vb* **-sat·ed; -sat·ing** [L *decussatus,* pp. of *decussare,* fr. *decussis* the number ten, numeral X, intersection, fr. *decem* + *ass-, as* unit — more at ACE] : INTERSECT

²de·cus·sate \'dek-ə-ˌsāt, di-'kəs-ət\ *adj* **1** : shaped like an X **2** : arranged in pairs each at right angles to the next pair above or below ⟨~ leaves⟩ — **de·cus·sate·ly** *adv*
de·cus·sa·tion \ˌdek-ə-'sā-shən, ˌdē-ˌkə-\ *n* **1** : an intersection in the form of an X **2** : a band of nerve fibers that connects unlike centers of opposite sides of the central nervous system
de·dans \də-'dänⁿ\ *n, pl* **dedans** \-'dänⁿ(z)\ [F, lit., interior] **1** : an open gallery at the service end of the court in court tennis **2** : the spectators at a court-tennis match
¹ded·i·cate \'ded-i-kət\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *dedicatus*, pp. of *dedicare* to dedicate, fr. *de-* + *dicare* to proclaim, dedicate — more at DICTION] : DEDICATED
²ded·i·cate \'ded-i-ˌkāt\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** **1** : to devote to the worship of a divine being; *specif* : to set apart (a church) to sacred uses with solemn rites **2 a** : to set apart to a definite use ⟨money *dedicated* to their vacation fund⟩ **b** : to become committed to as a goal or way of life ⟨ready to ~ his life to public service⟩ **3** : to inscribe or address by way of compliment ⟨~ a book to a friend⟩ **4** : to open to public use ***syn*** see DEVOTE — **ded·i·ca·tor** \-ˌkāt-ər\ *n*
ded·i·cat·ed *adj* **1** : devoted to a cause, ideal, or purpose : ZEALOUS ⟨a ~ scholar⟩ **2** : given over to a particular purpose ⟨a ~ process control computer⟩ — **ded·i·cat·ed·ly** *adv*
ded·i·ca·tion \ˌded-i-'kā-shən\ *n* **1** : an act or rite of dedicating to a divine being or to a sacred use **2** : a devoting or setting aside for a particular purpose **3** : a name and often a message prefixed to a literary, musical, or artistic production in tribute to a person or cause **4** : self-sacrificing devotion — **ded·i·ca·tive** \'ded-i-ˌkāt-iv, -kət-\ *adj* — **ded·i·ca·to·ry** \'ded-i-kə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*
de·dif·fer·en·ti·a·tion \(ˈ)dē-ˌdif-ə-ˌren-chē-'ā-shən\ *n* : reversion of specialized structures (as cells) to a more generalized or primitive condition often as a preliminary to major change
de·duce \di-'d(y)üs\ *vt* **de·duced; de·duc·ing** [L *deducere*, lit., to lead away, fr. *de-* + *ducere* to lead — more at TOW] **1** : to trace the course of **2** : to determine by deduction; *specif* : to infer from a general principle — compare INDUCE ***syn*** see INFER — **de·duc·ible** \-'d(y)ü-sə-bəl\ *adj*
de·duct \di-'dəkt\ *vt* [L *deductus*, pp. of *deducere*] **1** : to take away (an amount) from a total : SUBTRACT **2** : DEDUCE, INFER
¹de·duct·ible \di-'dək-tə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being deducted — **de·duct·ibil·i·ty** \-ˌdək-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*
²deductible *n* : a clause in an insurance policy that relieves the insurer of responsibility for an initial specified loss of the kind insured against
de·duc·tion \di-'dək-shən\ *n* **1 a** : an act of taking away ⟨~ of legitimate business expenses⟩ **b** : something that is or may be subtracted ⟨~*s* from his taxable income⟩ **2 a** : the deriving of a conclusion by reasoning; *specif* : inference in which the conclusion follows necessarily from the premises **b** : a conclusion reached by logical deduction
de·duc·tive \di-'dək-tiv\ *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to deduction **b** : employing deduction in reasoning **2** : capable of being deduced from premises : INFERENTIAL — **de·duc·tive·ly** *adv*
dee \'dē\ *n* : the letter *d*
¹deed \'dēd\ *n* [ME *dede*, fr. OE *dǣd*; akin to OE *dōn* to do] **1** : something that is done ⟨evil ~*s*⟩ **2** : a usu. illustrious act or action : FEAT, EXPLOIT **3** : the act of performing ⟨a righteous man who never mistook the word for the ~⟩ **4** : a signed and usu. sealed instrument containing some legal transfer, bargain, or contract ***syn*** see ACTION — **deed·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
²deed *vt* : to convey or transfer by deed ***syn*** see TRANSFER
deed poll \-'pōl\ *n, pl* **deeds poll** [¹*deed* + *poll*, adj. (having the edges cut even rather than indented), fr. ²*poll*] : a deed made and executed by only one party
deedy \'dēd-ē\ *adj* **deed·i·er; -est** *dial chiefly Eng* : INDUSTRIOUS
dee·jay \'dē-'jā\ *n* [*disc jockey*] : DISC JOCKEY
deem \'dēm\ *vb* [ME *demen*, fr. OE *dēman*; akin to OHG *tuomen* to judge, OE *dōm* doom] *vt* : to come to think or judge : HOLD ⟨~*ed* it wise to go slow⟩ ~ *vi* : to have an opinion : BELIEVE
de–em·pha·size \(ˈ)dē-'em(p)-fə-ˌsīz\ *vt* : to play down — **de–em·pha·sis** \-fə-səs\ *n*
¹deep \'dēp\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *dēop*; akin to OHG *tiof* deep, OE *dyppan* to dip — more at DIP] **1** : extending far from some surface or area: as **a** : extending far downward ⟨a ~ well⟩ **b** (1) : extending well inward from an outer surface ⟨a ~ gash⟩ ⟨a *deep*-chested animal⟩ (2) : not located superficially within the body ⟨~ pressure receptors in muscles⟩ **c** : extending well back from a front surface ⟨a ~ closet⟩ **d** : extending far laterally from the center ⟨~ borders of lace⟩ **e** : occurring or located near the outer limits of the playing area ⟨hit to ~ right field⟩ **2** : having a specified extension in an implied direction usu. downward or backward ⟨shelf 20 inches ~⟩ ⟨cars parked three-*deep*⟩ **3 a** : difficult to penetrate or comprehend : RECONDITE ⟨~ mathematical problems⟩ **b** : MYSTERIOUS, OBSCURE ⟨a ~ dark secret⟩ **c** : grave in nature or effect : GRIEVOUS ⟨in ~*est* disgrace⟩ **d** : of penetrating intellect : WISE ⟨a ~ thinker⟩ **e** : ENGROSSED, INVOLVED ⟨a man ~ in debt⟩ **f** : characterized by profundity of feeling or quality ⟨a ~ sleep⟩; *also* : DEEP-SEATED ⟨~ religious beliefs⟩ **4 a** *of color* : high in saturation and low in lightness **b** : having a low musical pitch or pitch range ⟨a ~ voice⟩ **5 a** : situated well within the boundaries ⟨a house ~ in the woods⟩ **b** : remote in time or space ⟨had its roots ~ in the Middle Ages —Roy Lewis & Angus Maude⟩ **c** : being below the level of the conscious ⟨~ neuroses⟩ **d** : covered, enclosed, or filled to a specified degree — usu. used in combination ⟨she was ankle-*deep* in mud⟩ — **deep·ly** *adv* — **deep·ness** *n*
syn **1** DEEP, PROFOUND, ABYSMAL *shared meaning element* : having great extension downward or inward
2 see BROAD ***ant*** shallow
— **in deep water** : in difficulty or distress
²deep *adv* **1** : to a great depth : DEEPLY ⟨still waters run ~⟩ **2** : far on : LATE ⟨danced ~ into the night⟩ **3** : near the outer limits of the playing area ⟨the shortstop was playing ~⟩
³deep *n* **1** : any of the fathom points on a sounding line that is not a mark **2 a** : a vast or immeasurable extent : ABYSS **b** (1) : the extent of surrounding space or time (2) : OCEAN **3** : the middle or most intense part ⟨the ~ of winter⟩ **4** : one of the deep portions of any body of water; *specif* : a generally long and narrow area in the ocean where the depth exceeds 3000 fathoms
deep–dish pie *n* : a pie usu. with a fruit filling and no bottom crust that is baked in a deep dish
deep·en \'dē-pən, 'dēp-ᵊm\ *vb* **deep·ened; deep·en·ing** \'dēp-(ə-)niŋ\ *vt* : to make deep or deeper ~ *vi* : to become deeper or more profound
deep fat *n* : hot fat or oil deep enough in a cooking utensil to cover the food to be fried
deep–freeze \'dēp-'frēz\ *vt* **-froze** \-'frōz\; **-fro·zen** \-'frōz-ᵊn\ **1** : QUICK-FREEZE **2** : CHILL, REFRIGERATE
deep–go·ing \'dēp-'gō-iŋ, -'gȯ(-)iŋ\ *adj* : FUNDAMENTAL ⟨a ~ theory⟩
deep kiss *n* : FRENCH KISS
deep–root·ed \'dē-'prüt-əd, -'průt-\ *adj* : deeply implanted or established ⟨a ~ loyalty⟩ ***syn*** see INVETERATE
deep–sea \ˌdēp-ˌsē\ *adj* : of, relating to, or occurring in the deeper parts of the sea ⟨~ fishing⟩
deep–seat·ed \'dēp-'sēt-əd\ *adj* **1** : situated far below the surface ⟨a ~ inflammation⟩ **2** : firmly established ⟨a ~ tradition⟩ ***syn*** see INVETERATE
deep–six *vt* **1** *slang* : to throw overboard **2** *slang* : to throw away : DISCARD
deep six *n* [naval slang for "burial at sea"; perh. fr. the tradition of burying bodies six feet under ground] *slang* : a place of disposal or abandonment — used esp. in the phrase *give it the deep six*
deep space *n* : space well beyond the limits of the earth's atmosphere including space outside the solar system
deep structure *n* : a formal representation of the underlying semantic content of a sentence; *also* : the structure which such a representation specifies
deer \'di(ə)r\ *n, pl* **deer** *also* **deers** [ME, deer, animal, fr. OE *dēor* beast; akin to OHG *tior* wild animal, Skt *dhvaṁsati* he perishes] **1** *archaic* : ANIMAL; *esp* : a small mammal **2** : a ruminant mammal (family Cervidae, the deer family) having two large and two small hoofs on each foot and antlers borne by the males of nearly all and by the females of a few forms



deer 2: *1* blacktailed deer, *2* whitetail, *3* mule deer

deer·ber·ry \-ˌber-ē\ *n* **1** : either of two shrubs (*Vaccinium stamineum* or *V. caesium*) of dry woods and scrub of the eastern U.S. **2** : the edible fruit of a deerberry
deer·fly \'di(ə)r-ˌflī\ *n* : any of numerous small horseflies (as of the genus *Chrysops*) that include important vectors of tularemia
deer·hound \-ˌhau̇nd\ *n* : SCOTTISH DEERHOUND
deer mouse *n* [fr. its agility] : WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE
deer·skin \'di(ə)r-ˌskin\ *n* : leather made from the skin of a deer; *also* : a garment of this leather
deer·stalk·er hat \-ˌstȯ-kər-\ *n* : a close-fitting hat with a visor at the front and the back and with earflaps that may be worn up or down — called also *deerstalker*
deer·yard \'di(ə)r-ˌyärd\ *n* : a place where deer herd in winter
de–es·ca·late \(ˈ)dē-'es-kə-ˌlāt, *nonstand* -kyə-\ *vi* : to decrease in extent, volume, or scope ~ *vt* : LIMIT 2 — **de–es·ca·la·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌes-kə-'lā-shən, *nonstand* -kyə-\ *n* — **de–es·ca·la·to·ry** \(ˈ)dē-'es-kə-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-, *nonstand* -kyə-\ *adj*
def *abbr* **1** defendant **2** defense **3** deferred **4** defined **5** definite **6** definition
de·face \di-'fās\ *vt* [ME *defacen*, fr. MF *desfacier*, fr. OF, fr. *des-* de- + *face*] **1** : to mar the external appearance of : injure by effacing significant details ⟨~ an inscription⟩ **2** : IMPAIR **3** *obs* : DESTROY — **de·face·ment** \-'fā-smənt\ *n* — **de·fac·er** *n*
syn DEFACE, DISFEATURE, DISFIGURE *shared meaning element* : to mar the appearance of
¹de fac·to \di-'fak-(ˌ)tō, dā-\ *adv* [NL] : in reality : ACTUALLY
²de facto *adj* **1** : exercising power as if legally constituted ⟨a *de facto* government⟩ **2** : ACTUAL ⟨a *de facto* state of war⟩ — compare DE JURE
de·fal·cate \di-'fal-ˌkāt, di-'fȯl-, 'def-əl-\ *vb* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [ML *defalcatus*, pp. of *defalcare*, fr. L *de-* + *falc-*, *falx* sickle] *vt, archaic*

: DEDUCT, CURTAIL ~ *vi* : to engage in embezzlement — **de·fal·ca·tor** \-ˌkāt-ər\ *n*
de·fal·ca·tion \ˌdē-ˌfal-ˈkā-shən, ˌdē-ˌfȯl-, di-; ˌdef-əl-\ *n* **1** *archaic* : DEDUCTION **2** : the act or an instance of embezzling **3** : a failure to meet a promise or an expectation
def·a·ma·tion \ˌdef-ə-ˈmā-shən\ *n* : the act of defaming another : CALUMNY — **de·fam·a·to·ry** \di-ˈfam-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*
de·fame \di-ˈfām\ *vt* **de·famed; de·fam·ing** [ME *diffamen, defamen*, fr. MF & L; ME *diffamen* fr. MF *diffamer*, fr. L *diffamare*, fr. *dis-* + *fama* fame; ME *defamen* fr. MF *defamer*, fr. ML *defamare*, fr. L *de-* + *fama*] **1** *archaic* : DISGRACE **2** : to harm the reputation of by libel or slander **3** *archaic* : ACCUSE ***syn*** see MALIGN — **de·fam·er** *n*
de·fat \(ˈ)dē-ˈfat\ *vt* : to remove fat from
[1]de·fault \di-ˈfȯlt\ *n* [ME *defaute, defaulte*, fr. OF *defaute*, fr. (assumed) VL *defallita*, fr. fem. of *defallitus*, pp. of *defallere* to be lacking, fail, fr. L *de-* + *fallere* to deceive] **1** : failure to do something required by duty or law : NEGLECT **2** *archaic* : FAULT **3** : a failure to pay financial debts **4 a** : failure to appear at the required time in a legal proceeding **b** : failure to compete in or to finish an appointed contest — **in default of** : in the absence of
[2]default *vi* : to fail to fulfill a contract, agreement, or duty: as **a** : to fail to meet a financial obligation **b** : to fail to appear in court **c** : to fail to compete in or to finish an appointed contest; *also* : to forfeit a contest by such failure ~ *vt* **1** : to fail to perform, pay, or make good **2** : FORFEIT — **de·fault·er** *n*
de·fea·sance \di-ˈfēz-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* [ME *defesance*, fr. AF, fr. OF *deffesant*, prp. of *deffaire*] **1 a** : a rendering null or void **b** (1) : the termination of a property interest in accordance with stipulated conditions (as in a deed) (2) : an instrument stating such conditions of limitation **2** : DEFEAT, OVERTHROW
de·fea·si·ble \di-ˈfē-zə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being annulled or made void ⟨a ~ claim to an estate⟩ — **de·fea·si·bil·i·ty** \-ˌfē-zə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n*
[1]de·feat \di-ˈfēt\ *vt* [ME *deffeten*, fr. MF *deffait*, pp. of *deffaire* to destroy, fr. ML *disfacere*, fr. L *dis-* + *facere* to do — more at DO] **1** *obs* : DESTROY **2 a** : NULLIFY ⟨~ an estate⟩ **b** : FRUSTRATE ⟨~ a hope⟩ **3** : to win victory over : BEAT ⟨~ the opposing team⟩
[2]defeat *n* **1** *obs* : DESTRUCTION **2** : frustration by nullification or by prevention of success ⟨the bill suffered ~ in the Senate⟩ **3 a** : an overthrow esp. of an army in battle **b** : the loss of a contest
de·feat·ism \-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : acceptance of or resignation to defeat — **de·feat·ist** \-əst\ *n or adj*
[1]de·fea·ture \di-ˈfē-chər\ *n* [prob. fr. *de-* + *feature*] *archaic* : DISFIGUREMENT
[2]defeature *n* [[1]*defeat*] *archaic* : DEFEAT
def·e·cate \ˈdef-i-ˌkāt\ *vb* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *defaecatus*, pp. of *defaecare*, fr. *de-* + *faec-, faex* dregs, lees] *vt* **1** : to free from impurity or corruption : REFINE **2** : to discharge through the anus ~ *vi* : to discharge feces from the bowels — **def·e·ca·tion** \ˌdef-i-ˈkā-shən\ *n*
[1]de·fect \ˈdē-ˌfekt, di-ˈ\ *n* [ME *defaicte*, fr. MF *defect*, fr. L *defectus* lack, fr. *defectus*, pp. of *deficere* to desert, fail, fr. *de-* + *facere* to do — more at DO] **1 a** : an imperfection that impairs worth or utility : SHORTCOMING ⟨the grave ~*s* in our foreign policy⟩ **b** : an imperfection (as a vacancy or a foreign atom) in a crystal lattice **2** [L *defectus*] : a lack of something necessary for completeness, adequacy, or perfection : DEFICIENCY ⟨a hearing ~⟩ ***syn*** see BLEMISH
[2]de·fect \di-ˈfekt\ *vi* [L *defectus*, pp.] : to desert a cause or party often in order to espouse another — **de·fec·tor** \-ˈfek-tər\ *n*
de·fec·tion \di-ˈfek-shən\ *n* : conscious abandonment of allegiance or duty (as to a person, cause, or doctrine) : DESERTION
[1]de·fec·tive \di-ˈfek-tiv\ *adj* **1** : lacking something essential : FAULTY ⟨a ~ pane of glass⟩ ⟨~ eyesight⟩ **2** : lacking one or more of the usual forms of grammatical inflection ⟨*must* is a ~ verb⟩ **3** : markedly subnormal mentally or physically — **de·fec·tive·ly** *adv* — **de·fec·tive·ness** *n*
[2]defective *n* : a person who is subnormal physically or mentally
defective year *n* : a common year of 353 days or a leap year of 383 days in the Jewish calendar
de·fem·i·nize \(ˈ)dē-ˈfem-ə-ˌnīz\ *vt* : to divest of feminine qualities or characteristics : MASCULINIZE
de·fend \di-ˈfend\ *vb* [ME *defenden*, fr. OF *defendre*, fr. L *defendere*, fr. *de-* + *-fendere* to strike; akin to OE *gūth* battle, war, Gk *theinein* to strike] *vt* **1** *archaic* : PREVENT, FORBID **2 a** : to drive danger or attack away from **b** : to maintain in the face of argument or hostile criticism **c** : to attempt to prevent an opponent from scoring at ⟨elects to ~ the south goal⟩ **3** : to act as attorney for **4** : to deny or oppose the right of a plaintiff in regard to (a suit or a wrong charged) : CONTEST ~ *vi* **1** : to take action against attack or challenge ⟨couldn't fight back, could only ~⟩ **2** : to play or be on defense ⟨playing deep to ~ against a pass⟩ **3** : to play against the high bidder in a card game
syn **1** DEFEND, PROTECT, SHIELD, GUARD, SAFEGUARD *shared meaning element* : to keep secure (as from danger or against attack) ***ant*** combat, attack
2 see MAINTAIN
de·fend·able \di-ˈfen-də-bəl\ *adj* : DEFENSIBLE
[1]de·fen·dant \di-ˈfen-dənt\ *n* : a person required to make answer in a legal action or suit — compare PLAINTIFF
[2]defendant *adj* : being on the defensive : DEFENDING
de·fend·er \di-ˈfen-dər\ *n* **1** : one that defends **2** : a player in a sport (as football) assigned to a defensive position
de·fen·es·tra·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌfen-ə-ˈstrā-shən\ *n* [*de-* + L *fenestra* window] : a throwing of a person or thing out of a window — **de·fen·es·trate** \(ˈ)dē-ˈfen-ə-ˌstrāt\ *vt*
[1]de·fense *or* **de·fence** \di-ˈfen(t)s; *as antonym of "offense," often* ˈdē-ˌ\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *defensa*, fr. L, fem. of *defensus*, pp. of *defendere*] **1 a** : the act or action of defending ⟨the ~ of one's country⟩ ⟨to speak out in ~ of justice⟩ **b** : a defendant's denial, answer, or plea **2** : capability of resisting attack **3 a** : means or method of defending or protecting oneself or another; *also* : a defensive structure **b** : an argument in support or justification **c** : the collected facts and method adopted by a defendant to protect himself against a plaintiff's action **d** : a sequence of moves available in chess to the second player in the opening **4 a** : a defending party or group (as in a court of law) ⟨the ~ rested its case⟩ **b** : a defensive team **5** : the military, governmental, and industrial aggregate esp. in its capacity of authorizing and supervising arms production ⟨~ budget⟩ ⟨~ contract⟩ — **de·fense·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **de·fense·less·ly** *adv* — **de·fense·less·ness** *n*
[2]defense *vt* **de·fensed; de·fens·ing** : to take specific defensive action against (an opposing team or player)
de·fense·man \-mən, -ˌman\ *n* : a player in a sport (as hockey) assigned to a defensive zone or position
defense mechanism *n* **1** : a defensive reaction by an organism **2** : an often unconscious mental process (as repression, projection, or sublimation) that enables the ego to reach compromise solutions to problems
de·fen·si·ble \di-ˈfen(t)-sə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being defended — **de·fen·si·bil·i·ty** \di-ˌfen(t)-sə-ˈbil-ət-ē, ˌdē-\ *n* — **de·fen·si·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
[1]de·fen·sive \di-ˈfen(t)-siv, ˈdē-ˌ\ *adj* **1** : serving to defend or protect **2 a** : devoted to resisting or preventing aggression or attack **b** : of or relating to the attempt to keep an opponent from scoring in a game or contest **3 a** : valuable in defensive play ⟨a ~ card in bridge⟩ **b** : designed to keep an opponent from being the highest bidder ⟨a ~ bid⟩ — **de·fen·sive·ly** *adv* — **de·fen·sive·ness** *n*
[2]defensive *n* : a defensive position — **on the defensive** : in the state or condition of being prepared for an expected aggression or attack
[1]de·fer \di-ˈfər\ *vt* **de·ferred; de·fer·ring** [ME *deferren, differren*, fr. MF *differer*, fr. L *differre* to postpone, be different — more at DIFFER] : to put off : DELAY ⟨forced to ~ college because of financial problems⟩ — **de·fer·rer** *n*
syn DEFER, POSTPONE, INTERMIT, SUSPEND, STAY *shared meaning element* : to delay an action or proceeding
[2]defer *vb* **deferred; deferring** [ME *deferren, differren*, fr. MF *deferer, defferer*, fr. LL *deferre*, fr. L, to bring down, bring, fr. *de-* + *ferre* to carry — more at BEAR] *vt* : to delegate to another ⟨he could ~ his job to no one —J. A. Michener⟩ ~ *vi* : to submit to another's wishes, opinion, or governance usu. through deference or respect ⟨a man who *deferred* only to God⟩ ***syn*** see YIELD
def·er·ence \ˈdef-(ə-)rən(t)s\ *n* : respect and esteem due a superior or an elder; *also* : affected or ingratiating regard for another's wishes ***syn*** see HONOR ***ant*** disrespect — **in deference to** : in consideration of
[1]def·er·ent \ˈdef-ə-rənt, -ˌer-ənt\ *adj* [L *deferent-, deferens*, prp. of *deferre*] : serving to carry down or out ⟨a ~ conduit⟩
[2]def·er·ent \ˈdef-(ə-)rənt\ *adj* [back-formation fr. *deference*] : DEFERENTIAL
def·er·en·tial \ˌdef-ə-ˈren-chəl\ *adj* : showing or expressing deference ⟨~ attention⟩ — **def·er·en·tial·ly** \-ˈrench, -rench-(ə-)lē\ *adv*
de·fer·ment \di-ˈfər-mənt\ *n* : the act of delaying or postponing; *specif* : official postponement of military service
de·fer·ra·ble \di-ˈfər-ə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of or suitable or eligible for being deferred — **deferrable** *n*
de·fer·ral \di-ˈfər-əl\ *n* : DEFERMENT
de·ferred *adj* **1** : withheld for or until a stated time ⟨a ~ payment⟩ **2** : charged in cases of delayed handling ⟨a ~ rate⟩
de·fer·ves·cence \ˌdē-(ˌ)fər-ˈves-ᵊn(t)s, ˌdef-ər-\ *n* [G *deferveszenz*, fr. L *defervescent-, defervescens*, prp. of *defervescere* to stop boiling, fr. *de-* + *fervescere* to begin to boil — more at EFFERVESCE] : the subsidence of a fever
de·fi·ance \di-ˈfī-ən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act or an instance of defying : CHALLENGE **2** : disposition to resist or contempt of opposition — **in defiance of** : contrary to : DESPITE ⟨worked *in defiance of* doctor's orders⟩
de·fi·ant \-ənt\ *adj* [F *défiant*, fr. OF, prp. of *defier* to defy] : full of defiance : BOLD — **de·fi·ant·ly** *adv*
de·fi·bril·late \(ˈ)dē-ˈfib-rə-ˌlāt, -ˈfīb-\ *vt* : to restore the rhythm of (a fibrillating heart) — **de·fi·bril·la·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌfib-rə-ˈlā-shən, -ˌfīb-\ *n* — **de·fi·bril·la·tive** \(ˈ)dē-ˈfib-rə-ˌlāt-iv, -ˈfīb-\ *adj* — **de·fi·bril·la·tor** \-ˌlāt-ər\ *n* — **de·fi·bril·la·to·ry** \(ˈ)dē-ˈfib-rə-lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˈfīb-; ˌdē-fī-ˈbril-ə-\ *adj*
de·fi·brin·ate \(ˈ)dē-ˈfib-rə-ˌnāt, -ˈfīb-\ *vt* **-at·ed -at·ing** : to remove fibrin from (blood) — **de·fi·brin·ation** \(ˌ)dē-ˌfib-rə-ˈnā-shən, -ˌfīb-\ *n*
de·fi·cien·cy \di-ˈfish-ən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the quality or state of being deficient : INADEQUACY **2 a** : a shortage of substances necessary to health **b** : absence of one or more genes from a chromosome
deficiency disease *n* : a disease (as scurvy) caused by a lack of essential dietary elements and esp. a vitamin or mineral
[1]de·fi·cient \di-ˈfish-ənt\ *adj* [L *deficient-, deficiens*, prp. of *deficere* to be wanting — more at DEFECT] **1** : lacking in some necessary quality or element ⟨~ in judgment⟩ **2** : not up to a normal standard or complement : DEFECTIVE ⟨~ strength⟩ — **de·fi·cient·ly** *adv*
[2]deficient *n* : one that is deficient ⟨a mental ~⟩
def·i·cit \ˈdef-ə-sət *also, esp Brit,* di-ˈfis-ət *or* ˈdē-fə-sət\ *n* [F *déficit*, fr. L *deficit* it is wanting, 3d sing. pres. indic. of *deficere*] **1 a** : deficiency in amount or quality ⟨a ~ in rainfall⟩ **b** : DISADVANTAGE ⟨a two-run homer in the sixth that overcame a 2-1 ~⟩ **2 a** : an excess of expenditure over revenue **b** : a loss in business operations
deficit spending *n* : the spending of public funds raised by borrowing rather than by taxation
de·fi·er \di-ˈfī(-ə)r\ *n* : one that defies
[1]def·i·lade \ˈdef-ə-ˌlād, -ˌläd\ *vt* **-lad·ed; -lad·ing** [prob. fr. *de-* + *-filade* (as in *enfilade*)] : to arrange (fortifications) so as to protect the lines from frontal or enfilading fire and the interior of the works from plunging or reverse fire
[2]defilade *n* : the act or process of defilading
[1]de·file \di-ˈfī(ə)l\ *vt* **de·filed; de·fil·ing** [ME *defilen*, alter. of *defoulen* to trample, defile, fr. OF *defouler* to trample, fr. *de-* + *fouler* to trample, lit., to full — more at FULL] : to make unclean or

impure : BEFOUL, BESMIRCH: as **a** : to corrupt the purity or perfection of : DEBASE ⟨the countryside *defiled* by billboards⟩ **b** : to denude of chastity : DEFLOWER **c** : to make physically unclean esp. with something unpleasant or contaminating ⟨boots *defiled* with blood⟩ **d** : to make ceremonially unclean ⟨~ a sanctuary⟩ **e** : SULLY, DISHONOR ***syn*** see CONTAMINATE — **de·file·ment** \-'fī(ə)l-mənt\ *n* — **de·fil·er** \-'fī-lər\ *n*

²de·file \di-'fī(ə)l, 'dē-ˌfīl\ *vi* **de·filed; de·fil·ing** [F *défiler*, fr. *dé-* de- + *filer* to move in a column — more at FILE] : to march off in a line

³de·file \di-'fī(ə)l, 'dē-ˌfīl\ *n* [F *défilé*, fr. pp. of *défiler*] : a narrow passage or gorge

de·fin·able \di-'fī-nə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being defined, limited, or explained — **de·fin·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

de·fine \di-'fīn\ *vb* **de·fined; de·fin·ing** [ME *definen*, fr. MF & L; MF *definer*, fr. L *definire*, fr. *de-* + *finire* to limit, end, fr. *finis* boundary, end — more at FINAL] *vt* **1 a** : to fix or mark the limits of : DEMARCATE ⟨rigidly *defined* property lines⟩ **b** : to make distinct, clear, or detailed in outline ⟨the issues aren't too well *defined*⟩ **2 a** : to determine or identify the essential qualities or meaning of ⟨~ a powerful position by salary and prestige⟩ ⟨whatever ~*s* us as human⟩ **b** : to discover and set forth the meaning of (as a word) **3** : CHARACTERIZE, DISTINGUISH ⟨good manners ~ the gentleman⟩ ~ *vi* : to make a definition — **de·fine·ment** \-'fīn-mənt\ *n* — **de·fin·er** \-'fī-nər\ *n*

de·fin·i·en·dum \di-ˌfin-ē-'en-dəm\ *n, pl* **-da** \-də\ [L, something to be defined, neut. of *definiendus*, gerundive of *definire*] : an expression that is being defined

de·fin·i·ens \di-'fin-ē-ˌenz\ *n, pl* **de·fin·i·en·tia** \di-ˌfin-ēz'en-ch(ē-)ə\ [L, prp. of *definire*] : an expression that defines : DEFINITION

def·i·nite \'def-(ə-)nət\ *adj* [L *definitus*, pp. of *definire*] **1** : having distinct or certain limits ⟨set ~ standards for pupils to meet⟩ **2 a** : free of all ambiguity, uncertainty, or obscurity ⟨demanded a ~ answer⟩ **b** : UNQUESTIONABLE, DECIDED ⟨the quarterback was a ~ hero today⟩ **3** : typically designating an identified or immediately identifiable person or thing ⟨the ~ article *the*⟩ **4 a** : being constant in number, usu. less than 20, and occurring in multiples of the petal number ⟨stamens ~⟩ **b** : CYMOSE ***syn*** see EXPLICIT ***ant*** indefinite, equivocal — **def·i·nite·ly** *adv* — **def·i·nite·ness** *n*

definite integral *n* : a number that is the difference between the values of the indefinite integral of a given function for two values of the independent variable

def·i·ni·tion \ˌdef-ə-'nish-ən\ *n* **1** : an act of determining; *specif* : the formal proclamation of a Roman Catholic dogma **2** : a word or phrase expressing the essential nature of a person or thing : MEANING ⟨the confinement of God within our human ~⟩ **3 a** : a statement of the meaning of a word or word group or a sign or symbol ⟨dictionary ~*s*⟩ **b** : the action or process of stating such a meaning **4 a** : the action or the power of describing, explaining, or making definite and clear ⟨the ~ of a telescope⟩ ⟨her comic genius is beyond ~⟩ **b** (1) : distinctness of outline or detail (as in a photograph) (2) : clarity esp. of musical sound in reproduction **c** : sharp demarcation of outlines or limits ⟨a jacket with definite waist ~⟩ — **def·i·ni·tion·al** \-'nish-nəl, -'nish-ən-ᵊl\ *adj*

¹de·fin·i·tive \di-'fin-ət-iv\ *adj* **1** : serving to provide a final solution ⟨a ~ victory⟩ **2** : authoritative and apparently exhaustive ⟨a ~ biography⟩ **3** : serving to define or specify precisely ⟨~ laws⟩ **4** : fully differentiated or developed **5** *of a postage stamp* : issued as a regular stamp for the country or territory in which it is to be used ***syn*** see CONCLUSIVE ***ant*** tentative, provisional — **de·fin·i·tive·ly** *adv* — **de·fin·i·tive·ness** *n*

²definitive *n* : a definitive postage stamp — compare PROVISIONAL

definitive host *n* : the host in which the sexual reproduction of a parasite takes place

de·fi·ni·tize \'def-(ə-)nə-ˌtīz, di-'fin-ə-\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz·ing** : to make definite

de·fi·ni·tude \di-'fin-ə-ˌt(y)üd, -'fī-nə-\ *n* [irreg. fr. *definite*] : PRECISION, DEFINITENESS

def·la·grate \'def-lə-ˌgrāt\ *vb* **-grat·ed; -grat·ing** [L *deflagratus*, pp. of *deflagrare* to burn down, fr. *de-* + *flagrare* to burn — more at BLACK] *vi* : to burn rapidly with intense heat and sparks being given off ~ *vt* : to cause to deflagrate — compare DETONATE — **def·la·gra·tion** \ˌdef-lə-'grā-shən\ *n*

de·flate \di-'flāt, 'dē-\ *vb* **de·flat·ed; de·flat·ing** [*de-* + *-flate* (as in *inflate*)] *vt* **1** : to release air or gas from **2** : to reduce in size or importance ⟨~ his ego with cutting remarks⟩ **3** : to reduce (a price level) or cause (a volume of credit) to contract ~ *vi* : to lose firmness through or as if through the escape of contained gas ***syn*** see CONTRACT ***ant*** inflate — **de·fla·tor** \-'flāt-ər\ *n*

de·fla·tion \di-'flā-shən, 'dē-\ *n* **1** : an act or instance of deflating : the state of being deflated **2** : a contraction in the volume of available money or credit that results in a decline of the general price level **3** : the erosion of soil by the wind — **de·fla·tion·ary** \-shə-ˌner-ē\ *adj*

de·flect \di-'flekt\ *vb* [L *deflectere* to bend down, turn aside, fr. *de-* + *flectere* to bend] *vt* : to turn from a straight course or fixed direction : BEND ~ *vi* : to turn aside : DEVIATE — **de·flec·tive** \-'flek-tiv\ *adj* — **de·flec·tor** \-tər\ *n*

de·flec·tion \di-'flek-shən\ *n* **1** : a turning aside or off course : DEVIATION **2** : the departure of an indicator or pointer from the zero reading on the scale of an instrument

de·flexed \'dē-ˌflekst, di-'\ *adj* [L *deflexus*, pp. of *deflectere*] : turned abruptly downward ⟨a ~ leaf⟩

de·flo·ra·tion \ˌdef-lə-'rā-shən, ˌdē-flə-\ *n* [ME *defloracioun*, fr. LL *defloration-*, *defloratio*, fr. *defloratus*, pp. of *deflorare*] : rupture of the hymen

de·flow·er \(')dē-'flaù(-ə)r\ *vt* [ME *deflouren*, fr. MF or LL; MF *deflorer*, fr. LL *deflorare*, fr. L *de-* + *flor-*, *flos* flower — more at BLOW] **1** : to deprive of virginity : RAVISH **2** : to take away the prime beauty of — **de·flow·er·er** *n*

de·foam \(')dē-'fōm\ *vt* : to remove foam from : prevent the formation of foam in — **de·foam·er** *n*

de·fog \(')dē-'fȯg, -'fäg\ *vt* : to remove fog or condensed moisture from — **de·fog·ger** *n*

de·fo·li·ant \(')dē-'fō-lē-ənt\ *n* : a chemical spray or dust applied to plants in order to cause the leaves to drop off prematurely

de·fo·li·ate \-lē-ˌāt\ *vt* [LL *defoliatus*, pp. of *defoliare*, fr. L *de-* + *folium* leaf — more at BLADE] : to deprive of leaves esp. prematurely — **de·fo·li·ate** \-lē-ət\ *adj* — **de·fo·li·a·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌfō-lē-'ā-shən\ *n* — **de·fo·li·a·tor** \(')dē-'fō-lē-ˌāt-ər\ *n*

de·force \(')dē-'fō(ə)rs, -'fȯ(ə)rs\ *vt* [ME *deforcen*, fr. OF *deforcier*, fr. *de-* + *forcier* to force] **1** : to keep (as lands) by force from the rightful owner **2** : to eject (a person) from possession by force — **de·force·ment** \-'fōr-smənt, -'fȯr-\ *n*

de·for·ciant \di-'fōr-shənt, -'fȯr-\ *n* [AF, fr. OF, prp. of *deforcier*] : one who deforces the rightful owner

de·for·est \(')dē-'fȯr-əst, -'fär-\ *vt* : to clear of forests — **de·for·es·ta·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌfȯr-ə-'stā-shən, -ˌfär-\ *n* — **de·for·est·er** \(')dē-'fȯr-ə-stər, -'fär-\ *n*

de·form \di-'fȯ(ə)rm, 'dē-\ *vb* [ME *deformen*, fr. MF or L; MF *deformer*, fr. L *deformare*, fr. *de-* + *formare* to form, fr. *forma* form] *vt* **1** : to spoil the form of **2 a** : to spoil the looks of : DISFIGURE ⟨a face ~*ed* by bitterness⟩ **b** : to make hideous or monstrous **3** : to alter the shape of by stress ~ *vi* : to become misshapen or changed in shape

syn DEFORM, DISTORT, CONTORT, WARP *shared meaning element* : to mar or spoil by or as if by twisting

de·for·mal·ize \(')dē-'fȯr-mə-ˌlīz\ *vt* : to make less formal ⟨~ a group learning situation⟩

de·for·ma·tion \ˌdē-ˌfȯr-'mā-shən, ˌdef-ər-\ *n* **1** : the action of deforming : the state of being deformed **2** : change for the worse ⟨a most extensive ecclesiastical reformation (or ~, as it may turn out) —Richard Whately⟩ **3** : alteration of form or shape; *also* : the product of such alteration — **de·for·ma·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

de·for·ma·tive \di-'fȯr-mət-iv\ *adj* : tending to deform

de·formed *adj* : distorted or unshapely in form : MISSHAPEN

de·for·mi·ty \di-'fȯr-mət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *deformite*, fr. MF *deformité*, fr. L *deformitat-*, *deformitas*, fr. *deformis* deformed, fr. *de-* + *forma*] **1** : the state of being deformed **2** : a physical blemish or distortion : DISFIGUREMENT **3** : a moral or esthetic flaw or defect

de·fraud \di-'frȯd\ *vt* [ME *defrauden*, fr. MF *defrauder*, fr. L *defraudare*, fr. *de-* + *fraudare* to cheat, fr. *fraud-*, *fraus* fraud] : to deprive of something by deception or fraud ***syn*** see CHEAT — **de·frau·da·tion** \ˌdē-ˌfrȯ-'dā-shən\ *n* — **de·fraud·er** \di-'frȯd-ər\ *n*

de·fray \di-'frā\ *vt* [MF *deffrayer*, fr. *des-* de- + *frayer* to expend, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) OF *frai* expenditure, lit., damage by breaking, fr. L *fractum*, neut. of *fractus*, pp. of *frangere* to break — more at BREAK] **1** : to provide for the payment of : PAY **2** *archaic* : to bear the expenses of — **de·fray·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·fray·al** \-'frā(-ə)l\ *n*

de·frock \(')dē-'fräk\ *vt* : UNFROCK

de·frost \di-'frȯst, 'dē-\ *vt* **1** : to release from a frozen state ⟨~ meat⟩ **2** : to free from ice ⟨~ the refrigerator⟩ ~ *vi* : to thaw out esp. from a deep-frozen state — **de·frost·er** *n*

deft \'deft\ *adj* [ME *defte*] : marked by facility and skill ***syn*** see DEXTEROUS ***ant*** awkward — **deft·ly** *adv* — **deft·ness** \'def(t)-nəs\ *n*

de·funct \di-'fəŋ(k)t\ *adj* [L *defunctus*, fr. pp. of *defungi* to finish, die, fr. *de-* + *fungi* to perform — more at FUNCTION] : having finished the course of life or existence ⟨her ~ aunt's will⟩ ⟨a ~ philosophy⟩ ***syn*** see DEAD ***ant*** alive, live

de·fuse \(')dē-'fyüz\ *vt* **1** : to remove the fuse from (as a mine or bomb) **2** : to make less harmful, potent, or tense : CALM ⟨~ the crisis⟩

¹de·fy \di-'fī\ *vt* **de·fied; de·fy·ing** [ME *defyen* to renounce faith in, challenge, fr. OF *defier*, fr. *de-* + *fier* to entrust, fr. (assumed) VL *fidare*, alter. of L *fidere* to trust — more at BIDE] **1** *archaic* : to challenge to combat **2** : to challenge to do something considered impossible : DARE **3** : to confront with assured power of resistance : DISREGARD ⟨~ public opinion⟩ **4** : to resist attempts at : WITHSTAND ⟨the paintings ~ classification⟩

²de·fy \di-'fī, 'dē-ˌ\ *n, pl* **defies** : CHALLENGE, DEFIANCE

deg *abbr* degree

dé·ga·gé \ˌdā-ˌgä-'zhā\ *adj* [F, fr. pp. of *dégager* to redeem a pledge, free, fr. OF *desgagier*, fr. *des-* de- + *gage* pledge — more at GAGE] **1** : free of constraint : NONCHALANT **2** : being free and easy ⟨clothes with a ~ look⟩ **3** : extended with toe pointed in preparation for a ballet step

de·gas \(')dē-'gas\ *vt* : to remove gas from ⟨~ an electron tube⟩

de Gaull·ism \di-'gō-ˌliz-əm, -'gȯ-\ *n* : GAULLISM — **de Gaull·ist** \-ləst\ *n*

de·gauss \(')dē-'gaùs\ *vt* **1** : DEMAGNETIZE **2** : to make (a steel ship) effectively nonmagnetic by means of electrical coils carrying currents that neutralize the magnetism of the ship — **de·gauss·er** *n*

de·gen·er·a·cy \di-'jen-(ə-)rə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the state of being degenerate **2** : the process of becoming degenerate **3** : sexual perversion **4** : the coding of an amino acid by more than one codon of the genetic code

¹de·gen·er·ate \di-'jen-(ə-)rət\ *adj* [ME *degenerat*, fr. L *degeneratus*, pp. of *degenerare* to degenerate, fr. *de-* + *gener-*, *genus* race, kind — more at KIN] **1 a** : having declined (as in nature, character, structure, or function) from an ancestral or former state **b** : having sunk to a condition below that which is normal to a type; *esp* : having sunk to a lower and usu. peculiarly corrupt and vicious state **c** : DEGRADED **2** : being mathematically simpler (as by having a factor or constant equal to zero) than the typical case

⟨the graph of a second degree equation yielding two intersecting lines is a ~ hyperbola⟩ **3** : characterized by atoms stripped of their electrons and by very great density ⟨~ matter⟩; *also* : consisting of degenerate matter ⟨a ~ star⟩ **4** : having two or more states or subdivisions ⟨~ energy level⟩ **5** : having more than one codon representing an amino acid; *also* : being such a codon ***syn*** see VICIOUS — **de·gen·er·ate·ly** *adv* — **de·gen·er·ate·ness** *n*

²degenerate *n* : one that is degenerate: as **a** : one degraded from the normal moral standard **b** : one debased by a psychopathic tendency **c** : a sexual pervert **d** : one showing signs of reversion to an earlier culture stage

³de·gen·er·ate \di-'jen-ə-ˌrāt\ *vi* **1** : to pass from a higher to a lower type or condition : DETERIORATE ⟨the road *degenerated* into a bumpy brush-filled path⟩ **2** : to sink into a low intellectual or moral state **3** : to decline in quality ⟨his poetry gradually *degenerated* into jingles⟩ **4** : to decline from a condition or from standards proper to a species, race, or breed **5** : to evolve or develop into a less autonomous or less functionally active form ⟨*degenerated* into dependent parasites⟩ ⟨the digestive system *degenerated*⟩ ~ *vt* : to cause to degenerate

de·gen·er·a·tion \di-ˌjen-ə-'rā-shən, ˌdē-\ *n* **1** : a lowering of effective power, vitality, or essential quality to an enfeebled and worsened kind or state **2 a** : intellectual or moral decline **b** : degenerate condition **3 a** : progressive deterioration of physical characters from a level representing the norm of earlier generations or forms **b** : deterioration of a tissue or an organ in which its function is diminished or its structure is impaired **4** : marked decline in excellence (as of workmanship or originality) ***syn*** see DETERIORATION

de·gen·er·a·tive \di-'jen-ə-ˌrāt-iv, -'jen-(ə-)rət-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or tending to cause degeneration ⟨a ~ disease⟩

de·glu·ti·tion \ˌdē-glü-'tish-ən, ˌdeg-lü-\ *n* [F *déglutition*, fr. L *deglutitus*, pp. of *deglutire* to swallow down, fr. *de-* + *glutire, gluttire* to swallow — more at GLUTTON] : the act or process of swallowing

de·grad·able \di-'grād-ə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being chemically degraded ⟨~ detergents⟩ — compare BIODEGRADABLE

deg·ra·da·tion \ˌdeg-rə-'dā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of degrading **2 a** : decline to a low, destitute, or demoralized state **b** : moral or intellectual decadence : DEGENERATION

de·grade \di-'grād\ *vb* [ME *degraden*, fr. MF *degrader*, fr. LL *degradare*, fr. L *de-* + *gradus* step, grade] *vt* **1 a** : to lower in grade, rank, or status : DEMOTE **b** : to strip of rank or honors **c** : to deprive of standing or true function : PERVERT **d** : to scale down in desirability or salability **2 a** : to bring to low esteem or into disrepute **b** : to drag down in moral or intellectual character : CORRUPT ⟨*degraded* his office as president⟩ **3** : to impair in respect to some physical property **4** : to wear down by erosion **5** : to reduce the complexity of (a chemical compound) : DECOMPOSE ~ *vi* **1** : to pass from a higher grade or class to a lower **2** *of a chemical compound* : to become reduced in complexity — **de·grad·er** *n*

syn **1** DEGRADE, DEMOTE, DECLASS, DISRATE *shared meaning element* : to lower in station, rank, or grade ***ant*** elevate
2 see ABASE ***ant*** uplift

de·grad·ed *adj* **1** : reduced far below ordinary standards of civilized life and conduct **2** : characterized by degeneration of structure or function — **de·grad·ed·ly** *adv* — **de·grad·ed·ness** *n*

de·grad·ing *adj* : that degrades : DEBASING — **de·grad·ing·ly** \-'grād-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

de·gran·u·la·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌgran-yə-'lā-shən\ *n* : the process of losing granules ⟨~ of leukocytes⟩

de·gree \di-'grē\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *degré*, fr. (assumed) VL *degradus*, fr. L *de-* + *gradus*] **1 a** *obs* : STEP, STAIR **b** *archaic* : a member of a series arranged in steps **2** : a step or stage in a process, course, or order of classification ⟨advanced by ~s⟩ **3** : a measure of damage to tissue caused esp. by disease **4 a** : the extent, measure, or scope of an action, condition, or relation ⟨the company's ~ of expansion was small⟩ **b** : relative intensity **c** : one of the forms or sets of forms used in the comparison of an adjective or adverb **d** : a legal measure of guilt or negligence ⟨found guilty of robbery in the first ~⟩ **5 a** : a rank or grade of official, ecclesiastical, or social position ⟨people of low ~⟩ **b** *archaic* : a particular standing esp. as to dignity or worth **c** : the civil condition or status of a person **6** : a step in a direct line of descent or in the line of ascent to a common ancestor **7 a** : a grade of membership attained in a ritualistic order or society **b** : the formal ceremonies observed in the conferral of such a distinction **c** : a title conferred on students by a college, university, or professional school on completion of a unified program of study **d** : an academic title conferred honorarily **8** *archaic* : a position or space on the earth or in the heavens as measured by degrees of latitude **9** : one of the divisions or intervals marked on a scale of a measuring instrument; *specif* : any of various units for measuring temperature **10** : a 360th part of the circumference of a circle **11 a** : the sum of the exponents of the variable factors of a monomial **b** : the sum of the exponents of the variable factors of the term of highest degree in a polynomial **c** : the greatest power of the derivative of highest order in a differential equation after the equation has been rationalized and cleared of fractions with respect to the derivative **12 a** : a line or space of the musical staff **b** : a step, note, or tone of a musical scale — **de·greed** \-'grēd\ *adj* — **to a degree** **1** : to a remarkable extent **2** : in a small way

de·gree–day \di-'grē-'dā\ *n* : a unit that represents one degree of declination from a given point (as 65°) in the mean daily outdoor temperature and that is used to measure heat requirements

degree of freedom **1** : any of a limited number of ways in which a body may move or in which a dynamic system may change **2** : one of the capabilities of a statistic for variation of which there are as many as the number of unrestricted and independent variables determining its value

de·gres·sive \di-'gres-iv, 'dē-\ *adj* [*degression* (downward motion), (fr. ME, fr. ML *degression-, degressio*, fr. L *degressus*, pp. of *degredi* to step down, fr. *de-* + *gradi* to step) + *-ive* — more at GRADE] : tending to descend or decrease — **de·gres·sive·ly** *adv*

dé·grin·go·lade \ˌdā-ˌgraⁿ(ŋ)-gə-'läd\ *n* [F, fr. *dégringoler* to tumble down, fr. *dé-* de- + *gringoler* to tumble] : a rapid decline or deterioration (as in strength, position, or condition) : DOWNFALL

de·gum \(')dē-'gəm\ *vt* : to free from gum, a gummy substance, or sericin

de·gust \di-'gəst\ *vt* [L *degustare*, fr. *de-* + *gustare* to taste — more at CHOOSE] : TASTE, SAVOR

de·gus·ta·tion \ˌdē-ˌgəs-'tā-shən, di-\ *n* : the action or an instance of degusting

de haut en bas \də-ō-täⁿ-bä\ *adj or adv* [F, lit., from top to bottom] : having a superior or condescending manner ⟨there is a *de haut en bas* tone about such a judgment —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ ⟨the landlady looked at him *de haut en bas* —D. H. Lawrence⟩

de·hisce \di-'his\ *vi* **de·hisced; de·hisc·ing** [L *dehiscere* to split open, fr. *de-* + *hiscere* to gape; akin to L *hiare* to yawn — more at YAWN] : to split along a natural line; *also* : to discharge contents by so splitting ⟨seedpods *dehiscing* at maturity⟩

de·his·cence \di-'his-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* [NL *dehiscentia*, fr. L *dehiscent-, dehiscens*, prp. of *dehiscere*] : an act or instance of dehiscing ⟨pollen freed by ~ of the anther⟩ — **de·his·cent** \-ᵊnt\ *adj*

de·horn \(')dē-'hȯ(ə)rn\ *vt* **1** : to deprive of horns **2** : to prevent the growth of the horns of — **de·horn·er** *n*

de·hu·man·iza·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌhyü-mə-nə-'zā-shən, (ˌ)dē-ˌyü-\ *n* : the act or process or an instance of dehumanizing

de·hu·man·ize \(')dē-'hyü-mə-ˌnīz, (')dē-'yü-\ *vt* : to divest of human qualities or personality ⟨fear that the machines will ~ education —J. G. Miller⟩

de·hu·mid·i·fy \ˌdē-hyü-'mid-ə-ˌfī, ˌdē-yü-\ *vt* : to remove moisture from (as air) — **de·hu·mid·i·fi·ca·tion** \-ˌmid-ə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* — **de·hu·mid·i·fi·er** \-'mid-ə-ˌfī(-ə)r\ *n*

dehydr- *or* **dehydro-** *comb form* **1** : dehydrated **2** : dehydrogenated

de·hy·drase \(')dē-'hī-ˌdrās, -ˌdrāz\ *n* **1** : DEHYDRATASE **2** : DEHYDROGENASE

de·hy·dra·tase \-drə-ˌtās, -ˌtāz\ *n* : an enzyme that catalyzes the removal of oxygen and hydrogen from metabolites in the proportion in which they form water

de·hy·drate \(')dē-'hī-ˌdrāt\ *vt* **1 a** : to remove bound water or hydrogen and oxygen from (a chemical compound) in the proportion in which they form water **b** : to remove water from (as foods) **2** : to deprive of vitality or savor ~ *vi* : to lose water or body fluids — **de·hy·dra·tor** \-ˌdrāt -ər\ *n*

de·hy·dra·tion \ˌdē-hī-'drā-shən\ *n* : the process of dehydrating; *esp* : an abnormal depletion of body fluids

de·hy·dro·chlo·ri·nase \(ˌ)dē-ˌhī-drə-'klōr-ə-ˌnās, -'klȯr-, -ˌnāz\ *n* : an enzyme that dehydrochlorinates a chlorinated hydrocarbon (as DDT) and is found esp. in some DDT resistant insects

de·hy·dro·chlo·ri·nate \-ˌnāt\ *vt* [*de-* + *hydr-* + *chlorine*] : to remove hydrogen and chlorine or hydrogen chloride from (a compound) — **de·hy·dro·chlo·ri·na·tion** \-ˌklōr-ə-'nā-shən, -ˌklȯr-\ *n*

de·hy·dro·ge·nase \ˌdē-(ˌ)hī-'drāj-ə-ˌnās, (')dē-'hī-drə-jə-, -ˌnāz\ *n* [ISV] : an enzyme that accelerates the removal of hydrogen from metabolites and its transfer to other substances ⟨succinic ~⟩

de·hy·dro·ge·nate \ˌdē-(ˌ)hī-'drāj-ə-ˌnāt, (')dē-'hī-drə-jə-\ *vt* : to remove hydrogen from — **de·hy·dro·ge·na·tion** \ˌdē-(ˌ)hī-ˌdrāj-ə-'nā-shən, (ˌ)dē-ˌhī-drə-jə-\ *n*

de·hyp·no·tize \(')dē-'hip-nə-ˌtīz\ *vt* : to remove from hypnosis

de·ice \(')dē-'īs\ *vt* : to keep free or rid of ice — **de·ic·er** *n*

de·i·cide \'dē-ə-ˌsīd, 'dā-ə-\ *n* [deriv. of L *deus* god & *-cidium, -cida* -cide] **1** : the act of killing a divine being or a symbolic substitute of such a being **2** : the killer or destroyer of a god

deic·tic \'dīk-tik, 'dāk-; dē-'ik-\ *adj* [Gk *deiktikos*, fr. *deiktos*, verbal of *deiknynai* to show] : showing or pointing out directly ⟨the words *this, that,* and *those* have a ~ function⟩

de·i·fi·ca·tion \ˌdē-ə-fə-'kā-shən, ˌdā-\ *n* **1** : the act or an instance of deifying **2** : absorption of the soul into deity

de·i·fy \'dē-ə-ˌfī, 'dā-\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** [ME *deifyen*, fr. MF *deifier*, fr. LL *deificare*, fr. L *deus* god] **1 a** : to make a god of **b** : to take as an object of worship **2** : to glorify as of supreme worth

deign \'dān\ *vb* [ME *deignen*, fr. OF *deignier*, fr. L *dignare, dignari*, fr. *dignus* worthy — more at DECENT] *vi* : to condescend reluctantly and with a strong sense of the affront to one's superiority that is involved ⟨he barely ~*ed* to acknowledge their greeting⟩ ~ *vt* : to condescend to give or offer ***syn*** see STOOP

deil \'dē(ə)l\ *n* [ME *devel, del*] *Scot* : DEVIL

de·in·dus·tri·al·iza·tion \ˌdē-in-ˌdəs-trē-ə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n* : the act or process of reducing or destroying the industrial organization and potential esp. of a defeated nation

de–in·sti·tu·tion·al·ize \(ˌ)dē-ˌin(t)-stə-'t(y)üsh-nə-ˌlīz, -'t(y)ü-shən-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vt* : to remove the status or character of an institution from — **de–in·sti·tu·tion·al·iza·tion** \-ˌt(y)üsh-nə-lə-'zā-shən, -ˌt(y)ü-shən-ᵊl-ə-'zā-\ *n*

de·ion·ize \(')dē-'ī-ə-ˌnīz\ *vt* : to remove ions from ⟨~ water by ion exchange⟩ — **de·ion·iza·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌī-ə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n*

de·ism \'dē-ˌiz-əm, 'dā-\ *n, often cap* : a movement or system of thought advocating natural religion based on human reason rather than revelation, emphasizing morality, and in the 18th century denying the interference of the Creator with the laws of the universe

de·ist \'dē-əst, 'dā-\ *n, often cap* : an adherent of deism ***syn*** see ATHEIST — **de·is·tic** \dē-'is-tik, dā-\ *adj* — **de·is·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* — **de·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

de·i·ty \'dē-ət-ē, 'dā-\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *deitee*, fr. MF *deité*, fr. LL *deitat-, deitas*, fr. L *deus* god; akin to OE *Tīw*, god of war, L *divus* god, *dies* day, Gk *dios* heavenly] **1 a** : the rank or essential nature of a god : DIVINITY **b** *cap* : SUPREME BEING, GOD 1 **2** : a god or goddess ⟨the *deities* of ancient Greece⟩ **3** : one exalted or revered as supremely good or powerful

dé·jà vu \ˌdā-ˌzhä-'v(y)ü, dā-zhä-vüˉ\ *n* [F *déjà vu*, adj., already seen] **1** : PARAMNESIA b **2** : something overly or unpleasantly familiar ⟨the appointment seems like a case of *déjà vu* —E. B. Fiske⟩

[1]de·ject \di-'jekt\ *vt* [ME *dejecten* to throw down, fr. L *dejectus*, pp. of *deicere*, fr. *de-* + *jacere* to throw — more at JET] : to make gloomy
[2]deject *adj, archaic* : DEJECTED
de·jec·ta \di-'jek-tə\ *n pl* [NL, fr. L, neut. pl. of *dejectus*] : EXCREMENTS
de·ject·ed *adj* **1** : cast down in spirits : DEPRESSED **2** **a** *obs, of the eyes* : DOWNCAST **b** *archaic* : thrown down **3** *obs* : lowered in rank or condition — **de·ject·ed·ly** *adv* — **de·ject·ed·ness** *n*
de·jec·tion \di-'jek-shən\ *n* : lowness of spirits
de ju·re \(')dē-'jù(ə)r-ē, (')dā-'yù(ə)r-\ *adv or adj* [NL] : by right : of right ⟨recognition extended *de jure* to the new government⟩
deka- *or* **dek-** — see DECA-
deka·gram \'dek-ə-ˌgram\ *n* — see METRIC SYSTEM table
deka·li·ter \-ˌlēt-ər\ *n* — see METRIC SYSTEM table
deka·me·ter \-ˌmēt-ər\ *n* — see METRIC SYSTEM table
deka·stere \-ˌsti(ə)r, -ˌste(ə)r\ *n* — see METRIC SYSTEM table
del *abbr* **1** delegate; delegation **2** delete
Del *abbr* Delaware
de·lam·i·nate \(')dē-'lam-ə-ˌnāt\ *vi* : to undergo delamination
de·lam·i·na·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌlam-ə-'nā-shən\ *n* **1** : separation into constituent layers **2** : gastrula formation in which the endoderm is split off as a layer from the inner surface of the blastoderm and the archenteron is represented by the space between this endoderm and the yolk mass
de·late \di-'lāt\ *vt* **de·lat·ed; de·lat·ing** [L *delatus* (pp. of *deferre* to bring down, report, accuse), fr. *de-* + *latus*, pp. of *ferre* to bear — more at TOLERATE, BEAR] **1** *Scot* : ACCUSE, DENOUNCE **2** *archaic* : REPORT, RELATE **3** *archaic* : REFER — **de·la·tion** \-'lā-shən\ *n* — **de·la·tor** \-'lāt-ər\ *n*
Del·a·ware \'del-ə-ˌwa(ə)r, -ˌwe(ə)r, -wər\ *n, pl* **Delaware** *or* **Delawares** [*Delaware* river] **1** : a member of an Amerindian people orig. of the Delaware valley **2** : the Algonquian language of the Delaware
[1]de·lay \di-'lā\ *n* **1** **a** : the act of delaying : the state of being delayed **b** : an instance of being delayed **2** : the time during which something is delayed **3** : a football play in which an offensive back delays momentarily as if to block and then runs his prescribed pattern
[2]delay *vb* [ME *delayen*, fr. OF *delaier*, fr. *de-* + *laier* to leave, alter. of *laissier*, fr. L *laxare* to slacken — more at RELAX] *vt* **1** : to put off : POSTPONE ⟨decided to ~ our vacation until next month⟩ **2** : to stop, detain, or hinder for a time ~ *vi* **1** : to move or act slowly **2** : to pause momentarily — **de·lay·er** *n* — **de·lay·ing** *adj*
syn DELAY, RETARD, SLOW, SLACKEN, DETAIN *shared meaning element* : to cause to be late or behind in movement or progress
ant expedite, hasten
[1]de·le \'dē-(ˌ)lē\ *vt* **de·led; de·le·ing** [L, imper. sing. of *delēre*] **1** : to remove (as a word or character) from typeset matter **2** : to mark with a dele
[2]dele *n* : a mark indicating that something is to be deled
[1]de·lec·ta·ble \di-'lek-tə-bəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *delectabilis*, fr. *delectare* to delight — more at DELIGHT] **1** : highly pleasing : DELIGHTFUL **2** : DELICIOUS — **de·lec·ta·bil·i·ty** \-ˌlek-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **de·lec·ta·ble·ness** \-'lek-tə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **de·lec·ta·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
[2]delectable *n* : something that is delectable ⟨~*s* from the bakery⟩
de·lec·ta·tion \ˌdē-ˌlek-'tā-shən, di-; ˌdel-ək-\ *n* **1** : DELIGHT **2** : ENJOYMENT
del·e·ga·ble \'del-i-gə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being delegated
del·e·ga·cy \-gə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** **a** : the act of delegating **b** : appointment as delegate **2** : a body of delegates : BOARD
[1]del·e·gate \'del-i-gət, -ˌgāt\ *n* [ME *delegat*, fr. ML *delegatus*, fr. L, pp. of *delegare* to delegate, fr. *de-* + *legare* to send — more at LEGATE] : a person acting for another: as **a** : a representative to a convention or conference **b** : a representative of a U.S. territory in the House of Representatives **c** : a member of the lower house of the legislature of Maryland, Virginia, or West Virginia
[2]del·e·gate \-ˌgāt\ *vb* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** *vt* **1** : to entrust to another ⟨~ one's authority⟩ **2** : to appoint as one's representative : DEPUTIZE ~ *vi* : to assign responsibility or authority
del·e·ga·tion \ˌdel-i-'gā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of empowering to act for another **2** : a group of persons chosen to represent others
de·lete \di-'lēt\ *vt* **de·leted; de·let·ing** [L *deletus*, pp. of *delēre* to wipe out, destroy, fr. *de-* + *-lēre* (akin to L *linere* to smear) — more at LIME] : to eliminate esp. by blotting out, cutting out, or erasing ⟨*deleted* his name from the list⟩
syn see ERASE
del·e·te·ri·ous \ˌdel-ə-'tir-ē-əs\ *adj* [Gk *dēlētērios*, fr. *dēleisthai* to hurt — more at CONDOLE] : having an often concealed or unexpected harmful effect ⟨whether prolonged weightlessness has ~ effects —*The Sciences*⟩
syn see PERNICIOUS
ant salutary — **del·e·te·ri·ous·ly** *adv* — **del·e·te·ri·ous·ness** *n*
de·le·tion \di-'lē-shən\ *n* [L *deletion-*, *deletio* destruction, fr. *deletus*] **1** : an act of deleting **2** **a** : something deleted **b** : DEFICIENCY 2b; *esp* : a large deficiency not including either end of a chromosome
delft \'delft\ *n* [*Delft*, Netherlands] **1** : tin-glazed Dutch earthenware with blue and white or polychrome decoration **2** : a ceramic ware resembling or imitative of Dutch delft
delft·ware \'delf-ˌtwa(ə)r, -ˌtwe(ə)r\ *n* : DELFT
deli \'del-ē\ *n, pl* **del·is** : DELICATESSEN
[1]de·lib·er·ate \di-'lib-(ə-)rət\ *adj* [L *deliberatus*, pp. of *deliberare* to weigh in mind, ponder, irreg. fr. *de-* + *libra* scale, pound] **1** : characterized by or resulting from careful and thorough consideration **2** : characterized by awareness of the consequences : WILLFUL **3** : slow, unhurried, and steady as though allowing time for decision on each individual action involved ⟨walked with a ~ step⟩
syn see VOLUNTARY
ant impulsive — **de·lib·er·ate·ly** *adv* — **de·lib·er·ate·ness** *n*
[2]de·lib·er·ate \di-'lib-ə-ˌrāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** *vt* : to think about deliberately and often with formal discussion before reaching a decision ~ *vi* : to ponder issues and decisions carefully
syn see THINK
de·lib·er·a·tion \di-ˌlib-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of deliberating **2** : a discussion and consideration by a group of persons of the reasons for and against a measure **3** : the quality or state of being deliberate — **de·lib·er·a·tive** \-'lib-ə-ˌrāt-iv, -'lib-(ə-)rət-\ *adj* — **de·lib·er·a·tive·ly** *adv* — **de·lib·er·a·tive·ness** *n*
del·i·ca·cy \'del-i-kə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** *obs* **a** : the quality or state of being luxurious **b** : INDULGENCE **2** : something pleasing to eat that is considered rare or luxurious ⟨considered caviar a ~⟩ **3** **a** : the quality or state of being dainty : FINENESS ⟨lace of great ~⟩ **b** : FRAILTY **4** : fineness or subtle expressiveness of touch (as in painting or music) **5** **a** : precise and refined perception and discrimination **b** : extreme sensitivity : PRECISION ⟨an electronic instrument of great ~⟩ **6** **a** : refined sensibility in feeling or conduct **b** : the quality or state of being squeamish **7** : the quality or state of requiring delicate treatment
[1]del·i·cate \'del-i-kət\ *adj* [ME *delicat*, fr. L *delicatus* delicate, addicted to pleasure; akin to L *delicere* to allure] **1** : pleasing to the senses: **a** : generally pleasant **b** : pleasing to the sense of taste or smell esp. in a mild or subtle way **c** : marked by daintiness or charm of color, lines, or proportions **2** **a** : marked by keen sensitivity or fine discrimination **b** : FASTIDIOUS, SQUEAMISH **c** : SCRUPULOUS **3** **a** : marked by minute precision **b** : exhibiting extreme sensitivity ⟨a ~ instrument⟩ **4** : calling for or involving meticulously careful treatment ⟨the ~ balance of power⟩ **5** **a** : marked by meticulous technique or operation or by execution with adroit finesse ⟨a ~ pirouette⟩ **b** : marked by fineness of structure, workmanship, or texture ⟨~ handwriting⟩ **c** (1) : easily torn or hurt ⟨a ~ butterfly wing⟩ (2) : WEAK, SICKLY **d** : marked by fine subtlety ⟨~ irony⟩ **e** : marked by tact; *also* : requiring tact
syn see CHOICE
ant gross — **del·i·cate·ly** *adv* — **del·i·cate·ness** *n*
[2]delicate *n* **1** *obs* : DELIGHT, LUXURY **2** *archaic* : a table delicacy
del·i·ca·tes·sen \ˌdel-i-kə-'tes-ᵊn\ *n pl* [obs. G (now *delikatessen*), pl. of *delicatesse* delicacy, fr. F *délicatesse*, prob. fr. OIt *delicatezza*, fr. *delicato* delicate, fr. L *delicatus*] **1** : ready-to-eat food products (as cooked meats and prepared salads) **2** *sing, pl* **delicatessens** [*delicatessen* (*store*)] : a store where delicatessen are sold
[1]de·li·cious \di-'lish-əs\ *adj* [ME, fr. OF, fr. LL *deliciosus*, fr. L *deliciae* delight, fr. *delicere* to allure] **1** : affording great pleasure : DELIGHTFUL **2** : appealing to one of the bodily senses esp. of taste or smell — **de·li·cious·ly** *adv* — **de·li·cious·ness** *n*
[2]delicious *n, pl* **de·li·cious·es** *or* **delicious** *often cap* : an important red or yellow market apple of American origin that has a crown of five rounded prominences at the blossom end
de·lict \di-'likt\ *n* [L *delictum* fault, fr. neut. of *delictus*, pp. of *delinquere*] : an offense against the law
[1]de·light \di-'līt\ *n* **1** : a high degree of gratification : JOY; *also* : extreme satisfaction **2** : something that gives great pleasure ⟨the new puppy was a ~⟩ **3** *archaic* : the power of affording pleasurable emotion
[2]delight *vb* [ME *deliten*, fr. OF *delitier*, fr. L *delectare*, fr. *delectus*, pp. of *delicere* to allure, fr. *de-* + *lacere* to allure; akin to OE *lǣl* switch] *vi* **1** : to take great pleasure ⟨he ~*ed* in playing his guitar⟩ **2** : to give keen enjoyment ⟨a book certain to ~⟩ ~ *vt* : to give joy or satisfaction to ⟨~*ed* the audience with his performance⟩ — **de·light·er** *n*
de·light·ed *adj* **1** *obs* : DELIGHTFUL **2** : highly pleased — **de·light·ed·ly** *adv* — **de·light·ed·ness** *n*
de·light·ful \di-'līt-fəl\ *adj* : highly pleasing — **de·light·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **de·light·ful·ness** *n*
de·light·some \-'līt-səm\ *adj* : very pleasing : DELIGHTFUL — **de·light·some·ly** *adv*
De·li·lah \di-'lī-lə\ *n* [Heb *Dĕlīlāh*] : the mistress and betrayer of Samson in the book of Judges
de·lim·it \di-'lim-ət\ *vt* [F *délimiter*, fr. L *delimitare*, fr. *de-* + *limitare* to limit, fr. *limit-*, *limes* boundary, limit — more at LIMB] **1** : to fix the limits of ⟨~ a boundary⟩ **2** : to spell out : DELINEATE ⟨the problems can be defined and the solutions to the problems explicitly ~*ed* as to generality —Eugene Wall⟩
de·lim·i·tate \di-'lim-ə-ˌtāt\ *vt* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** : DELIMIT — **de·lim·i·ta·tion** \di-ˌlim-ə-'tā-shən, ˌdē-\ *n* — **de·lim·i·ta·tive** \di-'lim-ə-ˌtāt-iv\ *adj*
de·lim·it·er \di-'lim-ət-ər\ *n* : a character that marks the beginning or end of a unit of data (as on a magnetic tape)
de·lin·eate \di-'lin-ē-ˌāt\ *vt* **-eat·ed; -eat·ing** [L *delineatus*, pp. of *delineare*, fr. *de-* + *linea* line] **1** **a** : to indicate by lines drawn in the form or figure of : PORTRAY **b** : to represent accurately **2** : to describe in usu. sharp or vivid detail ⟨~*s* the complexity of the large urban university —J. M. Hester⟩ — **de·lin·ea·tor** \-ē-ˌāt-ər\ *n*
de·lin·ea·tion \di-ˌlin-ē-'ā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of representing, portraying, or describing graphically or verbally **2** : something made by delineating — **de·lin·ea·tive** \-'lin-ē-ˌāt-iv\ *adj*
de·lin·quen·cy \di-'liŋ-kwən-sē, -'lin-\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the quality or state of being delinquent **2** : conduct that is out of accord with accepted behavior or the law; *also* : a tendency to engage or the practice of engaging in such conduct — used esp. when emphasis is placed on social or psychological maladjustment rather than criminal intent **3** : a debt on which payment is overdue
[1]de·lin·quent \-kwənt\ *n* : a delinquent person
[2]delinquent *adj* [L *delinquent-*, *delinquens*, prp. of *delinquere* to fail, offend, fr. *de-* + *linquere* to leave — more at LOAN] **1** : offending by neglect or violation of duty or of law **2** : being overdue in payment ⟨a ~ charge account⟩ **3** : of, relating to, or characteristic of delinquents : marked by delinquency — **de·lin·quent·ly** *adv*
del·i·quesce \ˌdel-i-'kwes\ *vi* **-quesced; -quesc·ing** [L *deliquescere*, fr. *de-* + *liquescere*, incho. of *liquēre* to be fluid — more at LIQUID] **1** : to melt away: **a** : to dissolve gradually and become liquid by attracting and absorbing moisture from the air **b** : to become soft

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ə abut ᵊ kitten ər further a back ā bake ä cot, cart
aù out ch chin e less ē easy g gift i trip ī life
j joke ŋ sing ō flow ȯ flaw ȯi coin th thin t͟h this
ü loot u̇ foot y yet yü few yu̇ furious zh vision

or liquid with age — used of plant structures (as mushrooms) **2** : to divide repeatedly and so end in fine divisions — used esp. of the veins of a leaf — **del·i·ques·cence** \-ˈkwes-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* — **del·i·ques·cent** \-ᵊnt\ *adj*

de·lir·i·ous \di-ˈlir-ē-əs\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of delirium **2** : affected with or marked by delirium — **de·lir·i·ous·ly** *adv* — **de·lir·i·ous·ness** *n*

de·lir·i·um \di-ˈlir-ē-əm\ *n* [L, fr. *delirare* to be crazy, fr. *de-* + *lira* furrow — more at LEARN] **1** : a mental disturbance characterized by confusion, disordered speech, and hallucinations **2** : frenzied excitement ⟨he would stride about his room in a ~ of joy — Thomas Wolfe⟩

delirium tre·mens \-ˈtrē-mənz, -ˈtrem-ənz\ *n* [NL, lit., trembling delirium] : a violent delirium with tremors that is induced by excessive and prolonged use of alcoholic liquors — called also *D.T.'s*

de·list \(ˈ)dē-ˈlist\ *vt* : to remove from a list; *esp* : to remove (a security) from the list of securities that may be dealt in on a particular exchange

de·liv·er \di-ˈliv-ər\ *vb* **de·liv·ered; de·liv·er·ing** \-(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *deliveren*, fr. OF *delivrer*, fr. LL *deliberare*, fr. L *de-* + *liberare* to liberate] *vt* **1** : to set free ⟨and lead us not into temptation, but ~ us from evil —Mt 6:13 (AV)⟩ **2** : to hand over : CONVEY ⟨~*ed* the stolen goods to the police⟩ **3** **a** : to assist in giving birth **b** : to aid in the birth of **4** : UTTER, RELATE ⟨~*ed* his speech effectively⟩ **5** : to send (something aimed or guided) to an intended target or destination ⟨~*ed* a left hook to the jaw⟩ **6** : to bring (as votes) to the support of a candidate or cause ~ *vi* : to produce the promised, desired, or expected results : come through ⟨make sure he ~*s* on his promise⟩ ***syn*** see RESCUE — **de·liv·er·abil·i·ty** \-ˌliv-(ə-)rə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n* — **de·liv·er·able** \-ˈliv-(ə-)rə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·liv·er·er** \-ˈliv-ər-ər\ *n*

de·liv·er·ance \di-ˈliv-(ə-)rən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act of delivering : the state of being delivered: as **a** : LIBERATION, RESCUE **b** *archaic* : the act of speaking **2** : something delivered or communicated; *esp* : an opinion or decision (as the verdict of a jury) expressed publicly

de·liv·ery \di-ˈliv-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1** : a delivering from restraint **2** **a** : the act of handing over **b** : the physical and legal transfer of a shipment from consignor to consignee ⟨every ~ of perishables was insured against loss⟩ **c** : the act of putting into the legal possession of another **d** : something delivered at one time or in one unit ⟨got my morning ~ of milk⟩ **3** : the act of giving birth **4** : a delivering esp. of a speech; *also* : manner or style of uttering in speech or song **5** : the act or manner of sending forth or throwing ⟨a hitch in the pitcher's ~⟩

delivery boy *n* : a person employed by a retail store to deliver small orders to customers on call

de·liv·ery·man \-(ə-)rē-mən, -ˌman\ *n* : a person who delivers wholesale or retail goods to customers usu. over a regular local route

dell \ˈdel\ *n* [ME *delle;* akin to MHG *telle* ravine, OE *dæl* valley — more at DALE] : a secluded hollow or small valley usu. covered with trees or turf

delly *var of* DELI

de·lo·cal·ize \(ˈ)dē-ˈlō-kə-ˌlīz\ *vt* : to free from the limitations of locality; *specif* : to remove (electrons) from a particular position — **de·lo·cal·iza·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌlō-kə-lə-ˈzā-shən\ *n*

de·louse \(ˈ)dē-ˈlaůs, -ˈlaůz\ *vt* : to remove lice from

Del·phi·an \ˈdel-fē-ən\ *adj* : DELPHIC

Del·phic \ˈdel-fik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to ancient Delphi or its oracle **2** : AMBIGUOUS, OBSCURE — **del·phi·cal·ly** \-fi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

del·phin·i·um \del-ˈfin-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *delphinion* larkspur, dim. of *delphin-, delphis* dolphin — more at DOLPHIN] : any of a large genus (*Delphinium*) of the buttercup family that comprises chiefly perennial erect branching herbs with palmately divided leaves and irregular flowers in showy spikes and includes several that are poisonous



delphinium

Del·phi·nus \del-ˈfī-nəs, -ˈfē-\ *n* [L (gen. *Delphini*), lit., dolphin — more at DOLPHIN] : a northern constellation nearly west of Pegasus

¹del·ta \ˈdel-tə\ *n* [ME *deltha*, fr. Gk *delta*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *dāleth* daleth] **1** : the 4th letter of the Greek alphabet — see ALPHABET table **2** : something shaped like a capital Greek delta; *esp* : the alluvial deposit at the mouth of a river **3** : an increment of a variable — symbol Δ — **del·ta·ic** \del-ˈtā-ik\ *adj*

²delta *or* **δ-** *adj* : fourth in position in the structure of an organic molecule from a particular group or atom

Delta — a communications code word for the letter *d*

delta ray *n* : an electron ejected by an ionizing particle in its passage through matter

delta wing *n* [¹*delta;* fr. its shape] : a triangular swept-back airplane wing with straight trailing edge

¹del·toid \ˈdel-ˌtȯid\ *n* [NL *deltoides*, fr. Gk *deltoeidēs* shaped like a delta, fr. *delta*] : a large triangular muscle that covers the shoulder joint and serves to raise the arm laterally

²deltoid *adj* : shaped like a capital delta : TRIANGULAR ⟨a ~ leaf⟩

del·toi·de·us \del-ˈtȯid-ē-əs\ *n, pl* **del·toi·dei** \-ē-ˌī\ [NL, alter. of *deltoides*] : DELTOID

de·lude \di-ˈlüd\ *vt* **de·lud·ed; de·lud·ing** [ME *deluden*, fr. L *deludere*, fr. *de-* + *ludere* to play — more at LUDICROUS] **1** : to mislead the mind or judgment of : impose on : DECEIVE, TRICK **2** *obs* **a** : FRUSTRATE, DISAPPOINT **b** : EVADE, ELUDE ***syn*** see DECEIVE ***ant*** enlighten — **de·lud·er** *n* — **de·lud·ing·ly** \-ˈlüd-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

¹del·uge \ˈdel-(ˌ)yüj\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *diluvium*, fr. *diluere* to wash away, fr. *dis-* + *lavere* to wash — more at LYE] **1** **a** : an overflowing of the land by water **b** : a drenching rain **2** : an overwhelming amount or number ⟨a ~ of criticism⟩ ⟨a ~ of letters⟩

²deluge *vt* **del·uged; del·ug·ing** **1** : to overflow with water : INUNDATE **2** : OVERWHELM, SWAMP

de·lu·sion \di-ˈlü-zhən\ *n* [ME, fr. L *delusion-, delusio*, fr. *delusus* pp. of *deludere*] **1** **a** : the act of deluding : the state of being deluded **b** : an abnormal mental state characterized by the occurrence of delusions **2** **a** : something that is falsely or delusively believed or propagated **b** : a false belief regarding the self or persons or objects outside the self that persists despite the facts and is common in some psychotic states — **de·lu·sion·al** \-ˈlüzh-nəl, -ˈlü-zhən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **de·lu·sion·ary** \-zhə-ˌner-ē\ *adj*

syn DELUSION, ILLUSION, HALLUCINATION, MIRAGE *shared meaning element* : something accepted as true that is actually false or unreal

de·lu·sive \-ˈlü-siv, -ˈlü-ziv\ *adj* **1** : likely to delude **2** : constituting a delusion — **de·lu·sive·ly** *adv* — **de·lu·sive·ness** *n*

de·lu·so·ry \-sə-rē, -zə-\ *adj* : DECEPTIVE, DELUSIVE

de·lus·ter \(ˈ)dē-ˈləs-tər\ *vt* : to reduce the sheen of (as yarn or fabric)

de·luxe \di-ˈlůks, -ˈləks, -ˈlüks\ *adj* [F *de luxe*, lit., of luxury] : notably luxurious or elegant ⟨a ~ edition⟩ ⟨~ hotels⟩

¹delve \ˈdelv\ *vb* **delved; delv·ing** [ME *delven*, fr. OE *delfan;* akin to OHG *telban* to dig] *vt, archaic* : EXCAVATE ~ *vi* **1** : to dig or labor with a spade **2** : to make a careful or detailed search for information ⟨*delved* into the past⟩ — **delv·er** *n*

²delve *n, archaic* : CAVE, HOLLOW

dely *abbr* delivery

dem *abbr* **1** demonstrative **2** demurrage

Dem *abbr* Democrat; Democratic

de·mag·ne·tize \(ˈ)dē-ˈmag-nə-ˌtīz\ *vt* : to deprive of magnetic properties — **de·mag·ne·ti·za·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌmag-nət-ə-ˈzā-shən\ *n* — **de·mag·ne·tiz·er** \(ˈ)dē-ˈmag-nə-ˌtī-zər\ *n*

dem·a·gog·ic \ˌdem-ə-ˈgäg-ik *also* -ˈgäj- *or* -ˈgōj-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of a demagogue : employing demagoguery — **dem·a·gog·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **dem·a·gog·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

dem·a·gog·ism \ˈdem-ə-ˌgäg-ˌiz-əm\ *n* : DEMAGOGUERY

dem·a·gogue *or* **dem·a·gog** \ˈdem-ə-ˌgäg\ *n* [Gk *dēmagōgos*, fr. *dēmos* people (akin to Gk *daiesthai* to divide) + *agōgos* leading, fr. *agein* to lead — more at TIDE, AGENT] **1** : a leader championing the cause of the common people in ancient times **2** : a leader who makes use of popular prejudices and false claims and promises in order to gain power

dem·a·gogu·ery \-ˌgäg-(ə-)rē\ *n* : the principles or practices of a demagogue

dem·a·gogy \-ˌgäg-ē, -ˌgäj-ē, -ˌgō-jē\ *n* : DEMAGOGUERY

¹de·mand \di-ˈmand\ *n* **1** **a** : an act of demanding or asking esp. with authority **b** : something claimed as due **2** *archaic* : QUESTION **3** **a** : an expressed desire for ownership or use **b** : willingness and ability to purchase a commodity or service **c** : the quantity of a commodity or service wanted at a specified price and time **4** **a** : a seeking or state of being sought after ⟨gold is in great ~⟩ **b** : urgent need **5** : the requirement of work or of the expenditure of a resource — **on demand** : upon presentation and request for payment

²demand *vb* [ME *demaunden*, fr. MF *demander*, fr. ML *demandare*, fr. L *de-* + *mandare* to enjoin — more at MANDATE] *vi* : to make a demand : ASK ~ *vt* **1** : to ask or call for with authority : claim as due or just ⟨~ payment of a debt⟩ **2** : to call for urgently, peremptorily, or insistently ⟨~*ed* that the rioters disperse⟩ **3** **a** : to ask authoritatively or earnestly to be informed of **b** : to require to come : SUMMON **4** : to call for as useful or necessary — **de·mand·able** \-ˈman-də-bəl\ *adj* — **de·mand·er** *n*

syn DEMAND, CLAIM, REQUIRE, EXACT *shared meaning element* : to ask or call for something as or as if one's right or due

de·man·dant \di-ˈman-dənt\ *n* **1** : the plaintiff in a real action **2** : one who makes a demand or claim

demand deposit *n* : a bank deposit that can be withdrawn without advance notice

de·mand·ing *adj* : EXACTING — **de·mand·ing·ly** \-ˈman-diŋ-lē\ *adv*

demand loan *n* : CALL LOAN

demand note *n* : a note payable on demand

de·mand–pull \di-ˈman(d)-ˌpůl\ *n* : an increase or upward trend in spendable money that tends to result in increased competition for available goods and services and a corresponding increase in consumer prices — compare COST-PUSH — **demand–pull** *adj*

dem·an·toid \ˈdem-ən-ˌtȯid\ *n* [G, fr. obs. G *demant* diamond, fr. MHG *diemant*, fr. OF *diamant*] : a green andradite used as a gem

de·mar·cate \di-ˈmär-ˌkāt, ˈdē-ˌ\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [back-formation fr. *demarcation*, fr. Sp *demarcación* & Pg *demarcação*, fr. *demarcar* to delimit, fr. *de-* + *marcar* to mark, fr. It *marcare*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *marha* boundary — more at MARCH] **1** : to mark the limits of **2** : to set apart : SEPARATE — **de·mar·cation** *also* **de·mar·ka·tion** \ˌdē-ˌmär-ˈkā-shən\ *n*

de·marche \dā-ˈmärsh, di-, ˈdā-ˌ\ *n* [F *démarche*, lit., gait, fr. MF, fr. *demarcher* to march, fr. OF *demarchier*, fr. *de-* + *marchier* to march] **1** **a** : a course of action : MANEUVER **b** : a diplomatic move or maneuver **2** **a** : a diplomatic representation **b** : a representation of views to a public official

de·mark \di-ˈmärk\ *vt* : DEMARCATE

deme \ˈdēm\ *n* [Gk *dēmos*, lit., people] **1** : a unit of local government in ancient Attica **2** : a local population of closely related organisms; *esp* : GAMODEME

¹de·mean \di-ˈmēn\ *vt* **de·meaned; de·mean·ing** [ME *demenen*, fr. OF *demener* to conduct, fr. *de-* + *mener* to drive, fr. L *minare*, fr. *minari* to threaten — more at MOUNT] : to conduct or behave (oneself) usu. in a proper manner

²demean *vt* **de·meaned; de·mean·ing** [*de-* + *mean*] : DEGRADE, DEBASE ***syn*** see ABASE

de·mean·or \di-ˈmē-nər\ *n* : behavior toward others : outward manner ***syn*** see BEARING

de·ment·ed \di-ˈment-əd\ *adj* : MAD, INSANE — **de·ment·ed·ly** *adv* — **de·ment·ed·ness** *n*

de·men·tia \di-ˈmen-chə\ *n* [L, fr. *dement-, demens* mad, fr. *de-* + *ment-, mens* mind — more at MIND] **1** : a condition of deteriorated mentality **2** : MADNESS, INSANITY — **de·men·tial** \-chəl\ *adj*

dementia prae·cox \-'prē-ˌkäks\ *n* [NL, lit., premature dementia] : SCHIZOPHRENIA
de·mer·it \di-'mer-ət\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *demerite*, fr. *de-* + *merite* merit] **1** *obs* : OFFENSE **2 a** : a quality that deserves blame or lacks merit : FAULT, DEFECT **b** : lack of merit **3** : a mark usu. entailing a loss of privilege given to an offender
de·mesne \di-'mān, -'mēn\ *n* [ME, alter. of *demeyne*, fr. OF *demaine* — more at DOMAIN] **1** : legal possession of land as one's own **2** : manorial land actually possessed by the lord and not held by tenants **3 a** : the land attached to a mansion **b** : landed property : ESTATE **c** : REGION, TERRITORY **4** : REALM, DOMAIN
De·me·ter \di-'mēt-ər\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Dēmētēr*] : the Greek goddess of agriculture — compare CERES
demi- *prefix* [ME, fr. *demi*, fr. MF, fr. L *dimidius*, prob. back-formation fr. *dimidiare* to halve, fr. *dis-* + *medius* mid — more at MID] **1** : half ⟨*demi*bastion⟩ **2** : one that partly belongs to (a specified type or class) ⟨*demi*god⟩
demi·god \'dem-i-ˌgäd\ *n* **1** : a mythological being with more power than a mortal but less than a god **2** : a person so outstanding that he seems to approach the divine — **demi·god·dess** \-ˌgäd-əs\ *n*
demi·john \'dem-i-ˌjän\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. F *dame-jeanne*, lit., Lady Jane] : a narrow-necked bottle of glass or stoneware enclosed in wickerwork and holding from 1 to 10 gallons
de·mil·i·ta·rize \(')dē-'mil-ə-tə-ˌrīz, di-\ *vt* **1 a** : to do away with the military organization and potential of **b** : to prohibit (as a zone or frontier area) from being used for military purposes **2** : to deprive of military characteristics or purposes — **de·mil·i·tar·i·za·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌmil-ə-t(ə-)rə-'zā-shən, di-\ *n*
demi·mon·daine \ˌdem-i-ˌmän-'dān, -'män-ˌ\ *n* [F *demi-mondaine*, fr. fem. of *demi-mondain*, fr. *demi-monde*] : a woman of the demimonde
demi·monde \'dem-i-ˌmänd\ *n* [F *demi-monde*, fr. *demi-* + *monde* world, fr. L *mundus* — more at MUNDANE] **1 a** : a class of women on the fringes of respectable society supported by wealthy lovers **b** : PROSTITUTES **2** : DEMIMONDAINE **3** : a group engaged in activity of doubtful legality or propriety
de·min·er·al·ize \(')dē-'min-(ə-)rə-ˌlīz\ *vt* : to remove the mineral matter from : DESALT — **de·min·er·al·iza·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌmin-(ə-)rə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **de·min·er·al·iz·er** \(')dē-'min-(ə-)rə-ˌlī-zər\ *n*
demi·rep \'dem-i-ˌrep\ *n* [*demi-* + *rep* (reprobate)] : DEMIMONDAINE
[1]de·mise \di-'mīz\ *vb* **de·mised; de·mis·ing** *vt* **1** : to convey (as an estate) by will or lease **2** *obs* : CONVEY, GIVE **3** : to transmit by succession or inheritance ~ *vi* **1** : DIE, DECEASE **2** : to pass by descent or bequest ⟨the property *demised* to the king⟩
[2]demise *n* [MF, fem. of *demis*, pp. of *demettre* to dismiss, fr. L *demittere* to send down, fr. *de-* + *mittere* to send — more at SMITE] **1** : the conveyance of an estate **2** : transfer of the sovereignty to a successor **3 a** : DEATH **b** : a cessation of existence or activity
demi·semi·qua·ver \ˌdem-i-'sem-i-ˌkwā-vər\ *n* : THIRTY-SECOND NOTE
de·mis·sion \di-'mish-ən\ *n* [MF, fr. L *demission-*, *demissio* lowering, fr. *demissus*, pp. of *demittere*] : RESIGNATION, ABDICATION
de·mit \di-'mit\ *vb* **de·mit·ted; de·mit·ting** [MF *demettre*] *vt* **1** *archaic* : DISMISS **2** : RESIGN ~ *vi* : to withdraw from office or membership
demi·tasse \'dem-i-ˌtas, -ˌtäs\ *n* [F *demi-tasse*, fr. *demi-* + *tasse* cup, fr. MF, fr. Ar *ṭass*, fr. Per *tast*] : a small cup of black coffee; *also* : the cup used to serve it
demi·urge \'dem-ē-ˌərj\ *n* [LL *demiurgus*, fr. Gk *dēmiourgos*, lit., one who works for the people, fr. *dēmios* of the people (fr. *dēmos* people) + *-ourgos* worker (fr. *ergon* work) — more at DEMAGOGUE, WORK] **1** *cap* **a** : a Platonic subordinate deity who fashions the sensible world in the light of eternal ideas **b** : a Gnostic subordinate deity who is the creator of the material world **2** : something that is an autonomous creative force or decisive power — **demi·ur·geous** \ˌdem-ē-'ər-jəs\ *adj* — **demi·ur·gic** \-jik\ *or* **demi·ur·gi·cal** \-ji-kəl\ *adj* — **demi·ur·gi·cal·ly** \-ji-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
demi·world \'dem-i-ˌwərld\ *n* [part trans. of F *demimonde*] : DEMIMONDE 3
demo \'dem-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **demos** **1** *cap* : DEMOCRAT 2 **2** : DEMONSTRATION **3** : DEMONSTRATOR 2
[1]de·mob \(')dē-'mäb, di-\ *vt, chiefly Brit* : DEMOBILIZE
[2]demob *n, chiefly Brit* : the act or process of demobilizing : DEMOBILIZATION
de·mo·bi·lize \di-'mō-bə-ˌlīz, (')dē-\ *vt* **1** : DISBAND **2** : to discharge from military service — **de·mo·bi·li·za·tion** \di-ˌmō-bə-lə-'zā-shən, (ˌ)dē-\ *n*
de·moc·ra·cy \di-'mäk-rə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** [MF *democratie*, fr. LL *democratia*, fr. Gk *dēmokratia*, fr. *dēmos* + *-kratia* -cracy] **1 a** : government by the people; *esp* : rule of the majority **b** : a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usu. involving periodically held free elections **2** : a political unit that has a democratic government **3** *cap* : the principles and policies of the Democratic party in the U.S. **4** : the common people esp. when constituting the source of political authority **5** : the absence of hereditary or arbitrary class distinctions or privileges
dem·o·crat \'dem-ə-ˌkrat\ *n* **1 a** : an adherent of democracy **b** : one who practices social equality **2** *cap* : a member of the Democratic party of the U.S.
dem·o·crat·ic \ˌdem-ə-'krat-ik\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or favoring democracy **2** *often cap* : of or relating to one of the two major political parties in the U.S. evolving in the early 19th century from the anti-Federalists and the Democratic-Republican party and associated in modern times with policies of broad social reform and internationalism **3** : of, relating to, or appealing to the broad masses of the people ⟨~ art⟩ **4** : favoring social equality : not snobbish — **dem·o·crat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
democratic centralism *n* : participation of Communist party members in discussion of policy and election of higher party organizations and strict obedience of members and lower party bodies to decisions of the higher units
Democratic–Republican *adj* : of or relating to a major American political party of the early 19th century favoring a strict interpretation of the constitution to restrict the powers of the federal government and emphasizing states' rights
de·moc·ra·tize \di-'mäk-rə-ˌtīz\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz·ing** : to make democratic — **de·moc·ra·ti·za·tion** \-ˌmäk-rət-ə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **de·moc·ra·tiz·er** \-'mäk-rə-ˌtī-zər\ *n*
dé·mo·dé \ˌdā-mō-'dā\ *adj* [F, fr. *dé-* de- + *mode*] : no longer fashionable : OUT-OF-DATE
de·mod·ed \(')dē-'mōd-əd\ *adj* : DÉMODÉ
de·mod·u·late \(')dē-'mäj-ə-ˌlāt\ *vt* : to extract the intelligence from (a modulated radio, laser, or computer signal) — **de·mod·u·la·tor** \-ˌlāt-ər\ *n*
de·mod·u·la·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌmäj-ə-'lā-shən\ *n* : the process of demodulating
De·mo·gor·gon \ˌdē-mə-'gȯr-gən, 'dē-mə-ˌ\ *n* [LL] : a mysterious spirit or deity often explained as a primeval creator god who antedates the gods of Greek mythology
de·mo·graph·ic \ˌdē-mə-'graf-ik, ˌdem-ə-\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to demography **2** : relating to the dynamic balance of a population esp. with regard to density and capacity for expansion or decline — **de·mo·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
de·mog·ra·phy \di-'mäg-rə-fē\ *n* [F *démographie*, fr. Gk *dēmos* people + F *-graphie* -graphy] : the statistical study of human populations esp. with reference to size and density, distribution, and vital statistics — **de·mog·ra·pher** \-fər\ *n*
dem·oi·selle \ˌdem-(w)ə-'zel\ *n* [F, fr. OF *dameisele* — more at DAMSEL] **1** : a young lady **2** : a small Old World crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) with long secondaries and breast feathers **3** : DAMSELFLY


demoiselle 2

De·Moi·vre's theorem \di-'mȯi-vərz-, -'mwäv(-rə)z-\ *n* [Abraham *De Moivre* †1754 F mathematician] : a theorem of complex numbers: the *n*th power of a complex number has for its absolute value and its argument respectively the *n*th power of the absolute value and *n* times the argument of the complex number
de·mol·ish \di-'mäl-ish\ *vt* [MF *demoliss-*, stem of *demolir*, fr. L *demoliri*, fr. *de-* + *moliri* to construct, fr. *moles* mass — more at MOLE] **1 a** : to tear down : RAZE **b** : to break to pieces : SMASH **2 a** : to do away with : DESTROY **b** : to put into a very weak position : DISCREDIT — **de·mol·ish·er** *n* — **de·mol·ish·ment** \-ish-mənt\ *n*
de·mo·li·tion \ˌdem-ə-'lish-ən, ˌdē-mə-\ *n* **1** : the act of demolishing; *esp* : destruction in war by means of explosives **2** *pl* : explosives for destruction in war — **de·mo·li·tion·ist** \-'lish-(ə-)nəst\ *n*
demolition derby *n* : a contest in which skilled drivers ram old cars into one another until only one car remains running
de·mon *or* **dae·mon** \'dē-mən\ *n* [ME *demon*, fr. LL & L; LL *daemon* evil spirit, fr. L, divinity, spirit, fr. Gk *daimōn*] **1** *usu daemon* : an attendant power or spirit : GENIUS **2 a** : an evil spirit **b** : an evil or undesirable emotion, trait, or state **3** *usu daemon* : a supernatural being of Greek mythology intermediate between gods and men **4** : one that has unusual drive or effectiveness ⟨a ~ for work⟩ — **de·mon·ess** \-mə-nəs\ *n* — **de·mo·ni·an** \di-'mō-nē-ən\ *adj* — **de·mon·iza·tion** \ˌdē-mə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **de·mon·ize** \'dē-mə-ˌnīz\ *vt*
de·mon·e·tize \(')dē-'män-ə-ˌtīz, -'mən-\ *vt* [F *démonétiser*, fr. *dé-* de- + L *moneta* coin — more at MINT] **1** : to stop using (a metal) as a monetary standard **2** : to deprive of value for official payment — **de·mon·e·ti·za·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌmän-ət-ə-'zā-shən, -ˌmən-\ *n*
[1]de·mo·ni·ac \di-'mō-nē-ˌak\ *also* **de·mo·ni·a·cal** \ˌdē-mə-'nī-ə-kəl\ *adj* [ME *demoniak*, fr. LL *daemoniacus*, fr. Gk *daimoniakos*, fr. *daimon-*, *daimōn*] **1** : possessed or influenced by a demon **2** : of, relating to, or suggestive of a demon : FIENDISH ⟨~ cruelty⟩ — **de·mo·ni·a·cal·ly** \ˌdē-mə-'nī-ə-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
[2]demoniac *n* : one regarded as possessed by a demon
de·mon·ic \di-'män-ik\ *also* **de·mon·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* : DEMONIAC 2 — **de·mon·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
de·mon·ol·o·gy \ˌdē-mə-'näl-ə-jē\ *n* **1** : the study of demons or evil spirits **2** : belief in demons : a doctrine of evil spirits **3** : a catalog of enemies ⟨the liberal creed at that time put Big Business in a central place in its ~ —Carl Kaysen⟩
de·mon·stra·ble \di-'män(t)-strə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : capable of being demonstrated **2** : APPARENT, EVIDENT — **de·mon·stra·bil·i·ty** \-ˌmän(t)-strə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **de·mon·stra·ble·ness** \-'män(t)-strə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **de·mon·stra·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
dem·on·strate \'dem-ən-ˌstrāt\ *vb* **-strat·ed; -strat·ing** [L *demonstratus*, pp. of *demonstrare*, fr. *de-* + *monstrare* to show — more at MUSTER] *vt* **1** : to show clearly **2 a** : to prove or make clear by reasoning or evidence **b** : to illustrate and explain esp. with many examples **3** : to show or prove the value or efficiency of to a prospective buyer ~ *vi* : to make a demonstration ***syn*** see SHOW
dem·on·stra·tion \ˌdem-ən-'strā-shən\ *n* **1** : an outward expression or display **2** : an act, process, or means of demonstrating to the intelligence: as **a** (1) : conclusive evidence : PROOF (2) : a proof in which the conclusion is the immediate sequence of reasoning from premises **b** : a showing to a prospective buyer of the merits of a product **3** : a show of armed force **4** : a public display of group feelings toward a person or cause — **dem·on·stra-**

tion·al \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **dem·on·stra·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n*

¹de·mon·stra·tive \di-'män(t)-strət-iv\ *adj* **1 a :** demonstrating as real or true **b :** characterized or established by demonstration **2 :** pointing out the one referred to and distinguishing it from others of the same class ⟨~ pronouns⟩ **3 a :** marked by display of feeling **b :** inclined to display feelings openly — **de·mon·stra·tive·ly** *adv* — **de·mon·stra·tive·ness** *n*

²demonstrative *n* **:** a demonstrative word or morpheme

dem·on·stra·tor \'dem-ən-ˌstrāt-ər\ *n* **1 :** one that demonstrates **2 :** a product (as an automobile) used to demonstrate performance or merits to prospective buyers

de·mor·al·ize \di-'mȯr-ə-ˌlīz, 'dē-, -'mär-\ *vt* **1 :** to corrupt the morals of **2 a :** to weaken the morale of : DISCOURAGE, DISPIRIT **b :** to upset or destroy the normal functioning of **c :** to throw into disorder — **de·mor·al·iza·tion** \di-ˌmȯr-ə-lə-'zā-shən, ˌdē-, -ˌmär-\ *n* — **de·mor·al·iz·er** \di-'mȯr-ə-ˌlī-zər, 'dē-, -'mär-\ *n* — **de·mor·al·iz·ing·ly** \-ziŋ-lē\ *adv*

de·mos \'dē-ˌmäs\ *n* [Gk *dēmos* — more at DEMAGOGUE] **1 :** the common people of an ancient Greek state **2 :** POPULACE

de·mote \di-'mōt, 'dē-\ *vt* **de·mot·ed; de·mot·ing** [*de-* + *-mote* (as in *promote*)] **:** to reduce to a lower grade or rank ***syn*** see DEGRADE — **de·mo·tion** \-'mō-shən\ *n*

de·mot·ic \di-'mät-ik\ *adj* [Gk *dēmotikos*, fr. *dēmotēs* commoner, fr. *dēmos*] **1 :** POPULAR 1 **2 :** of, relating to, or written in a simplified form of the ancient Egyptian hieratic writing **3 :** of or relating to the form of Modern Greek that is based on colloquial use

de·mount \(ˈ)dē-'maůnt\ *vt* **1 :** to remove from a mounted position **2 :** DISASSEMBLE — **de·mount·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj*

¹de·mul·cent \di-'məl-sənt\ *adj* [L *demulcent-, demulcens*, prp. of *demulcēre* to soothe, fr. *de-* + *mulcēre* to soothe] **:** SOOTHING

²demulcent *n* **:** a usu. mucilaginous or oily substance (as tragacanth) capable of soothing or protecting an abraded mucous membrane

¹de·mur \di-'mər\ *vi* **de·murred; de·mur·ring** [ME *demeoren* to linger, fr. OF *demorer*, fr. L *demorari*, fr. *de-* + *morari* to linger, fr. *mora* delay — more at MEMORY] **1 :** to file a demurrer **2 :** to take exception : OBJECT ⟨he *demurred* at the horseplay⟩ **3** *archaic* **:** DELAY, HESITATE

²demur *n* **1 :** hesitation (as in doing or accepting) usu. based on doubt of the acceptability of something offered or proposed ⟨women who follow fashion without ~⟩ **2 :** OBJECTION, PROTEST ***syn*** see QUALM

de·mure \di-'myů(ə)r\ *adj* [ME] **1 :** RESERVED, MODEST **2 :** affectedly modest, reserved, or serious : COY — **de·mure·ly** *adv* — **de·mure·ness** *n*

de·mur·rage \di-'mər-ij, -'mə-rij\ *n* **1 :** the detention of a ship by the freighter beyond the time allowed for loading, unloading, or sailing **2 :** a charge for detaining a ship, freight car, or truck

de·mur·ral \di-'mər-əl, -'mə-rəl\ *n* **:** an act or instance of demurring

¹de·mur·rer \di-'mər-ər, -'mə-rər\ *n* [MF *demorer*, v.] **1 :** a pleading by a party to a legal action that assumes the truth of the matter alleged by the opposite party and sets up that it is insufficient in law to sustain his claim or that there is some other defect on the face of the pleadings constituting a legal reason why the opposing party should not be allowed to proceed further **2 :** OBJECTION

²de·mur·rer \-'mər-ər\ *n* [¹*demur*] **:** one that demurs

de·my \di-'mī\ *n* [ME *demi* half — more at DEMI-] **:** a size of paper typically 16 x 21 inches

de·my·e·lin·ate \(ˈ)dē-'mī-ə-lə-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing :** to remove or destroy the myelin of — **de·my·e·lin·ation** \(ˌ)dē-ˌmī-ə-lə-'nā-shən\ *n*

de·mys·ti·fy \(ˈ)dē-'mis-tə-ˌfī\ *vt* **:** to remove the mystery from : EXPLICATE — **de·mys·ti·fi·ca·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌmis-tə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n*

de·my·thol·o·gize \ˌdē-mith-'äl-ə-ˌjīz\ *vt* **1 :** to divest of mythological forms in order to uncover the meaning underlying them ⟨~ the Gospels⟩ **2 :** to divest of mythical elements or associations — **de·my·thol·o·gi·za·tion** \-ˌäl-ə-jə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **de·my·thol·o·giz·er** \-'äl-ə-ˌjī-zər\ *n*

¹den \'den\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *denn;* akin to OE *denu* valley, OHG *tenni* threshing floor, Gk *thenar* palm of the hand] **1 :** the lair of a wild usu. predatory animal **2 a** (1) **:** a hollow or cavern used esp. as a hideout (2) **:** a center of secret activity **b :** a small usu. squalid dwelling **3 :** a comfortable usu. secluded room **4 :** a subdivision of a cub-scout pack made up of two or more boys

²den *vb* **denned; den·ning** *vi* **:** to live in or retire to a den ~ *vt* **:** to drive into a den

¹Den *abbr* Denmark

²Den *or* **Denb** *abbr* Denbighshire

de·nar·i·us \di-'nar-ē-əs, -'ner-\ *n, pl* **de·nar·ii** \-ē-ˌī, -ē-ˌē\ [ME, fr. L — more at DENIER] **1 :** a small silver coin of ancient Rome **2 :** a gold coin of the Roman Empire equivalent to 25 denarii

de·na·tion·al·ize \(ˈ)dē-'nash-nə-ˌlīz, -'nash-ən-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vt* **1 :** to divest of national character or rights **2 :** to remove from ownership or control by the national government — **de·na·tion·al·iza·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌnash-nə-lə-'zā-shən, -ˌnash-ən-ᵊl-ə-'zā-\ *n*

de·nat·u·ral·ize \(ˈ)dē-'nach-(ə-)rə-ˌlīz\ *vt* **1 :** to make unnatural **2 :** to deprive of the rights and duties of a citizen — **de·nat·u·ral·iza·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌnach-(ə-)rə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n*

de·na·tur·ant \(ˈ)dē-'nāch-(ə-)rənt\ *n* **:** a denaturing agent

de·na·tur·ation \(ˌ)dē-ˌnā-chə-'rā-shən\ *n* **:** the process of denaturing — **de·na·tur·ation·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

de·na·ture \(ˈ)dē-'nā-chər\ *vt* **de·na·tured; de·na·tur·ing** \-'nāch-(ə-)riŋ\ **1 :** to deprive of natural qualities: as **a :** to make (alcohol) unfit for drinking (as by adding an obnoxious substance) without impairing usefulness for other purposes **b :** to modify the molecular structure of (a protein) esp. by heat, acid, alkali, or ultraviolet radiation so as to destroy or diminish some of the original properties and esp. the specific biological activity **c :** to add nonfissionable material to (fissionable material) so as to make unsuitable for use in an atomic bomb **2 :** DEHUMANIZE

de·na·zi·fy \(ˈ)dē-'nät-si-ˌfī, -'nat-\ *vt* **-fied; -fying :** to rid of Nazism and its influence — **de·na·zi·fi·ca·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌnät-si-fə-'kā-shən, -ˌnat-\ *n*

dendr- *or* **dendro-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *dendron;* akin to Gk *drys* tree — more at TREE] **:** tree ⟨*dendro*philous⟩ **:** resembling a tree ⟨*dendr*ite⟩

den·dri·form \'den-drə-ˌfȯrm\ *adj* **:** resembling a tree in structure

den·drite \'den-ˌdrīt\ *n* **1 :** a branching treelike figure produced on or in a mineral by a foreign mineral; *also* **:** the mineral so marked **2 :** a crystallized arborescent form **3 :** any of the usu. branching protoplasmic processes that conduct impulses toward the body of a nerve cell — see NEURON illustration — **den·drit·ic** \den-'drit-ik\ *also* **den·drit·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **den·drit·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

den·dro·chro·nol·o·gy \ˌden-(ˌ)drō-krə-'näl-ə-jē\ *n* **:** the science of dating events and variations in environment in former periods by comparative study of growth rings in trees and aged wood — **den·dro·chro·no·log·i·cal** \-ˌkrän-ᵊl-'äj-i-kəl, -ˌkrōn-\ *adj* — **den·dro·chro·no·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

den·droid \'den-ˌdrȯid\ *adj* [Gk *dendroeidēs*, fr. *dendron*] **:** resembling a tree in form : ARBORESCENT

den·drol·o·gy \den-'dräl-ə-jē\ *n* **:** the study of trees — **den·dro·log·ic** \ˌden-drə-'läj-ik\ *or* **den·dro·log·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **den·drol·o·gist** \den-'dräl-ə-jəst\ *n*

dene \'dēn\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *denu*] *Brit* **:** VALLEY

Dé·né \'den-ē\ *n, pl* **Dé·né** *or* **Dé·nés** \-ēz\ [F, fr. Déné] **1 :** a member of an Athapaskan people of the interior of Alaska and northwestern Canada **2 :** the language of the Déné people

Den·eb \'den-ˌeb, -əb\ *n* [Ar *dhanab al-dajāja*, lit., the tail of the hen] **:** a star of the first magnitude in Cygnus

den·e·ga·tion \ˌden-i-'gā-shən\ *n* [ME *denegacioun*, fr. MF or L; MF *denegation*, fr. L *denegation-, denegatio*, fr. *denegatus*, pp. of *denegare* to deny — more at DENY] **:** DENIAL

de·ner·vate \'dē-(ˌ)nər-ˌvāt\ *vt* **-vat·ed; -vat·ing :** to deprive of a nerve supply (as by cutting a nerve) — **de·ner·va·tion** \ˌdē-(ˌ)nər-'vā-shən\ *n*

den·gue \'deŋ-gē, -ˌgā\ *n* [Sp] **:** an acute infectious viral disease characterized by headache, severe joint pain, and a rash

de·ni·able \di-'nī-ə-bəl\ *adj* **:** capable of being denied

de·ni·al \di-'nī(-ə)l\ *n* **1 :** refusal to satisfy a request or desire **2 a** (1) **:** refusal to admit the truth or reality (as of a statement or charge) (2) **:** assertion that an allegation is false **b :** refusal to acknowledge a person or a thing : DISAVOWAL **3 :** the opposing by the defendant of an allegation of the opposite party in a lawsuit **4 :** SELF-DENIAL **5 :** negation in logic

de·nic·o·tin·ize \(ˈ)dē-'nik-ə-ˌtē-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing :** to remove part of the nicotine from (tobacco)

¹de·ni·er \di-'nī(-ə)r\ *n* **:** one that denies

²de·nier *n* [ME *denere*, fr. MF *denier*, fr. L *denarius*, coin worth ten asses, fr. *denarius* containing ten, fr. *deni* ten each, fr. *decem* ten — more at TEN] **1** \də-'ni(ə)r, dən-'yā\ **:** a small orig. silver coin of France and western Europe from the 8th to the 19th century **2** \'den-yər\ **:** a unit of fineness for silk, rayon, or nylon yarn equal to the fineness of a yarn weighing one gram for each 9000 meters

den·i·grate \'den-i-ˌgrāt\ *vt* **-grat·ed; -grat·ing** [L *denigratus*, pp. of *denigrare*, fr. *de-* + *nigrare* to blacken, fr. *nigr-, niger* black] **1 :** to cast aspersions on : DEFAME ⟨expatriates whom we are in the habit of *denigrating* — Henry Miller⟩ **2 :** to deny the importance or validity of : BELITTLE ⟨he was a philosopher and inclined to ~ ideas in literature — W. C. DeVane⟩ — **den·i·gra·tion** \ˌden-i-'grā-shən\ *n* — **den·i·gra·tive** \-ˌgrāt-iv\ *adj* — **den·i·gra·tor** \-ˌgrāt-ər\ *n* — **den·i·gra·to·ry** \'den-i-grə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

den·im \'den-əm\ *n* [F (*serge*) *de Nîmes* serge of Nîmes, France] **1 a :** a firm durable twilled usu. cotton fabric woven with colored warp and white filling threads **b :** a similar fabric woven in colored stripes **2** *pl* **:** overalls or trousers usu. of blue denim

de·ni·tri·fi·ca·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌnī-trə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* **:** an act or process of denitrifying; *specif* **:** reduction of nitrates or nitrites commonly by bacteria and usu. resulting in the escape of nitrogen into the air

de·ni·tri·fy \(ˈ)dē-'nī-trə-ˌfī\ *vt* **1 :** to remove nitrogen or its compound from **2 :** to convert (a nitrate or a nitrite) into a compound of a lower state of oxidation

den·i·zen \'den-ə-zən\ *n* [ME *denysen*, fr. MF *denzein*, fr. OF, inner, fr. *denz* within, fr. LL *deintus*, fr. L *de-* + *intus* within — more at ENT-] **1 :** INHABITANT **2 :** one admitted to residence in a foreign country; *esp* **:** an alien admitted to rights of citizenship **3 a :** a naturalized plant or animal **b :** one that frequents a place

den mother *n* **:** a female adult leader of a cub-scout den

de·nom·i·nate \di-'näm-ə-ˌnāt\ *vt* [L *denominatus*, pp. of *denominare*, fr. *de-* + *nominare* to name — more at NOMINATE] **:** to give a name to : DESIGNATE

de·nom·i·nate number \di-ˌnäm-ə-nət-\ *n* [L *denominatus*] **:** a number (as *7* in *7 feet*) that specifies a quantity in terms of a unit of measurement

de·nom·i·na·tion \di-ˌnäm-ə-'nā-shən\ *n* **1 :** an act of denominating **2 :** NAME, DESIGNATION; *esp* **:** a general name for a category **3 :** a religious organization uniting in a single legal and administrative body a number of local congregations **4 :** a value or size of a series of values or sizes (as of money) — **de·nom·i·na·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **de·nom·i·na·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

de·nom·i·na·tion·al·ism \-shnəl-ˌiz-əm, -shən-ᵊl-\ *n* **1 :** devotion to denominational principles or interests **2 :** the emphasizing of denominational differences to the point of being narrowly exclusive : SECTARIANISM — **de·nom·i·na·tion·al·ist** \-shnə-ləst, -shən-ᵊl-əst\ *n*

de·nom·i·na·tive \di-'näm-(ə-)nət-iv\ *adj* [L *de* from + *nomin-, nomen* name] **:** derived from a noun or adjective — **denominative** *n*

de·nom·i·na·tor \di-'näm-ə-ˌnāt-ər\ *n* **1 :** the part of a fraction that is below the line signifying division and that in fractions with 1 as the numerator indicates into how many parts the unit is divided : DIVISOR **2 a :** a common trait **b :** the average level (as of taste or opinion) : STANDARD

de·no·ta·tion \ˌdē-nō-'tā-shən\ *n* **1 :** an act or process of denoting **2 :** MEANING; *esp* **:** a direct specific meaning as distinct from connotations **3 a :** a denoting term : NAME **b :** SIGN, INDICATION

〈visible ~s of divine wrath〉 **4** : the totality of things to which a term is applicable esp. in logic

de·no·ta·tive \'dē-nō-ˌtāt-iv, di-'nōt-ət-iv\ *adj* **1** : denoting or tending to denote **2** : relating to denotation

de·note \di-'nōt\ *vt* [MF *denoter*, fr. L *denotare*, fr. *de-* + *notare* to note] **1** : to serve as an indication of : BETOKEN 〈the swollen bellies that ~ starvation〉 **2** : to serve as an arbitrary mark for 〈red flares *denoting* danger〉 **3** : to make known : ANNOUNCE 〈his crestfallen look *denoted* his distress〉 **4 a** : to serve as a linguistic expression of the notion of : MEAN **b** : to stand for : signify by way of logical denotation — **de·note·ment** \-'nōt- mənt\ *n* — **de·no·tive** \-'nōt-iv\ *adj*

syn DENOTE, CONNOTE *shared meaning element* : to mean. In spite of this shared element of meaning, these terms are complementary rather than strictly synonymous and cannot be interchanged without significant loss of precision. DENOTE applies to the definitive meaning content of a term: in a noun, the thing or the definable class of things or ideas which it names; in a verb, the act or state which is affirmed. CONNOTE applies to the ideas or associations that are added to a term and cling to it, often as a result of personal experience but sometimes as a result of something extraneous (as a widely known context or connection with a widely known event). "Home", for example, *denotes* the place where one lives, but to one person it may *connote* comforts, intimacy, and affection and to another misery, estrangement, and abuse

de·noue·ment \ˌdā-ˌnü-'mäⁿ, dā-'nü-ˌ\ *n* [F *dénouement*, lit., untying, fr. MF *desnouement*, fr. *desnouer* to untie, fr. OF *desnoer*, fr. *des-* de- + *noer* to tie, fr. L *nodare*, fr. *nodus* knot — more at NET] **1** : the final outcome of the main dramatic complication in a literary work **2** : the outcome of a complex sequence of events

de·nounce \di-'naůn(t)s\ *vt* **de·nounced; de·nounc·ing** [ME *denouncen*, fr. OF *denoncier* to proclaim, fr. L *denuntiare*, fr. *de-* + *nuntiare* to report — more at ANNOUNCE] **1** : to pronounce esp. publicly to be blameworthy or evil **2** *archaic* **a** : PROCLAIM **b** : to announce threateningly **3** : to inform against : ACCUSE **4** *obs* : PORTEND **5** : to announce formally the termination of (as a treaty) ***syn*** see CRITICIZE ***ant*** eulogize — **de·nounce·ment** \-'naůn(t)-smənt\ *n* — **de·nounc·er** *n*

de no·vo \di-'nō-(ˌ)vō, dā-\ *adv* [L] : over again : ANEW 〈a case tried *de novo*〉

dense \'den(t)s\ *adj* **dens·er; dens·est** [L *densus*; akin to Gk *dasys* thick with hair or leaves] **1** : marked by compactness or crowding together of parts **2 a** : marked by a stupid imperviousness to ideas or impressions : THICKHEADED **b** : EXTREME 〈~ ignorance〉 **3** : having between any two elements at least one element 〈the rational numbers are ~〉 **4** : demanding concentration to follow or comprehend 〈~ prose〉 **5** : possessing relatively great retarding power upon light waves and consequently relatively high density 〈a ~ glass〉 **6** : having high or relatively high opacity 〈a ~ fog〉 〈a ~ photographic negative〉

syn **1** see CLOSE ***ant*** sparse (*as of forests, population*), tenuous (*as of clouds*) **2** see STUPID ***ant*** subtle, bright — **dense·ly** *adv* — **dense·ness** \'den(t)-snəs\ *n*

den·si·fy \'den(t)-sə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** : to make denser; *specif* : to increase the density of (wood) by pressure usu. with impregnation of a resin — **den·si·fi·ca·tion** \ˌden(t)-sə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n*

den·sim·e·ter \den-'sim-ət-ər\ *n* [L *densus* + ISV *-meter*] : an instrument for determining density or specific gravity — **den·si·met·ric** \ˌden(t)-sə-'me-trik\ *adj*

den·si·tom·e·ter \ˌden(t)-sə-'täm-ət-ər\ *n* : an instrument for determining optical or photographic density — **den·si·to·met·ric** \ˌden(t)-sət-ə-'me-trik\ *adj* — **den·si·tom·e·try** \ˌden(t)-sə-'täm-ə-trē\ *n*

den·si·ty \'den(t)-sət-ē, -stē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being dense **2** : the quantity per unit volume, unit area, or unit length: as **a** : the mass of a substance per unit volume **b** : the distribution of a quantity (as mass, electricity, or energy) per unit usu. of space **c** : the average number of individuals or units per space unit 〈a population ~ of 500 persons per square mile〉 〈a housing ~ of 10 houses per acre〉 **3** : STUPIDITY **4 a** : the degree of opacity of a translucent medium **b** : the common logarithm of the opacity

¹dent \'dent\ *n* [ME, blow, alter. of *dint*] **1** : a depression or hollow made by a blow or by pressure **2 a** : an impression or effect often made against resistance and usu. having a weakening effect **b** : initial progress : HEADWAY

²dent *vt* **1** : to make a dent in **2** : to have a weakening effect on ~ *vi* : to form a dent by sinking inward : become dented

³dent *n* [F, lit., tooth, fr. L *dent-, dens*] : TOOTH 3a

⁴dent *abbr* dental; dentist; dentistry

dent- *or* **denti-** *or* **dento-** *comb form* [ME *denti-*, fr. L, fr. *dent-, dens* tooth — more at TOOTH] **1** : tooth : teeth 〈*dent*algia〉 〈*denti*form〉 **2** : dental and 〈*dento*surgical〉

¹den·tal \'dent-ᵊl\ *adj* [L *dentalis*, fr. *dent-, dens*] **1** : of or relating to the teeth or dentistry **2** : articulated with the tip or blade of the tongue against or near the upper front teeth — **den·tal·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

²dental *n* : a dental consonant

dental floss *n* : a waxed thread used to clean between the teeth

dental hygienist *n* : one who assists a dentist esp. in cleaning teeth

den·ta·li·um \den-'tā-lē-əm\ *n, pl* **-lia** \-lē-ə\ [NL, genus name, fr. L *dentalis*] : any of a genus (*Dentalium*) of widely distributed tooth shells; *broadly* : TOOTH SHELL

dental technician *n* : a technician who makes dental appliances

den·tate \'den-ˌtāt\ *or* **den·tat·ed** \-ˌtāt-əd\ *adj* [L *dentatus*, fr. *dent-, dens*] : having teeth or pointed conical projections 〈multi*dentate*〉 〈~ leaves〉 — **den·tate·ly** *adv* — **den·ta·tion** \den-'tā-shən\ *n*

dent corn *n* : an Indian corn having kernels that contain both hard and soft starch and that become indented at maturity

den·ti·cle \'dent-i-kəl\ *n* [ME, fr. L *denticulus*, dim. of *dent-, dens*] : a small tooth or other conical pointed projection

den·tic·u·late \den-'tik-yə-lət\ *or* **den·tic·u·lat·ed** \-ˌlāt-əd\ *adj* **1 a** : covered with small pointed projections 〈a ~ shell〉; *esp* : SERRATE **b** : finely dentate **2** : cut into dentils — **den·tic·u·late·ly** *adv* — **den·tic·u·la·tion** \(ˌ)den-ˌtik-yə-'lā-shən\ *n*

den·ti·form \'dent-ə-ˌfȯrm\ *adj* **1** : shaped like a tooth **2** : divided into dentate processes

den·ti·frice \'dent-ə-frəs\ *n* [MF, fr. L *dentifricium*, fr. *denti-* + *fricare* to rub — more at FRICTION] : a powder, paste, or liquid for cleaning the teeth

den·tig·er·ous \den-'tij-ə-rəs\ *adj* : bearing dentate structures

den·til \'dent-ᵊl, 'den-ˌtil\ *n* [obs. F *dentille*, fr. MF, dim. of *dent*] : one of a series of small projecting rectangular blocks esp. under a cornice

den·tin \'dent-ᵊn\ *or* **den·tine** \'den-ˌtēn, den-'\ *n* : a calcareous material similar to but harder and denser than bone that composes the principal mass of a tooth — **den·tin·al** \den-'tēn-ᵊl, 'dent-ᵊn-əl\ *adj*

den·tist \'dent-əst\ *n* [F *dentiste*, fr. *dent*] : one who is skilled in and licensed to practice the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases, injuries, and malformations of the teeth, jaws, and mouth and who makes and inserts false teeth

den·tist·ry \'dent-ə-strē\ *n* : the art or profession of a dentist

den·ti·tion \den-'tish-ən\ *n* [L *dentition-, dentitio*, fr. *dentitus*, pp. of *dentire* to cut teeth, fr. *dent-, dens*] **1** : the development and cutting of teeth **2** : the number, kind, and arrangement of teeth see TOOTH illustration **3** : the character of the teeth as determined by their form and arrangement

den·tu·lous \'den-chə-ləs\ *adj* [back-formation fr. *edentulous*] : having teeth

den·ture \'den-chər\ *n* [F, fr. MF, fr. *dent*] **1** : a set of teeth **2** : an artificial replacement for one or more teeth; *esp* : a set of false teeth

de·nu·cle·ar·ize \(')dē-'n(y)ü-klē-ə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to remove nuclear arms from : prohibit the use of nuclear arms in — **de·nu·cle·ar·iza·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌn(y)ü-klē-ə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n*

de·nu·da·tion \ˌdē-(ˌ)n(y)ü-'dā-shən, ˌden-yu̇-\ *n* : an act or process of denuding — **de·nu·da·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

de·nude \di-'n(y)üd\ *vt* **de·nud·ed; de·nud·ing** [L *denudare*, fr. *de-* + *nudus* bare — more at NAKED] **1 a** : to strip of all covering **b** : to lay bare by erosion **c** : to strip (land) of forests **2** : to divest of something important — **de·nude·ment** \-'n(y)üd-mənt\ *n* — **de·nud·er** *n*

de·nu·mer·a·ble \di-'n(y)üm-(ə-)rə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being put into one-to-one correspondence with the positive integers — **de·nu·mer·a·bil·i·ty** \-ˌn(y)üm-(ə-)rə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **de·nu·mer·a·bly** \-'n(y)üm-(ə-)rə-blē\ *adv*

de·nun·ci·a·tion \di-ˌnən(t)-sē-'ā-shən\ *n* : an act of denouncing; *esp* : a public condemnation — **de·nun·ci·a·tive** \-'nən(t)-sē-ˌāt-iv\ *adj* — **de·nun·ci·a·to·ry** \-sē-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

de·ny \di-'nī\ *vt* **de·nied; de·ny·ing** [ME *denyen*, fr. OF *denier*, fr. L *denegare*, fr. *de-* + *negare* to deny — more at NEGATE] **1** : to declare untrue **2** : to disclaim connection with or responsibility for : DISAVOW **3 a** : to give a negative answer to **b** : to refuse to grant **c** : to restrain (oneself) from gratification of desires **4** *archaic* : DECLINE **5** : to refuse to accept the existence, truth, or validity of — **de·ny·ing·ly** \-'nī-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

syn DENY, GAINSAY, CONTRADICT, NEGATIVE, IMPUGN, CONTRAVENE *shared meaning element* : to refuse to accept as true, valid, or worthy of consideration ***ant*** confirm, concede

de·o·dar \'dē-ə-ˌdär\ *or* **de·o·da·ra** \ˌdē-ə-'där-ə\ *n* [Hindi *deodār*, fr. Skt *devadāru*, lit., timber of the gods, fr. *deva* god + *dāru* wood] : an East Indian cedar (*Cedrus deodara*)

de·odor·ant \dē-'ōd-ə-rənt\ *n* : a preparation that destroys or masks unpleasant odors — **deodorant** *adj*

de·odor·ize \dē-'ōd-ə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **1** : to eliminate or prevent the offensive odor of **2** : to make (something unpleasant) more acceptable 〈their buccaneering was *deodorized* by the fact that their victims were Madagascar pirates —*N.Y. Herald Tribune Bk. Rev.*〉 — **de·odor·iza·tion** \-ˌōd-ə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **de·odor·iz·er** *n*

de·on·tol·o·gy \ˌdē-ˌän-'täl-ə-jē\ *n* [Gk *deont-, deon* that which is obligatory, fr. neut. of prp. of *dein* to lack, be needful — more at DEUTER-] : the theory or study of moral obligation — **de·on·to·log·i·cal** \ˌdē-ˌänt-ᵊl-'äj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **de·on·tol·o·gist** \ˌdē-ˌän-'täl-ə-jəst\ *n*

Deo vo·len·te \ˌdā-(ˌ)ō-və-'lent-ē, ˌdē-\ [L] : God being willing

de·ox·i·dize \(')dē-'äk-sə-ˌdīz\ *vt* : to remove oxygen from — **de·ox·i·da·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌäk-sə-'dā-shən\ *n* — **de·ox·i·diz·er** \(')dē-'äk-sə-ˌdī-zər\ *n*

deoxy- *or* **desoxy-** *comb form* [ISV] : containing less oxygen in the molecule than the compound to which it is closely related 〈*deoxy*ribonucleic acid〉

de·oxy·cor·ti·co·ste·rone \dē-ˌäk-si-ˌkȯrt-i-'käs-tə-ˌrōn, -i-kō-stə-'rōn\ *n* [ISV] : a steroid hormone $C_{21}H_{30}O_3$ of the adrenal cortex

de·ox·y·gen·ate \(')dē-'äk-si-jə-ˌnāt, ˌdē-äk-'sij-ə-\ *vt* : to remove oxygen from — **de·ox·y·gen·ation** \(ˌ)dē-ˌäk-si-jə-'nā-shən, ˌdē-äk-ˌsij-ə-\ *n*

de·ox·y·gen·at·ed *adj* : having the hemoglobin in the reduced state

de·oxy·ri·bo·nu·cle·ase \(')dē-'äk-si-ˌrī-bō-'n(y)ü-klē-ˌās, -ˌāz\ *n* [*deoxyribonucle*ic acid + *-ase*] : an enzyme that hydrolyzes DNA to nucleotides — called also *DNase*

de·oxy·ri·bo·nu·cle·ic acid \(')dē-'äk-si-ˌrī-bō-n(y)u̇-ˌklē-ik-, -ˌklā-\ *n* [*deoxyribo*se + *nucleic acid*] : DNA

de·oxy·ri·bo·nu·cle·o·tide \-'n(y)ü-klē-ə-ˌtīd\ *n* : a nucleotide that contains deoxyribose and is a constituent of DNA

de·oxy·ri·bose \(ˌ)dē-ˌäk-si-'rī-ˌbōs, -ˌbōz\ *n* [ISV *deoxy-* + *ribose*] : a pentose sugar $C_5H_{10}O_4$ that is a structural element of DNA

dep *abbr* **1** depart **2** department **3** departure **4** deponent **5** deposed **6** deposit **7** depot **8** deputy

de·part \di-'pärt\ *vb* [ME *departen* to divide, go away, fr. OF *departir*, fr. *de-* + *partir* to divide, fr. L *partire*, fr. *part-*, *pars* part] *vi* **1 a** : to go away : LEAVE **b** : DIE **2** : to turn aside : DEVIATE ~ *vt* : to go away from : LEAVE ***syn*** **1** see GO ***ant*** arrive, remain, abide **2** see SWERVE

de·part·ed *adj* **1** : BYGONE **2** : having died, esp. recently ⟨mourning our ~ friend⟩ ***syn*** see DEAD

de·part·ment \di-'pärt-mənt\ *n* [F *département*; fr. MF, fr. *departir*] **1** : a distinct sphere : PROVINCE **2** : a functional or territorial division: as **a** : a major administrative division of a government **b** : a major territorial administrative subdivision **c** : a division of a college or school giving instruction in a particular subject **d** : a major division of a business **e** : a section of a department store **f** : a territorial subdivision made for the administration and training of military units — **de·part·men·tal** \di-ˌpärt-'ment-ᵊl, ˌdē-\ *adj* — **de·part·men·tal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

de·part·men·tal·ize \di-ˌpärt-'ment-ᵊl-ˌīz, ˌdē-\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to divide into departments — **de·part·men·tal·iza·tion** \-ˌment-ᵊl-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*

department store *n* : a store selling a wide variety of goods arranged in several departments

de·par·ture \di-'pär-chər\ *n* **1 a** (1) : the act of going away (2) *archaic* : DEATH **b** : a ship's position in latitude and longitude at the beginning of a voyage as a point from which to begin dead reckoning **c** : a setting out (as on a new course) **2** : the distance due east or west made by a ship in its course **3** : DIVERGENCE

de·pau·per·ate \di-'pȯ-pə-rət\ *adj* [ME *depauperat*, fr. ML *depauperatus*, pp. of *depauperare* to impoverish, fr. L *de-* + *pauperare* to impoverish, fr. *pauper* poor — more at POOR] : falling short of natural development or size — **de·pau·per·ation** \-ˌpȯ-pə-'rā-shən\ *n*

de·pend \di-'pend\ *vi* [ME *dependen*, fr. MF *dependre*, modif. of L *dependēre*, fr. *de-* + *pendēre* to hang — more at PENDANT] **1 a** : to be contingent **b** : to exist by virtue of a necessary relation **2** : to be pending or undecided **3 a** : to place reliance or trust **b** : to be dependent esp. for financial support **4** : to hang down ***syn*** see RELY

de·pend·able \di-'pen-də-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being depended on : RELIABLE — **de·pend·abil·i·ty** \-ˌpen-də-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **de·pend·able·ness** *n* — **de·pend·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

de·pen·dence *also* **de·pen·dance** \di-'pen-dən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the quality or state of being dependent; *esp* : the quality or state of being influenced by or subject to another **2** : RELIANCE, TRUST **3** : one that is relied on ⟨he was her sole ~⟩ **4 a** : drug addiction **b** : HABITUATION 2b

de·pen·den·cy \-dən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : DEPENDENCE 1 **2** : something that is dependent on something else; *specif* : a territorial unit under the jurisdiction of a nation but not formally annexed by it

¹de·pen·dent \di-'pen-dənt\ *adj* [ME *dependant*, fr. MF, prp. of *dependre*] **1** : hanging down **2 a** : determined or conditioned by another : CONTINGENT **b** : relying on another for support **c** : subject to another's jurisdiction **d** : SUBORDINATE 3a — **de·pen·dent·ly** *adv*

²dependent *also* **de·pen·dant** \-dənt\ *n* **1** *archaic* : DEPENDENCY **2** : one that is dependent; *esp* : a person who relies on another for support

dependent variable *n* : a mathematical variable whose value is determined by that of one or more other variables in a function ⟨in $z = x^2 + 3xy + y^2$, z is the *dependent variable*⟩

de·perm \(')dē-'pərm\ *vt* [*de-* + *perm*anent magnetism] : to reduce the magnetism of (a ship's steel hull) as a precaution against magnetically operated mines

de·per·son·al·iza·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌpər-snə-lə-'zā-shən, -ˌpərs-ᵊn-ə-lə-\ *n* **1 a** : an act or process of depersonalizing **b** : the quality or state of being depersonalized **2** : loss of the sense of personal identity

de·per·son·al·ize \(')dē-'pər-snə-ˌlīz, -'pərs-ᵊn-ə-\ *vt* **1** : to deprive of personality ⟨schools that ~ students⟩ **2** : to make impersonal

de·pict \di-'pikt\ *vt* [L *depictus*, pp. of *depingere*, fr. *de-* + *pingere* to paint — more at PAINT] **1** : to represent by a picture **2** : DESCRIBE — **de·pic·ter** \-'pik-tər\ *n* — **de·pic·tion** \-'pik-shən\ *n*

de·pig·men·ta·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌpig-mən-'tā-shən, -ˌmen-\ *n* : loss of normal pigmentation

dep·i·late \'dep-ə-ˌlāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *depilatus*, pp. of *depilare*, fr. *de-* + *pilus* hair — more at PILE] : to remove hair from — **dep·i·la·tion** \ˌdep-ə-'lā-shən\ *n*

de·pil·a·to·ry \di-'pil-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ries** : an agent for removing hair, wool, or bristles — **depilatory** *adj*

de·plane \(')dē-'plān\ *vi* : to get off an airplane

de·plete \di-'plēt\ *vt* **de·plet·ed; de·plet·ing** [L *depletus*, pp. of *deplēre*, fr. *de-* + *plēre* to fill — more at FULL] **1** : to empty of a principal substance **2** : to lessen markedly in quantity, content, power, or value — **de·plet·able** \-'plēt-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·ple·tion** \-'plē-shən\ *n* — **de·ple·tive** \-'plēt-iv\ *adj*

syn DEPLETE, DRAIN, EXHAUST, IMPOVERISH, BANKRUPT *shared meaning element* : to deprive of something essential to existence or potency

de·plor·able \di-'plōr-ə-bəl, -'plȯr-\ *adj* **1** : LAMENTABLE **2** : BAD, WRETCHED — **de·plor·able·ness** *n* — **de·plor·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

de·plore \di-'plō(ə)r, -'plȯ(ə)r\ *vt* **de·plored; de·plor·ing** [MF or L; MF *deplorer*, fr. L *deplorare*, fr. *de-* + *plorare* to wail] **1 a** : to feel or express grief for **b** : to regret strongly **2** : to consider unfortunate or deserving of deprecation — **de·plor·er** \-'plōr-ər\ *n* — **de·plor·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

syn DEPLORE, LAMENT, BEWAIL, BEMOAN *shared meaning element* : to manifest grief or sorrow for something

de·ploy \di-'plȯi\ *vb* [F *déployer*, fr. L *displicare* to scatter — more at DISPLAY] *vt* **1 a** : to extend (a military unit) esp. in width **b** : to place in battle formation or appropriate positions **2** : to spread out, utilize, or arrange esp. strategically ~ *vi* : to move in being deployed — **de·ploy·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·ploy·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

de·plume \(')dē-'plüm\ *vt* [ME *deplumen*, fr. MF *deplumer*, fr. ML *deplumare*, fr. L *de-* + *pluma* feather — more at FLEECE] **1** : to pluck off the feathers of **2** : to strip of possessions, honors, or attributes

de·po·lar·ize \(')dē-'pō-lə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **1** : to cause to become partially or wholly unpolarized **2** : to prevent or remove polarization of (as a dry cell or cell membrane) **3** : DEMAGNETIZE — **de·po·lar·iza·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌpō-lə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **de·po·lar·iz·er** \(')dē-'pō-lə-ˌrī-zər\ *n*

de·po·lit·i·cize \ˌdē-pə-'lit-ə-ˌsīz\ *vt* : to remove the political character of : take out of the realm of politics ⟨~ our foreign aid program⟩

de·pone \di-'pōn\ *vb* **de·poned; de·pon·ing** [ML *deponere*, fr. L, to put down, fr. *de-* + *ponere* to put — more at POSITION] : TESTIFY

¹de·po·nent \di-'pō-nənt\ *adj* [LL *deponent-*, *deponens*, fr. L, prp. of *deponere*] : occurring with passive or middle voice forms but with active voice meaning ⟨the ~ verbs in Latin and Greek⟩

²deponent *n* **1** : a deponent verb **2** : one who gives evidence

de·pop·u·late \(')dē-'päp-yə-ˌlāt\ *vt* [L *depopulatus*, pp. of *depopulari*, fr. *de-* + *populari* to ravage] **1** *obs* : RAVAGE **2** : to reduce greatly the population of — **de·pop·u·la·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌpäp-yə-'lā-shən\ *n* — **de·pop·u·la·tor** \(')dē-'päp-yə-ˌlāt-ər\ *n*

de·port \di-'pō(ə)rt, -'pȯ(ə)rt\ *vt* [MF *deporter*, fr. L *deportare* to carry away, fr. *de-* + *portare* to carry — more at FARE] **1** : to behave or comport (oneself) esp. in accord with a code **2** [L *deportare*] **a** : to carry away **b** : to send out of the country by legal deportation ***syn*** see BANISH, BEHAVE

de·port·able \di-'pōrt-ə-bəl, -'pȯrt-\ *adj* **1** : subject to deportation ⟨~ aliens⟩ **2** : punishable by deportation ⟨~ offenses⟩

de·por·ta·tion \ˌdē-ˌpōr-'tā-shən, -ˌpȯr-, -pər-\ *n* **1** : an act or instance of deporting **2** : the removal from a country of an alien whose presence is unlawful or prejudicial

de·por·tee \ˌdē-ˌpōr-'tē, di-, -ˌpȯr-\ *n* : one who has been deported or is under sentence of deportation

de·port·ment \di-'pōrt-mənt, -'pȯrt-\ *n* : the manner in which one conducts oneself : BEHAVIOR ***syn*** see BEARING

de·pos·al \di-'pō-zəl\ *n* : an act of deposing from office

de·pose \di-'pōz\ *vb* **de·posed; de·pos·ing** [ME *deposen*, fr. OF *deposer*, fr. LL *deponere* (perf. indic. *deposui*), fr. L, to put down] *vt* **1** : to remove from a throne or other high position **2** : to put down : DEPOSIT **3 a** [ME *deposen*, fr. ML *deponere*, fr. LL] : to testify to under oath or by affidavit **b** : AFFIRM, ASSERT ~ *vi* : to bear witness

¹de·pos·it \di-'päz-ət\ *vb* **de·pos·it·ed** \-'päz-ət-əd, -'päz-təd\; **de·pos·it·ing** \-'päz-ət-iŋ, -'päz-tiŋ\ [L *depositus*, pp. of *deponere*] *vt* **1** : to place esp. for safekeeping or as a pledge; *esp* : to put in a bank **2 a** : to lay down : PLACE **b** : to let fall (as sediment) ~ *vi* : to become deposited : SETTLE — **de·pos·i·tor** \-'päz-ət-ər, -'päz-tər\ *n*

²deposit *n* **1** : the state of being deposited **2** : something placed for safekeeping: as **a** : money deposited in a bank **b** : money given as a pledge or down payment **3** : a place of deposit : DEPOSITORY **4** : an act of depositing **5 a** : something laid down; *esp* : matter deposited by a natural process **b** : a natural accumulation (as of iron ore, coal, or gas)

de·pos·i·tary \di-'päz-ə-ˌter-ē\ *n, pl* **-tar·ies** **1** : a person to whom something is entrusted **2** : DEPOSITORY 2

de·po·si·tion \ˌdep-ə-'zish-ən, ˌdē-pə-\ *n* **1** : an act of removing from a position of authority **2 a** : a testifying esp. before a court **b** : DECLARATION; *specif* : testimony taken down in writing under oath **3** : an act or process of depositing **4** : something deposited : DEPOSIT — **de·po·si·tion·al** \-'zish-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj*

de·pos·i·to·ry \di-'päz-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1** : DEPOSITARY 1 **2** : a place where something is deposited esp. for safekeeping

depository library *n* : a library designated to receive U.S. government publications

deposit slip *n* : a slip listing and accompanying bank deposits

de·pot *1 & 2 are* 'dep-(ˌ)ō *also* 'dēp-, *3 is* 'dēp- *sometimes* 'dep-\ *n* [F *dépôt*, fr. ML *depositum*, fr. L, neut. of *depositus*] **1 a** : a place for the storage of military supplies **b** : a place for the reception and forwarding of military replacements **2 a** : a place for storing goods or motor vehicles **b** : STORE, DEPOSIT, COLLECTION, CACHE **3** : a building for railroad or bus passengers or freight : STATION

depr *abbr* **1** depreciation **2** depression

de·prave \di-'prāv\ *vt* **de·praved; de·prav·ing** [ME *depraven*, fr. MF *depraver*, fr. L *depravare* to pervert, fr. *de-* + *pravus* crooked, bad — more at PRAIRIE] **1** *archaic* : to speak ill of : MALIGN **2** : to make bad : CORRUPT; *esp* : to corrupt morally ***syn*** see DEBASE — **de·pra·va·tion** \ˌdep-rə-'vā-shən, ˌdē-ˌprā-\ *n* — **de·prave·ment** \di-'prāv-mənt\ *n* — **de·prav·er** \di-'prā-vər\ *n*

de·praved \di-'prāvd\ *adj* : marked by corruption or evil; *esp* : PERVERTED — **de·praved·ly** \-'prā-vəd-lē, -'prāv-dlē\ *adv* — **de·praved·ness** \-'prā-vəd-nəs, -'prāv(d)-nəs\ *n*

de·prav·i·ty \di-'prav-ət-ē *also* -'prāv-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being depraved **2** : a corrupt act or practice

dep·re·cate \'dep-ri-ˌkāt\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *deprecatus*, pp. of *deprecari* to avert by prayer, fr. *de-* + *precari* to pray — more at PRAY] **1** : to express mild or regretful disapproval of **2** : DEPRECIATE ***syn*** see DISAPPROVE ***ant*** endorse — **dep·re·cat·ing·ly** \-ˌkāt-iŋ-lē\ *adv* — **dep·re·ca·tion** \ˌdep-ri-'kā-shən\ *n*

dep·re·ca·to·ry \'dep-ri-kə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* **1** : seeking to avert disapproval : APOLOGETIC **2** : serving to deprecate : DISAPPROVING — **dep·re·ca·to·ri·ly** \ˌdep-ri-kə-'tōr-ə-lē, -'tȯr-\ *adv*

de·pre·ci·ate \di-'prē-shē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [LL *depretiatus*, pp. of *depretiare*, fr. L *de-* + *pretium* price — more at PRICE] *vt* **1** : to lower the price or estimated value of **2** : to represent as of little value and esp. as of less value than usu. assigned : DISPARAGE ~ *vi* : to fall in value ***syn*** see DECRY ***ant*** appreciate — **de·pre·cia·ble** \-shə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·pre·ci·at·ing·ly** \-shē-ˌāt-iŋ-lē\ *adv* — **de·pre·ci·a·tion** \-ˌprē-shē-'ā-shən\ *n* — **de·pre·ci·a·tive** \-'prē-shət-iv, -shē-ˌāt-iv\ *adj* — **de·pre·ci·a·tor** \-shē-ˌāt-ər\ *n* — **de·pre·cia·to·ry** \-shə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

dep·re·date \'dep-rə-ˌdāt\ *vb* **-dat·ed; -dat·ing** [LL *depraedatus*, pp. of *depraedari*, fr. L *de-* + *praedari* to plunder — more at PREY] *vt* : to lay waste : PLUNDER, RAVAGE ~ *vi* : to engage in plunder — **dep·re·da·tion** \ˌdep-rə-'dā-shən\ *n* — **de·pre·da·tor** \'dep-rə-ˌdāt-

ər, di-'pred-ət-\ *n* — **de·pre·da·to·ry** \di-'pred-ə-ˌtōr-ē, 'dep-ri-də-, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

de·press \di-'pres\ *vt* [ME *depressen*, fr. MF *depresser*, fr. L *depressus*, pp. of *deprimere* to press down, fr. *de-* + *premere* to press — more at PRESS] **1** *obs* : REPRESS, SUBJUGATE **2 a** : to press down ⟨~ a typewriter key⟩ **b** : to cause to sink to a lower position **3** : to lessen the activity or strength of **4** : SADDEN, DISCOURAGE **5** : to decrease the market value or marketability of — **de·press·ible** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·press·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

de·pres·sant \di-'pres-ᵊnt\ *n* : one that depresses; *specif* : an agent that reduces bodily functional activity — **depressant** *adj*

de·pressed *adj* **1** : low in spirits : SAD **2 a** : vertically flattened ⟨a ~ cactus⟩ **b** : having the central part lower than the margin **c** : lying flat or prostrate **d** : dorsoventrally flattened **3** : suffering from economic depression; *esp* : UNDERPRIVILEGED **4** : being below the standard ⟨his reading achievement is ~⟩

de·press·ing *adj* : that depresses; *esp* : causing emotional depression ⟨a ~ story⟩ — **de·press·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

de·pres·sion \di-'presh-ən\ *n* **1 a** : the angular distance of a celestial object below the horizon **b** : the size of an angle of depression **2** : an act of depressing or a state of being depressed: as **a** : a pressing down : LOWERING **b** (1) : a state of feeling sad : DEJECTION (2) : a psychoneurotic or psychotic disorder marked by sadness, inactivity, difficulty in thinking and concentration, and feelings of dejection **c** (1) : a reduction in activity, amount, quality, or force (2) : a lowering of vitality or functional activity **3** : a depressed place or part : HOLLOW **4** : LOW 1b **5** : a period of low general economic activity marked esp. by rising levels of unemployment

¹de·pres·sive \di-'pres-iv\ *adj* **1** : tending to depress **2** : of or relating to psychological depression — **de·pres·sive·ly** *adv*

²depressive *n* : one who is psychologically depressed

de·pres·sor \di-'pres-ər\ *n* [LL, fr. L *depressus*] : one that depresses: as **a** : a muscle that draws down a part — compare LEVATOR **b** : a device for pressing a part down or aside **c** : a nerve or nerve fiber that decreases the activity or the tone of the organ or part it innervates

de·pri·va·tion \ˌdep-rə-'vā-shən, ˌdē-ˌprī-\ *n* **1** : an act or instance of depriving : LOSS **2** : the state of being deprived : PRIVATION; *specif* : removal from an office, dignity, or benefice

de·prive \di-'prīv\ *vt* **de·prived; de·priv·ing** [ME *depriven*, fr. ML *deprivare*, fr. L *de-* + *privare* to deprive — more at PRIVATE] **1** *obs* : REMOVE **2** : to take something away from ⟨a reorganization of the school . . . *deprived* him of his professorship —J. M. Phalen⟩ **3** : to remove from office **4** : to withhold something from ⟨a citizen *deprived* by accident of birth of one of his . . . rights —L. M. Chamberlain⟩

de·prived *adj* : marked by deprivation esp. of the necessities of life or of healthful environmental influences ⟨culturally ~ children⟩

dept *abbr* department

depth \'depth\ *n, pl* **depths** \'dep(t)s, 'depths\ [ME, prob. fr. *dep* deep] **1 a** (1) : a deep place in a body of water (2) : a part that is far from the outside or surface ⟨the ~*s* of the woods⟩ (3) : ABYSS **b** (1) : a profound or intense state (as of thought or feeling) ⟨the ~*s* of reflection⟩; *also* : a reprehensibly low condition ⟨hadn't realized that standards had fallen to such ~*s*⟩ (2) : the middle of a time (as winter) (3) : an extreme state (as of misery) (4) : the worst part **2 a** : the perpendicular measurement downward from a surface **b** : the direct linear measurement from the point of viewing usu. from front to back **3** : the quality of being deep **4** : the degree of intensity ⟨~ of a color⟩; *also* : the quality of being profound (as in insight) or full (as of knowledge) **5** : the quality or state of being complete or thorough : THOROUGHNESS ⟨~ of indexing⟩ — **depth·less** \'depth-ləs\ *adj* — **beyond one's depth** *or* **out of one's depth** **1** : in water that is deeper than one's height **2** : beyond one's ability to understand — **in depth** **1** : extending over a considerable distance ⟨these fortifications are built *in depth* —Max Werner⟩ **2** : with great thoroughness ⟨a study *in depth* of the poems⟩

depth charge *n* : an explosive projectile for use underwater esp. against submarines — called also *depth bomb*

depth interview *n* : an interview designed to probe attitudes, feelings, or motives not usu. tapped by the asking of standard questions

depth perception *n* : the ability to judge the distance of objects and the spatial relationship of objects at different distances

depth psychology *n* : PSYCHOANALYSIS

dep·u·ta·tion \ˌdep-yə-'tā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of appointing a deputy **2** : a group of people appointed to represent others

de·pute \di-'pyüt\ *vt* **de·put·ed; de·put·ing** [ME *deputen* to appoint, fr. MF *deputer*, fr. LL *deputare* to assign, fr. L, to consider (as), fr. *de-* + *putare* to consider — more at PAVE] : DELEGATE, ASSIGN

dep·u·tize \'dep-yə-ˌtīz\ *vb* **-tized; -tiz·ing** *vt* : to appoint as deputy ~ *vi* : to act as deputy — **dep·u·ti·za·tion** \ˌdep-yət-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*

dep·u·ty \'dep-yət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME, fr. MF *deputé*, pp. of *deputer*] **1 a** : a person appointed as a substitute with power to act **b** : a second-in-command or assistant who usu. takes charge when his superior is absent **2** : a member of the lower house of some legislative assemblies

der *or* **deriv** *abbr* derivation; derivative

de·rac·i·nate \(')dē-'ras-ᵊn-ˌāt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [F *déraciner*, fr. MF *desraciner*, fr. *des-* de- + *racine* root, fr. LL *radicina*, fr. L *radic-, radix* — more at ROOT] : UPROOT — **de·rac·i·na·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌras-ᵊn-'ā-shən\ *n*

de·rail \di-'rā(ə)l\ *vb* [F *dérailler*, fr. *dé-* de- + *rail*, fr. E] *vt* **1** : to cause to run off the rails **2** : to throw off course ~ *vi* : to leave the rails — **de·rail·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

de·rail·leur \di-'rā-lər\ *n* [F *dérailleur*, fr. *dérailler* to throw off the track, fr. *dé-* de- + *rail* rail, fr. E] : a mechanism for shifting gears on a bicycle that operates by moving the chain from one set of exposed gears to another; *also* : a bicycle having such a mechanism

de·range \di-'rānj\ *vt* **de·ranged; de·rang·ing** [F *déranger*, fr. OF *desrengier*, fr. *de-* + *reng* place — more at RANK] **1** : DISARRANGE ⟨hatless, with tie *deranged* —G. W. Stonier⟩ **2** : to disturb the operation or functions of **3** : to make insane — **de·range·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

der·by \'dər-bē, *esp Brit* 'därˈ-\ *n, pl* **derbies** [Edward Stanley †1834, 12th earl of *Derby*] **1** : any of several horse races held annually and usu. restricted to three-year-olds **2** : a race or contest open to all comers or to a specified category of contestants ⟨bicycle ~⟩ **3** : a man's stiff felt hat with dome-shaped crown and narrow brim



derby 3

Derbys *abbr* Derbyshire

de·re·al·iza·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌrē-ə-lə-'zā-shən, -ˌri-ə-\ *n* : a feeling of altered reality that occurs often in schizophrenia and in some drug reactions

de·reg·u·la·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌreg-yə-'lā-shən\ *n* : the act or process of removing restrictions and regulations (as on the taxi industry) — **de·reg·u·late** \(')dē-'reg-yə-ˌlāt\ *vt*

¹der·e·lict \'der-ə-ˌlikt\ *adj* [L *derelictus*, pp. of *derelinquere* to abandon, fr. *de-* + *relinquere* to leave — more at RELINQUISH] **1** : abandoned esp. by the owner or occupant : RUN-DOWN **2** : lacking a sense of duty : NEGLIGENT

²derelict *n* **1 a** : something voluntarily abandoned; *specif* : a ship abandoned on the high seas **b** : a tract of land left dry by receding water **2** : a person no longer able to support himself : BUM

der·e·lic·tion \ˌder-ə-'lik-shən\ *n* **1 a** : an intentional abandonment **b** : the state of being abandoned **2** : a recession of water leaving permanently dry land **3 a** : intentional or conscious neglect : DELINQUENCY ⟨~ of duty⟩ **b** : FAULT, SHORTCOMING

de·re·press \ˌdē-ri-'pres\ *vt* : to activate (a gene) by releasing from a blocked state — **de·re·pres·sion** \-'presh-ən\ *n*

de·ride \di-'rīd\ *vt* **de·rid·ed; de·rid·ing** [L *deridēre*, fr. *de-* + *ridēre* to laugh — more at RIDICULOUS] **1** : to laugh at contemptuously **2** : to subject to usu. bitter or contemptuous ridicule ***syn*** see RIDICULE — **de·rid·er** *n* — **de·rid·ing·ly** \-'rīd-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

de rigueur \də-(ˌ)rē-'gər\ *adj* [F] : prescribed or required by fashion, etiquette, or custom : PROPER ⟨instructions as to when and where a tuxedo is *de rigueur*⟩

de·ri·sion \di-'rizh-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. LL *derision-, derisio*, fr. L *derisus*, pp. of *deridēre*] **1 a** : an act of deriding **b** : a state of being derided **2** : an object of ridicule or scorn : LAUGHINGSTOCK

de·ri·sive \di-'rī-siv, -ziv; -'riz-iv, -'ris-\ *adj* : expressing or causing derision — **de·ri·sive·ly** *adv* — **de·ri·sive·ness** *n*

de·ri·so·ry \di-'rī-sə-rē, -zə-\ *adj* **1** : expressing derision : DERISIVE ⟨scornful ~ smiles —Katherine A. Porter⟩ **2** : worthy of derision : RIDICULOUS

de·riv·able \di-'rī-və-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being derived

der·i·vate \'der-ə-ˌvāt\ *n* : DERIVATIVE

der·i·va·tion \ˌder-ə-'vā-shən\ *n* **1 a** (1) : the formation of a word from another word or base (as by the addition of a usu. noninflectional affix) (2) : an act of ascertaining or stating the derivation of a word (3) : ETYMOLOGY 1 **b** : the relation of a word to its base **2 a** : SOURCE, ORIGIN **b** : DESCENT, ORIGINATION **3** : something derived : DERIVATIVE **4** : an act or process of deriving **5** : a sequence of statements (as in logic or mathematics) showing that a result (as a formula) is a necessary consequence of previously accepted statements — **der·i·va·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

¹de·riv·a·tive \di-'riv-ət-iv\ *adj* **1** : formed by derivation **2** : made up of or marked by derived elements — **de·riv·a·tive·ly** *adv* — **de·riv·a·tive·ness** *n*

²derivative *n* **1** : a word formed by derivation **2** : something derived **3** : the limit of the ratio of the change in a function to the corresponding change in its independent variable as the latter change approaches zero **4 a** : a chemical substance related structurally to another substance and theoretically derivable from it **b** : a substance that can be made from another substance in one or more steps

de·rive \di-'rīv\ *vb* **de·rived; de·riv·ing** [ME *deriven*, fr. MF *deriver*, fr. L *derivare*, fr. *de-* + *rivus* stream — more at RISE] *vt* **1 a** : to take or receive esp. from a specified source **b** : to obtain from a specified source; *specif* : to obtain (a chemical substance) actually or theoretically from a parent substance **2** : INFER, DEDUCE **3** *archaic* : BRING **4** : to trace the derivation of ~ *vi* : to have or take origin : come as a derivative ***syn*** see SPRING — **de·riv·er** *n*

¹derm \'dərm\ *n* [NL *derma & dermis*] **1** : DERMIS **2** : SKIN 2a **3** : CUTICLE 1a

²derm *abbr* dermatologist; dermatology

derm- *or* **derma-** *or* **dermo-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *derm-, dermo-*, fr. *derma*, fr. *derein* to skin — more at TEAR] : skin ⟨*derm*al⟩ ⟨*dermo*tropic⟩

-derm \ˌdərm\ *n comb form* [prob. fr. F *-derme*, fr. Gk *derma*] : skin : covering ⟨ecto*derm*⟩

der·ma \'dər-mə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk] : DERMIS

-der·ma \'dər-mə\ *n comb form, pl* **-dermas** *or* **-der·ma·ta** \-mət-ə\ [NL, fr. Gk *dermat-, derma* skin] : skin or skin ailment of a (specified) type ⟨sclero*derma*⟩

der·mal \'dər-məl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to skin and esp. to the dermis : CUTANEOUS **2** : EPIDERMAL

der·map·ter·an \(ˌ)dər-'map-tə-rən\ *n* [NL *Dermaptera*, order name, fr. *derm-* + Gk *pteron* wing — more at FEATHER] : any of an order (Dermaptera) of insects consisting of the earwigs and usu. a few related forms — **dermapteran** *adj* — **der·map·ter·ous** \-tə-rəs\ *adj*

dermat- *or* **dermato-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *dermat-, derma*] : skin ⟨*dermat*itis⟩ ⟨*dermato*logy⟩
der·ma·ti·tis \ˌdər-mə-ˈtīt-əs\ *n* : inflammation of the skin
der·mat·o·gen \(ˌ)dər-ˈmat-ə-jən\ *n* [ISV] : the outer primary meristem of a plant or plant part
der·ma·to·glyph·ics \ˌdər-mət-ə-ˈglif-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [*dermat-* + Gk *glyphein* to carve + E *-ics* — more at CLEAVE] **1** : skin patterns; *esp* : patterns of the specialized skin of the inferior surfaces of the hands and feet **2** : the science of the study of skin patterns — **der·ma·to·glyph·ic** \-ik\ *adj*
der·ma·toid \ˈdər-məˌtȯid\ *adj* : resembling skin
der·ma·tol·o·gy \ˌdər-məˈtäl-ə-jē\ *n* : a branch of science dealing with the skin, its structure, functions, and diseases — **der·ma·to·log·ic** \-mət-ᵊlˈäj-ik\ *or* **der·ma·to·log·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **der·ma·tol·o·gist** \-məˈtäl-ə-jəst\ *n*
der·ma·tome \ˈdər-məˌtōm\ *n* [ISV *dermat-* + *-ome*] : the lateral wall of a somite from which the dermis is produced — **der·ma·to·mic** \ˌdər-məˈtō-mik, -ˈtäm-ik\ *adj*
der·ma·to·phyte \(ˌ)dər-ˈmat-ə-ˌfīt, ˈdər-mət-\ *n* [ISV] : a fungus parasitic on the skin or skin derivatives (as hair or nails) — **der·ma·to·phyt·ic** \(ˌ)dər-ˌmat-ə-ˈfit-ik, ˌdər-mət-\ *adj*
der·ma·to·sis \ˌdər-məˈtō-səs\ *n, pl* **-to·ses** \-ˌsēz\ : a disease of the skin
-der·ma·tous \ˈdər-mət-əs\ *adj comb form* [Gk *dermat-, derma* skin] : having a (specified) type of skin ⟨sclero*dermatous*⟩
der·mes·tid \(ˌ)dər-ˈmes-təd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *dermēstēs*, a leather-eating worm, lit., skin eater, fr. *derm-* + *edmenai* to eat — more at EAT] : any of a family (Dermestidae) of beetles with clubbed antennae that are very destructive to dried meat, fur, wool, and insect collections — **dermestid** *adj*
der·mis \ˈdər-məs\ *n* [NL, fr. LL *-dermis*] : the sensitive vascular inner mesodermic layer of the skin — called also *corium, cutis*
-der·mis \ˈdər-məs\ *n comb form* [LL, fr. Gk, fr. *derma*] : layer of skin or tissue ⟨endo*dermis*⟩
der·moid \ˈdər-ˌmȯid\ *also* **der·moi·dal** \(ˌ)dər-ˈmȯid-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : made up of cutaneous elements and esp. ectodermal derivatives ⟨a ~ tumor⟩ **2** : resembling skin
der·mop·ter·an \(ˌ)dər-ˈmäp-tə-rən\ *n* [NL *Dermoptera*, order of mammals, fr. *derm-* + Gk *pteron*] : FLYING LEMUR — **dermopteran** *adj* — **der·mop·ter·ous** \-tə-rəs\ *adj*
der·mo·tro·pic \ˌdər-məˈtrō-pik, -ˈträp-ik\ *adj* : attracted to, localizing in, or entering by way of the skin ⟨~ viruses⟩
der·nier cri \ˌdern-ˌyā-ˈkrē\ *n* [F, lit., last cry] : the newest fashion
der·o·gate \ˈder-ə-ˌgāt\ *vb* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** [LL *derogatus*, pp. of *derogare*, fr. L, to annul (a law), detract, fr. *de-* + *rogare* to ask, propose (a law) — more at RIGHT] *vt* : to cause to seem inferior : DISPARAGE ~ *vi* **1** : to take away a part so as to impair : DETRACT **2** : to act beneath one's position or character — **der·o·ga·tion** \ˌder-ə-ˈgā-shən\ *n* — **de·ro·ga·tive** \di-ˈräg-ət-iv, ˈder-ə-ˌgāt-\ *adj*
de·rog·a·to·ry \di-ˈräg-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* **1** : DEGRADING, DETRACTING **2** : expressive of a low opinion : DISPARAGING — **de·rog·a·to·ri·ly** \-ˌräg-ə-ˈtōr-ə-lē, -ˈtȯr-\ *adv*
der·rick \ˈder-ik\ *n* [obs. *derrick* hangman, gallows, fr. *Derick*, name of 17th cent. E hangman] **1** : a hoisting apparatus employing a tackle rigged at the end of a beam **2** : a framework or tower over a deep drill hole (as of an oil well) for supporting boring tackle or for hoisting and lowering
der·ri·ere *or* **der·ri·ère** \ˌder-ē-ˈe(ə)r\ *n* [F *derrière*, fr. *derrière*, adj., hinder, fr. OF *deriere* adv., behind, fr. L *de retro*, fr. *de* from + *retro* back — more at DE-, RETRO-] : BUTTOCKS
der·ring–do \ˌder-iŋ-ˈdü\ *n* [ME *dorring don* daring to do, fr. *dorring* (gerund of *dorren* to dare) + *don* to do] : daring action : DARING ⟨deeds of ~⟩
der·rin·ger \ˈder-ən-jər\ *n* [Henry *Deringer*, 19th cent. Am inventor] : a short-barreled pocket pistol
der·ris \ˈder-əs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk, skin, fr. *derein* to skin — more at TEAR] **1** : any of a large genus (*Derris*) of leguminous tropical Old World shrubs and woody vines including sources of poisons and esp. commercial sources of rotenone **2** : a preparation of derris roots and stems used as an insecticide
der·vish \ˈdər-vish\ *n* [Turk *derviş*, lit., beggar, fr. Per *darvēsh*] **1** : a member of a Muslim religious order noted for devotional exercises (as bodily movements leading to a trance) **2** : one that whirls or dances with or as if with the abandonment of a dervish
des- *prefix* [F *dés-*, fr. OF *des-* — more at DE-] : DE- 6 — esp. before vowels ⟨*des*oxy-⟩
de·sa·cral·ize \(ˈ)dē-ˈsā-krə-ˌlīz, -ˈsak-rə-\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to divest ceremonially of supernatural qualities
de·sa·li·nate \(ˈ)dē-ˈsal-ə-ˌnāt *also* -ˈsā-lə-\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** : DESALT — **de·sa·li·na·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌsal-ə-ˈnā-shən *also* -ˌsā-lə-\ *n* — **de·sa·li·na·tor** \(ˈ)dē-ˈsal-ə-ˌnāt-ər *also* -ˈsā-lə-\ *n*
de·sa·li·nize \(ˈ)dē-ˈsal-ə-ˌnīz *also* -ˈsā-lə-\ *vt* **-nized; -niz·ing** : DESALT — **de·sa·li·ni·za·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌsal-ə-nə-ˈzā-shən *also* -ˌsā-lə-\ *n*
de·salt \(ˈ)dē-ˈsȯlt\ *vt* : to remove salt from — **de·salt·er** *n*
¹des·cant \ˈdes-ˌkant\ *n* [ME *dyscant*, fr. ONF & ML; ONF *descant*, fr. ML *discantus*, fr. L *dis-* + *cantus* song — more at CHANT] **1 a** : a melody or counterpoint sung above the plainsong of the tenor **b** : the art of composing or improvising contrapuntal part music; *also* : the music so composed or improvised **c** : SOPRANO, TREBLE **d** : a superimposed counterpoint to a simple melody sung typically by some or all of the sopranos **2 a** : a song or strain of melody **b** : a musical prelude in which a theme is varied **3** : discourse or comment on a theme
²des·cant \ˈdes-ˌkant, des-ˈ, dis-ˈ\ *vi* **1 a** : to sing or play a descant **b** : SING, WARBLE **2** : to talk or write at considerable length : DILATE ⟨he ~*ed* to his heart's content on his favorite topic —G. B. Shaw⟩
de·scend \di-ˈsend\ *vb* [ME *descenden*, fr. OF *descendre*, fr. L *descendere*, fr. *de-* + *scandere* to climb — more at SCAN] *vi* **1** : to pass from a higher place or level to a lower one ⟨~*ed* from the platform⟩ **2** : to pass in discussion from what is logically prior or more comprehensive **3 a** : to come down from a stock or source : DERIVE — usu. used in passive ⟨was ~*ed* from an ancient family⟩ **b** : to pass by inheritance ⟨an heirloom that has ~*ed* in the family⟩ **c** : to pass by transmission ⟨songs ~*ed* from early ballads⟩ **4** : to incline, lead, or extend downward ⟨the road ~*s* to the river⟩ **5** : to swoop or pounce down or make a sudden attack ⟨the plague ~*ed* upon them⟩ **6** : to proceed in a sequence or gradation from higher to lower or from more remote to nearer or more recent **7 a** : to sink in status or dignity : STOOP **b** : to worsen and sink in condition or estimation ~ *vt* **1** : to pass, move, or climb down or down along **2** : to extend down along — **de·scend·ible** \-ˈsen-də-bəl\ *adj*
¹de·scen·dant *or* **de·scen·dent** \di-ˈsen-dənt\ *adj* [MF & L; MF *descendant*, fr. L *descendent-, descendens*, prp. of *descendere*] **1** : moving or directed downward **2** : proceeding from an ancestor or source
²descendant *or* **descendent** *n* [F & L; F *descendant*, fr. LL *descendent-, descendens*, fr. L, prp. of *descendere*] **1** : one descended from another or from a common stock **2** : one deriving directly from a precursor or prototype
de·scend·er \di-ˈsen-dər, ˈdē-ˌ\ *n* : the part of a lowercase letter (as p) that descends below the main body of the letter; *also* : a letter that has such a part
descending rhythm *n* : FALLING RHYTHM
de·scen·sion \di-ˈsen-chən\ *n, archaic* : DESCENT 1
de·scent \di-ˈsent\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *descente*, fr. *descendre*] **1** : the act or process of descending from a higher to a lower level or state **2** : a downward step (as in station or value) : DECLINE ⟨~ of the family to actual poverty⟩ **3 a** : derivation from an ancestor : BIRTH, LINEAGE ⟨of French ~⟩ **b** : transmission or devolution of an estate by inheritance usu. in the descending line **c** : the fact or process of originating from an ancestral stock **d** : the shaping or development in nature and character by transmission from a source : DERIVATION **4 a** : an inclination downward : SLOPE **b** : a descending way (as a downgrade or stairway) **c** *obs* : the lowest part **5 a** : a sudden disconcerting appearance **b** : a hostile raid or predatory assault **6** : a step downward in a scale of gradation; *specif* : one generation in an ancestral line or genealogical scale
de·scribe \di-ˈskrīb\ *vt* **de·scribed; de·scrib·ing** [L *describere*, fr. *de-* + *scribere* to write — more at SCRIBE] **1** : to represent or give an account of in words ⟨~ a picture⟩ **2** : to represent by a figure, model, or picture : DELINEATE **3** : to trace or traverse the outline of ⟨~ a circle⟩ **4** *obs* : DISTRIBUTE **5** *archaic* : OBSERVE, PERCEIVE — **de·scrib·able** \-ˈskrī-bə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·scrib·er** *n*
de·scrip·tion \di-ˈskrip-shən\ *n* [ME *descripcioun*, fr. MF & L; MF *description*, fr. L *description-, descriptio*, fr. *descriptus*, pp. of *describere*] **1 a** : an act of describing; *specif* : discourse intended to give a mental image of something experienced (as a scene, person, or sensation) **b** : a descriptive statement or account ⟨a fascinating ~ of his adventures⟩ **2** : kind or character esp. as determined by salient features ⟨opposed to any tax of so radical a ~⟩ ***syn*** see TYPE
de·scrip·tive \di-ˈskrip-tiv\ *adj* **1** : serving to describe ⟨a ~ account⟩ **2** : referring to, constituting, or grounded in matters of observation or experience ⟨the ~ basis of science⟩ **3** *of a modifier* **a** : expressing the quality, kind, or condition of what is denoted by the modified term ⟨*hot* in "hot water" is a ~ adjective⟩ **b** : NONRESTRICTIVE **4** : of, relating to, or dealing with the structure of a language at a particular time usu. with exclusion of historical and comparative data ⟨~ linguistics⟩ — **de·scrip·tive·ly** *adv* — **de·scrip·tive·ness** *n*
de·scrip·tor \di-ˈskrip-tər\ *n* : a word or phrase (as an index term) used to identify an item (as a subject or document) esp. in an information retrieval system; *also* : an alphanumeric symbol used similarly
¹de·scry \di-ˈskrī\ *vt* **de·scried; de·scry·ing** [ME *descrien*, fr. OF *descrier* to proclaim, decry] **1 a** : to catch sight of **b** : to find out : DISCOVER **2** *obs* : to make known : REVEAL
²descry *n, obs* : discovery or view from afar
Des·de·mo·na \ˌdez-də-ˈmō-nə\ *n* : the wife of Othello in Shakespeare's *Othello*
des·e·crate \ˈdes-i-ˌkrāt\ *vt* **-crat·ed; -crat·ing** [*de-* + *-secrate* (as in *consecrate*)] **1** : to violate the sanctity of : PROFANE **2** : to treat irreverently or contemptuously often in a way that provokes outrage on the part of others ⟨the kind of shore development . . . that has *desecrated* so many waterfronts — John Fischer⟩ — **des·e·crat·er** *or* **des·e·cra·tor** \-ˌkrāt-ər\ *n*
des·e·cra·tion \ˌdes-i-ˈkrā-shən\ *n* : an act or instance of desecrating : the state of being desecrated ***syn*** see PROFANATION
de·seg·re·gate \(ˈ)dē-ˈseg-ri-ˌgāt\ *vt* : to eliminate segregation in; *specif* : to free of any law, provision, or practice requiring isolation of the members of a particular race in separate units ~ *vi* : to bring about desegregation
de·seg·re·ga·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌseg-ri-ˈgā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process or an instance of desegregating **2** : the state of being desegregated
de·se·lect \ˌdē-sə-ˈlekt\ *vt* : to dismiss (a trainee) from a training program
de·sen·si·tize \(ˈ)dē-ˈsen(t)-sə-ˌtīz\ *vt* **1** : to make (a sensitized or hypersensitive individual) insensitive or nonreactive to a sensitizing agent **2** : to make (a photographic material) less sensitive or completely insensitive to radiation **3** : to make emotionally insensitive or callous — **de·sen·si·ti·za·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌsen-sət-ə-ˈzā-shən, -ˌsen-stə-ˈzā-\ *n* — **de·sen·si·tiz·er** \(ˈ)de-ˈsen-sə-ˌtī-zər\ *n*
¹des·ert \ˈdez-ərt\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. LL *desertum*, fr. L, neut. of *desertus*, pp. of *deserere* to desert, fr. *de-* + *serere* to join together — more at SERIES] **1** *archaic* : a wild uninhabited and uncultivated tract **2 a** : an arid barren tract incapable of supporting any considerable population without an artificial water supply **b** : an area of ocean apparently devoid of marine life **3** : a desolate or forbidding area ⟨lost in a ~ of doubt⟩ ⟨tiny figures lost in an immense ~ of darkness —Beverley Nichols⟩ — **de·ser·tic** \də-ˈzərt-ik\ *adj*
²des·ert \ˈdez-ərt\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : FORSAKEN **2** : desolate and sparsely occupied or unoccupied ⟨a ~ island⟩ **3** : of or relating to a desert

[3]de·sert \di-'zərt\ *n* [ME *deserte*, fr. OF, fr. fem. of *desert*, pp. of *deservir* to deserve] **1** : the quality or fact of deserving reward or punishment **2** : deserved reward or punishment — usu. used in plural ⟨got his just ~*s*⟩ **3** : EXCELLENCE, WORTH

[4]de·sert \di-'zərt\ *vb* [F *déserter*, fr. LL *desertare*, fr. *desertus*] *vt* **1** : to withdraw from or leave usu. without intent to return **2 a** : to leave in the lurch ⟨~ a friend in trouble⟩ **b** : to abandon (military service) without leave ~ *vi* : to quit one's post, allegiance, or service without leave or justification; *esp* : to absent oneself from military duty without leave and without intent to return ***syn*** see ABANDON ***ant*** stick (*to*), cleave (*to*) — **de·sert·er** *n*

de·ser·tion \di-'zər-shən\ *n* **1** : an act of deserting; *esp* : the abandonment without consent or legal justification of a person, post, or relationship and the duties and obligations connected therewith ⟨sued for divorce on grounds of ~⟩ **2** : a state of being deserted or forsaken : DESOLATION

desert locust *n* : a destructive migratory locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) of southwestern Asia and parts of northern Africa

desert soil *n* : a soil that develops under sparse shrub vegetation in warm to cool arid climates with a light-colored surface soil usu. underlain by calcareous material and a hardpan layer

de·serve \di-'zərv\ *vb* **de·served; de·serv·ing** [ME *deserven*, fr. OF *deservir*, fr. L *deservire* to serve zealously, fr. *de-* + *servire* to serve] *vt* : to be worthy of : MERIT ⟨~*s* another chance⟩ ~ *vi* : to be worthy, fit, or suitable for some reward or requital ⟨have become recognized as they ~ —T. S. Eliot⟩ — **de·serv·er** *n*

de·served \-'zərvd\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being that which one deserves ⟨a ~ reputation⟩ — **de·served·ly** \-'zər-vəd-lē, -'zərv-dlē\ *adv* — **de·served·ness** \-'zər-vəd-nəs, -'zərv(d)-nəs\ *n*

[1]de·serv·ing \-'zər-viŋ\ *n* : DESERT, MERIT ⟨reward the proud according to their ~*s* —Charles Kingsley⟩

[2]deserving *adj* : MERITORIOUS, WORTHY; *specif* : meriting financial aid ⟨scholarships for ~ students⟩

de·sex \(')dē-'seks\ *vt* : DESEXUALIZE 1

de·sex·u·al·ize \(')dē-'seksh-(ə-)wə-ˌlīz, -'sek-shə-ˌlīz\ *vt* **1** : to deprive of sexual characters or power **2** : to divest of sexual quality — **de·sex·u·al·iza·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌseksh-(ə-)wə-lə-'zā-shən, -ˌsek-shə-lə-\ *n*

des·ha·bille \ˌdes-ə-'bē(ə)l, -'bil, -'bē\ *var of* DISHABILLE

des·ic·cant \'des-i-kənt\ *n* : a drying agent (as calcium chloride)

des·ic·cate \'des-i-ˌkāt\ *vb* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *desiccatus*, pp. of *desiccare* to dry up, fr. *de-* + *siccare* to dry, fr. *siccus* dry — more at SACK] *vt* **1** : to dry up **2** : to preserve (a food) by drying : DEHYDRATE **3** : to drain of emotional or intellectual vitality ~ *vi* : to become dried up — **des·ic·ca·tion** \ˌdes-i-'kā-shən\ *n* — **de·sic·ca·tive** \'des-i-ˌkāt-iv, di-'sik-ət-\ *adj* — **des·ic·ca·tor** \'des-i-ˌkāt-ər\ *n*

de·sid·er·ate \di-'sid-ə-ˌrāt, -'zid-\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *desideratus*, pp. of *desiderare* to desire] : to entertain or express a wish to have or attain — **de·sid·er·a·tion** \-ˌsid-ə-'rā-shən, -ˌzid-\ *n* — **de·sid·er·a·tive** \-'sid-ə-ˌrāt-iv, -'sid-(ə-)rət-, -'zid-\ *adj*

de·sid·er·a·tum \-ˌsid-ə-'rät-əm, -ˌzid-, -'rāt-\ *n, pl* **-ta** \-ə\ [L, neut. of *desideratus*] : something desired as essential

[1]de·sign \di-'zīn\ *vb* [MF *designer*, fr. L *designare*, fr. *de-* + *signare* to mark, mark out — more at SIGN] *vt* **1 a** : to conceive and plan out in the mind ⟨he ~*ed* the perfect crime⟩ **b** : to have as a purpose : INTEND ⟨he ~*ed* to excel in his studies⟩ **c** : to devise for a specific function or end ⟨a book ~*ed* primarily as a college textbook⟩ **2** *archaic* : to indicate with a distinctive mark, sign, or name **3 a** : to make a drawing, pattern, or sketch of **b** : to draw the plans for **c** : to create, fashion, execute, or construct according to plan : DEVISE, CONTRIVE ~ *vi* **1** : to conceive or execute a plan **2** : to draw, lay out, or prepare a design — **de·sign·ed·ly** \-'zī-nəd-lē\ *adv* — **de·sign·er** \-'zī-nər\ *n*

[2]design *n* **1** : a mental project or scheme in which means to an end are laid down **2 a** : a particular purpose held in view by an individual or group ⟨he has ambitious ~*s* for his son⟩ **b** : deliberate purposive planning ⟨battle was joined . . . more by accident than ~ —John Buchan⟩ **3 a** : a deliberate undercover project or scheme : PLOT **b** *pl* : aggressive or evil intent — used with *on* or *against* ⟨he has ~*s* on the money⟩ **4** : a preliminary sketch or outline showing the main features of something to be executed : DELINEATION **5** : an underlying scheme that governs functioning, developing, or unfolding : PATTERN, MOTIF ⟨the general ~ of the epic⟩ **6** : the arrangement of elements that go into human productions (as of art or machinery) **7** : a decorative pattern ***syn*** see PLAN, INTENTION

[1]des·ig·nate \'dez-ig-ˌnāt, -nət\ *adj* [L *designatus*, pp. of *designare*] : chosen for an office but not yet installed ⟨ambassador ~⟩

[2]des·ig·nate \-ˌnāt\ *vt* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** **1 a** : to point out the location of ⟨a marker *designating* the crest of the flood waters⟩ **b** : INDICATE ⟨any task *designated* by the employer⟩ **c** : to distinguish as to class ⟨the area we ~ as that of spiritual values —J. B. Conant⟩ **d** : SPECIFY, STIPULATE **2** : to call by a distinctive title, term, or expression **3** : to indicate and set apart for a specific purpose, office, or duty **4** : DENOTE — **des·ig·na·tive** \-ˌnāt-iv\ *adj* — **des·ig·na·tor** \-ˌnāt-ər\ *n* — **des·ig·na·to·ry** \-nə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

designated hitter *n* : a baseball player designated at the start of the game to bat in place of the pitcher without causing the pitcher to be removed from the game

des·ig·na·tion \ˌdez-ig-'nā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of indicating or identifying **2** : a distinguishing name, sign, or title **3** : appointment to or selection for an office, post, or service **4** : the relation between a sign and the thing signified

des·ig·nee \ˌdez-ig-'nē\ *n* : one who is designated

de·sign·ing \di-'zī-niŋ\ *adj* **1** : practicing forethought **2** : CRAFTY, SCHEMING ⟨~ widows⟩

de·sign·ment \di-'zīn-mənt\ *n, obs* : PLAN, PURPOSE

de·si·pra·mine \ˌdez-ə-'pram-ən, də-'zip-rə-ˌmēn\ *n* [*des*methyl + *imipramine*] : a tricyclic drug $C_{18}H_{22}N_2$ used as a psychic stimulant

de·sir·abil·i·ty \di-ˌzī-rə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality, fact, or degree of being desirable **2** *pl* : desirable conditions ⟨had understood and studied certain *desirabilities* —D. D. Eisenhower⟩

[1]de·sir·able \di-'zī-rə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : having pleasing qualities or properties : ATTRACTIVE ⟨a ~ woman⟩ **2** : worth seeking or doing as advantageous, beneficial, or wise : ADVISABLE ⟨~ legislation⟩ — **de·sir·able·ness** *n* — **de·sir·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

[2]desirable *n* : one that is desirable

[1]de·sire \di-'zī(ə)r\ *vb* **de·sired; de·sir·ing** [ME *desiren*, fr. OF *desirer*, fr. L *desiderare*, fr. *de-* + *sider-*, *sidus* star] *vt* **1** : to long or hope for **2 a** : to express a wish for : REQUEST **b** : to express a wish to : ASK **3** *obs* : INVITE **4** *archaic* : to feel the loss of ~ *vi* : to have or feel desire

syn DESIRE, WISH, WANT, CRAVE, COVET *shared meaning element* : to have a longing for something

[2]desire *n* **1** : conscious impulse toward an object or experience that promises enjoyment or satisfaction in its attainment **2 a** : LONGING, CRAVING **b** : sexual attraction or appetite **3** : a usu. formal request or petition for some action **4** : something desired

de·sir·ous \di-'zī(ə)r-əs\ *adj* : impelled or governed by desire ⟨~ of fame⟩ — **de·sir·ous·ly** *adv* — **de·sir·ous·ness** *n*

de·sist \di-'zist, -'sist\ *vi* [MF *desister*, fr. L *desistere*, fr. *de-* + *sistere* to stand, stop; akin to L *stare* to stand — more at STAND] : to cease to proceed or act ***syn*** see STOP ***ant*** persist — **de·sis·tance** \-'zis-tən(t)s, -'sis-\ *n*

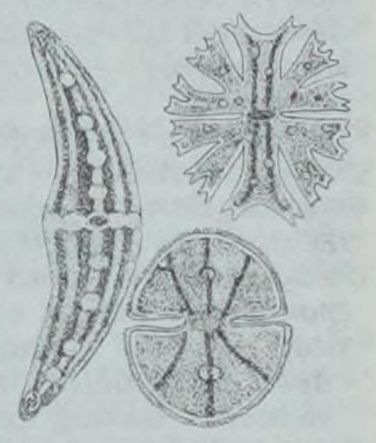
desk \'desk\ *n* [ME *deske*, fr. ML *desca*, modif. of OIt *desco* table, fr. L *discus* dish, disc — more at DISH] **1 a** : a table, frame, or case with a sloping or horizontal surface esp. for writing and reading and often with drawers, compartments, and pigeonholes **b** : a reading table or lectern to support the book from which the liturgical service is read **c** : a table, counter, stand, or booth at which a person performs his duties **d** : a music stand **2** : a division of an organization specializing in a particular phase of activity ⟨the Russian ~ in the Department of State⟩

desk·man \'desk-ˌman, -mən\ *n* : one that works at a desk; *specif* : a newspaperman who processes news and prepares copy

desm- *or* **desmo-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *desmos*, fr. *dein* to bind — more at DIADEM] : bond : ligament ⟨*desmo*cyte⟩

des·man \'dez-mən\ *n, pl* **desmans** [short for Sw *desmansråtta*, fr. *desman* musk + *råtta* rat] : an aquatic insectivorous mammal (*Desmana moschata*) of Russia that resembles a mole

des·mid \'dez-məd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *desmos*] : any of numerous unicellular or colonial green algae (order Zygnematales)



desmids

des·mo·some \'dez-mə-ˌsōm\ *n* [*desm-* + *-some*] : a specialized local thickening of the cell membrane of an epithelial cell that serves to anchor contiguous cells together

[1]des·o·late \'des-ə-lət, 'dez-\ *adj* [ME *desolat*, fr. L *desolatus*, pp. of *desolare* to abandon, fr. *de-* + *solus* alone — more at SOLE] **1** : devoid of inhabitants and visitors : DESERTED **2** : joyless, disconsolate, and sorrowful through or as if through separation from a loved one **3 a** : showing the effects of abandonment and neglect : DILAPIDATED **b** : BARREN, LIFELESS ⟨a ~ landscape⟩ **c** : devoid of warmth, comfort, or hope : GLOOMY ⟨~ memories⟩ ***syn*** see ALONE — **des·o·late·ly** *adv* — **des·o·late·ness** *n*

[2]des·o·late \-ˌlāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** : to make desolate: **a** : to deprive of inhabitants **b** : to lay waste **c** : FORSAKE **d** : to make wretched — **des·o·lat·er** *or* **des·o·la·tor** \-ˌlāt-ər\ *n* — **des·o·lat·ing·ly** \-ˌlāt-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

des·o·la·tion \ˌdes-ə-'lā-shən, ˌdez-\ *n* **1** : the action of desolating **2** : the condition of being desolated : DEVASTATION, RUIN ⟨the flood left ~ in its wake⟩ **3** : barren wasteland **4 a** : GRIEF, SADNESS **b** : LONELINESS

de·sorb \(')dē-'sȯ(ə)rb, -'zȯ(ə)rb\ *vt* : to remove (a sorbed substance) by the reverse of adsorption or absorption

de·sorp·tion \-'sȯrp-shən, -'zȯrp-\ *n* : the process of desorbing

desoxy- — see DEOXY-

des·oxy·cor·ti·co·ste·rone \de-ˌzäk-sē-ˌkȯrt-i-'käs-tə-ˌrōn, de-ˌsäk-, -i-kō-stə-'rōn\ *n* : DEOXYCORTICOSTERONE

des·oxy·ri·bo·nu·cle·ic acid \-'rī-bō-n(y)ü-ˌklē-ik-, -ˌklā-\ *n* : DNA

[1]de·spair \di-'spa(ə)r, -'spe(ə)r\ *vb* [ME *despeiren*, fr. MF *desperer*, fr. L *desperare*, fr. *de-* + *sperare* to hope; akin to L *spes* hope — more at SPEED] *vi* : to lose all hope or confidence ⟨~ of winning⟩ ~ *vt, obs* : to lose hope for — **de·spair·er** *n*

[2]despair *n* **1** : utter loss of hope ⟨~, which may find expression in . . . suicide —Rudyard Kipling⟩ **2** : a cause of hopelessness ⟨an incorrigible child is the ~ of his parents⟩

de·spair·ing *adj* : given to, arising from, or marked by despair : devoid of hope ***syn*** see DESPONDENT ***ant*** hopeful — **de·spair·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

des·patch \dis-'pach\ *var of* DISPATCH

des·per·a·do \ˌdes-pə-'räd-(ˌ)ō, -'rād-\ *n, pl* **-does** *or* **-dos** [prob. alter. of obs. *desperate* desperado, fr. *desperate*, adj.] : a bold or violent criminal; *esp* : a bandit of the western U.S. in the 19th century

des·per·ate \'des-p(ə-)rət, -pərt\ *adj* [L *desperatus*, pp. of *desperare*] **1 a** : having lost hope ⟨a ~ spirit crying for relief⟩ **b** : giving no ground for hope ⟨his situation was ~⟩ **2 a** : moved by despair ⟨men made ~ by abuse⟩ **b** : involving or employing extreme measures in an attempt to escape defeat or frustration ⟨the bitter, ~ striving unto death of the oppressed race —Rose Macaulay⟩ **3** : suffering extreme need or anxiety ⟨~ for money⟩ ⟨~ for something to do⟩ **4** : of extreme intensity : OVERPOWERING **5** : SHOCK-

ING, OUTRAGEOUS *syn* see DESPONDENT — **des·per·ate·ly** *adv* — **des·per·ate·ness** *n*

des·per·a·tion \ˌdes-pə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : loss of hope and surrender to despair **2** : a state of hopelessness leading to rashness

de·spi·ca·ble \di-'spik-ə-bəl, 'des-(ˌ)pik-\ *adj* [LL *despicabilis*, fr. L *despicari* to despise] : deserving to be despised : so worthless or obnoxious as to rouse moral indignation ⟨a ~ excuse of a father⟩ *syn* see CONTEMPTIBLE *ant* praiseworthy, laudable — **de·spi·ca·ble·ness** *n* — **de·spi·ca·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

de·spir·i·tu·al·ize \(ˌ)dē-'spir-ich-(ə-)wə-ˌlīz, -ich-ə-ˌlīz\ *vt* : to deprive of spiritual character or influence ⟨~ education and you devitalize life —W. L. Sullivan⟩

de·spise \di-'spīz\ *vt* **de·spised; de·spis·ing** [ME *despisen*, fr. OF *despis-*, stem of *despire*, fr. L *despicere*, fr. *de-* + *specere* to look — more at SPY] **1** : to look down on with contempt or aversion ⟨*despised* the weak⟩ **2** : to regard as negligible, worthless, or distasteful — **de·spise·ment** \-'spīz-mənt\ *n* — **de·spis·er** \-'spī-zər\ *n*
syn DESPISE, CONTEMN, SCORN, DISDAIN, SCOUT *shared meaning element* : to regard as beneath one's notice and unworthy of consideration or interest *ant* appreciate

[1]de·spite \di-'spīt\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *despit*, fr. L *despectus*, fr. *despectus*, pp. of *despicere*] **1** : the feeling or attitude of despising : CONTEMPT **2** : MALICE, SPITE **3 a** : an act showing contempt or defiance **b** : HARM, INJURY ⟨I know of no government which stands to its obligations, even in its own ~, more solidly —Sir Winston Churchill⟩ — **in despite of** : in spite of

[2]despite *vt* **de·spit·ed; de·spit·ing** **1** *archaic* : to treat with contempt **2** *obs* : to provoke to anger : VEX

[3]despite *prep* : in spite of : NOTWITHSTANDING ⟨ran ~ his injury⟩

de·spite·ful \di-'spīt-fəl\ *adj* : expressing malice or hate — **de·spite·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **de·spite·ful·ness** *n*

de·spit·eous \dis-'pit-ē-əs\ *adj, archaic* : feeling or showing despite : MALICIOUS — **de·spit·eous·ly** *adv, archaic*

de·spoil \di-'spȯi(ə)l\ *vt* [ME *despoylen*, fr. OF *despoillier*, fr. L *despoliare*, fr. *de-* + *spoliare* to strip, rob — more at SPOIL] : to strip of belongings, possessions, or value : PILLAGE — **de·spoil·er** *n* — **de·spoil·ment** \-'spȯi(ə)l-mənt\ *n*

de·spo·li·a·tion \di-ˌspō-lē-'ā-shən\ *n* [LL *despoliation-*, *despoliatio*, fr. *despoliatus*, pp. of *despoliare*] : the act of plundering : the condition of being despoiled : SPOLIATION

[1]de·spond \di-'spänd\ *vi* [L *despondēre*, fr. *de-* + *spondēre* to promise solemnly — more at SPOUSE] : to become discouraged or disheartened

[2]despond *n* : DESPONDENCY

de·spon·dence \di-'spän-dən(t)s\ *n* : DESPONDENCY

de·spon·den·cy \-dən-sē\ *n* : the state of being despondent : DEJECTION, HOPELESSNESS

de·spon·dent \-dənt\ *adj* [L *despondent-*, *despondens*, prp. of *despondēre*] : feeling extreme discouragement, dejection, or depression ⟨~ about his health⟩ — **de·spon·dent·ly** *adv*
syn DESPONDENT, DESPAIRING, DESPERATE, HOPELESS *shared meaning element* : having lost all or nearly all hope *ant* lighthearted

des·pot \'des-pət, -ˌpät\ *n* [MF *despote*, fr. Gk *despotēs*; akin to Skt *dampati* lord of the house; both fr. a prehistoric IE compound whose constituents are akin to L *domus* house and to L *potis* able — more at TIMBER, POTENT] **1 a** : a Byzantine emperor or prince **b** : a bishop or patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church **c** : an Italian hereditary prince or military leader during the Renaissance **2 a** : a ruler with absolute power and authority : AUTOCRAT **b** : a person exercising power abusively, oppressively, or tyrannically

des·pot·ic \des-'pät-ik, dis-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a despot — **des·pot·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

des·po·tism \'des-pə-ˌtiz-əm\ *n* **1 a** : rule by a despot **b** : despotic exercise of power **2 a** : a system of government in which the ruler has unlimited power : ABSOLUTISM **b** : a despotic state

des·qua·mate \'des-kwə-ˌmāt\ *vi* **-mat·ed; -mat·ing** [L *desquamatus*, pp. of *desquamare*, fr. *de-* + *squama* scale — more at SQUALOR] : to peel off in scales — **des·qua·ma·tion** \ˌdes-kwə-'mā-shən\ *n*

des·sert \di-'zərt\ *n* [MF, fr. *desservir* to clear the table, fr. *des-* de- + *servir* to serve, fr. L *servire*] **1** : a course of fruit, pastry, pudding, ice cream, or cheese served at the close of a meal **2** *Brit* : a fresh fruit served after a sweet course

des·sert·spoon \-ˌspün\ *n* : a spoon intermediate in size between a teaspoon and a tablespoon for use in eating dessert

des·sert·spoon·ful \di-ˌzərt-'spün-ˌfůl, -'zərt-ˌ\ *n* **1** : as much as a dessertspoon will hold **2** : a unit of measure equal to about 2½ fluidrams

dessert wine *n* : a usu. sweet wine containing over 14 percent alcohol by volume and often served with dessert or between meals

de·sta·bi·lize \(ˌ)dē-'stā-bə-ˌlīz\ *vt* : to make unstable — **de·sta·bi·li·za·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌstā-bə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n*

de·stain \(ˌ)dē-'stān\ *vt* : to selectively remove stain from (a specimen for microscopic study)

de·sta·lin·iza·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌstäl-ə-nə-'zā-shən, -ˌstal-\ *n* : the deflation of Stalin and his policies

de·ster·il·ize \(ˌ)dē-'ster-ə-ˌlīz\ *vt* : to release (gold) from an insulated condition in the treasury to useful service

de Stijl \də-'stī(ə)l, -'stā(ə)l\ *n* [D *De Stijl*, lit., the style, magazine published by members of the school] : an influential school of art founded in Holland in 1917 typically using rectangular forms and the primary colors plus black and white and asymmetric balance

des·ti·na·tion \ˌdes-tə-'nā-shən\ *n* **1** : an act of appointing, setting aside for a purpose, or predetermining **2** : the purpose for which something is destined ⟨a ~ above the objects . . . of this world —J. B. Mozley⟩ **3** : a place which is set for the end of a journey or to which something is sent ⟨the couple kept their ~ secret⟩

des·tine \'des-tən\ *vt* **des·tined; des·tin·ing** [ME *destinen*, fr. OF *destiner*, fr. L *destinare*, fr. *de-* + *-stinare* (akin to L *stare* to stand) — more at STAND] **1** : to decree beforehand : PREDETERMINE **2 a** : to designate, assign, or dedicate in advance ⟨the younger son was *destined* for the church⟩ **b** : to direct, devise, or set apart for a specific purpose or end ⟨freight *destined* for English ports⟩

des·ti·ny \'des-tə-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [ME *destinee*, fr. MF, fr. fem. of *destiné*, pp. of *destiner*] **1** : something to which a person or thing is destined : FORTUNE **2** : a predetermined course of events often held to be a resistless power or agency *syn* see FATE

des·ti·tute \'des-tə-ˌt(y)üt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *destitutus*, pp. of *destituere* to abandon, deprive, fr. *de-* + *statuere* to set up — more at STATUTE] **1** : lacking something needed or desirable ⟨a lake ~ of fish⟩ **2** : lacking possessions and resources; *esp* : suffering extreme want ⟨a ~ old man⟩ — **des·ti·tute·ness** *n*

des·ti·tu·tion \ˌdes-tə-'t(y)ü-shən\ *n* : the state of being destitute; *esp* : such extreme want as threatens life unless relieved *syn* see POVERTY

des·trier \'des-trē-ər, də-'stri(ə)r\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. *destre* right hand, fr. L *dextra*, fr. fem. of *dexter*] *archaic* : WAR-HORSE; *also* : a charger used esp. in medieval tournaments

de·stroy \di-'strȯi\ *vb* [ME *destroyen*, fr. OF *destruire*, fr. (assumed) VL *destrugere*, alter. of L *destruere*, fr. *de-* + *struere* to build — more at STRUCTURE] *vt* **1** : to ruin the structure, organic existence, or condition of : DEMOLISH ⟨priceless art ~*ed* by water⟩ **2 a** : to put out of existence : KILL **b** : NEUTRALIZE ⟨the moon ~*s* the light of the stars⟩ **c** : to subject to a crushing defeat : ANNIHILATE ⟨armies had been crippled but not ~*ed* —W. L. Shirer⟩ ~ *vi* : to cause destruction

de·stroy·er \di-'strȯi(-ə)r\ *n* **1** : one that destroys **2** : a small fast warship usu. armed with 5-inch guns, depth charges, torpedoes, mines, and sometimes guided missiles

destroyer escort *n* : a warship similar to but smaller than a destroyer

destroying angel *n* : a very poisonous mushroom (*Amanita phalloides*) varying in color from pure white to olive or yellow and having a prominent volva at the base; *also* : a related poisonous mushroom (*A. verna*)

[1]de·struct \di-'strəkt\ *vt* [back-formation fr. *destruction*] : DESTROY

[2]de·struct \di-'strəkt, 'dē-ˌ\ *n* : the deliberate destruction of a rocket after launching esp. during a test; *also* : the deliberate destruction of a device or material (as to prevent its falling into enemy hands)

de·struc·ti·ble \di-'strək-tə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being destroyed — **de·struc·ti·bil·i·ty** \di-ˌstrək-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*

de·struc·tion \di-'strək-shən\ *n* [ME *destruccioun*, fr. MF *destruction*, fr. L *destruction-*, *destructio*, fr. *destructus*, pp. of *destruere*] **1** : the action or process of destroying something **2** : the state or fact of being destroyed : RUIN **3** : a destroying agency *syn* see RUIN

de·struc·tion·ist \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n* : one who delights in or advocates destruction

de·struc·tive \di-'strək-tiv\ *adj* **1** : causing destruction : RUINOUS ⟨~ storm⟩ **2** : designed or tending to destroy ⟨~ criticism⟩ — **de·struc·tive·ly** *adv* — **de·struc·tive·ness** *n*

destructive distillation *n* : decomposition of a substance (as wood, coal, or oil) by heat in a closed container and collection of the volatile products produced

de·struc·tiv·i·ty \di-ˌstrək-'tiv-ət-ē, ˌdē-\ *n* : capacity for destruction

de·struc·tor \di-'strək-tər\ *n* **1** : a furnace for burning refuse : INCINERATOR **2** : a device for destroying a missile in flight

de·sue·tude \'des-wi-ˌt(y)üd, di-'sü-ə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* [F or L; F *désuétude*, fr. L *desuetudo*, fr. *desuetus*, pp. of *desuescere* to become unaccustomed, fr. *de-* + *suescere* to become accustomed; akin to L *sui* of oneself — more at SUICIDE] : discontinuance from use or exercise : DISUSE ⟨after . . . twenty years of innocuous ~ these laws are brought forth —Grover Cleveland⟩

de·sul·fur·ize \(ˌ)dē-'səl-fə-ˌrīz\ *vt* : to remove sulfur or sulfur compounds from — **de·sul·fur·iza·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌsəl-fə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n*

des·ul·to·ry \'des-əl-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr- *also* 'dez-\ *adj* [L *desultorius*, fr. *desultus*, pp. of *desilire* to leap down, fr. *de-* + *salire* to leap — more at SALLY] **1** : marked by lack of definite plan, regularity, or purpose ⟨a dragged-out ordeal of . . . ~ shopping —Herman Wouk⟩ **2** : not connected with the main subject *syn* see RANDOM *ant* assiduous (*as study*), methodical — **des·ul·to·ri·ly** \ˌdes-əl-'tōr-ə-lē, ˌdez-, -'tȯr-\ *adv* — **des·ul·to·ri·ness** \'des-əl-ˌtōr-ē-nəs, 'dez-, -ˌtȯr-\ *n*

det *abbr* **1** detached; detachment **2** detail **3** determine

de·tach \di-'tach\ *vt* [F *détacher*, fr. OF *destachier*, fr. *des-* de- + *-tachier* (as in *atachier* to attach)] **1** : to separate esp. from a larger mass and usu. without violence or damage **2** : DISENGAGE, WITHDRAW — **de·tach·abil·i·ty** \-ˌtach-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **de·tach·able** \-'tach-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·tach·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

de·tached \di-'tacht\ *adj* **1** : standing by itself : SEPARATE, UNCONNECTED; *specif* : not sharing any wall with another building ⟨~ house⟩ **2** : exhibiting an aloof objectivity usu. free from prejudice or self-interest ⟨a ~ observer⟩ *syn* see INDIFFERENT *ant* interested — **de·tached·ly** \-'tach-əd-lē, -'tach-tlē\ *adv* — **de·tached·ness** \-'tach-əd-nəs, -'tach(t)-nəs\ *n*

detached service *n* : military service away from one's assigned organization

de·tach·ment \di-'tach-mənt\ *n* **1** : the action or process of detaching : SEPARATION **2 a** : the dispatch of a body of troops or part of a fleet from the main body for a special mission or service **b** : the part so dispatched **c** : a permanently organized separate unit usu. smaller than a platoon and different in composition from normal units **3 a** : indifference to worldly concerns : ALOOFNESS **b** : freedom from bias or prejudice

[1]de·tail \di-'tā(ə)l, 'dē-ˌtāl\ *n* [F *détail*, fr. OF *detail* slice, piece, fr. *detaillier* to cut in pieces, fr. *de-* + *taillier* to cut — more at TAILOR] **1** : extended treatment of or attention to particular items **2** : a part of a whole: as **a** : a small and subordinate part : PARTICULAR; *also* : a reproduction of such a part of a work of art **b** : a part considered or requiring to be considered separately from the whole **c** : the small elements that collectively constitute a work of art **d** : the small elements of a photographic image corresponding to those of the subject **3 a** : selection for a particular task (as in military service) of a person or a body of persons **b** (1) : the

person or body selected (2) : the task to be performed ***syn*** see ITEM

²detail *vt* **1** : to report minutely and distinctly : SPECIFY ⟨~*ed* his petty grievances⟩ **2** : to assign to a particular task **3** : to furnish with the smaller elements of design and finish ⟨trimmings that ~ slips and petticoats⟩ ~ *vi* : to make detail drawings — **de·tail·er** *n*

de·tailed \di-'tā(ə)ld, 'dē-ˌtāld\ *adj* : marked by abundant detail or by thoroughness in treating small items or parts ⟨the ~ study of history⟩ ***syn*** see CIRCUMSTANTIAL — **de·tailed·ly** \di-'tāl(-ə)d-lē, 'dē-ˌ\ *adv* — **de·tailed·ness** \di-'tā-ləd-nəs, -'tāl(d)-, 'dē-ˌ\ *n*

detail man *n* : a representative of a drug manufacturer who introduces new drugs esp. to pharmacists and physicians

de·tain \di-'tān\ *vt* [ME *deteynen*, fr. MF *detenir*, fr. L *detinēre*, fr. *de-* + *tenēre* to hold — more at THIN] **1** : to hold or keep in or as if in custody **2** *obs* : to keep back (as something due) : WITHHOLD **3** : to restrain esp. from proceeding : STOP ***syn*** see KEEP, DELAY — **de·tain·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

de·tain·ee \di-ˌtā-'nē, ˌdē-\ *n* : a person held in custody esp. for political reasons

de·tain·er \di-'tā-nər\ *n* [AF *detener*, fr. *detener* to detain, fr. L *detinēre*] **1** : the act of keeping something in one's possession; *specif* : the withholding from the rightful owner of something which has lawfully come into the possession of the holder **2** : detention in custody **3** : a writ authorizing the keeper of a prison to continue to hold a person in custody

detd *abbr* determined

de·tect \di-'tekt\ *vt* [ME *detecten*, fr. L *detectus*, pp. of *detegere* to uncover, detect, fr. *de-* + *tegere* to cover — more at THATCH] **1** : to discover the true character of **2** : to discover or determine the existence, presence, or fact of ⟨~ alcohol in the blood⟩ **3** : DEMODULATE — **de·tect·abil·i·ty** \-ˌtek-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **de·tect·able** \-'tek-tə-bəl\ *adj*

de·tect·a·phone \-'tek-tə-ˌfōn\ *n* : a telephonic apparatus with an attached microphone transmitter used esp. for secret listening

de·tec·tion \di-'tek-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of detecting : the state or fact of being detected **2** : DEMODULATION

¹de·tec·tive \di-'tek-tiv\ *adj* **1** : fitted for or used in detecting something ⟨a ~ device for coal gas⟩ **2** : of or relating to detectives or their work ⟨a ~ novel⟩

²detective *n* : one employed or engaged in detecting lawbreakers or in getting information that is not readily or publicly accessible

de·tec·tor \di-'tek-tər\ *n* : one that detects: as **a** : a device for detecting the presence of electric waves or of radioactivity **b** : a rectifier of high-frequency current used esp. for extracting the intelligence from a radio signal

de·tent \'dē-ˌtent, di-'\ *n* [F *détente*, fr. MF *destente*, fr. *destendre* to slacken, fr. OF, fr. *des-* de- + *tendre* to stretch, fr. L *tendere* — more at THIN] : a device (as a catch, dog, or spring-operated ball) for positioning and holding one mechanical part in relation to another so that the device can be released by force applied to one of the parts

dé·tente \dā-tä^{n}(n)t\ *n* [F] : a relaxation of strained relations or tensions (as between nations)

de·ten·tion \di-'ten-chən\ *n* [MF or LL; MF, fr. LL *detention-*, *detentio*, fr. L *detentus*, pp. of *detinēre* to detain] **1** : the act or fact of detaining or holding back; *esp* : a holding in custody **2** : the state of being detained; *esp* : a period of temporary custody prior to disposition by a court

detention home *n* : a house of detention for juvenile delinquents usu. under the supervision of a juvenile court

de·ter \di-'tər\ *vt* **de·terred; de·ter·ring** [L *deterrēre*, fr. *de-* + *terrēre* to frighten — more at TERROR] **1** : to turn aside, discourage, or prevent from acting (as by fear) **2** : INHIBIT — **de·ter·ment** \-'tər-mənt\ *n* — **de·ter·rer** \-'tər-ər\ *n*

de·terge \di-'tərj\ *vt* **de·terged; de·terg·ing** [F or L; F *déterger*, fr. L *detergēre*, fr. *de-* + *tergēre* to wipe — more at TERSE] : to wash off : CLEANSE — **de·terg·er** *n*

de·ter·gen·cy \di-'tər-jən-sē\ *n* : cleansing quality or power

¹de·ter·gent \-jənt\ *adj* : that cleanses : CLEANSING

²detergent *n* : a cleansing agent: as **a** : SOAP **b** : any of numerous synthetic water-soluble or liquid organic preparations that are chemically different from soaps but are able to emulsify oils, hold dirt in suspension, and act as wetting agents **c** : an oil-soluble substance that holds insoluble foreign matter in suspension and is used in lubricating oils and dry-cleaning solvents

de·te·ri·o·rate \di-'tir-ē-ə-ˌrāt\ *vb* **-rat·ed; -rat·ing** [LL *deterioratus*, pp. of *deteriorare*, fr. L *deterior* worse, fr. *de-* + *-ter* (suffix as in L *uter* which of two) + *-ior* (compar. suffix) — more at WHETHER, -ER] *vt* **1** : to make inferior in quality or value : IMPAIR **2** : DISINTEGRATE ~ *vi* **1** : to grow worse in quality or state ⟨allowed a tradition of academic excellence to ~⟩ **2** : DEGENERATE

de·te·ri·o·ra·tion \di-ˌtir-ē-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* : the action or process of deteriorating : the state of having deteriorated
syn DETERIORATION, DEGENERATION, DECADENCE, DECLINE *shared meaning element* : a falling from a higher to a lower level (as of quality, character, or vitality) ***ant*** improvement, amelioration

de·te·ri·o·ra·tive \di-'tir-ē-ə-ˌrāt-iv\ *adj* : tending to deteriorate

de·ter·min·able \-'tərm-(ə)-nə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : capable of being determined, definitely ascertained, or decided upon **2** : liable to be terminated : TERMINABLE — **de·ter·min·able·ness** *n* — **de·ter·min·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

de·ter·mi·na·cy \di-'tər-mə-nə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the quality or state of being determinate **2** **a** : the state of being definitely and unequivocally characterized : EXACTNESS **b** : the state of being determined or necessitated

de·ter·mi·nant \di-'tərm-(ə-)nənt\ *n* **1** : an element that identifies or determines the nature of something or that fixes or conditions an outcome **2** : a square array of numbers bordered on either side by a straight line with a value that is the algebraic sum of all the products that can be formed by taking as factors one element in succession from each row and column and giving to each product a positive or negative sign depending upon whether the number of permutations necessary to place the indices representing each factor's position in its row or column in the order of the natural numbers is odd or even **3** : GENE; *broadly* : a comparable subordinate agent (as a plasmagene) ***syn*** see CAUSE — **de·ter·mi·nan·tal** \-ˌtər-mə-'nant-ᵊl\ *adj*

de·ter·mi·nate \di-'tərm-(ə-)nət\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *determinatus*, pp. of *determinare*] **1** : having defined limits : ESTABLISHED **2** : definitely settled : ARBITRARY **3** : conclusively determined : DEFINITIVE **4** : CYMOSE **5** *of an egg* : undergoing determinate cleavage — **de·ter·mi·nate·ly** *adv* — **de·ter·mi·nate·ness** *n*

determinate cleavage *n* : cleavage of an egg in which each division irreversibly separates portions of the zygote with specific potencies for further development

de·ter·mi·na·tion \di-ˌtər-mə-'nā-shən\ *n* **1** **a** : a judicial decision settling and ending a controversy **b** : the resolving of a question by argument or reasoning **2** *archaic* : TERMINATION **3** **a** : the act of deciding definitely and firmly; *also* : the result of such an act of decision **b** : the power or habit of deciding definitely and firmly **4** : a fixing of the position, magnitude, or character of something: as **a** : the act, process, or result of an accurate measurement **b** : an identification of the taxonomic position of a plant or animal **5** **a** : the definition of a concept in logic by its essential constituents **b** : the addition of a differentia to a concept to limit its denotation **6** : direction or tendency to a certain end : IMPULSION **7** : the fixation of the destiny of undifferentiated embryonic tissue

¹de·ter·mi·na·tive \-'tər-mə-ˌnāt-iv, -'tərm-(ə-)nət-\ *adj* : having power or tendency to determine : tending to fix, settle, or define something ⟨regard experiments as ~ of the principles from which deductions could be made —S. F. Mason⟩ ***syn*** see CONCLUSIVE — **de·ter·mi·na·tive·ly** *adv* — **de·ter·mi·na·tive·ness** *n*

²determinative *n* : one that serves to determine

de·ter·mi·na·tor \di-'tər-mə-ˌnāt-ər\ *n* : DETERMINER

de·ter·mine \di-'tər-mən\ *vb* **de·ter·mined; de·ter·min·ing** \-'tərm-(ə-)niŋ\ [ME *determinen*, fr. MF *determiner*, fr. L *determinare*, fr. *de-* + *terminare* to limit, fr. *terminus* boundary, limit — more at TERM] *vt* **1** **a** : to fix conclusively or authoritatively **b** : to decide by judicial sentence **c** : to settle or decide by choice of alternatives or possibilities **d** : RESOLVE **2** **a** : to fix the form or character of beforehand : ORDAIN ⟨two points ~ a straight line⟩ **b** : to bring about as a result : REGULATE ⟨demand ~*s* the price⟩ **3** **a** : to fix the boundaries of **b** : to limit in extent or scope **c** : to put or set an end to : TERMINATE ⟨~ an estate⟩ **4** **a** : to obtain definite and firsthand knowledge of ⟨~ a position at sea⟩ **b** : to discover the taxonomic position or the generic and specific names of **5** : to bring about the determination of ⟨~ the fate of a cell⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to come to a decision **2** : to come to an end or become void ***syn*** see DECIDE, DISCOVER

de·ter·mined \-'tər-mənd\ *adj* **1** : DECIDED, RESOLVED **2** : FIRM, RESOLUTE — **de·ter·mined·ly** \-mən-dlē, -mə-nəd-lē\ *adv* — **de·ter·mined·ness** \-mən(d)-nəs\ *n*

de·ter·min·er \-'tərm-(ə-)nər\ *n* : one that determines: as **a** : GENE, DETERMINANT **b** : a word (as *his* in "his new car") belonging to a group of limiting noun modifiers characterized by occurrence before descriptive adjectives modifying the same noun

de·ter·min·ism \di-'tər-mə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* **1** **a** : a doctrine that acts of the will, occurrences in nature, or social or psychological phenomena are determined by antecedent causes **b** : a belief in predestination **2** : the quality or state of being determined — **de·ter·min·ist** \-(ə-)nəst\ *n or adj* — **de·ter·min·is·tic** \-ˌtər-mə-'nis-tik\ *adj* — **de·ter·min·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

de·ter·ra·ble \di-'tər-ə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being deterred — **de·ter·ra·bil·i·ty** \-ˌtər-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*

de·ter·rence \di-'tər-ən(t)s, -'ter-; -'tə-rən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act or process of deterring ⟨the penalty for the crime of perjury is often no ~ to lying under oath —*New Republic*⟩ **2** : the maintaining of vast military power and weaponry in order to discourage war

de·ter·rent \-ənt, -rənt\ *adj* [L *deterrent-*, *deterrens*, prp. of *deterrēre* to deter] **1** : serving to deter **2** : relating to deterrence — **deterrent** *n* — **de·ter·rent·ly** *adv*

de·ter·sive \di-'tər-siv, -ziv\ *adj* [MF *detersif*, fr. L *detersus*, pp. of *detergēre* to deterge] : DETERGENT, CLEANSING — **detersive** *n*

de·test \di-'test\ *vt* [ME *detesten*, fr. L *detestari*, lit., to curse while calling a deity to witness, fr. *de-* + *testari* to call to witness — more at TESTAMENT] **1** : to feel intense and often violent antipathy toward : LOATHE **2** *obs* : CURSE, DENOUNCE ***syn*** see HATE ***ant*** adore — **de·test·er** *n*

de·test·able \di-'tes-tə-bəl\ *adj* : arousing or meriting intense dislike : ABOMINABLE — **de·test·able·ness** *n* — **de·test·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

de·tes·ta·tion \ˌdē-ˌtes-'tā-shən, di-\ *n* **1** : extreme hatred or dislike : ABHORRENCE, LOATHING ⟨had a ~ of hypocrites⟩ **2** : an object of hatred or contempt

de·throne \di-'thrōn\ *vt* : to remove from a throne or place of power or prominence : DEPOSE — **de·throne·ment** \-mənt\ *n* — **de·thron·er** *n*

de·tick \(')dē-'tik\ *vt* : to remove ticks from ⟨dogs should be ~*ed* and sprayed⟩ — **de·tick·er** *n*

det·i·nue \'det-ᵊn-ˌ(y)ü\ *n* [ME *detenewe*, fr. MF *detenue* detention, fr. fem. of *detenu*, pp. of *detenir* to detain] **1** : detention of something due; *esp* : the unlawful detention of a personal chattel from another **2** : a common-law action for the recovery of a personal chattel wrongfully detained or of its value

detn *abbr* **1** detention **2** determination

det·o·na·ble \'det-ᵊn-ə-bəl, -ə-nə-\ *adj* : capable of being detonated — **det·o·na·bil·i·ty** \ˌdet-ᵊn-ə-'bil-ət-ē, ˌdet-ə-nə-\ *n*

det·o·nate \'det-ᵊn-ˌāt, 'det-ə-ˌnāt\ *vb* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [L *detonatus*, pp. of *detonare* to thunder down, fr. *de-* + *tonare* to thunder —

ə abut ᵊ kitten ər further a back ā bake ä cot, cart
aů out ch chin e less ē easy g gift i trip ī life
j joke ŋ sing ō flow ȯ flaw ȯi coin th thin t͟h this
ü loot u̇ foot y yet yü few yu̇ furious zh vision

more at THUNDER] *vi* : to explode with sudden violence ~ *vt* **1** : to cause to detonate ⟨~ an atom bomb⟩ — compare DEFLAGRATE **2** : to set off in a burst of activity : ACTIVATE ⟨has *detonated* a . . . Puerto Rican tourist boom —Horace Sutton⟩ — **det·o·nat·able** \-ˌāt-ə-bəl, -ˌnāt-\ *adj* — **det·o·na·tive** \'det-ᵊn-ˌāt-iv, 'det-ə-ˌnāt- \ *adj*

det·o·na·tion \ˌdet-ᵊn-'ā-shən, ˌdet-ə-'nā-\ *n* **1** : the action or process of detonating **2** : rapid combustion in an internal-combustion engine that results in knocking — **det·o·na·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

det·o·na·tor \'det-ᵊn-ˌāt-ər, -ə-ˌnāt-\ *n* : a device or small quantity of explosive used for detonating a high explosive

¹de·tour \'dē-ˌtu̇(ə)r *also* di-'\ *n* [F *détour*, fr. OF *destor*, fr. *destorner* to divert, fr. *des-* de- + *torner* to turn — more at TURN] : a deviation from a direct course or the usual procedure; *specif* : a roundabout way temporarily replacing part of a route

²detour *vi* : to proceed by a detour ⟨~ around road construction⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to send by a circuitous route **2** : to avoid by going around : BYPASS

de·tox·i·cate \(')dē-'täk-sə-ˌkāt\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [*de-* + L *toxicum* poison — more at TOXIC] : DETOXIFY — **de·tox·i·cant** \-si-kənt\ *n* — **de·tox·i·ca·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌtäk-sə-'kā-shən\ *n*

de·tox·i·fy \(')dē-'täk-sə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** : to remove a poison or toxin or the effect of such from — **de·tox·i·fi·ca·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌtäk-sə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n*

de·tract \di-'trakt\ *vb* [ME *detracten*, fr. L *detractus*, pp. of *detrahere* to withdraw, disparage, fr. *de-* + *trahere* to draw — more at DRAW] *vt* **1** *archaic* : to speak ill of **2** *archaic* : to take away **3** : DIVERT ⟨~ attention⟩ ~ *vi* : to take away something — **de·trac·tor** \-'trak-tər\ *n*

de·trac·tion \di-'trak-shən\ *n* **1** : a lessening of reputation or esteem esp. by envious, malicious, or petty criticism : BELITTLING, DISPARAGEMENT **2** : a taking away ⟨it is no ~ from its dignity or prestige —J. F. Golay⟩ — **de·trac·tive** \-'trak-tiv\ *adj* — **de·trac·tive·ly** *adv*

de·train \(')dē-'trān\ *vi* : to get off a railroad train ~ *vt* : to remove from a railroad train — **de·train·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

de·trib·al·ize \(')dē-'trī-bə-ˌlīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to cause to relinquish tribal customs : ACCULTURATE — **de·trib·al·iza·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌtrī-bə-lə-'zā-shən\ *n*

det·ri·ment \'de-trə-mənt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *detrimentum*, fr. *deterere* to wear away, impair, fr. *de-* + *terere* to rub — more at THROW] **1** : INJURY, DAMAGE ⟨did hard work without ~ to his health⟩ **2** : a cause of injury or damage ⟨the long strike was a ~ to the industry⟩

¹det·ri·men·tal \ˌde-trə-'ment-ᵊl\ *adj* : obviously harmful : DAMAGING ⟨the ~ effects of heroin⟩ ***syn*** see PERNICIOUS ***ant*** beneficial — **det·ri·men·tal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

²detrimental *n* : an undesirable or harmful person or thing

de·tri·tion \di-'trish-ən\ *n* : a wearing off or away

de·tri·tus \di-'trīt-əs\ *n, pl* **de·tri·tus** \-'trīt-əs, -'trī-ˌtüs\ [F *détritus*, fr. L *detritus*, pp. of *deterere*] **1** : loose material (as rock fragments or organic particles) that results directly from disintegration **2** : a product of disintegration or wearing away — **de·tri·tal** \-'trīt-ᵊl\ *adj*

de trop \də-'trō\ *adj* [F] : too much or too many : SUPERFLUOUS ⟨a topcoat was *de trop* with the thermometer standing at 72 degrees —Irving Kolodin⟩

de·tu·mes·cence \ˌde-t(y)ü-'mes-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* : subsidence or diminution of swelling — **de·tu·mes·cent** \-ᵊnt\ *adj*

Deu·ca·lion \d(y)ü-'kāl-yən\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Deukaliōn*] : a survivor with his wife Pyrrha of a great flood by which according to Greek mythology Zeus destroyed the rest of the human race

¹deuce \'d(y)üs\ *n* [MF *deus* two, fr. L *duos*, acc. masc. of *duo* two — more at TWO] **1 a** (1) : the face of a die that bears two spots (2) : a playing card bearing an index number two **b** : a throw of the dice yielding two points **2** : a tie in tennis after each side has scored 40 and requiring two consecutive points by one side to win **3** [obs. E *deuce* bad luck] **a** : DEVIL, DICKENS — used chiefly as a mild oath ⟨what the ~ is he up to now⟩ **b** : something notable of its kind ⟨a ~ of a mess⟩

²deuce *vt* **deuced; deuc·ing** : to bring the score of (a tennis game or set) to deuce

deuced \'d(y)ü-səd\ *adj* : DAMNED, CONFOUNDED ⟨in a ~ fix⟩ — **deuced** *or* **deuced·ly** *adv*

deuces wild *n* : a card game (as poker) in which each deuce may represent any card designated by its holder

de·us ex ma·chi·na \ˌdā-ə-ˌsek-'smäk-i-nə, -ˌnä; -'smak-ə-nə\ *n* [NL, a god from a machine, trans. of Gk *theos ek mēchanēs*] **1** : a god introduced by means of a crane in ancient Greek and Roman drama to decide the final outcome **2** : a person or thing (as in fiction or drama) that appears or is introduced suddenly and unexpectedly and provides a contrived solution to an apparently insoluble difficulty

Deut *abbr* Deuteronomy

deut- *or* **deuto-** *comb form* [ISV, fr. *deuter-*] : second : secondary ⟨*deuto*nymph⟩

¹deuter- *or* **deutero-** *comb form* [alter. of ME *deutro-*, modif. of LL *deutero-*, fr. Gk *deuter-*, *deutero-*, fr. *deuteros*; prob. akin to L *dudum* formerly, Gk *dein* to lack] : second : secondary ⟨*deutero*genesis⟩

²deuter- *or* **deutero-** *comb form* [ISV] : deuterium : containing deuterium ⟨*deuter*ated⟩ ⟨*deutero*alkanes⟩

deu·ter·ag·o·nist \ˌd(y)üt-ə-'rag-ə-nəst\ *n* [Gk *deuteragōnistēs*, fr. *deuter-* + *agōnistēs* combatant, actor — more at PROTAGONIST] **1** : the actor taking the part of second importance in a classical Greek drama **2** : a person who serves as a foil to another

deu·ter·an·ope \'d(y)üt-ə-rə-ˌnōp\ *n* : an individual affected with deuteranopia

deu·ter·an·opia \ˌd(y)üt-ə-rə-'nō-pē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. ¹*deuter-* + ²*a-* + *-opia*; fr. the blindness to green, regarded as the second primary color] : color blindness marked by confusion of purplish red and green — **deu·ter·an·opic** \-'nō-pik, -'näp-ik\ *adj*

deu·ter·ate \'dyüt-ə-ˌrāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing** : to introduce deuterium into (a compound) — **deu·ter·a·tion** \ˌdyüt-ə-'rā-shən\ *n*

deu·te·ri·um \d(y)ü-'tir-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *deuteros* second] : the hydrogen isotope that is of twice the mass of ordinary hydrogen and that occurs in water — called also *heavy hydrogen*

deuterium oxide *n* : heavy water D_2O composed of deuterium and oxygen

deu·tero·ca·non·i·cal \ˌd(y)üt-ə-rō-kə-'nän-i-kəl\ *adj* [NL *deuterocanonicus*, fr. ¹*deuter-* + LL *canonicus* canonical] : of, relating to, or constituting the books of Scripture contained in the Septuagint but not in the Hebrew canon

deu·ter·og·a·my \ˌd(y)üt-ə-'räg-ə-mē\ *n* [LGk *deuterogamia*, fr. Gk *deuter-* + *-gamia* -gamy] : DIGAMY

deu·tero·gen·e·sis \ˌd(y)üt-ə-rō-'jen-ə-səs\ *n* : the appearance of a new adaptive character late in life

deu·ter·on \'d(y)üt-ə-ˌrän\ *n* [*deuterium*] : the nucleus of the deuterium atom consisting of one proton and one neutron

Deu·ter·o·nom·ic \ˌd(y)üt-ə-rə-'näm-ik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the book of Deuteronomy **2** : marked by the literary style or theological content of Deuteronomy

Deu·ter·on·o·mist \ˌd(y)üt-ə-'rän-ə-məst\ *n* : one of the writers or editors of a Deuteronomic body of source material often distinguished in the earlier books of the Old Testament — **Deu·ter·on·o·mis·tic** \-ˌrän-ə-'mis-tik\ *adj*

Deu·ter·on·o·my \ˌd(y)üt-ə-'rän-ə-mē\ *n* [ME *Deutronomie*, fr. LL *Deuteronomium*, fr. Gk *Deuteronomion*, fr. *deuter-* + *nomos* law — more at NIMBLE] : the fifth book of canonical Jewish and Christian Scripture containing Mosaic laws and narrative material — see BIBLE table

deu·tero·stome \'d(y)üt-ə-rə-ˌstōm\ *n* [NL *Deuterostomia*, group name, fr. *deuter-* + Gk *stoma* mouth — more at STOMACH] : any of a major division (Deuterostomia) of the animal kingdom that includes the bilaterally symmetrical animals (as the chordates) with indeterminate cleavage and a mouth that does not arise from the blastopore

deu·to·plasm \'d(y)üt-ə-ˌplaz-əm\ *n* [ISV] : the nutritive inclusions of protoplasm; *esp* : the yolk reserves of an egg — **deu·to·plas·mic** \ˌd(y)üt-ə-'plaz-mik\ *adj*

deut·sche mark \ˌdȯi-chə-'märk\ *n* [G, German mark] — see MONEY table

deut·zia \'d(y)üt-sē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Jean *Deutz* †1784? D patron of botanical research] : any of a genus (*Deutzia*) of the saxifrage family of ornamental shrubs with white or pink flowers

dev *abbr* deviation

de·val·u·ate \(')dē-'val-yə-ˌwāt\ *vb* : DEVALUE

de·val·u·a·tion \(ˌ)dē-ˌval-yə-'wā-shən\ *n* **1** : an official reduction in the exchange value of a currency by a lowering of its gold equivalency **2** : a lessening esp. of status or stature : DECLINE

de·val·ue \(')dē-'val-(ˌ)yü, -yə(-w)\ *vt* **1** : to institute the devaluation of (money) **2** : to cause or be responsible for a devaluation of (as a person or a literary work) ~ *vi* : to institute devaluation

De·va·na·ga·ri \ˌdā-və-'näg-ə-rē\ *n* [Skt *devanāgarī*, fr. *deva* divine + *nāgarī* script of the city; akin to L *divus* divine — more at DEITY] : an alphabet usu. employed for Sanskrit and also used as a literary hand for various modern languages of India — see ALPHABET table

dev·as·tate \'dev-ə-ˌstāt\ *vt* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [L *devastatus*, pp. of *devastare*, fr. *de-* + *vastare* to lay waste — more at WASTE] **1** : to bring to ruin or desolation by violent action **2** : to reduce to chaos or disorder : OVERWHELM ⟨her answer *devastated* the class⟩ ***syn*** see RAVAGE — **dev·as·tat·ing·ly** \-ˌstāt-iŋ-lē\ *adv* — **dev·as·tat·ive** \-ˌstāt-iv\ *adj* — **dev·as·ta·tor** \-ˌstāt-ər\ *n*

dev·as·ta·tion \ˌdev-ə-'stā-shən\ *n* : the action of devastating : the state of being devastated : DESOLATION ***syn*** see RUIN

de·vel·op \di-'vel-əp\ *vb* [F *développer*, fr. OF *desvoloper*, fr. *des-* de- + *voloper* to wrap] *vt* **1 a** : to set forth or make clear by degrees or in detail : EXPOUND **b** : to make visible or manifest **c** : to treat (as in dyeing) with an agent to cause the appearance of color **d** : to subject (exposed photograph material) esp. to chemicals in order to produce a visible image; *also* : to make visible by such a method **e** : to elaborate by the unfolding of a musical idea and by the working out of rhythmic and harmonic changes in the theme **2** : to evolve the possibilities of **3 a** (1) : to make active (2) : to promote the growth of ⟨~*ed* his muscles⟩ **b** : to make available or usable ⟨~ its resources⟩ **c** : to move (a chess piece) from the original position to one providing more opportunity for effective use **4 a** : to cause to unfold gradually ⟨~*ed* his argument⟩ **b** : to expand by a process of growth ⟨~*ed* mature breasts in her early teens⟩ **c** : to cause to grow and differentiate along lines natural to its kind ⟨rain and sun ~ the grain⟩ **5** : to acquire gradually ⟨~ an appreciation for ballet⟩ **6** : to superimpose (a three-dimensional surface) on a plane without stretching ~ *vi* **1 a** : to go through a process of natural growth, differentiation, or evolution by successive changes ⟨a blossom ~*s* from a bud⟩ **b** : to acquire secondary sex characters **c** : EVOLVE, DIFFERENTIATE; *broadly* : GROW **2 a** : to become gradually manifest **b** : to become apparent **3** : to develop one's pieces in chess — **de·vel·op·able** \-'vel-ə-pə-bəl\ *adj*

de·vel·op·er \-ə-pər\ *n* : one that develops: as **a** : a chemical used to develop exposed photographic materials **b** : a person who develops real estate; *esp* : one that improves and subdivides land and builds and sells houses thereon

de·vel·op·ment \di-'vel-əp-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act, process, or result of developing **2** : the state of being developed **3** : a developed tract of land; *esp* : one that has houses built thereon — **de·vel·op·men·tal** \-ˌvel-əp-'ment-ᵊl\ *adj* — **de·vel·op·men·tal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

de·verb·a·tive \(')dē-'vər-bət-iv\ *adj* **1** : derived from a verb ⟨the ~ noun *developer* is derived from *develop*⟩ **2** : used in derivation from a verb ⟨the ~ suffix *-er* in *developer*⟩ — **deverbative** *n*

de·vest \di-'vest\ *vt* [MF *desvestir*, fr. ML *disvestire*, fr. L *dis-* + *vestire* to clothe — more at VEST] : DIVEST

de·vi·ance \'dē-vē-ən(t)s\ *n* : deviant quality, state, or behavior

de·vi·an·cy \-ən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** : DEVIANCE

de·vi·ant \-ənt\ *adj* **1** : deviating esp. from an accepted norm ⟨~ behavior⟩ **2** : characterized by deviation ⟨a ~ child⟩ — **deviant** *n*

[1]de·vi·ate \'dē-vē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [LL *deviatus*, pp. of *deviare*, fr. L *de-* + *via* way — more at VIA] *vi* **1** : to turn aside esp. from a norm **2** : to stray esp. from a standard, principle, or topic ~ *vt* : to cause to turn out of a previous course ***syn*** see SWERVE — **de·vi·a·tor** \-ˌāt-ər\ *n* — **de·vi·a·to·ry** \-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

[2]de·vi·ate \-vē-ət, -vē-ˌāt\ *adj* : characterized by or given to significant departure from the behavioral norms of a particular society

[3]de·vi·ate \-vē-ət, -vē-ˌāt\ *n* **1** : one that deviates from a norm; *esp* : a person who differs markedly from his group norm **2** : a statistical variable that gives the deviation of another variable from a fixed value (as the mean)

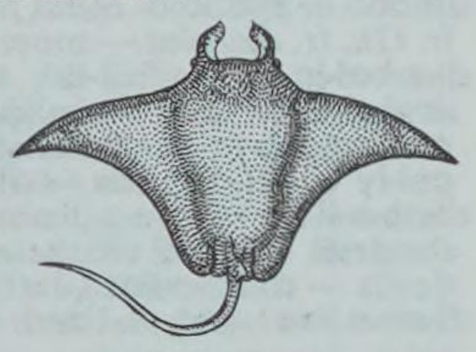
de·vi·a·tion \ˌdē-vē-'ā-shən\ *n* : an act or instance of deviating: as **a** : deflection of the needle of a compass caused by local magnetic influences (as in a ship) **b** : the difference between a value in a frequency distribution and a fixed number **c** : evolutionary differentiation involving interpolation of new stages in the ancestral pattern of morphogenesis **d** : departure from an established ideology or party line **e** : noticeable or marked departure from accepted norms of behavior — **de·vi·a·tion·ism** \-shə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* — **de·vi·a·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n*

de·vice \di-'vīs\ *n* [ME *devis, devise*, fr. OF, division, intention, fr. *deviser* to divide, regulate, tell — more at DEVISE] **1** : something devised or contrived: as **a** : a scheme to deceive : STRATEGEM **b** : something fanciful, elaborate, or intricate in design **c** : something (as a figure of speech) in a literary work designed to achieve a particular artistic effect **d** *archaic* : MASQUE, SPECTACLE **e** : a conventional stage practice or means (as a stage whisper) used to achieve a particular dramatic effect **f** : a piece of equipment or a mechanism designed to serve a special purpose or perform a special function **2** : DESIRE, WILL ⟨left to his own ~*s*⟩ **3** : an emblematic design used esp. as a heraldic bearing

[1]dev·il \'dev-əl\ *n* [ME *devel*, fr. OE *dēofol*, fr. LL *diabolus*, fr. Gk *diabolos*, lit., slanderer, fr. *diaballein* to throw across, slander, fr. *dia-* + *ballein* to throw; akin to OHG *quellan* to well, gush] **1** *often cap* : the personal supreme spirit of evil often represented in Jewish and Christian belief as the tempter of mankind, the leader of all apostate angels, and the ruler of hell — often used as an interjection, an intensive, or a generalized term of abuse **2** : a malignant spirit : DEMON **3 a** : an extremely and malignantly wicked person : FIEND **b** *archaic* : a great evil **4** : a person of notable energy, recklessness, and dashing spirit ⟨a ~ with the ladies⟩ **5 a** : FELLOW, MAN — usu. used in the phrase *poor devil* **b** : PRINTER'S DEVIL **6** : any of various machines or devices (as a paper shredder) **7** *Christian Science* : the opposite of Truth : a belief in sin, sickness, and death : EVIL, ERROR

[2]devil *vb* **-iled** *or* **-illed; -il·ing** *or* **-il·ling** \'dev-(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* **1** : TEASE, ANNOY **2** : to season highly ⟨~*ed* eggs⟩ **3** : to tear to pieces in a devil ⟨~ rags⟩ ~ *vi* : to serve or function as a devil

dev·il·fish \'dev-əl-ˌfish\ *n* **1** : any of several extremely large rays (genera *Manta* and *Mobula*) widely distributed in warm seas **2** : OCTOPUS; *broadly* : any large cephalopod



devilfish 1

dev·il·ish \'dev-(ə-)lish\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the devil ⟨~ tricks⟩ **2** : EXTREME, EXCESSIVE ⟨in a ~ hurry⟩ — **devilish** *adv* — **dev·il·ish·ly** *adv* — **dev·il·ish·ness** *n*

dev·il·kin \'dev-əl-kən\ *n* : a little devil : IMP

dev·il–may–care \ˌdev-əl-(ˌ)mā-'ke(ə)r, -'ka(ə)r\ *adj* **1** : heedless of authority : RECKLESS **2** : [2]RAKISH, INFORMAL

dev·il·ment \'dev-əl-mənt, -ˌment\ *n* **1** : devilish conduct **2** : reckless mischief

dev·il·ry \'dev-əl-rē\ *or* **dev·il·try** \-əl-trē\ *n, pl* **-ilries** *or* **-iltries** **1 a** : action performed with the help of the devil : WITCHCRAFT **b** : gross or malignant cruelty : WICKEDNESS **c** : reckless unrestrained conduct : MISCHIEF **2** : an act of devilry

devil's advocate *n* [trans. of NL *advocatus diaboli*] **1** : a Roman Catholic official whose duty is to examine critically the evidence on which a demand for beatification or canonization rests **2** : a person who champions the less accepted or approved cause for the sake of argument

devil's darning needle *n* **1** : DRAGONFLY **2** : DAMSELFLY

dev·il's food cake \'dev-əlz-ˌfüd-ˌkāk\ *n* : a rich chocolate cake

devil's paintbrush *n* : ORANGE HAWKWEED; *broadly* : any of various hawkweeds that are naturalized weeds in the eastern U.S.

dev·il·wood \'dev-əl-ˌwu̇d\ *n* : a small tree (*Osmanthus americanus*) of the southern U.S. that is related to the olive

de·vi·ous \'dē-vē-əs\ *adj* [L *devius*, fr. *de* from + *via* way — more at DE-, VIA] **1** : OUT-OF-THE-WAY, REMOTE **2 a** : deviating from a straight line : ROUNDABOUT **b** : moving without a fixed course : ERRANT ⟨~ breezes⟩ **3 a** : deviating from a right, accepted, or common course : ERRING **b** : not straightforward **c** : TRICKY ***syn*** see CROOKED ***ant*** straightforward — **de·vi·ous·ly** *adv* — **de·vi·ous·ness** *n*

de·vis·al \di-'vī-zəl\ *n* : the act of devising

[1]de·vise \di-'vīz\ *vt* **de·vised; de·vis·ing** [ME *devisen*, fr. OF *deviser* to divide, regulate, tell, modif. of (assumed) VL *divisare*, fr. L *divisus*, pp. of *dividere* to divide] **1 a** : to form in the mind by new combinations or applications of ideas or principles : INVENT **b** *archaic* : SUPPOSE **c** : to plan to obtain or bring about : PLOT **2** : to give (real estate) by will — compare BEQUEATH — **de·vis·able** \-'vī-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·vis·er** *n*

[2]devise *n* **1** : the act of giving or disposing of real property by will **2** : a will or clause of a will disposing of real property **3** : property devised by will

de·vi·see \ˌdev-ə-'zē, di-ˌvī-'zē\ *n* : one to whom a devise of property is made

de·vi·sor \ˌdev-ə-'zȯ(ə)r; di-'vī-zər, -ˌvī-'zȯ(ə)r\ *n* : one who devises property in a will

de·vi·tal·ize \(')dē-'vīt-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vt* : to deprive of life, vigor, or effectiveness ⟨malaria seizes and ~*s* many more people than it actually kills —R. S. Shiwalkar⟩

de·vit·ri·fy \(')dē-'vi-trə-ˌfī\ *vt* [F *dévitrifier*, fr. *dé-* de- + *vitrifier* to vitrify] : to deprive of glassy luster and transparency; *esp* : to change (as a glass) from a vitreous to a crystalline condition — **de·vit·ri·fi·able** \-ˌfī-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **de·vit·ri·fi·ca·tion** \(ˌ)dē-ˌvi-trə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n*

de·vo·cal·ize \(')dē-'vō-kə-ˌlīz\ *vt* : DEVOICE

de·voice \(')dē-'vȯis\ *vt* : to pronounce (as a sometimes or formerly voiced sound) without vibration of the vocal cords

de·void \di-'vȯid\ *adj* [ME, prob. short for *devoided*, pp. of *devoiden* to vacate, fr. MF *desvuidier* to empty, fr. OF, fr. *des-* dis- + *vuidier* to empty — more at VOID] : not having or using : DESTITUTE ⟨a poem totally ~ of real quality⟩

de·voir \dəv-'wär, 'dev-ˌ\ *n* [ME, alter. of *dever*, fr. OF *deveir*, fr. *devoir, deveir* to owe, be obliged, fr. L *debēre* — more at DEBT] **1** : DUTY, RESPONSIBILITY **2** : a formal act of civility or respect

de·vo·lu·tion \ˌdev-ə-'lü-shən *also* ˌdē-və-\ *n* [ML *devolution-, devolutio*, fr. L *devolutus*, pp. of *devolvere*] **1** : transference from one individual to another: as **a** : a passing or devolving (as of rights) upon a successor **b** : delegation or conferral to a subordinate **c** : the surrender of powers to local authorities by a central government **2** : retrograde evolution : DEGENERATION — **de·vo·lu·tion·ary** \-shə-ˌner-ē\ *adj* — **de·vo·lu·tion·ist** \-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n*

de·volve \di-'välv, -'vȯlv\ *vb* **de·volved; de·volv·ing** [ME *devolven*, fr. L *devolvere*, fr. *de-* + *volvere* to roll — more at VOLUBLE] *vt* **1** *archaic* : to cause to roll onward or downward **2** : to transfer from one person to another : hand down ~ *vi* **1** : to pass by transmission or succession **2** : to flow or roll onward or downward

dev·on \'dev-ən\ *n, often cap* [*Devon*, England] : any of a breed of vigorous red dual-purpose cattle of English origin

Devon *abbr* Devonshire

De·vo·ni·an \di-'vō-nē-ən\ *adj* [*Devon*, England] **1** : of or relating to Devonshire, England **2** : of, relating to, or being the period of the Paleozoic era between the Silurian and the Mississippian or the corresponding system of rocks — **Devonian** *n*

Dev·on·shire cream \ˌdev-ən-ˌshi(ə)r-, -shər-\ *n* : CLOTTED CREAM

de·vote \di-'vōt\ *vt* **de·vot·ed; de·vot·ing** [L *devotus*, pp. of *devovēre*, fr. *de-* + *vovēre* to vow] **1** : to dedicate by a solemn act ⟨Christians are by their baptism *devoted* to God —William Law⟩ **2 a** : to give over (as to a cause, use, or end) wholly or purposefully ⟨land *devoted* to agriculture⟩ **b** : to center the attention or activities of (oneself) ⟨*devoting* herself to the care of her family⟩ — **de·vote·ment** \-'vōt-mənt\ *n*

syn DEVOTE, DEDICATE, CONSECRATE, HALLOW *shared meaning element* : to set apart for a particular and often a better or higher use or end. DEVOTE is likely to imply compelling motives and often attachment to an objective ⟨*devoted* his evenings to study⟩ ⟨*devote* money to charity⟩ DEDICATE implies solemn and exclusive devotion to a sacred or serious use or purpose ⟨we Americans are *dedicated* to improvement —Louis Kronenberger⟩ CONSECRATE stresses investment with a solemn or sacred quality ⟨*consecrate* a church to the worship of God⟩ and even in general use carries a strong connotation of intense devotion ⟨rules . . . *consecrated* by time —Edmund Burke⟩ HALLOW, often differing little from *dedicate* or *consecrate*, may distinctively imply an attribution of intrinsic sanctity ⟨the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and *hallowed* it — Exod 20:11 (AV)⟩

de·vot·ed *adj* **1** : ARDENT, DEVOUT **2** : AFFECTIONATE — **de·vot·ed·ly** *adv* — **de·vot·ed·ness** *n*

dev·o·tee \ˌdev-ə-'tē, -'tā; di-ˌvō-'tē\ *n* **1** : a person preoccupied with religious duties and ceremonies **2** : an ardent follower, supporter, or enthusiast ⟨a ~ of opera⟩

de·vo·tion \di-'vō-shən\ *n* **1 a** : religious fervor : PIETY **b** : an act of prayer or supplication — usu. used in pl. **c** : a religious exercise or practice other than the regular corporate worship of a congregation; *specif* : one directed in Roman Catholic piety to a particular object of faith **2 a** : the act of devoting or quality of being devoted **b** : ardent love or affection ***syn*** see FIDELITY

[1]de·vo·tion·al \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characterized by devotion — **de·vo·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

[2]devotional *n* : a short worship service

de·vour \di-'vau̇(ə)r\ *vt* [ME *devouren*, fr. MF *devourer*, fr. L *devorare*, fr. *de-* + *vorare* to devour — more at VORACIOUS] **1** : to eat up greedily or ravenously **2** : to seize upon and destroy : CONSUME ⟨~*ed* by fire⟩ **3** : to prey upon ⟨a man ~*ed* by guilt⟩ **4** : to enjoy avidly ⟨~*s* books⟩ — **de·vour·er** *n*

de·vout \di-'vau̇t\ *adj* [ME *devot*, fr. OF, fr. LL *devotus*, fr. L, pp. of *devovēre*] **1** : devoted to religion or to religious duties or exercises **2** : expressing devotion or piety **3** : warmly devoted : SINCERE — **de·vout·ly** *adv* — **de·vout·ness** *n*

syn DEVOUT, RELIGIOUS, PIOUS, PIETISTIC, SANCTIMONIOUS *shared meaning element* : showing fervor in the practice of religion

dew \'d(y)ü\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *dēaw*; akin to OHG *tou* dew, Gk *thein* to run] **1** : moisture condensed upon the surfaces of cool bodies esp. at night **2** : something resembling dew in purity, freshness, or power to refresh **3** : moisture esp. when appearing in minute droplets: as **a** : TEARS **b** : SWEAT **c** : droplets of water produced by a plant in transpiration — **dew** *vt* — **dew·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

DEW *abbr* distant early warning

de·wan \di-'wän\ *n* [Hindi *dīwān*, fr. Per, account book] : an Indian official; *esp* : the prime minister of an Indian state

Dew·ar flask \ˌd(y)ü-ər-\ *n* [Sir James *Dewar*] : a glass or metal container that has an evacuated space between the walls, is often silvered on the innermost surface to prevent heat transfer, and is used esp. for storing liquefied gases — compare VACUUM BOTTLE
de·wa·ter \(ˈ)dē-ˈwȯt-ər, -ˈwät-\ *vt* : to remove water from — **de·wa·ter·er** *n*
dew·ber·ry \ˈd(y)ü-ˌber-ē\ *n* **1** : any of several sweet edible berries related to and resembling blackberries **2** : a trailing or decumbent bramble (genus *Rubus*) that bears dewberries
dew·claw \ˈd(y)ü-ˌklȯ\ *n* : a vestigial digit not reaching to the ground on the foot of a mammal; *also* : a claw or hoof terminating such a digit — see COW illustration — **dew·clawed** \-ˌklȯd\ *adj*
dew·drop \ˈd(y)ü-ˌdräp\ *n* : a drop of dew
Dew·ey decimal classification \ˌd(y)ü-ē-\ *n* [Melvil *Dewey*] : a system of classifying books and other publications whereby main classes are designated by a three-digit number and subdivisions are shown by numbers after a decimal point
dew·fall \ˈd(y)ü-ˌfȯl\ *n* : formation of dew; *also* : the time when dew begins to deposit
dew·lap \ˈd(y)ü-ˌlap\ *n* : a hanging fold of skin under the neck esp. of a bovine animal — see COW illustration — **dew·lapped** \-ˌlapt\ *adj*
de·worm \(ˈ)de-ˈwərm\ *vt* : to rid (as a dog) of worms : WORM 1
dew point *n* : the temperature at which a vapor begins to condense
dew worm *n* : NIGHT CRAWLER
dewy \ˈd(y)ü-ē\ *adj* **dew·i·er; -est** : moist with, affected by, or suggestive of dew — **dew·i·ly** \ˈd(y)ü-ə-lē\ *adv* — **dew·i·ness** \ˈd(y)ü-ē-nəs\ *n*
dewy-eyed \ˌd(y)ü-ē-ˈīd\ *adj* : naively credulous
dex \ˈdeks\ *n* : the sulfate of dextroamphetamine
dexa·meth·a·sone \ˌdek-sə-ˈmeth-ə-ˌsōn, -ˌzōn\ *n* [perh. fr. *Dexa*myl, a trademark + *meth*yl + *-sone* (as in *cortisone*)] : a synthetic adrenocortical steroid $C_{22}H_{29}FO_5$ used esp. as an anti-inflammatory agent
Dex·e·drine \ˈdek-sə-ˌdrēn, -drən\ *trademark* — used for a preparation of the sulfate of dextroamphetamine
dex·ies \ˈdek-sēz\ *n pl* [*dex* + *-ie* + *-s*] : tablets or capsules of the sulfate of dextroamphetamine
dex·io·tro·pic \ˌdek-sē-ə-ˈtrō-pik, -ˈträp-ik\ *or* **dex·i·ot·ro·pous** \-sē-ˈä-trə-pəs\ *adj* [Gk *dexios* situated on the right + E *-tropic* or *-tropous*] : turning to the right : DEXTRAL
dex·ter \ˈdek-stər\ *adj* [L; akin to Gk *dexios* situated on the right, L *decēre* to be fitting — more at DECENT] **1** : relating to or situated on the right **2** : being or relating to the side of a heraldic shield at the right of the person bearing it **3** : appearing or facing toward the right and considered of good omen — **dexter** *adv*
dex·ter·i·ty \dek-ˈster-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [MF or L; MF *dexterité*, fr. L *dexteritat-, dexteritas*, fr. *dexter*] **1** : readiness and grace in physical activity; *esp* : skill and ease in using the hands **2** : mental skill or quickness : ADROITNESS
dex·ter·ous *or* **dex·trous** \ˈdek-st(ə-)rəs\ *adj* [L *dextr-, dexter* dextral, skillful] **1** : skillful and competent with the hands **2** : mentally adroit and skillful : EXPERT **3** : done with dexterity : ARTFUL — **dex·ter·ous·ly** *adv* — **dex·ter·ous·ness** *n*
syn DEXTEROUS, ADROIT, DEFT *shared meaning element* : ready and skilled in physical movements or, sometimes, mental activity ***ant*** clumsy
dextr- *or* **dextro-** *comb form* [LL, fr. L *dextr-, dexter*] **1** : right : on or toward the right ⟨*dextro*rotatory⟩ **2** *usu dextro-* : dextrorotatory ⟨*dextro*-tartaric acid⟩
dex·tral \ˈdek-strəl\ *adj* : of or relating to the right : inclined to the right: as **a** : RIGHT-HANDED **b** *of a flatfish* : having the right side uppermost **c** *of a gastropod shell* : having the whorls turning from the left toward the right as viewed with the apex toward the observer or having the aperture open toward the observer to the right of the axis when held with the spire uppermost — **dex·tral·i·ty** \dek-ˈstral-ət-ē\ *n* — **dex·tral·ly** \ˈdek-strə-lē\ *adv*
dex·tran \ˈdek-stran, -strən\ *n* [*dextr*ose + *-an*] : any of numerous polysaccharides $(C_6H_{10}O_5)_n$ that yield only glucose on hydrolysis: as **a** : any such compound of high molecular weight obtained by fermentation of sugar **b** : any such compound of reduced molecular weight obtained by acid hydrolysis of native dextran and used as a plasma substitute
dex·tran·ase \-strə-ˌnās, -ˌnāz\ *n* : a hydrolase that breaks down dextran and is effective in attacking dental plaque
dex·trin \ˈdek-strən\ *also* **dex·trine** \-ˌstrēn, -strən\ *n* [F *dextrine*, fr. *dextr-*] : any of various soluble gummy polysaccharides $(C_6H_{10}O_5)_n$ obtained from starch by the action of heat, acids, or enzymes and used as adhesives, as sizes for paper and textiles, and in syrups and beer
dex·tro \ˈdek-(ˌ)strō\ *adj* [*dextr-*] : DEXTROROTATORY
dex·tro·am·phet·amine \ˈdek-(ˌ)strō-am-ˈfet-ə-ˌmēn, -mən\ *n* : AMPHETAMINE 2b
dex·tro-glu·cose \ˌdek-strə-ˈglü-ˌkōs, -ˌkōz\ *n* : DEXTROSE
dex·tro·ro·ta·tion \ˌdek-strə-rō-ˈtā-shən\ *n* : right-handed or clockwise rotation — used of the plane of polarization of light
dex·tro·ro·ta·to·ry \-ˈrōt-ə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *also* **dex·tro·ro·ta·ry** \-ˈrōt-ə-rē\ *adj* : turning clockwise or toward the right; *esp* : rotating the plane of polarization of light toward the right ⟨~ crystals⟩ — compare LEVOROTATORY
dex·trorse \ˈdek-ˌstrȯ(ə)rs\ *adj* [NL *dextrorsus*, fr. L, toward the right, fr. *dextr-* + *versus*, pp. of *vertere* to turn — more at WORTH] **1** *of a plant or its parts* : twining spirally upward around an axis from left to right — compare SINISTRORSE **2** : DEXTRAL c — **dex·trorse·ly** *adv*
dex·trose \ˈdek-ˌstrōs, -ˌstrōz\ *n* : dextrorotatory glucose
dey \ˈdā\ *n* [F, fr. Turk *dayı*, lit., maternal uncle] : a ruling official of the Ottoman empire in northern Africa
DF *abbr* **1** damage free **2** direction finder; direction finding **3** doctor of forestry
DFA *abbr* doctor of fine arts
DFC *abbr* Distinguished Flying Cross
DFM *abbr* Distinguished Flying Medal
dft *abbr* **1** defendant **2** draft
dg *abbr* decigram
DG *abbr* **1** [LL *Dei gratia*] by the grace of God **2** director general
DH *abbr* **1** designated hitter **2** doctor of humanities
dhar·ma \ˈdər-mə\ *n* [Skt, fr. *dhārayati* he holds; akin to L *firmus* firm] **1** *Hinduism* : an individual's duty fulfilled by observance of custom or law **2** *Hinduism & Buddhism* **a** : the basic principles of cosmic or individual existence : NATURE **b** : conformity to one's duty and nature — **dhar·mic** \-mik\ *adj*
DHL *abbr* doctor of Hebrew letters; doctor of Hebrew literature
dhole \ˈdōl\ *n* [perh. fr. Kanarese *tōla* wolf] : a fierce wild dog (*Cuon dukhunensis*) of India that hunts in packs
dho·ti \ˈdōt-ē\ *or* **dhoo·tie** \ˈdüt-ē\ *n* [Hindi *dhotī*] **1** : a loincloth worn by Hindu men **2** : a fabric used for dhotis
dhow \ˈdau̇\ *n* [Ar *dāwa*] : an Arab lateen-rigged boat usu. having a long overhang forward, a high poop, and an open waist
Dhu'l-Hij·ja \ˌdü(-ə)l-ˈhij-(ˌ)ä\ *n* [Ar *Dhū-l-ḥijjah*, lit., the one of the pilgrimage] : the 12th month of the Muhammadan year — see MONTH table
Dhu'l-Qa'·dah \-ˈkäd-(ˌ)ä\ *n* [Ar *Dhū-l-qa'dah*, lit., the one of the sitting] : the 11th month of the Muhammadan year — see MONTH table
di- *comb form* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L, fr. Gk; akin to OE *twi-*] **1** : twice : twofold : double ⟨*di*chromatic⟩ **2** : containing two atoms, radicals, or groups ⟨*di*chloride⟩
dia *abbr* diameter
dia- *also* **di-** *prefix* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L, fr. Gk, through, apart, fr. *dia*; akin to L *dis-*] : through ⟨*dia*positive⟩ : across ⟨*dia*dromous⟩
di·a·base \ˈdī-ə-ˌbās\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *diabasis* act of crossing over, fr. *diabainein* to cross over, fr. *dia-* + *bainein* to go — more at COME] **1** *archaic* : DIORITE **2** *chiefly Brit* : an altered basalt **3** : a fine-grained rock of the composition of gabbro but with an ophitic texture — **di·a·ba·sic** \ˌdī-ə-ˈbā-sik\ *adj*
di·a·be·tes \ˌdī-ə-ˈbēt-ēz, -ˈbēt-əs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *diabētēs*, fr. *diabainein*] : any of various abnormal conditions characterized by the secretion and excretion of excessive amounts of urine
diabetes in·sip·i·dus \-in-ˈsip-əd-əs\ *n* [NL, lit., insipid diabetes] : a disorder of the pituitary gland characterized by intense thirst and by the excretion of large amounts of urine
diabetes mel·li·tus \-ˈmel-ət-əs\ *n* [NL, lit., honey-sweet diabetes] : a familial constitutional disorder of carbohydrate metabolism characterized by inadequate secretion or utilization of insulin, by polyuria and excessive amounts of sugar in the blood and urine, and by thirst, hunger, and loss of weight
1di·a·bet·ic \ˌdī-ə-ˈbet-ik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to diabetes or diabetics **2** : affected with diabetes
2diabetic *n* : a person affected with diabetes
di·a·ble·rie \dē-ˈäb-lə-(ˌ)rē, -ˈab-\ *n* [F, fr. OF, fr. *dïable* devil, fr. LL *diabolus* — more at DEVIL] **1** : black magic : SORCERY **2** **a** : a representation in words or pictures of black magic or of dealings with the devil **b** : demon lore **3** **a** : mischievous conduct or manner **b** : the quality or state of being wicked
diabol- *or* **diabolo-** *comb form* [ME *deabol-*, fr. MF *diabol-*, fr. LL, fr. Gk, fr. *diabolos* — more at DEVIL] : devil ⟨*diabol*ism⟩
di·a·bol·ic \ˌdī-ə-ˈbäl-ik\ *or* **di·a·bol·i·cal** \-ˈbäl-i-kəl\ *adj* [ME *deabolik*, fr. MF *diabolique*, fr. LL *diabolicus*, fr. *diabolus*] : of, relating to, or characteristic of the devil : FIENDISH — **di·a·bol·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **di·a·bol·i·cal·ness** \-i-kəl-nəs\ *n*
di·ab·o·lism \dī-ˈab-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* **1** : dealings with or possession by the devil **2** : evil character or conduct **3** : belief in or worship of devils — **di·ab·o·list** \-ləst\ *n*
di·ab·o·lize \-ˌlīz\ *vt* **-lized; liz·ing** : to represent as or make diabolical
dia·chron·ic \ˌdī-ə-ˈkrän-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or dealing with phenomena esp. of language as they occur or change over a period of time — **dia·chron·i·cal·ly** \-ˈkrän-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **dia·chron·ic·ness** \-ik-nəs\ *n*
di·ach·ro·ny \dī-ˈak-rə-nē\ *n* [ISV *dia-* + *-chrony* (as in *synchrony*)] **1** : diachronic analysis **2** : change extending through time
1di·ac·id \(ˈ)dī-ˈas-əd\ *or* **di·acid·ic** \ˌdī-ə-ˈsid-ik\ *adj* **1** : able to react with two molecules of a monobasic acid or one of a dibasic acid to form a salt or ester — used esp. of bases **2** : containing two replaceable hydrogen atoms — used esp. of acid salts
2diacid *n* [ISV] : an acid with two acid hydrogen atoms
di·ac·o·nal \dī-ˈak-ən-ᵊl, dē-\ *adj* [LL *diaconalis*, fr. *diaconus* deacon — more at DEACON] : of or relating to a deacon or deaconess
di·ac·o·nate \-ˈak-ə-nət, -ˌnāt\ *n* **1** : the office or period of office of a deacon or deaconess **2** : an official body of deacons
di·a·crit·ic \ˌdī-ə-ˈkrit-ik\ *n* : a modifying mark near or through an orthographic or phonetic character or combination of characters indicating a phonetic value different from that given the unmarked or otherwise marked element

DIACRITICS

´	(é)	acute accent	◡	(ŭ)	breve
`	(è)	grave accent	ˇ	(č)	hačeк
^	(ô) *or* ⌢ *or* ~	circumflex	¨	(oö)	diaeresis
~	(ñ)	tilde	¸	(ç)	cedilla
¯	(ō)	macron			

di·a·crit·i·cal \ˌdī-ə-ˈkrit-i-kəl\ *also* **di·a·crit·ic** \-ˈkrit-ik\ *adj* [Gk *diakritikos* separative, fr. *diakrinein* to distinguish, fr. *dia-* + *krinein* to separate — more at CERTAIN] **1** : serving as a diacritic **2** **a** : serving to distinguish : DISTINCTIVE ⟨the ~ elements in culture — S. F. Nadel⟩ **b** : capable of distinguishing ⟨students of superior ~ powers⟩
di·adel·phous \ˌdī-ə-ˈdel-fəs\ *adj* [*di-* + *-adelphous*] : united by filaments into two fascicles — used of stamens
di·a·dem \ˈdī-ə-ˌdem, -əd-əm\ *n* [ME *diademe*, fr. OF, fr. L *diadema*, fr. Gk *diadēma*, fr. *diadein* to bind around, fr. *dia-* +

dein to bind; akin to Alb *duai* sheaf, Skt *dāman* rope] **1** : CROWN; *specif* : a headband worn as a badge of royalty **2** : regal power or dignity

di·ad·ro·mous \dī-'ad-rə-məs\ *adj, of a fish* : migratory between salt and fresh waters

di·aer·e·sis \dī-'er-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-e·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [LL *diaeresis*, fr. Gk *diairesis*, fr. *diairein* to divide, fr. *dia-* + *hairein* to take] **1** : a mark ¨ placed over a vowel to indicate that the vowel is pronounced in a separate syllable (as in *naïve* or *Brontë*) **2** : the break in a verse caused by the coincidence of the end of a foot with the end of a word — **di·ae·ret·ic** \ˌdī-ə-'ret-ik\ *adj*

diag *abbr* **1** diagonal **2** diagram

dia·gen·e·sis \ˌdī-ə-'jen-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] **1** : recombination or rearrangement of constituents (as of a chemical or mineral) resulting in a new product **2** : the conversion (as by compaction or chemical reaction) of sediment into rock — **dia·ge·net·ic** \ˌdī-ə-jə-'net-ik\ *adj* — **dia·ge·net·i·cal·ly** \-'net-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

dia·ge·ot·ro·pism \ˌdī-ə-jē-'ä-trə-ˌpiz-əm\ *or* **dia·ge·ot·ro·py** \-pē\ *n* : the tendency of growing organs (as branches or roots) to extend the axis at right angles to the line of gravity — **dia·geo·tro·pic** \-ˌjē-ə-'trō-pik, -'träp-ik\ *adj*

di·ag·nose \'dī-ig-ˌnōs, -ˌnōz, ˌdī-ig-', -əg-\ *vb* **-nosed; -nos·ing** [back-formation fr. *diagnosis*] *vt* : to recognize (as a disease) by signs and symptoms ~ *vi* : to make a diagnosis — **di·ag·nos·able** *or* **di·ag·nose·able** \ˌdī-ig-'nō-sə-bəl, -əg-, -zə- \ *adj*

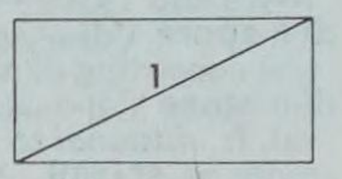
di·ag·no·sis \ˌdī-ig-'nō-səs, -əg-\ *n, pl* **-no·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *diagnōsis*, fr. *diagignōskein* to distinguish, fr. *dia-* + *gignōskein* to know — more at KNOW] **1** : the art or act of identifying a disease from its signs and symptoms **2** : a concise technical description of a taxon **3 a** : investigation or analysis of the cause or nature of a condition, situation, or problem ⟨~ of engine trouble⟩ **b** : a statement or conclusion concerning the nature or cause of some phenomenon

¹di·ag·nos·tic \-'näs-tik\ *also* **di·ag·nos·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* : of or relating to diagnosis — **di·ag·nos·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

²diagnostic *n* **1** : the art or practice of diagnosis — often used in pl. **2** : a distinguishing mark — **di·ag·nos·ti·cian** \-(ˌ)näs-'tish-ən\ *n*

¹di·ag·o·nal \dī-'ag-ən-ᵊl, -'ag-nəl\ *adj* [L *diagonalis*, fr. Gk *diagōnios* from angle to angle, fr. *dia-* + *gōnia* angle; akin to Gk *gony* knee — more at KNEE] **1 a** : joining two nonadjacent vertices of a rectilinear or polyhedral figure **b** : passing through two nonadjacent edges of a polyhedron **2 a** : inclined obliquely from a reference line (as the vertical) ⟨wood with a ~ grain⟩ **b** : having diagonal markings or parts ⟨a ~ weave⟩

²diagonal *n* **1** : a diagonal straight line or plane **2 a** (1) : a diagonal direction (2) : a diagonal row, arrangement, or pattern **b** : a twilled fabric esp. of wool **c** : something placed diagonally **3** : a mark / used typically to denote "or" (as in *and/or*), "and or" (as in *straggler/deserter*), or "per" (as in *feet/second*) — called also *solidus, virgule*



1, diagonal 1

di·ag·o·nal·ize \-ˌīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to put (a matrix) in a form with all the nonzero elements along the diagonal from upper left to lower right — **di·ag·o·nal·iz·able** \-ˌī-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **di·ag·o·nal·iza·tion** \-ˌag-ən-ᵊl-ə-'zā-shən, -ˌag-nə-lə-'zā-\ *n*

di·ag·o·nal·ly \dī-'ag-ən-ᵊl-ē, -'ag-nə-lē\ *adv* : in a diagonal manner

diagonal matrix *n* : a matrix that has all the nonzero elements located along the diagonal from upper left to lower right

¹di·a·gram \'dī-ə-ˌgram\ *n* [Gk *diagramma*, fr. *diagraphein* to mark out by lines, fr. *dia-* + *graphein* to write — more at CARVE] **1** : a line drawing made for mathematical or scientific purposes **2 a** : a graphic design that explains rather than represents **b** : a drawing that shows arrangement and relations (as of parts) : CHART — **di·a·gram·ma·ble** \-ˌgram-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **di·a·gram·mat·ic** \ˌdī-ə-grə-'mat-ik\ *also* **di·a·gram·mat·i·cal** \-'mat-i-kəl\ *adj* — **di·a·gram·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

²diagram *vt* **-gramed** \-ˌgramd\ *or* **-grammed; -gram·ing** \-ˌgram-iŋ\ *or* **-gram·ming** : to represent by or put into the form of a diagram

dia·ki·ne·sis \ˌdī-ə-kə-'nē-səs, -(ˌ)kī-\ *n, pl* **-ne·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *dia-* + Gk *kinēsis* motion, fr. *kinein* to move; akin to L *ciēre* to move — more at HIGHT] : the final stage of the meiotic prophase marked by contraction of the bivalents — **dia·ki·net·ic** \-'net-ik\ *adj*

¹di·al \'dī(-ə)l\ *n* [ME, fr. L *dies* day — more at DEITY] **1** : the face of a sundial **2** *obs* : TIMEPIECE **3** : the graduated face of a timepiece **4 a** : a face upon which some measurement is registered usu. by means of graduations and a pointer ⟨the thermometer ~ reads 70°F⟩ **b** : a device (as a disk) that may be operated to make electrical connections or to regulate the operation of a machine and that usu. has guiding marks around its border ⟨a radio ~⟩ ⟨a telephone ~⟩

²dial *vb* **di·aled** *or* **di·alled; di·al·ing** *or* **di·al·ling** *vt* **1** : to measure with a dial **2** : to manipulate a device (as a dial) so as to operate, regulate, or select ⟨~ your favorite program⟩ ⟨he ~*ed* the wrong number⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to manipulate a dial **2** : to make a call on a dial telephone — **di·al·er** *n*

³dial *abbr* **1** dialect **2** dialectical

di·a·lect \'dī-ə-ˌlekt\ *n, often attrib* [MF *dialecte*, fr. L *dialectus*, fr. Gk *dialektos* conversation, dialect, fr. *dialegesthai* to converse — more at DIALOGUE] **1 a** : a regional variety of language distinguished by features of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation from other regional varieties and constituting together with them a single language of which no one variety is construed as standard ⟨the Doric ~ of ancient Greek⟩ **b** : one of two or more cognate languages ⟨French and Italian are Romance ~*s*⟩ **c** : a regional variety of a language usu. transmitted orally and differing distinctively from the standard language ⟨the Lancashire ~ of English⟩ **d** : a variety of a language used by the members of an occupational group ⟨the ~ of the atomic physicist⟩ **e** : a variety of language whose identity is fixed by a factor (as social class or educational level of its habitual users) other than geography ⟨spoke a rough peasant ~⟩ **2** : manner or means of expressing oneself : PHRASEOLOGY — **di·a·lec·tal** \ˌdī-ə-'lek-tᵊl\ *adj* — **di·a·lec·tal·ly** \-tᵊl-ē\ *adv*

syn DIALECT, VERNACULAR, LINGO, JARGON, CANT, ARGOT, SLANG *shared meaning element* : a form of language that is not recognized as standard

dialect atlas *n* : LINGUISTIC ATLAS

dialect geography *n* : LINGUISTIC GEOGRAPHY

di·a·lec·tic \ˌdī-ə-'lek-tik\ *n* [ME *dialetik*, fr. MF *dialetique*, fr. L *dialectica*, fr. Gk *dialektikē*, fr. fem. of *dialektikos* of conversation, fr. *dialektos*] **1 a** : discussion and reasoning by dialogue as a method of intellectual investigation; *specif* : the Socratic techniques of exposing false beliefs and eliciting truth **b** : the Platonic investigation of the eternal ideas **2** : LOGIC 1a(1) **3** : the logic of fallacy **4 a** : the Hegelian process of change in which a concept or its realization passes over into and is preserved and fulfilled by its opposite; *also* : the critical investigation of this process **b** (1) *usu pl but sing or pl in constr* : development through the stages of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis in accordance with the laws of dialectical materialism (2) : the investigation of this process (3) : the theoretical application of this process esp. in the social sciences **5** *usu pl but sing or pl in constr* **a** : any systematic reasoning, exposition, or argument that juxtaposes opposed or contradictory ideas and usu. seeks to resolve their conflict **b** : an intellectual exchange of ideas **6** : the dialectical tension or opposition between two interacting forces or elements

di·a·lec·ti·cal \ˌdī-ə-'lek-ti-kəl\ *also* **di·a·lec·tic** \-tik\ *adj* **1 a** : of, relating to, or in accordance with dialectic ⟨~ method⟩ **b** : practicing, devoted to, or employing dialectic ⟨a ~ philosopher⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or characteristic of a dialect — **di·a·lec·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

dialectical materialism *n* : the Marxian theory that maintains the material basis of a reality constantly changing in a dialectical process and the priority of matter over mind — compare HISTORICAL MATERIALISM

di·a·lec·ti·cian \ˌdī-ə-ˌlek-'tish-ən\ *n* **1** : one who is skilled in or practices dialectic **2** : a student of dialects

di·a·lec·tol·o·gist \-'täl-ə-jəst\ *n* : a specialist in dialectology

di·a·lec·tol·o·gy \-jē\ *n* [ISV] **1** : the systematic study of dialect **2** : the body of data available for study of a dialect — **di·a·lec·to·log·i·cal** \-ˌlek-tə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **di·a·lec·to·log·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

di·al·lel \'dī-ə-ˌlel\ *adj* [Gk *diallēlos* reciprocating, confused, fr. *di'allēlōn* through or across one another] : relating to or being the crossing of each of several individuals with two or more others in order to determine the relative genetic contribution of each parent to certain characters in the offspring

di·a·log·ic \ˌdī-ə-'läj-ik\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characterized by dialogue ⟨~ writing⟩ — **di·a·log·i·cal** \-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj* — **di·a·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

di·a·lo·gist \dī-'al-ə-jəst; 'dī-ə-ˌlȯg-əst, -ˌläg-\ *n* **1** : one who participates in a dialogue **2** : a writer of dialogues — **di·a·lo·gis·tic** \(ˌ)dī-ˌal-ə-'jis-tik; ˌdī-ə-ˌlȯ-'gis-, -ˌlä-'gis-\ *adj*

¹di·a·logue *or* **di·a·log** \'dī-ə-ˌlȯg, -ˌläg\ *n* [MF, fr. OF, fr. L *dialogus*, fr. Gk *dialogos*, fr. *dialegesthai* to converse, fr. *dia-* + *legein* to speak] **1** : a written composition in which two or more characters are represented as conversing **2 a** : a conversation between two or more persons; *also* : a similar exchange between a person and something else (as a computer) **b** : an exchange of ideas and opinions **3** : the conversational element of literary or dramatic composition **4** : a musical composition for two or more parts suggestive of a conversation

²dialogue *vb* **-logued; -logu·ing** *vi* : to take part in a dialogue ~ *vt* : to express in dialogue

dial tone *n* : a tone emitted by a telephone as a signal that the system is ready for dialing

di·al·y·sate \dī-'al-ə-ˌzāt, -ˌsāt\ *or* **di·al·y·zate** \-ˌzāt\ *n* [*dialysis* or *dialyze* + *-ate*] : the material that passes through the membrane in dialysis; *also* : the liquid into which this material passes

di·al·y·sis \dī-'al-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-y·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk, separation, fr. *dialyein* to dissolve, fr. *dia-* + *lyein* to loosen — more at LOSE] : the separation of substances in solution by means of their unequal diffusion through semipermeable membranes; *esp* : such a separation of colloids from soluble substances — **di·a·lyt·ic** \ˌdī-ə-'lit-ik\ *adj*

di·a·lyze \'dī-ə-ˌlīz\ *vb* **-lyzed; -lyz·ing** *vt* : to subject to dialysis ~ *vi* : to undergo dialysis — **di·a·lyz·abil·i·ty** \ˌdī-ə-ˌlī-zə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **di·a·lyz·able** \'dī-ə-ˌlī-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **di·a·lyz·er** \-ˌlī-zər\ *n*

diam *abbr* diameter

dia·mag·net \'dī-ə-ˌmag-nət\ *or* **dia·mag·net·ic** \ˌdī-ə-mag-'net-ik\ *n* [*diamagnet* back-formation fr. *diamagnetic*, adj.] : a diamagnetic substance

diamagnetic *adj* : having a magnetic permeability less than that of a vacuum : slightly repelled by a magnet — **dia·mag·ne·tism** \-'mag-nə-ˌtiz-əm\ *n*

di·am·e·ter \dī-'am-ət-ər\ *n* [ME *diametre*, fr. MF, fr. L *diametros*, fr. Gk, fr. *dia-* + *metron* measure — more at MEASURE] **1** : a chord passing through the center of a figure or body **2** : the length of a straight line through the center of an object **3** : a unit of magnification of observations with a magnifying device equal to the number of times the linear dimensions of the object are increased ⟨a microscope magnifying 60 ~*s*⟩ — **di·am·e·tral** \-'am-ə-trəl\ *adj*

di·a·met·ric \ˌdī-ə-'me-trik\ *or* **di·a·met·ri·cal** \-tri-kəl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or constituting a diameter : located at the diameter **2**

: completely opposed or opposite ⟨in ~ contradiction to his claims⟩ — **di·a·met·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

di·amide \'dī-ə-ˌmīd, dī-'am-əd\ *n* : a compound containing two amido groups

di·amine \'dī-ə-ˌmēn, dī-'am-ən\ *n* [ISV] : a compound containing two amino groups

di·am·mo·ni·um phosphate \-ə-ˌmō-nē-əm-, -nyəm-\ *n* : an ammonium phosphate $(NH_4)_2HPO_4$

¹di·a·mond \'dī-(ə-)mənd\ *n, often attrib* [ME *diamaunde*, fr. MF *diamant*, fr. LL *diamant-, diamas*, alter. of L *adamant-, adamas*, hardest metal, diamond, fr. Gk] **1 a** : a native crystalline carbon that is usu. nearly colorless, that when transparent and free from flaws is highly valued as a precious stone, and that is used industrially as an abrasive powder and in rock drills because of its great hardness; *also* : a piece of this substance **b** : crystallized carbon produced artificially **2** : something that resembles a diamond **3** : a square or rhombus-shaped configuration usu. having a distinctive orientation **4 a** : a red diamond-shaped mark impressed on a playing card; *also* : a card so marked **b** *pl but sing or pl in constr* : the suit comprising cards so marked **5 a** : INFIELD 2a **b** : the entire playing field in baseball

²diamond *vt* : to adorn with or as if with diamonds

¹di·a·mond·back \'dī-(ə-)mən(d)-ˌbak\ *also* **di·a·mond–backed** \ˌdī-(ə-)mən(d)-'bakt\ *adj* : having marks like diamonds or lozenges on the back

²diamondback *n* : a large and deadly rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*) of the southern U.S.

diamondback terrapin *n* : any of several edible terrapins (genus *Malaclemys*) formerly widely distributed in salt marshes along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts but now much restricted

di·a·mond·if·er·ous \ˌdī-(ə-)mən-'dif-(ə-)rəs\ *adj* : yielding diamonds ⟨~ earth⟩

Di·ana \dī-'an-ə\ *n* [L] : an ancient Italian goddess of the forest and of childbirth who was identified with Artemis by the Romans

di·an·drous \(')dī-'an-drəs\ *adj* : having two stamens

di·an·thus \dī-'an(t)-thəs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *dios* heavenly + *anthos* flower — more at DEITY, ANTHOLOGY] : ³PINK 1

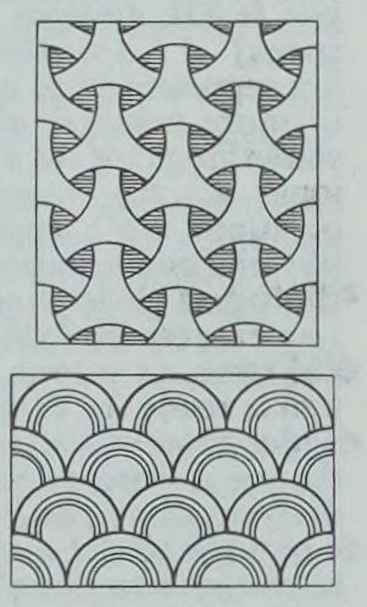
di·a·pa·son \ˌdī-ə-'pāz-ᵊn, -'pās-\ *n* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk (*hē*) *dia pasōn* (*chordōn symphōnia*) the concord through all the notes, fr. *dia* through + *pasōn*, gen. fem. pl. of *pas* all — more at DIA-, PAN-] **1 a** (1) : a burst of harmonious sound (2) : a full deep outburst of sound **b** : the principal foundation stop in the organ extending through the complete range of the instrument **c** (1) : the entire compass of musical tones (2) : RANGE, SCOPE ⟨the vast ~ of his poetic talent⟩ **2 a** : TUNING FORK **b** : a standard of pitch

dia·pause \'dī-ə-ˌpȯz\ *n* [Gk *diapausis* pause, fr. *diapauein* to pause, fr. *dia-* + *pauein* to stop — more at PAUSE] : a period of physiologically enforced dormancy (as developmental arrest in an insect) between periods of activity

dia·paus·ing \-ˌpȯ-ziŋ\ *adj* : undergoing diapause

di·a·pe·de·sis \ˌdī-ə-pə-'dē-səs\ *n, pl* **-de·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *diapēdēsis* act of oozing through, fr. *diapēdan* to ooze through, fr. *dia-* + *pēdan* to leap] : the passage of blood cells through capillary walls into the tissues — **di·a·pe·det·ic** \-'det-ik\ *adj*

¹di·a·per \'dī(-ə)-pər\ *n* [ME *diapre*, fr. MF, fr. ML *diasprum*] **1** : a fabric with a distinctive pattern: **a** : a rich silk fabric **b** : a soft usu. white linen or cotton fabric used for tablecloths or towels **2** : a basic garment for infants consisting of a folded cloth or other absorbent material drawn up between the legs and fastened about the waist **3** : an allover pattern consisting of one or more small repeated units of design (as geometric figures) connecting with one another or growing out of one another with continuously flowing or straight lines



diaper 3

²diaper *vt* **di·a·pered; di·a·per·ing** \-p(ə-)riŋ\ **1** : to ornament with diaper designs **2** : to put on or change the diaper of (an infant)

di·a·pha·ne·ity \(ˌ)dī-ˌaf-ə-'nē-ət-ē, ˌdī-ə-fə-, -'nā-\ *n* : the quality or state of being diaphanous

di·aph·a·nous \dī-'af-ə-nəs\ *adj* [ML *diaphanus*, fr. Gk *diaphanēs*, fr. *diaphainein* to show through, fr. *dia-* + *phainein* to show — more at FANCY] **1** : characterized by such fineness of texture as to permit seeing through **2** : characterized by extreme delicacy of form : ETHEREAL ⟨painted ~ landscapes⟩ **3** : INSUBSTANTIAL, VAGUE ⟨had only a ~ hope of success⟩ — **di·aph·a·nous·ly** *adv* — **di·aph·a·nous·ness** *n*

dia·phone \'dī-ə-ˌfōn\ *n* : a fog signal similar to a siren but producing a blast of two tones

di·aph·o·rase \dī-'af-ə-ˌrās, -ˌrāz\ *n* [Gk *diaphoros* different + E *-ase*] : a flavoprotein enzyme capable of oxidizing the reduced form of NAD

di·a·pho·re·sis \ˌdī-ə-fə-'rē-səs, (ˌ)dī-ˌaf-ə-\ *n, pl* **-re·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [LL, fr. Gk *diaphorēsis*, fr. *diaphorein* to dissipate by perspiration, fr. *dia-* + *pherein* to carry — more at BEAR] : PERSPIRATION; *esp* : profuse perspiration artificially induced

di·a·pho·ret·ic \-'ret-ik\ *adj* : having the power to increase perspiration — **diaphoretic** *n*

¹di·a·phragm \'dī-ə-ˌfram\ *n* [ME *diafragma*, fr. LL *diaphragma*, fr. Gk, fr. *diaphrassein* to barricade, fr. *dia-* + *phrassein* to enclose — more at FARCE] **1** : a body partition of muscle and connective tissue; *specif* : the partition separating the chest and abdominal cavities in mammals **2** : a dividing membrane or thin partition esp. in a tube **3 a** : a more or less rigid partition in the body or shell of an invertebrate **b** : a transverse septum in a plant stem **4** : a device that limits the aperture of a lens or optical system — compare IRIS DIAPHRAGM **5** : a thin flexible disk that vibrates (as in a microphone) **6** : a molded cap usu. of thin rubber fitted over the uterine cervix to act as a mechanical contraceptive barrier — **di·a·phrag·mat·ic** \ˌdī-ə-frə(g)-'mat-ik, -ˌfrag-\ *adj* — **di·a·phrag·mat·i·cal·ly** \-'mat-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

²diaphragm *vt* **1** : to equip with a diaphragm **2** : to cut down the aperture of (as a lens) by a diaphragm

di·aph·y·sis \dī-'af-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-y·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk, spinous process of the tibia, fr. *diaphyesthai* to grow between, fr. *dia-* + *phyein* to bring forth — more at BE] : the shaft of a long bone — **di·aph·y·se·al** \(ˌ)dī-ˌaf-ə-'sē-əl\ *or* **di·a·phys·i·al** \ˌdī-ə-'fiz-ē-əl\ *adj*

di·a·pir \'dī-ə-ˌpi(ə)r\ *n* [Gk *diapeirein* to drive through, fr. *dia-* + *peirein* to pierce; akin to Gk *poros* passage — more at FARE] : an anticlinal fold in which a mobile core has broken through brittle overlying rocks — **di·a·pir·ic** \ˌdī-ə-'pir-ik\ *adj*

di·apoph·y·sis \ˌdī-ə-'päf-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-y·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *dia-* + *apophysis*] : a transverse process of a vertebra that is an outgrowth of the neural arch on the dorsal side; *esp* : one of the dorsal pair of such processes when two or more pairs are present

dia·pos·i·tive \ˌdī-ə-'päz-ət-iv, -'päz-tiv\ *n* : a transparent photographic positive (as a transparency)

di·ap·sid \dī-'ap-səd\ *adj* [deriv. of Gk *di-* + *hapsid-, hapsis* arch — more at APSIS] : of, relating to, or including reptiles (as the crocodiles) with two pairs of temporal openings in the skull

di·ar·chy *var of* DYARCHY

di·a·rist \'dī-ə-rəst\ *n* : one who keeps a diary

di·ar·rhea *or* **di·ar·rhoea** \ˌdī-ə-'rē-ə\ *n* [ME *diaria*, fr. LL *diarrhoea*, fr. Gk *diarrhoia*, fr. *diarrhein* to flow through, fr. *dia-* + *rhein* to flow — more at STREAM] : abnormally frequent intestinal evacuations with more or less fluid stools — **di·ar·rhe·al** \-'rē-əl\ *or* **di·ar·rhe·ic** \-'rē-ik\ *also* **di·ar·rhet·ic** \-'ret-ik\ *adj*

di·ar·thro·sis \ˌdī-är-'thrō-səs\ *n, pl* **-thro·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *diarthrōsis*, fr. *diarthroun* to joint, fr. *dia-* + *arthroun* to fasten by a joint, fr. *arthron* joint — more at ARTHR-] **1** : articulation that permits free movement **2** : a freely movable joint

di·a·ry \'dī-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** [L *diarium*, fr. *dies* day — more at DEITY] **1** : a record of events, transactions, or observations kept daily or at frequent intervals : JOURNAL; *esp* : a daily record of personal activities, reflections, or feelings **2** : a book intended or used for a diary

di·as·po·ra \dī-'as-p(ə-)rə\ *n* [Gk, dispersion, fr. *diaspeirein* to scatter, fr. *dia-* + *speirein* to sow — more at SPROUT] **1** *cap* **a** : the settling of scattered colonies of Jews outside Palestine after the Babylonian exile **b** : the area outside Palestine settled by Jews **c** : the Jews living outside Palestine or modern Israel **2** : MIGRATION ⟨the great black ~ to the cities of the North and West in the 1940s and 1950s —*Newsweek*⟩

di·a·spore \'dī-ə-ˌspō(ə)r, -ˌspȯ(ə)r\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *diaspora*] : a mineral consisting of aluminum hydrogen oxide $HAlO_2$

di·a·stase \'dī-ə-ˌstās, -ˌstāz\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *diastasis* separation, interval, fr. *diistanai* to separate, fr. *dia-* + *histanai* to cause to stand — more at STAND] **1** : AMYLASE; *esp* : a mixture of amylases from malt **2** : ENZYME

di·as·ta·sis \dī-'as-tə-səs\ *n, pl* **-ta·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk, interval] : the rest phase of cardiac diastole occurring between the filling of the ventricle and the start of auricular contraction

di·a·stat·ic \ˌdī-ə-'stat-ik\ *adj* : relating to or having the properties of diastase; *esp* : converting starch into sugar

di·a·ste·ma \ˌdī-ə-'stē-mə\ *n, pl* **-ma·ta** \-mət-ə\ [NL, fr. LL, interval, fr. Gk *diastēma*, fr. *diistanai*] : a space between teeth in a jaw — **di·a·ste·mat·ic** \-sti-'mat-ik\ *adj*

di·a·ste·reo·iso·mer \ˌdī-ə-ˌster-ē-ō-'ī-sə-mər, -ˌstir-\ *or* **di·a·ste·reo·mer** \-'ster-ē-ō-(ˌ)mər, -'stir-\ *n* : a stereoisomer that does not have a mirror image — compare ENANTIOMORPH — **di·a·ste·reo·iso·mer·ic** \-'ster-ē-ō-ˌī-sə-'mer-ik, -'stir-\ *adj* — **di·a·ste·reo·isom·er·ism** \-ī-'säm-ə-ˌriz-əm\ *n*

di·as·to·le \dī-'as-tə-(ˌ)lē\ *n* [Gk *diastolē* dilatation, fr. *diastellein* to expand, fr. *dia-* + *stellein* to send — more at STALL] : a rhythmically recurrent expansion; *esp* : the dilatation of the cavities of the heart during which they fill with blood — **di·a·stol·ic** \ˌdī-ə-'stäl-ik\ *adj*

di·as·tro·phism \dī-'as-trə-ˌfiz-əm\ *n* [Gk *diastrophē* twisting, fr. *diastrephein* to distort, fr. *dia-* + *strephein* to twist — more at STROPHE] : the process of deformation that produces in the earth's crust its continents and ocean basins, plateaus and mountains, folds of strata, and faults — **di·a·stroph·ic** \ˌdī-ə-'sträf-ik\ *adj* — **di·a·stroph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

di·a·tes·sa·ron \ˌdī-ə-'tes-ə-rən\ *n* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk (*hē*) *dia tessarōn* (*chordōn symphōnia*) the concord through four notes, fr. *dia* through + *tessarōn*, gen. of *tessares* four — more at DIA-, FOUR] : a harmony of the four Gospels edited and arranged into a single connected narrative

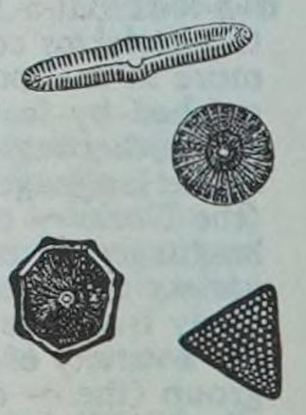
dia·ther·ma·nous \ˌdī-ə-'thər-mə-nəs\ *adj* [Gk *diatherman-*, stem of *diathermainein* to heat through] : DIATHERMIC 1

dia·ther·mic \ˌdī-ə-'thər-mik\ *adj* **1** : transmitting infrared radiation **2** : of or relating to diathermy ⟨~ treatment⟩

dia·ther·my \'dī-ə-ˌthər-mē\ *n* [ISV] : the generation of heat in tissue by electric currents for medical or surgical purposes

di·ath·e·sis \dī-'ath-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **-e·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk, lit., arrangement, fr. *diatithenai* to arrange, fr. *dia-* + *tithenai* to set — more at DO] **1** : a constitutional predisposition toward an abnormality or disease **2** : a disposition toward or aptitude for a particular mental development — **di·a·thet·ic** \ˌdī-ə-'thet-ik\ *adj*

di·a·tom \'dī-ə-ˌtäm\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *diatomos* cut in half, fr. *diatemnein* to cut through, fr. *dia-* + *temnein* to cut — more at TOME] : any of a class (Bacillariophyceae) of minute planktonic unicellular or colonial algae with silicified skeletons that form diatomite



diatoms

di·a·to·ma·ceous \ˌdī-ət-ə-'mā-shəs, (ˌ)dī-ˌat-\ *adj* : consisting of or abounding in diatoms or their siliceous remains ⟨~ silica⟩

diatomaceous earth *n* : DIATOMITE

di·atom·ic \ˌdī-ə-'täm-ik\ *adj* [ISV] **1** : consist-

ing two atoms in the molecule **2** : having two replaceable atoms or radicals

di·at·o·mite \dī-'at-ə-ˌmīt\ *n* : a light friable siliceous material derived chiefly from diatom remains and used esp. as a filter

dia·ton·ic \ˌdī-ə-'tän-ik\ *adj* [LL *diatonicus*, fr. Gk *diatonikos*, fr. *diatonos* stretching, fr. *diateinein* to stretch out, fr. *dia-* + *teinein* to stretch — more at THIN] : relating to a musical scale having eight tones to the octave and using a fixed pattern of intervals without chromatic deviation — **dia·ton·i·cal·ly** \-'tän-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

di·a·tribe \'dī-ə-ˌtrīb\ *n* [L *diatriba*, fr. Gk *diatribē* pastime, discourse, fr. *diatribein* to spend (time), wear away, fr. *dia-* + *tribein* to rub — more at THROW] **1** *archaic* : a prolonged discourse **2** : a bitter and abusive speech or writing **3** : ironical or satirical criticism

di·at·ro·pism \dī-'a-trə-ˌpiz-əm\ *n* [ISV] : the tropistic tendency of plant organs to place themselves transversely to the line of action of a stimulus — **dia·tro·pic** \ˌdī-ə-'trō-pik, -'träp-ik\ *adj*

di·az·e·pam \dī-'az-ə-ˌpam\ *n* [*di-* + *az-* + *epoxide* + *-am* (of unknown origin)] : a tranquilizer $C_{16}H_{13}ClN_2O$ used esp. to relieve anxiety and tension and as a muscle relaxant

di·a·zine \'dī-ə-ˌzēn, dī-'az-ᵊn\ *n* [ISV *di-* + *az-* + *-ine*] : any of three compounds $C_4H_4N_2$ containing a ring that is composed of four carbon atoms and two nitrogen atoms

di·azo \dī-'az-(ˌ)ō\ *adj* [ISV *diaz-*, *diazo-*, fr. *di-* + *az-*] **1** : relating to or containing the group N_2 composed of two nitrogen atoms united to a single carbon atom of an organic radical **2** : relating to or containing diazonium **3** : of or relating to a photograph or photocopy whose production involves the use of a coating of a diazo compound that is decomposed by exposure to light

di·a·zo·ni·um \ˌdī-ə-'zō-nē-əm\ *n* [ISV *di-* + *az-* + *-onium*] : the univalent cation N_2^+ that is composed of two nitrogen atoms united to carbon in an organic radical and that usu. exists in salts used in the manufacture of azo dyes

di·az·o·tize \dī-'az-ə-ˌtīz\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz·ing** [*di-* + *azote* + *-ize*] : to convert (a compound) into a diazo compound (as a diazonium salt) — **di·az·o·ti·za·tion** \-ˌaz-ət-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*

di·ba·sic \(ˈ)dī-'bā-sik\ *adj* **1** : having two replaceable hydrogen atoms — used of acids **2** : containing two atoms of a univalent metal ⟨~ sodium phosphate Na_2HPO_4⟩ **3** : having two hydroxyl groups — used of bases and basic salts

dib·ber \'dib-ər\ *n* : DIBBLE

¹dib·ble \'dib-əl\ *n* [ME *debylle*] : a small hand implement used to make holes in the ground for plants, seeds, or bulbs

²dibble *vt* **dib·bled; dib·bling** \'dib-(ə-)liŋ\ **1** : to plant with a dibble **2** : to make holes in (soil) with or as if with a dibble

di·bran·chi·ate \(ˈ)dī-'braŋ-kē-ət\ *adj* [deriv. of Gk *di-* + *branchia*] : of or relating to a group (Dibranchia) of cephalopod mollusks including the squids and octopuses and having 2 gills, 2 auricles, 2 nephridia, an apparatus for emitting an inky fluid, and either 8 or 10 cephalic arms bearing suckers or hooks

dibs \'dibz\ *n pl* [short for *dibstones* (jacks), fr. obs. *dib* (to dab)] **1** *slang* : money esp. in small amounts **2** : CLAIM, RIGHTS ⟨I have ~ on that piece of cake⟩

di·bu·tyl phthal·ate \ˌdī-ˌbyüt-ᵊl-'thal-ˌāt\ *n* [*di-* + *butyl* + *phthalic acid* + *-ate*] : a colorless oily ester $C_{16}H_{22}O_4$ used chiefly as a solvent and plasticizer

di·car·box·yl·ic \ˌdī-ˌkär-ˌbäk-'sil-ik\ *adj* : containing two carboxyl groups in the molecule

di·cast \'dī-ˌkast, 'dik-ˌast\ *n* [Gk *dikastēs*, fr. *dikazein* to judge, fr. *dikē* judgment — more at DICTION] : an ancient Athenian performing the functions of both judge and juror at a trial

¹dice \'dīs\ *n, pl* **dice** [ME *dyce*, fr. *dees, dyce*, pl. of *dee* die — more at DIE] **1 a** : DIE 1 **b** : a gambling game played with dice **2** *pl also* **dices** : a small cubical piece (as of food) **3** : a close contest between two racing-car drivers for position during a race — **no dice** : of no avail : no use : FUTILE

²dice *vb* **diced; dic·ing** [ME *dycen*, fr. *dyce*] *vt* **1 a** : to cut into small cubes **b** : to ornament with square markings ⟨*diced* leather⟩ **2 a** : to bring by playing dice ⟨~ himself into debt⟩ **b** : to lose by dicing ⟨~ his money away⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to play games with dice ⟨~ for drinks in the bar —Malcolm Lowry⟩ **2** : to take a chance ⟨the temptation to ~ with death —*Newsweek*⟩ — **dic·er** *n*

di·cen·tra \dī-'sen-trə\ *n* [NL *Dicentra*, genus name, fr. *di-* + Gk *kentron* sharp point — more at CENTER] : any of a genus (*Dicentra*) of herbs of the fumitory family with dissected leaves and irregular flowers

dic·ey \'dī-sē\ *adj* **dic·i·er; -est** [¹*dice* + *-y*] : RISKY, UNPREDICTABLE

dich- *or* **dicho-** *comb form* [LL, fr. Gk, fr. *dicha*; akin to Gk *di-*] : in two : apart ⟨*dicho*gamous⟩

di·cha·sium \dī-'kā-z(h)ē-əm, -zhəm\ *n, pl* **-sia** \-z(h)ē-ə, -zhə\ [NL, fr. Gk *dichasis* halving, fr. *dichazein* to halve, fr. *dicha*] : a cymose inflorescence that produces two main axes — **di·cha·sial** \-z(h)ē-əl, -zhəl\ *adj*

di·chla·myd·e·ous \ˌdī-klə-'mid-ē-əs\ *adj* [*di-* + Gk *chlamyd-*, *chlamys* mantle] : having both calyx and corolla

dichlor- *or* **dichloro-** *comb form* : containing two atoms of chlorine ⟨*dichloro*ethylene⟩

di·chlo·ride \(ˈ)dī-'klō(ə)r-ˌīd, -'klȯ(ə)r-\ *n* : a binary compound containing two atoms of chlorine combined with an element or radical

di·chlo·ro·ben·zene \(ˌ)dī-ˌklōr-ə-'ben-ˌzēn, -ˌklȯr-, -(ˌ)ben-'\ *n* : any of three isomeric compounds $C_6H_4Cl_2$; *esp* : PARADICHLOROBENZENE

di·chlo·ro·di·flu·o·ro·meth·ane \-ˌflür-ə-'meth-ˌān\ *n* [*dichlor-* + *di-* + *fluor-* + *methane*] : a nontoxic nonflammable easily liquefiable gas CCl_2F_2 used as a refrigerant and as a propellant : a Freon gas

di·chlor·vos \(ˈ)dī-'klō(ə)r-ˌväs, -'klȯ(ə)r-, -vəs\ *n* [*dichlor-* + *vinyl* + *phosphate*] : a nonpersistent organophosphorus pesticide $C_4H_7Cl_2O_4P$ that is used esp. against insects and is of low toxicity to man

di·chog·a·mous \dī-'käg-ə-məs\ *or* **di·cho·gam·ic** \ˌdī-kə-'gam-ik\ *adj, of a hermaphroditic organism* : characterized by production at different times of male and female reproductive elements that ensures cross-fertilization — **di·chog·a·my** \dī-'käg-ə-mē\ *n*

di·chon·dra \dī-'kän-drə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. *di-* + Gk *chondros* grain] : any of a genus (*Dichondra*) of chiefly tropical perennial herbs of the morning glory family that includes some (esp. *D. repens* or its varieties) used as a ground cover and a substitute for lawn grasses in warmer parts of the U.S.

dich·otic \(ˈ)dī-'kōt-ik\ *adj* [*dich-* + ²*-otic*] : affecting or relating to the two ears differently in regard to a conscious aspect (as pitch or loudness) or a physical aspect (as frequency or energy) of sound — **dich·oti·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

di·chot·o·mist \dī-'kät-ə-məst *also* də-\ *n* : one that dichotomizes

di·chot·o·mize \-ˌmīz\ *vb* **-mized; -miz·ing** [LL *dichotomos*] *vt* : to divide into two parts, classes, or groups ~ *vi* : to exhibit dichotomy — **di·chot·o·mi·za·tion** \-ˌkät-ə-mə-'zā-shən\ *n*

di·chot·o·mous \dī-'kät-ə-məs *also* də-\ *adj* [LL *dichotomos*, fr. Gk, fr. *dich-* + *temnein* to cut — more at TOME] **1** : dividing into two parts **2** : relating to, involving, or proceeding from dichotomy — **di·chot·o·mous·ly** *adv* — **di·chot·o·mous·ness** *n*

di·chot·o·my \dī-'kät-ə-mē *also* də-\ *n, pl* **-mies** [Gk *dichotomia*, fr. *dichotomos*] **1** : a division or the process of dividing into two esp. mutually exclusive or contradictory groups **2** : the phase of the moon or an inferior planet in which half its disk appears illuminated **3 a** : FORKING; *esp* : repeated bifurcation **b** : a system of branching in which the main axis forks repeatedly into two branches **c** : branching of an ancestral line into two equal diverging branches

di·chro·ic \dī-'krō-ik\ *also* **di·chro·it·ic** \ˌdī-(ˌ)krō-'it-ik\ *adj* [Gk *dichroos* two-colored, fr. *di-* + *chrōs* color — more at CHROMATIC] **1** : having the property of dichroism ⟨a ~ crystal⟩ ⟨a ~ mirror⟩ **2** : DICHROMATIC

di·chro·ism \'dī-(ˌ)krō-ˌiz-əm\ *n* **1** : the property according to which the colors are unlike when a crystal is viewed in the direction of two different axes **2 a** : the property of a solid of differing in color with the thickness of the transmitting layer or of a liquid with the degree of concentration of the solution **b** : the property of a surface of reflecting light of one color and transmitting light of other colors **3** : DICHROMATISM

di·chro·mat \'dī-krō-ˌmat, (ˈ)dī-'\ *n* [back-formation fr. *dichromatic*] : one affected with dichromatism

di·chro·mate \(ˈ)dī-'krō-ˌmāt, 'dī-krō-\ *n* [ISV] : a usu. orange to red chromium salt containing the radical Cr_2O_7 ⟨~ of potassium⟩ — called also *bichromate*

di·chro·mat·ic \ˌdī-krō-'mat-ik\ *adj* [*di-* + *chromatic*] **1** : having or exhibiting two colors **2** : having two color varieties or color phases independently of age or sex ⟨a ~ bird⟩ **3** : of, relating to, or exhibiting dichromatism

di·chro·ma·tism \dī-'krō-mə-ˌtiz-əm\ *n* **1** : the state or condition of being dichromatic **2** : partial color blindness in which only two colors are perceptible

di·chro·scope \'dī-krə-ˌskōp\ *n* : an instrument for examining crystals for dichroism

dick \'dik\ *n* [*Dick*, nickname for *Richard*] **1** *chiefly Brit* : FELLOW, CHAP **2** : PENIS — usu. considered vulgar **3** [by shortening & alter.] : DETECTIVE

dick·cis·sel \dik-'sis-əl, 'dik-ˌ\ *n* [imit.] : a common migratory black-throated finch (*Spiza americana*) of the central U.S.

dick·ens \'dik-ənz\ *n* [euphemism] : DEVIL, DEUCE

¹dick·er \'dik-ər\ *n* [ME *dyker*; akin to MHG *techer*; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. L *decuria* quantity of ten, fr. *decem* ten — more at TEN] : the number or quantity of 10 esp. of hides or skins

²dicker *vi* **dick·ered; dick·er·ing** \'dik-(ə-)riŋ\ [origin unknown] : BARGAIN

³dicker *n* **1** : BARTER **2** : an act or session of haggling or bargaining

dick·ey *or* **dicky** *also* **dick·ie** \'dik-ē\ *n, pl* **dickeys** *or* **dick·ies** [*Dicky*, nickname for *Richard*] **1** : any of various articles of clothing: as **a** : a man's separate or detachable shirtfront **b** : a small fabric insert worn to fill in the neckline **2** : a small bird **3** *chiefly Brit* **a** : the driver's seat in a carriage **b** : a seat at the back of a carriage or automobile

Dick test \'dik-\ *n* [George F. *Dick* †1967 and Gladys H. *Dick* †1963 Am physicians] : a test to determine susceptibility or immunity to scarlet fever by an injection of scarlet fever toxin

di·cli·nous \(ˈ)dī-'klī-nəs\ *adj* : having the stamens and pistils in separate flowers — **di·cli·ny** \'dī-ˌklī-nē\ *n*

di·cot \'dī-ˌkät\ *also* **di·cot·yl** \-ˌkät-ᵊl\ *n* : DICOTYLEDON

di·cot·y·le·don \ˌdī-ˌkät-ᵊl-'ēd-ᵊn\ *n* [deriv. of NL *di-* + *cotyledon*] : a plant with two seed leaves : a member of the one (Dicotyledones) of the two subclasses of angiospermous plants that comprises those with two cotyledons — **di·cot·y·le·don·ous** \-ᵊn-əs\ *adj*

di·cou·ma·rin \(ˈ)dī-'kü-mə-rən\ *n* [fr. *di-* + *coumarin*] : a crystalline compound $C_{19}H_{12}O_6$ orig. obtained from spoiled sweet clover hay and used to delay clotting of blood

di·crot·ic \dī-'krät-ik\ *adj* [Gk *dikrotos* having a double beat] : being or relating to the second expansion of the artery that occurs during the diastole of the heart — **di·cro·tism** \'dī-krə-ˌtiz-əm\ *n*

dict *abbr* dictionary

Dic·ta·phone \'dik-tə-ˌfōn\ *trademark* — used for a dictating machine

¹dic·tate \'dik-ˌtāt, dik-'\ *vb* **dic·tat·ed; dic·tat·ing** [L *dictatus*, pp. of *dictare* to assert, dictate, fr. *dictus*, pp. of *dicere* to say — more at DICTION] *vi* **1** : to give dictation **2** : to speak or act domineeringly : PRESCRIBE ~ *vt* **1** : to speak or read for a person to tran-

scribe or for a machine to record **2 a** : to issue as an order **b** : to impose, pronounce, or specify authoritatively

²dic·tate \'dik-ˌtāt\ *n* **1 a** : an authoritative rule, prescription, or injunction **b** : a ruling principle ⟨according to the ~*s* of his conscience⟩ **2** : a command by one in authority

dictating machine *n* : a machine used esp. for the recording of dictated matter

dic·ta·tion \dik-'tā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : PRESCRIPTION **b** : arbitrary command **2 a** (1) : the act or manner of uttering words to be transcribed (2) : material that is dictated or transcribed **b** (1) : the performing of music to be reproduced by a student (2) : music so reproduced

dic·ta·tor \'dik-ˌtāt-ər, dik-'\ *n* [L, fr. *dictatus*] **1 a** : a person granted absolute emergency power; *esp* : one appointed by the senate of ancient Rome **b** : one holding complete autocratic control **c** : one ruling absolutely and often oppressively **2** : one that dictates — **dic·ta·tress** \'dik-ˌtā-trəs, dik-'\ *n*

dic·ta·to·ri·al \ˌdik-tə-'tōr-ē-əl, -'tȯr-\ *adj* **1 a** : of, relating to, or befitting a dictator ⟨~ power⟩ **b** : ruled by a dictator **2** : oppressive to or contemptuously overbearing toward others : arrogantly domineering — **dic·ta·to·ri·al·ly** \-ē-ə-lē\ *adv* — **dic·ta·to·ri·al·ness** *n*

syn DICTATORIAL, MAGISTERIAL, DOGMATIC, DOCTRINAIRE, ORACULAR *shared meaning element* : imposing one's will or opinions on others

dic·ta·tor·ship \dik-'tāt-ər-ˌship, 'dik-ˌ\ *n* **1** : the office of dictator **2** : autocratic rule, control, or leadership **3 a** : a form of government in which absolute power is concentrated in a dictator or a small clique **b** : a government organization or group in which absolute power is so concentrated **c** : a despotic state

dictatorship of the proletariat : the assumption of political power by the proletariat held in Marxism to be an essential part of the transition from capitalism to communism

dic·tion \'dik-shən\ *n* [L *diction-, dictio* speaking, style, fr. *dictus*, pp. of *dicere* to say; akin to OE *tēon* to accuse, L *dicare* to proclaim, dedicate, Gk *deiknynai* to show, *dikē* judgment, right] **1** *obs* : verbal description **2** : choice of words esp. with regard to correctness, clearness, or effectiveness **3 a** : vocal expression : ENUNCIATION **b** : pronunciation and enunciation of words in singing — **dic·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **dic·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

dic·tio·nary \'dik-shə-ˌner-ē\ *n, pl* **-nar·ies** [ML *dictionarium*, fr. LL *diction-, dictio* word, fr. L, speaking] **1** : a reference book containing words usu. alphabetically arranged along with information about their forms, pronunciations, functions, etymologies, meanings, and syntactical and idiomatic uses **2** : a reference book listing alphabetically terms or names important to a particular subject or activity along with discussion of their meanings and applications **3** : a reference book giving for words of one language equivalents in another **4** : a list (as of phrases, synonyms, or hyphenation instructions) stored in machine-readable form (as on a disk) for reference by an automatic system (as for information retrieval or computerized typesetting)

Dic·to·graph \'dik-tə-ˌgraf\ *trademark* — used for a telephonic device for recording sounds or for picking them up in one room and transmitting them to another

dic·tum \'dik-təm\ *n, pl* **dic·ta** \-tə\ *also* **dictums** [L, fr. neut. of *dictus*] **1** : a formal authoritative pronouncement of a principle, proposition, or opinion **2** : a judicial opinion on a point other than the precise issue involved in determining a case

dicty- *or* **dictyo-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *dikty-, diktyo-*, fr. *diktyon*, fr. *dikein* to throw] : net ⟨*dictyo*stele⟩ ⟨*dictyo*some⟩

dic·tyo·some \'dik-tē-ə-ˌsōm\ *n* : GOLGI BODY

dic·tyo·stele \'dik-tē-ə-ˌstēl, ˌdik-tē-ə-'stē-lē\ *n* : a stele in which the vascular cylinder is broken up into a longitudinal series or network of vascular strands around a central pith (as in many ferns)

di·cy·clic \(')dī-'sī-klik, -'sik-lik\ *adj* **1** : BICYCLIC 2 **2** : having two maxima of population each year — **di·cy·cly** \'dī-ˌsī-klē\ *n*

did *past of* DO

di·dact \'dī-ˌdakt\ *n* [back-formation fr. *didactic*] : a didactic person

di·dac·tic \dī-'dak-tik, də-\ *adj* [Gk *didaktikos*, fr. *didaskein* to teach] **1 a** : designed or intended to teach **b** : intended to convey instruction and information as well as pleasure and entertainment **2** : making moral observations — **di·dac·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* — **di·dac·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **di·dac·ti·cism** \-tə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n*

di·dac·tics \-tiks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : systematic instruction : PEDAGOGY, TEACHINGS

di·dap·per \'dī-ˌdap-ər\ *n* [ME *dydoppar*] : a dabchick or other small grebe

did·dle \'did-ᵊl\ *vb* **did·dled; did·dling** \'did-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ [origin unknown] *vi* : DAWDLE, FOOL ~ *vt* **1** *chiefly dial* : to move with short rapid motions **2** : to waste (as time) in trifling **3** : HOAX, SWINDLE — **did·dler** \'did-lər, -ᵊl-ər\ *n*

di·del·phic \(')dī-'del-fik\ *adj* [*di-* + Gk *delphys* womb — more at DOLPHIN] **1 a** : having or relating to a double uterus **b** : having the female genital tract doubled — used esp. of some worms **2** [NL *Didelphia*, genus name, fr. Gk *di-* + *delphys*] : MARSUPIAL

didn't \'did-ᵊnt\ : did not

di·do \'dīd-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **didoes** *or* **didos** [origin unknown] **1** : a mischievous or unconventional act : PRANK, ANTIC — often used in the phrase *cut didoes* **2** : something that is frivolous or showy

Di·do \'dīd-(ˌ)ō\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Deidō*] : a queen of Carthage in Vergil's *Aeneid* who entertains Aeneas, falls in love with him, and on his departure stabs herself

didst \(')didst, (')ditst\ *archaic past 2d sing of* DO

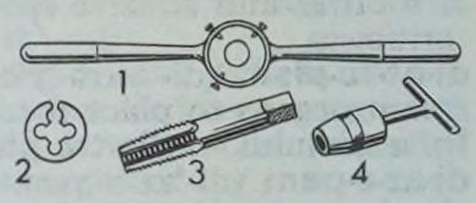
di·dym·i·um \dī-'dim-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *didymos*] : a mixture of rare-earth elements made up chiefly of neodymium and praseodymium and used esp. for coloring glass for optical filters

did·y·mous \'did-ə-məs\ *adj* [Gk *didymos* double, twin (adj. & n.), testicle, fr. *dyo* two — more at TWO] : growing in pairs : TWIN

di·dyn·a·mous \(')dī-'din-ə-məs\ *adj* [deriv. of Gk *di-* + *dynamis* power — more at DYNAMIC] : having four stamens disposed in pairs of unequal length — **di·dyn·a·my** \-mē\ *n*

¹die \'dī\ *vi* **died; dy·ing** \'dī-iŋ\ [ME *dien*, fr. or akin to ON *deyja* to die; akin to OHG *touwen* to die, OIr *duine* human being] **1** : to pass from physical life : EXPIRE **2** : to pass out of existence : CEASE ⟨their anger *died* at these words⟩ **3 a** : to suffer or face the pains of death **b** : SINK, LANGUISH ⟨*dying* from fatigue⟩ **c** : to long keenly or desperately ⟨*dying* to go⟩ **4** : to cease to be subject ⟨let them ~ to sin⟩ **5 a** : to pass into an inferior state or situation ⟨they have developed competence which we . . . must utilize lest it wither and ~ —Ruth G. Strickland⟩ **b** : STOP ⟨the motor *died*⟩

²die \'dī\ *n, pl* **dice** \'dīs\ *or* **dies** \'dīz\ [ME *dee*, fr. MF *dé*] **1** *pl dice* : a small cube marked on each face with from one to six spots and used usu. in pairs in various games and in gambling by being shaken and thrown to come to rest at random on a flat surface **2** *pl usu dice* : something determined by or as if by a cast of dice : CHANCE **3** *pl dies* : DADO 1a **4** *pl dies* : any of various tools or devices for imparting a desired shape, form, or finish to a material or for impressing an object or material: as **a** (1) : the larger of a pair of cutting or shaping tools that when moved toward each other produce a desired form in or impress a desired device on an object by pressure or by a blow (2) : a device composed of a pair of such tools **b** : a hollow internally threaded screw-cutting tool used for forming screw threads **c** : a cutter to cut out blanks **d** : a mold into which molten metal or other material is forced **e** : a perforated block through which metal or plastic is drawn or extruded for shaping



die 4b: four pieces of a tap-and-die set: *1* die-stock, *2* adjustable round split die, *3* tap, *4* tap wrench

³die *vt* **died; die·ing** : to cut or shape with a die

die·back \'dī-ˌbak\ *n* : a condition in woody plants in which peripheral parts are killed esp. by parasites

di·ecious *var of* DIOECIOUS

die down *vi* **1** : to undergo death of the aboveground portions **2** : DIMINISH, SUBSIDE ⟨the storm *died down*⟩

die·hard \'dī-ˌhärd\ *n* : an irreconcilable opponent of change ⟨party ~*s* who insisted that no concession of any kind be made⟩

die–hard \'dī-ˌhärd\ *adj* : strongly resisting change : completely and determinedly fixed ⟨a ~ conservative⟩ — **die–hard·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n*

di·el \'dī-əl, -ˌel\ *adj* [irreg. fr. L *dies* day + E *-al*] : involving a 24-hour period that usu. includes a day and the adjoining night ⟨~ fluctuations in temperature⟩

diel·drin \'dē(ə)l-drən\ *n* [*Diels*-Alder reaction, after Otto *Diels* & Kurt *Alder*] : a white crystalline persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticide $C_{12}H_8Cl_6O$

di·elec·tric \ˌdī-ə-'lek-trik\ *n* [*dia-* + *electric*] : a nonconductor of direct electric current — **dielectric** *adj*

dielectric heating *n* : the rapid and uniform heating throughout a nonconducting material by means of a high-frequency electromagnetic field

di·en·ceph·a·lon \ˌdī-ən-'sef-ə-ˌlän, ˌdī-(ˌ)en-, -lən\ *n* [NL, fr. *dia-* + *encephalon*] : the posterior subdivision of the forebrain — **di·en·ce·phal·ic** \-sə-'fal-ik\ *adj*

di·ene \'dī-ˌēn\ *n* [*di-* + *-ene*] : a compound containing two double bonds; *esp* : DIOLEFIN

die–off \'dī-ˌȯf\ *n* : a sudden sharp decline of a population (as rabbits) that is not caused directly by human activity (as hunting)

die out *vi* : to become extinct

di·er·e·sis *var of* DIAERESIS

die·sel \'dē-zəl, -səl\ *n* [Rudolf *Diesel*] **1** : DIESEL ENGINE **2** : a vehicle driven by a diesel engine

diesel–electric *adj* : of, relating to, or employing the combination of a diesel engine driving an electric generator ⟨a ~ locomotive⟩

diesel engine *n* : an internal-combustion engine in which air is compressed to a temperature sufficiently high to ignite fuel injected into the cylinder where the combustion actuates a piston

die·sel·ize \'dē-zə-ˌlīz, 'dē-sə-\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to equip with a diesel engine or with electric locomotives having electric generators powered by diesel engines

die·sink·er \'dī-ˌsiŋ-kər\ *n* : one that makes cutting and shaping dies — **die·sink·ing** *n*

Di·es Irae \ˌdē-(ˌ)ā-'sē-ˌrā\ *n* [ML, day of wrath; fr. the first words of the hymn] : a medieval Latin hymn on the Day of Judgment sung in requiem masses

di·esis \'dī-ə-səs\ *n, pl* **di·eses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, sharp (in music), fr. L, small interval, fr. Gk, fr. *diienai* to send through, fr. *dia-* + *hienai* to send — more at JET] : DOUBLE DAGGER

di·es·ter \'dī-ˌes-tər\ *n* : a compound containing two ester groupings

die·stock \'dī-ˌstäk\ *n* : a stock to hold dies used for cutting threads

di·es·trous \(')dī-'es-trəs\ *or* **di·es·tru·al** \-trə-wəl\ *adj* [NL *diestrus* period of sexual quiescence, fr. *dia-* + *estrus*] : of, relating to, or having a period of sexual quiescence that intervenes between two periods of estrus — **di·es·trus** \-trəs\ *n*

¹di·et \'dī-ət\ *n* [ME *diete*, fr. OF, fr. L *diaeta* prescribed diet, fr. Gk *diaita*, lit., manner of living, fr. *dia-* + *-aita* (akin to Gk *aisa* share)] **1 a** : food and drink regularly provided or consumed **b** : habitual nourishment **c** : the kind and amount of food prescribed for a person or animal for a special reason **2** : something provided esp. habitually (as for use or enjoyment) ⟨a ~ of Broadway shows and nightclubs —Frederick Wyatt⟩

²diet *vt* **1** : to cause to take food : FEED **2** : to cause to eat and drink sparingly or according to prescribed rules ~ *vi* : to eat sparingly or according to prescribed rules — **di·et·er** *n*

³diet *n* [ML *dieta*, day's journey, assembly, fr. L *dies* day — more at DEITY] **1** : a formal deliberative assembly of princes or estates **2** : any of various national or provincial legislatures

[1]di·etary \'dī-ə-ˌter-ē\ *n, pl* **di·etar·ies** : the kinds and amounts of food available to or eaten by an individual, group, or population
[2]dietary *adj* : of or relating to a diet or to the rules of a diet — **di·etari·ly** \ˌdī-ə-'ter-ə-lē\ *adv*
dietary law *n* : one of the laws observed by Orthodox Jews that permit or prohibit certain foods
di·etet·ic \ˌdī-ə-'tet-ik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to diet **2** : adapted for use in special diets — **di·etet·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
di·etet·ics \-'tet-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : the science or art of applying the principles of nutrition to feeding
di·eth·yl ether \(ˌ)dī-ˌeth-əl-\ *n* : ETHER 3a
di·eth·yl·stil·bes·trol \-stil-'bes-ˌtrȯl, -ˌtrōl\ *n* [ISV] : a colorless crystalline synthetic compound $C_{18}H_{20}O_2$ used as a potent estrogen — called also *stilbestrol*
di·eti·tian *or* **di·eti·cian** \ˌdī-ə-'tish-ən\ *n* [*dietitian* irreg. fr. [1]*diet*] : a specialist in dietetics
dif *or* **diff** *abbr* difference
dif·fer \'dif-ər\ *vi* **dif·fered; dif·fer·ing** \-(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *differen*, fr. MF or L; MF *differer* to postpone, be different, fr. L *differre*, fr. *dis-* + *ferre* to carry — more at BEAR] **1 a** : to be unlike or distinct in nature, form, or characteristics ⟨the law of one state ~*s* from that of another⟩ **b** : to change from time to time or from one instance to another : VARY **2** : to be of unlike or opposite opinion : DISAGREE ⟨men who ~ on religious matters⟩
[1]dif·fer·ence \'dif-ərn(t)s, 'dif-(ə-)rən(t)s\ *n* **1 a** : the quality or state of being different **b** : an instance of differing in nature, form, or quality **c** *archaic* : a characteristic that distinguishes one from another or from the average **d** : the element or factor that separates or distinguishes contrasting situations **2** : distinction or discrimination in preference **3 a** : disagreement in opinion : DISSENSION **b** : an instance or cause of disagreement **4** : the degree or amount by which things differ in quantity or measure; *specif* : REMAINDER b(1) **5** : a significant change in or effect on a situation ***syn*** see DISCORD
[2]difference *vt* **-enced; -enc·ing** **1** : DIFFERENTIATE, DISTINGUISH **2** : to compute the difference between
dif·fer·ent \'dif-ərnt, 'dif-(ə-)rənt\ *adj* [MF, fr. L *different-, differens*, prp. of *differre*] **1** : partly or totally unlike in nature, form, or quality : DISSIMILAR ⟨could hardly be more ~⟩ — often followed by *from, than*, or chiefly Brit. *to* ⟨small, neat hand, very ~ from the captain's tottery characters —R. L. Stevenson⟩ ⟨vastly ~ in size than it was twenty-five years ago —N. M. Pusey⟩ ⟨a very ~ situation to the . . . one under which we live —Sir Winston Churchill⟩ **2** : not the same: as **a** : DISTINCT ⟨~ age groups⟩ **b** : VARIOUS ⟨~ members of the class⟩ **c** : ANOTHER ⟨did not like the TV program so switched to a ~ channel⟩ **3** : UNUSUAL, SPECIAL ⟨she was ~ and superior⟩ — **dif·fer·ent·ness** *n*
syn DIFFERENT, DIVERSE, DIVERGENT, DISPARATE, VARIOUS *shared meaning element* : unlike in kind or character ***ant*** identical, alike, same
dif·fer·en·tia \ˌdif-ə-'ren-ch(ē-)ə\ *n, pl* **-ti·ae** \-chē-ˌē, -chē-ˌī\ [L, difference, fr. *different-, differens*] : the element, feature, or factor that distinguishes one entity, state, or class from another; *esp* : a characteristic trait distinguishing a species from other species of the same genus
[1]dif·fer·en·tial \ˌdif-ə-'ren-chəl\ *adj* **1 a** : of, relating to, or constituting a difference : DISTINGUISHING **b** : making a distinction between individuals or classes **c** : based on or resulting from a differential **d** : functioning or proceeding differently or at a different rate **2** : relating to or involving a differential or differentiation **3 a** : relating to quantitative differences **b** : producing effects by reason of quantitative differences — **dif·fer·en·tial·ly** \-'rench-(ə-)lē\ *adv*
[2]differential *n* **1 a** : the product of the derivative of a function of one variable by the increment of the independent variable **b** : the sum of the products of each partial derivative of a function of several variables by the arbitrary increments of the corresponding variables **2** : a difference between comparable individuals or classes ⟨the price ~ between nationally advertised and private brands of staple food items⟩; *also* : the amount of such a difference ⟨the ~ between regular and high-test gasoline may exceed five cents a gallon⟩ **3 a** : DIFFERENTIAL GEAR **b** : a case covering a differential gear
differential calculus *n* : a branch of mathematics dealing chiefly with the rate of change of functions with respect to their variables
differential equation *n* : an equation containing differentials or derivatives of functions
differential gear *n* : an arrangement of gears forming an epicyclic train for connecting two shafts or axles in the same line, dividing the driving force equally between them, and permitting one shaft to revolve faster than the other — called also *differential gearing*
dif·fer·en·ti·ate \ˌdif-ə-'ren-chē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** *vt* **1** : to obtain the mathematical derivative of **2** : to mark or show a difference in **3** : to develop differential characteristics in **4** : to cause differentiation of in the course of development **5** : to express the specific difference of : DISCRIMINATE ~ *vi* **1** : to recognize a difference **2** : to become distinct or different in character **3** : to undergo differentiation — **dif·fer·en·tia·bil·i·ty** \-ˌren-ch(ē-)ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **dif·fer·en·tia·ble** \-'ren-ch(ē-)ə-bəl\ *adj*
dif·fer·en·ti·a·tion \-ˌren-chē-'ā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of differentiating **2** : development from the one to the many, the simple to the complex, or the homogeneous to the heterogeneous **3 a** : modification of body parts for performance of particular functions **b** : the sum of the processes whereby apparently indifferent cells, tissues, and structures attain their adult form and function **4** : the processes by which various rock types are produced from a common magma
dif·fer·ent·ly \'dif-ərnt-lē, 'dif-(ə-)rənt-\ *adv* **1** : in a different manner **2** : OTHERWISE
dif·fi·cile *adj* [MF, fr. L *difficilis*, fr. *dis-* + *facilis* easy — more at FACILE] **1** \də-'fis-əl\ *obs* : DIFFICULT **2** \ˌdē-fi-'sē(ə)l\ [F, lit., difficult] : STUBBORN, UNREASONABLE
dif·fi·cult \'dif-i-(ˌ)kəlt\ *adj* [back-formation fr. *difficulty*] **1** : hard to do, make, or carry out : ARDUOUS ⟨a ~ climb⟩ **2 a** : hard to deal with, manage, or overcome ⟨a ~ child⟩ **b** : hard to understand : PUZZLING ⟨~ reading⟩ ***syn*** see HARD ***ant*** simple — **dif·fi·cult·ly** *adv*
dif·fi·cul·ty \-ˌkəl-tē, -kəl-\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *difficulte*, fr. L *difficultas*, irreg. fr. *difficilis*] **1** : the quality or state of being difficult **2** : something difficult : IMPEDIMENT **3** : OBJECTION **4** : EMBARRASSMENT, TROUBLE — usu. used in pl. **5** : CONTROVERSY, DISAGREEMENT
syn DIFFICULTY, HARDSHIP, RIGOR, VICISSITUDE *shared meaning element* : something obstructing one's course and demanding effort and endurance if one's end is to be attained
dif·fi·dence \'dif-əd-ən(t)s, -ə-ˌden(t)s\ *n* : the quality or state of being diffident
dif·fi·dent \-əd-ənt, -ə-ˌdent\ *adj* [L *diffident-, diffidens*, prp. of *diffidere* to distrust, fr. *dis-* + *fidere* to trust — more at BIDE] **1** *archaic* : DISTRUSTFUL **2** : hesitant in acting or speaking through lack of self-confidence **3** : RESERVED, UNASSERTIVE ***syn*** see SHY ***ant*** confident — **dif·fi·dent·ly** *adv*
dif·fract \dif-'rakt\ *vt* [back-formation fr. *diffraction*] : to cause to undergo diffraction
dif·frac·tion \dif-'rak-shən\ *n* [NL *diffraction-, diffractio*, fr. L *diffractus*, pp. of *diffringere* to break apart, fr. *dis-* + *frangere* to break — more at BREAK] : a modification which light undergoes in passing by the edges of opaque bodies or through narrow slits or in being reflected from ruled surfaces and in which the rays appear to be deflected and to produce fringes of parallel light and dark or colored bands; *also* : a similar modification of other waves (as sound waves)
diffraction grating *n* : GRATING 3
[1]dif·fuse \dif-'yüs\ *adj* [L *diffusus*, pp. of *diffundere* to spread out, fr. *dis-* + *fundere* to pour — more at FOUND] **1** : not concentrated or localized : SCATTERED **2** : being at once verbose and ill-organized ***syn*** see WORDY ***ant*** succinct — **dif·fuse·ly** *adv* — **dif·fuse·ness** *n*
[2]dif·fuse \dif-'yüz\ *vb* **dif·fused; dif·fus·ing** [MF or L; MF *diffuser*, fr. L *diffusus*, pp.] *vt* **1 a** : to pour out and permit or cause to spread freely **b** : EXTEND, SCATTER **c** : to spread thinly or wastefully **2** : to subject to diffusion; *esp* : to break up and distribute (incident light) by reflection ~ *vi* **1** : to spread out or become transmitted esp. by contact **2** : to undergo diffusion
dif·fuse-po·rous \dif-ˌyüs-'pōr-əs, -'pȯr-\ *adj* [[1]*diffuse*] : having vessels more or less evenly distributed throughout an annual ring and not varying greatly in size — compare RING-POROUS
dif·fus·er \dif-'yü-zər\ *n* **1** : one that diffuses: as **a** : a device (as a reflector) for distributing the light of a lamp evenly **b** : a screen (as of cloth or frosted glass) for softening lighting (as in photography) **c** : a device (as slats at different angles) for deflecting air from an outlet in various directions **2** : a device for reducing the velocity and increasing the static pressure of a fluid passing through a system
dif·fus·ible \dif-'yü-zə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of diffusing or of being diffused
dif·fu·sion \dif-'yü-zhən\ *n* **1** : the action of diffusing : the state of being diffused **2** : PROLIXITY, DIFFUSENESS **3 a** : the process whereby particles of liquids, gases, or solids intermingle as the result of their spontaneous movement caused by thermal agitation and in dissolved substances move from a region of higher to one of lower concentration **b** (1) : reflection of light by a rough reflecting surface (2) : transmission of light through a translucent material : SCATTERING **4** : the softening of sharp outlines in a photographic image — **dif·fu·sion·al** \-'yüzh-nəl, -ən-[ə]l\ *adj*
dif·fu·sive \dif-'yü-siv, -ziv\ *adj* : tending to diffuse : characterized by diffusion ⟨~ motion of atoms⟩ — **dif·fu·sive·ly** *adv* — **dif·fu·sive·ness** *n*
di·func·tion·al \(')dī-'fəŋ(k)-shnəl, -shən-[ə]l\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being a compound with two sites in the molecule that are highly reactive
[1]dig \'dig\ *vb* **dug** \'dəg\; **dig·ging** [ME *diggen*] *vi* **1** : to turn up, loosen, or remove earth : DELVE **2** : to work hard or laboriously **3** : to advance by or as if by removing or pushing aside material ~ *vt* **1 a** : to break up, turn, or loosen (earth) with an implement **b** : to prepare the soil of ⟨~ a garden⟩ **2** : to bring to the surface by digging : UNEARTH **3** : to hollow out or form by removing earth : EXCAVATE **4** : to drive down so as to penetrate : THRUST **5** : POKE, PROD **6 a** : to pay attention to : NOTICE ⟨~ that fancy hat⟩ **b** : UNDERSTAND, APPRECIATE ⟨if you . . . do something subtle . . . only one tenth of the audience will ~ it —Nat Hentoff⟩ **c** : LIKE, ADMIRE ⟨high school students ~ short poetry —David Burmester⟩
[2]dig *n* **1 a** : THRUST, POKE **b** : a cutting remark **2** *pl, chiefly Brit* : DIGGINGS 3 **3** : an archaeological excavation site; *also* : the excavation itself
[3]dig *abbr* digest
di·ga·met·ic \ˌdī-gə-'met-ik\ *adj* : forming two kinds of germ cells
dig·a·my \'dig-ə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** [LL *digamia*, fr. LGk, fr. Gk *digamos* married to two people, fr. *di-* + *-gamos* -gamous] : a second marriage after the termination of the first
di·gas·tric \(')dī-'gas-trik\ *adj* [NL *digastricus*, fr. *di-* + *gastricus* gastric] : of, relating to, or being a muscle with two bellies separated by a median tendon
di·gen·e·sis \(')dī-'jen-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] : successive reproduction by sexual and asexual methods
di·ge·net·ic \ˌdī-jə-'net-ik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to digenesis **2** : of or relating to a subclass (Digenea) of trematode worms in which sexual reproduction as an internal parasite of a vertebrate alternates with asexual reproduction in a mollusk

[1]di•gest \'dī-ˌjest\ *n* [ME *Digest* compilation of Roman laws ordered by Justinian, fr. LL *Digesta*, pl., fr. L, collection of writings arranged under headings, fr. neut. pl. of *digestus*, pp. of *digerere* to arrange, distribute, digest, fr. *dis-* + *gerere* to carry — more at CAST] **1** : a summation or condensation of a body of information: as **a** : a systematic compilation of legal rules, statutes, or decisions **b** : a literary abridgment **2** : a product of digestion

[2]di•gest \dī-'jest, də-\ *vb* [ME *digesten*, fr. L *digestus*] *vt* **1** : to distribute or arrange systematically : CLASSIFY **2** : to convert (food) into absorbable form **3** : to take into the mind or memory; *esp* : to assimilate mentally **4** **a** : to soften or decompose by heat and moisture or chemicals **b** : to extract soluble ingredients from by warming with a liquid **5** : to compress into a short summary ~ *vi* **1** : to digest food **2** : to become digested

di•gest•er \-'jes-tər\ *n* **1** : one that digests or makes a digest **2** : a vessel for digesting esp. plant or animal materials

di•gest•ibil•i•ty \-ˌjes-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the fitness of something for digestion **2** : the percentage of a foodstuff taken into the digestive tract that is absorbed into the body

di•gest•ible \-'jes-tə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being digested

di•ges•tion \dī-'jes(h)-chən, də-\ *n* : the action, process, or power of digesting: as **a** : the process of making food absorbable by dissolving it and breaking it down into simpler chemical compounds that occurs in the living body chiefly through the action of enzymes secreted into the alimentary canal **b** : the process in sewage treatment by which organic matter in sludge is decomposed by anaerobic bacteria with the release of a burnable mixture of gases

[1]di•ges•tive \-'jes-tiv\ *n* : something that aids digestion

[2]digestive *adj* **1** : relating to digestion **2** : having the power to cause or promote digestion ⟨~ enzymes⟩ — **di•ges•tive•ly** *adv* — **di•ges•tive•ness** *n*

digestive gland *n* : a gland secreting digestive enzymes

dig•ger \'dig-ər\ *n* **1** **a** : one that digs **b** : a tool or machine for digging **2** *cap* : a No. American Indian (as a Paiute) who digs roots for food **3** *Austral* : SOLDIER **4** : a theater ticket speculator

digger wasp *n* : a burrowing wasp; *esp* : a usu. solitary wasp (superfamily Sphecoidea) that digs nest burrows in the soil and provisions them with insects or spiders paralyzed by stinging

dig•gings *n pl* **1** : material dug out **2** : a place of excavating esp. for ore, metals, or precious stones **3** **a** : PREMISES, QUARTERS **b** *chiefly Brit* : lodgings for a student

dight \'dīt\ *vt* **dight•ed** *or* **dight; dight•ing** [ME *dighten*, fr. OE *dihtan* to arrange, compose, fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. L *dictare* to dictate, compose] *archaic* : DRESS, ADORN

dig in *vt* : to cover or incorporate by burying ⟨*dig in* compost⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to dig defensive trenches **2** : to hold stubbornly to a position **3** **a** : to go resolutely to work **b** : to begin eating **4** : to run hard **5** : to make and stand in small depressions in the ground for added stability and leverage while batting (as in baseball)

dig•it \'dij-ət\ *n* [ME, fr. L *digitus* finger, toe — more at TOE] **1** **a** : any of the Arabic numerals 1 to 9 and usu. the symbol 0 **b** : one of the elements that combine to form numbers in a system other than the decimal system **2** : a unit of length based on the breadth of a finger and equal in English measure to ¾ inch **3** : one of the divisions in which the limbs of amphibians and all higher vertebrates terminate, which are typically five in number but may be reduced (as in the horse), and which typically have a series of phalanges bearing a nail, claw, or hoof at the tip : FINGER, TOE

[1]dig•i•tal \'dij-ət-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the fingers or toes : DIGITATE **2** : done with a finger **3** : of or relating to calculation by numerical methods or by discrete units **4** : of or relating to data in the form of numerical digits **5** : providing a readout in numerical digits ⟨a ~ voltmeter⟩ — **dig•i•tal•ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

[2]digital *n* : a part (as a key of an organ) that is depressed with a finger to produce a mechanical effect (as the moving of a lever or the closing of a circuit)

digital computer *n* : a computer that operates with numbers expressed directly as digits — compare ANALOG COMPUTER, HYBRID COMPUTER

dig•i•tal•in \ˌdij-ə-'tal-ən *also* -'tāl-\ *n* [NL *Digitalis*] **1** : a white crystalline steroid glycoside $C_{36}H_{56}O_{14}$ obtained from seeds of the common foxglove **2** : a mixture of the glycosides of digitalis leaves or seeds

dig•i•tal•is \-'tal-əs *also* -'tāl-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L, of a finger, fr. *digitus*; fr. its finger-shaped corolla] **1** : FOXGLOVE **2** : the dried leaf of the common foxglove containing important glycosides and serving as a powerful cardiac stimulant and a diuretic

[1]dig•i•ta•lize \'dij-ət-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vt* **-lized; -liz•ing** [*digitalis*] : to subject to the administration of digitalis until the desired physiologic adjustment is obtained — **dig•i•ta•li•za•tion** \ˌdij-ət-ᵊl-ə-'zā-shən\ *n*

[2]dig•i•tal•ize \'dij-ət-ᵊl-ˌīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz•ing** [*[1]digital*] : DIGITIZE

dig•i•tate \'dij-ə-ˌtāt\ *adj* **1** : having digits **2** : resembling a finger; *specif* : having divisions arranged like the fingers of a hand ⟨~ leaf⟩ — **dig•i•tate•ly** *adv* — **dig•i•ta•tion** \ˌdij-ə-'tā-shən\ *n*

digiti- *comb form* [F, fr. L *digitus*] : digit : finger ⟨*digiti*form⟩

dig•i•ti•grade \'dij-ət-ə-ˌgrād\ *adj* [F, fr. *digiti-* + *-grade*] : walking on the digits with the posterior of the foot more or less raised

dig•i•tize \'dij-ə-ˌtīz\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz•ing** : to put (as data) into digital notation — **dig•i•ti•za•tion** \ˌdij-ət-ə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **dig•i•tiz•er** \'dij-ə-ˌtī-zər\ *n*

dig•i•to•nin \ˌdij-ə-'tō-nən\ *n* [ISV *digit-* (fr. NL *Digitalis*) + *saponin*] : a steroid saponin $C_{56}H_{92}O_{29}$ occurring in the leaves and seeds of foxglove

digi•toxi•gen•in \ˌdij-ə-ˌtäk-sə-'jen-ən\ *n* [ISV, blend of *digitoxin* and *-gen*] : a steroid lactone $C_{23}H_{34}O_4$ obtained esp. by hydrolysis of digitoxin

digi•tox•in \ˌdij-ə-'täk-sən\ *n* [ISV, blend of NL *Digitalis* and ISV *toxin*] : a poisonous glycoside $C_{41}H_{64}O_{13}$ occurring as the most active principle of digitalis; *also* : a mixture of digitalis glycosides consisting chiefly of digitoxin

dig•ni•fied \'dig-nə-ˌfīd\ *adj* : showing or expressing dignity

dig•ni•fy \'dig-nə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy•ing** [MF *dignifier*, fr. LL *dignificare*, fr. L *dignus* worthy — more at DECENT] **1** : to give distinction to : ENNOBLE **2** : to confer dignity upon by changing name, appearance, or character

dig•ni•tary \'dig-nə-ˌter-ē\ *n, pl* **-tar•ies** : one who possesses exalted rank or holds a position of dignity or honor — **dignitary** *adj*

dig•ni•ty \'dig-nət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [ME *dignete*, fr. OF *digneté*, fr. L *dignitat-, dignitas*, fr. *dignus*] **1** : the quality or state of being worthy, honored, or esteemed **2** **a** : high rank, office, or position **b** : a legal title of nobility or honor **3** *archaic* : DIGNITARY **4** : formal reserve of manner or language

dig out *vt* **1** : to make hollow by digging **2** : FIND, UNEARTH

di•gox•in \dij-'äk-sən, dig-\ *n* [ISV *digi-* (fr. NL *Digitalis*) + *toxin*] : a poisonous cardiotonic steroid $C_{41}H_{64}O_{14}$ obtained from a foxglove (*Digitalis lanata*) and used similarly to digitalis

di•graph \'dī-ˌgraf\ *n* **1** : a group of two successive letters whose phonetic value is a single sound (as *ea* in *bread* or *ng* in *sing*) or whose value is not the sum of a value borne by each in other occurrences (as *ch* in *chin* where the value is /t/ + /sh/) **2** : a group of two successive letters **3** : LIGATURE 4 — **di•graph•ic** \dī-'graf-ik\ *adj* — **di•graph•i•cal•ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

di•gress \dī-'gres, də-\ *vi* [L *digressus*, pp. of *digredi*, fr. *dis-* + *gradi* to step — more at GRADE] : to turn aside esp. from the main subject of attention or course of argument in writing or speaking ***syn*** see SWERVE

di•gres•sion \-'gresh-ən\ *n* **1** *archaic* : a going aside **2** : the act or an instance of digressing in a discourse or other usu. organized literary work — **di•gres•sion•al** \-'gresh-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **di•gres•sion•ary** \-'gresh-ə-ˌner-ē\ *adj*

di•gres•sive \-'gres-iv\ *adj* : characterized by digressions ⟨a ~ book⟩ — **di•gres•sive•ly** *adv* — **di•gres•sive•ness** *n*

dihal- *or* **dihalo-** *comb form* : containing two atoms of a halogen

[1]di•he•dral \(')dī-'hē-drəl\ *adj* **1** *of an airplane* : having wings that make with one another a dihedral angle esp. when the angle between the upper sides is less than 180° **2** *of airplane wing pairs* : inclined at a dihedral angle to each other

[2]dihedral *n* **1** : DIHEDRAL ANGLE **2** : the angle between an aircraft supporting surface and a horizontal transverse line; *esp* : the angle between either an upwardly inclined wing or a downwardly inclined wing and such a line

dihedral angle *n* [*di-* + *-hedral*] : a figure formed by two intersecting planes

di•hy•brid \(ˌ)dī-'hī-brəd\ *adj* [ISV] : of, relating to, or being an individual or strain that is heterozygous at two genetic loci — **dihybrid** *n*

dihydr- *or* **dihydro-** *comb form* : combined with two atoms of hydrogen

di•hy•dro•er•got•a•mine \(ˌ)dī-ˌhī-drō-ˌər-'gät-ə-ˌmēn\ *n* : a hydrogenated derivative $C_{33}H_{37}N_5O_5$ of ergotamine that is used in the treatment of migraine

di•hy•dro•strep•to•my•cin \-ˌstrep-tə-'mīs-ᵊn\ *n* : an antibiotic $C_{21}H_{41}N_7O_{12}$ used esp. in the treatment of tuberculosis and tularemia

dihydroxy- *comb form* : containing two hydroxyl groups

di•hy•droxy•ac•e•tone \ˌdī-hī-ˌdräk-sē-'as-ə-ˌtōn\ *n* : a triose $C_3H_6O_3$ that is used esp. to produce artificial tanning of the skin

dik-dik \'dik-ˌdik\ *n* [native name in East Africa] : any of several small East African antelopes (genera *Madoqua, Rhynchotragus*)

[1]dike \'dīk\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *dīc* ditch, dike; akin to MHG *tīch* pond, dike, L *figere* to fasten, pierce] **1** : an artificial watercourse : DITCH **2** **a** *dial Brit* : a wall or fence of turf or stone **b** : a bank usu. of earth constructed to control or confine water : LEVEE **c** : a barrier preventing passage esp. of something undesirable **3** **a** : a raised causeway **b** : a tabular body of igneous rock that has been injected while molten into a fissure

[2]dike *vt* **diked; dik•ing** **1** : to surround or protect with a dike **2** : to drain by a dike — **dik•er** *n*

[3]dike \'dīk\ *n* [origin unknown] : LESBIAN

dik•tat \dik-'tät\ *n* [G, lit., something dictated, fr. NL *dictatum*, fr. L, neut. of *dictatus*, pp. of *dictare* to dictate] : a harsh settlement unilaterally imposed (as on a defeated nation)

dil *abbr* dilute

Di•lan•tin \dī-'lant-ᵊn, də-\ *trademark* — used for diphenylhydantoin

di•lap•i•date \də-'lap-ə-ˌdāt\ *vb* **-dat•ed; -dat•ing** [L *dilapidatus*, pp. of *dilapidare* to squander, destroy, fr. *dis-* + *lapidare* to throw stones, fr. *lapid-, lapis* stone — more at LAPIDARY] *vt* **1** : to bring into a condition of decay or partial ruin ⟨furniture is *dilapidated* by use —Janet Flanner⟩ **2** *archaic* : SQUANDER ~ *vi* : to become dilapidated ***syn*** see RUIN — **di•lap•i•da•tion** \-ˌlap-ə-'dā-shən\ *n* — **di•lap•i•da•tor** \-'lap-ə-ˌdāt-ər\ *n*

di•lap•i•dat•ed *adj* : decayed, deteriorated, or fallen into partial ruin esp. through neglect or misuse ⟨a junkyard filled with ~ autos⟩

di•lat•an•cy \dī-'lāt-ᵊn-sē\ *n* : the property of being dilatant

di•lat•ant \-ᵊnt\ *adj* : increasing in viscosity and setting to a solid as a result of deformation by expansion, pressure, or agitation

di•la•ta•tion \ˌdil-ə-'tā-shən, ˌdī-lə-\ *n* **1** : amplification in writing or speech **2** **a** : the condition of being stretched beyond normal dimensions esp. as a result of overwork or disease or of abnormal relaxation ⟨~ of the heart⟩ ⟨~ of the stomach⟩ **b** : DILATION 2 **3** : the action of expanding : the state of being expanded **4** : a dilated part or formation — **di•la•ta•tion•al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

di•late \dī-'lāt, 'dī-ˌ\ *vb* **di•lat•ed; di•lat•ing** [ME *dilaten*, fr. MF *dilater*, fr. L *dilatare*, lit., to spread wide, fr. *dis-* + *latus* wide — more at LATITUDE] *vt* **1** *archaic* : to describe or set forth at length or in detail **2** : to enlarge or expand in bulk or extent : DISTEND ~ *vi* **1** : to comment at length : DISCOURSE ⟨~ on a topic⟩ **2** : to become wide : SWELL ***syn*** see EXPAND ***ant*** constrict, circumscribe, attenuate — **di•lat•abil•i•ty** \(ˌ)dī-ˌlāt-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **di•lat•able** \dī-'lāt-ə-bəl, 'dī-ˌ\ *adj* — **di•la•tor** \dī-'lāt-ər, 'dī-ˌ\ *n*

di•lat•ed *adj* **1** : expanded laterally **2** *of an insect part* : having a broad expanded border **3** : expanded normally or abnormally in all dimensions — **di•lat•ed•ly** *adv* — **di•lat•ed•ness** *n*

di·la·tion \dī-'lā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or action of dilating : the state of being dilated : EXPANSION, DILATATION **2** : the action of stretching or enlarging an organ or part of the body
di·la·tive \dī-'lāt-iv, 'dī-,\ *adj* : causing dilation : tending to dilate
di·la·tom·e·ter \,dil-ə-'täm-ət-ər, ,dī-lə-\ *n* [ISV] : an instrument for measuring expansion — **di·la·to·met·ric** \-tō-'me-trik\ *adj* — **di·la·tom·e·try** \-'täm-ə-trē\ *n*
dil·a·to·ry \'dil-ə-,tōr-ē, -,tȯr-\ *adj* [LL *dilatorius*, fr. L *dilatus* (pp. of *differre* to postpone, differ), fr. *dis-* + *latus*, pp. of *ferre* to carry — more at DIFFER, TOLERATE] **1** : tending or intended to cause delay ⟨~ tactics⟩ **2** : characterized by procrastination : TARDY ⟨~ in answering letters⟩ — **dil·a·to·ri·ly** \,dil-ə-'tōr-ə-lē, -'tȯr-\ *adv* — **dil·a·to·ri·ness** \'dil-ə-,tōr-ē-nəs, -,tȯr-\ *n*
dil·do \'dil-(,)dō\ *n, pl* **dildos** [origin unknown] : an object serving as a penis substitute for vaginal insertion
di·lem·ma \də-'lem-ə *also* dī-\ *n* [LL, fr. LGk *dilēmmat-, dilēmma*, prob. back-formation fr. Gk *dilēmmatos* involving two assumptions, fr. *di-* + *lēmmat-, lēmma* assumption — more at LEMMA] **1** : an argument presenting two or more equally conclusive alternatives against an opponent **2 a** : a choice or a situation involving choice between equally unsatisfactory alternatives **b** : a problem seemingly incapable of a satisfactory solution ⟨unemployment . . . the great central ~ of our advancing technology —August Heckscher⟩ — **dil·em·mat·ic** \,dil-ə-'mat-ik *also* ,dī-lə-\ *adj*
dil·et·tante \'dil-ə-,tänt, -,tant; ,dil-ə-'tänt(-ē), -'tant(-ē)\ *n, pl* **-tantes** *or* **-tan·ti** \-'tänt-ē, -'tant-ē\ [It, fr. prp. of *dilettare* to delight, fr. L *dilectare* — more at DELIGHT] **1** : an admirer or lover of the arts **2** : a person having a superficial interest in an art or a branch of knowledge : DABBLER ***syn*** see AMATEUR — **dilettante** *adj*
dil·et·tant·ish \-,tänt-ish, -,tant-, ,dil-ə-'\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of a dilettante
dil·et·tan·tism \-,tän-,tiz-əm, -,tan-, ,dil-ə-'\ *n* : dilettantish quality or procedure — **dil·et·tan·tist** \-,tänt-əst, -,tant-, ,dil-ə-'\ *adj*
[1]dil·i·gence \'dil-ə-jən(t)s\ *n* [MF, fr. L *diligentia*, fr. *diligent-, diligens*] **1 a** : persevering application : ASSIDUITY **b** *obs* : SPEED, HASTE **2** : the attention and care legally expected or required of a person
[2]di·li·gence \'dil-ə-,zhäⁿs, 'dil-ə-jən(t)s\ *n* [F, lit., haste, fr. MF, persevering application] : STAGECOACH
dil·i·gent \'dil-ə-jənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *diligent-, diligens*, fr. prp. of *diligere* to esteem, love, fr. *di-* (fr. *dis-* apart) + *legere* to select — more at LEGEND] : characterized by steady, earnest, and energetic application and effort : PAINSTAKING ***syn*** see BUSY ***ant*** dilatory — **dil·i·gent·ly** *adv*
dill \'dil\ *n* [ME *dile*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *tilli* dill] **1** : any of several plants of the carrot family; *esp* : a European herb (*Anethum graveolens*) with aromatic foliage and seeds both of which are used in flavoring foods and esp. pickles **2** : DILL PICKLE
dill pickle *n* : a pickle seasoned with fresh dill or dill juice
dil·ly \'dil-ē\ *n, pl* **dillies** [obs. slang *dilly*, adj. (delightful), irreg. fr. E *delightful*] : one that is remarkable or outstanding ⟨comes up with some *dillies* in his newspaper column —R. M. Rennick⟩
dil·ly bag \'dil-ē-\ *n* [Australian *dhilla* hair] : an Australian mesh bag made of native fibers
dil·ly·dal·ly \'dil-ē-,dal-ē\ *vi* [redupl. of *dally*] : to waste time by loitering : DAWDLE
[1]dil·u·ent \'dil-yə-wənt\ *n* [L *diluent-, diluens*, prp. of *diluere*] : a diluting agent
[2]diluent *adj* [L *diluent-, diluens*] : making thinner or less concentrated by admixture : DILUTING
[1]di·lute \dī-'lüt, də-\ *vt* **di·lut·ed; di·lut·ing** [L *dilutus*, pp. of *diluere* to wash away, dilute, fr. *di-* + *lavere* to wash — more at LYE] **1** : to make thinner or more liquid by admixture **2** : to diminish the strength, flavor, or brilliance of by admixture **3** : ATTENUATE — **di·lut·er** *or* **di·lu·tor** \-'lüt-ər\ *n* — **di·lu·tive** \-'lüt-iv\ *adj*
[2]dilute *adj* : WEAK, DILUTED — **di·lute·ness** *n*
di·lu·tion \dī-'lü-shən, də-\ *n* **1** : the action of diluting : the state of being diluted **2** : something (as a solution) that is diluted **3** : a lessening of real value (as of equity) by a decrease in relative worth through attrition ⟨~ of savings by inflation⟩
di·lu·vi·al \də-'lü-vē-əl, dī-\ *or* **di·lu·vi·an** \-vē-ən *adj* [LL *diluvialis*, fr. L *diluvium* deluge — more at DELUGE] : of, relating to, or effected by a flood
[1]dim \'dim\ *adj* **dim·mer; dim·mest** [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *timber* dark, Skt *dhamati* he blows] **1 a** : emitting a limited or insufficient amount of light **b** : DULL, LUSTERLESS **c** : lacking pronounced, clear-cut, or vigorous quality or character **2 a** : seen indistinctly or without clear outlines or details **b** : perceived by the senses or mind indistinctly or weakly : FAINT ⟨had only a ~ notion of what was going on⟩ **c** : having little prospect of favorable result or outcome ⟨a ~ future⟩ **d** : characterized by an unfavorable, skeptical, or pessimistic attitude — usu. used in the phrase *take a dim view of* **3** : not perceiving clearly and distinctly ⟨peered at her with ~ eyes —Louis Bromfield⟩ ***syn*** see DARK ***ant*** bright, distinct — **dim·ly** *adv* — **dim·ma·ble** \'dim-ə-bəl\ *adj*
[2]dim *vb* **dimmed; dim·ming** *vt* **1** : to make dim or lusterless **2** : to reduce the light from (headlights) by switching to the low beam ~ *vi* : to become dim
[3]dim *n* **1** *archaic* : DUSK, DIMNESS **2 a** : a small light on an automobile for use in parking **b** : LOW BEAM
[4]dim *abbr* **1** dimension **2** diminished **3** diminuendo **4** diminutive
dime \'dīm\ *n* [ME, tenth part, tithe, fr. MF, fr. L *decima*, fr. fem. of *decimus* tenth, fr. *decem* ten — more at TEN] **1 a** : a coin of the U.S. worth $^1/_{10}$ dollar **b** : a petty sum of money **2** : a Canadian 10-cent piece — **a dime a dozen** : so plentiful or commonplace as to be of little esteem or slight value — **on a dime** : in a very small area ⟨these cars can turn *on a dime*⟩
di·men·hy·dri·nate \,dī-,men-'hī-drə-,nāt\ *n* [*di-* + *me*thyl + ami*ne* + *hydr-* + ami*ne* + *-ate*] : a crystalline compound $C_{24}H_{28}ClN_5O_3$ used esp. as an antihistaminic and to prevent nausea
dime novel *n* : a usu. paperback melodramatic novel — **dime novelist** *n*
[1]di·men·sion \də-'men-chən *also* dī-\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *dimension-, dimensio*, fr. *dimensus*, pp. of *dimetiri* to measure out, fr. *dis-* + *metiri* to measure — more at MEASURE] **1 a** (1) : measure in one direction; *specif* : one of three or four coordinates determining a position in space or space and time (2) : one of a group of properties whose number is necessary and sufficient to determine uniquely each element of a system of usu. mathematical entities (as an aggregate of points in real or abstract space) ⟨the surface of a sphere has two ~*s*⟩; *also* : a parameter or coordinate variable assigned to such a property ⟨the three ~*s* of momentum⟩ (3) : the number of elements in a basis of a vector space **b** : the quality of spatial extension : MAGNITUDE, SIZE **c** : the range over which or the degree to which something extends : SCOPE **d** : one of the elements or factors making up a complete personality or entity : ASPECT **2** *obs* : bodily form or proportions **3** : wood or stone cut to pieces of specified size — **di·men·sion·al** \-'mench-nəl, -'men-chən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **di·men·sion·al·i·ty** \-,men-chə-'nal-ət-ē\ *n* — **di·men·sion·al·ly** \'mench-nə-lē, -'men-chen-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*
[2]dimension *vt* **di·men·sioned; di·men·sion·ing** \-'mench-(ə-)niŋ\ **1** : to form to the required dimensions **2** : to indicate the dimensions on (a drawing)
di·men·sion·less \-'men-chən-ləs\ *adj* : having no dimensions ⟨a ratio of two lengths is a ~ quantity⟩
di·mer \'dī-mər\ *n* [ISV *di-* + *-mer* (as in *polymer*)] : a compound formed by the union of two radicals or two molecules of a simpler compound; *specif* : a polymer formed from two molecules of a monomer — **di·mer·iza·tion** \,dī-mə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n* — **di·mer·ize** \'dī-mə-,rīz\ *vt*
di·mer·ic \(')dī-'mer-ik\ *adj* [NL *dimerus*] **1** : consisting of two parts ⟨a ~ chromosome⟩ **2** : of or relating to a dimer
dim·er·ous \'dim-ə-rəs\ *adj* [NL *dimerus*, fr. L *di-* + NL *-merus* -merous] : consisting of two parts: as **a** *of an insect* : having the tarsi two-jointed **b** *of a flower* : having two members in each whorl — **dim·er·ism** \-ə-,riz-əm\ *n*
dime store *n* : FIVE-AND-TEN
dim·e·ter \'dim-ət-ər\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *dimetros*, adj., being a dimeter, fr. *di-* + *metron* measure — more at MEASURE] : a line of verse consisting of two metrical feet or of two dipodies
di·meth·o·ate \dī-'meth-ə-,wāt\ *n* [*dime*thyl- + *thio* acid + [1]*-ate*] : an insecticide $C_5H_{12}NO_3PS_2$ used on livestock and various crops
dimethyl- *comb form* : containing two methyl groups
di·meth·yl·hy·dra·zine \,dī-,meth-əl-'hī-drə-,zēn\ *n* : either of two flammable corrosive isomeric liquids $C_2H_8N_2$ which are methylated derivatives of hydrazine and of which one is used in rocket fuels
di·meth·yl·sulf·ox·ide \-,səl-'fäk-,sīd\ *n* [*dimethyl-* + *sulf-* + *oxide*] : a compound $(CH_3)_2SO$ obtained as a by-product in wood-pulp manufacture and used as a solvent and in experimental medicine — called also *DMSO*
di·meth·yl·tryp·ta·mine \-'trip-tə-,mēn\ *n* [*dimethyl-* + *tryp*tophan + *amine*] : an easily synthesized hallucinogenic drug $C_{12}H_{16}N_2$ that is chemically similar to but shorter acting than psilocybin
dimin *abbr* diminuendo
di·min·ish \də-'min-ish\ *vb* [ME *deminishen*, alter. of *diminuen*, fr. MF *diminuer*, fr. LL *diminuere*, alter. of L *deminuere*, fr. *de-* + *minuere* to lessen — more at MINOR] *vt* **1** : to make less or cause to appear less **2** : to lessen the authority, dignity, or reputation of : BELITTLE **3** : to cause to taper ~ *vi* **1** : to become gradually less (as in size or importance) : DWINDLE **2** : TAPER ***syn*** see DECREASE — **di·min·ish·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **di·min·ish·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
di·min·ished *adj, of a musical interval* : made one half step less than perfect or minor ⟨a ~ fifth⟩
diminishing returns *n pl* : a rate of yield that beyond a certain point fails to increase in proportion to additional investments of labor or capital
di·min·u·en·do \də-,min-(y)ə-'wen-(,)dō\ *adv or adj* [It, lit., diminishing, fr. LL *diminuendum*, gerund of *diminuere*] : DECRESCENDO — **diminuendo** *n*
dim·i·nu·tion \,dim-ə-'n(y)ü-shən\ *n* [ME *diminucioun*, fr. MF *diminution*, fr. ML *diminution-, diminutio*, alter. of L *deminution-, deminutio*, fr. *deminutus*, pp. of *deminuere*] : the act, process, or an instance of diminishing : DECREASE — **dim·i·nu·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*
[1]di·min·u·tive \də-'min-yət-iv\ *n* [ME *diminutif*, fr. ML *diminutivum*, alter. of LL *deminutivum*, fr. neut. of *deminutivus*] **1** : a diminutive word, affix, or name **2** : a diminutive individual
[2]diminutive *adj* **1** : indicating small size and sometimes the state or quality of being familiarly known, lovable, pitiable, or contemptible — used of affixes (as *-ette, -kin, -ling*) and of words formed with them (as *kitchenette, manikin, duckling*), of clipped forms (as *Jim*), and of altered forms (as *Peggy*); compare AUGMENTATIVE **2** : exceptionally or abnormally small : MINUTE ***syn*** see SMALL — **di·min·u·tive·ly** *adv* — **di·min·u·tive·ness** *n*
dim·i·ty \'dim-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [alter. of ME *demyt*, prob. fr. MGk *dimitos* of double thread, fr. Gk *di-* + *mitos* warp thread] : a sheer usu. corded cotton fabric of plain weave in checks or stripes
dim·mer \'dim-ər\ *n* **1** : a device for regulating the intensity of an electric lighting unit **2** *pl* **a** : small lights on an automobile for use in parking **b** : headlights on low beam
dimness *n* **1** : the quality or state of being dim **2** : something dim

di·mor·phic \(')dī-'mȯr-fik\ *adj* **1 a** : DIMORPHOUS 1 **b** : occurring in two distinct forms ⟨~ leaves of emergent plants⟩ ⟨a sexually ~ butterfly⟩ **2** : combining qualities of two kinds of individuals in one
di·mor·phism \-ˌfiz-əm\ *n* [ISV] : the condition or property of being dimorphic or dimorphous: as **a** (1) : the existence of two different forms (as of color or size) of a species esp. in the same population **a** (2) : the existence of an organ (as the leaves of a plant) in two different forms **b** : crystallization of a chemical compound in two different forms
di·mor·pho·the·ca \(ˌ)dī-ˌmȯr-fə-'thē-kə\ *n* [NL *Dimorphotheca*, genus name, fr. Gk *dimorphos* + NL *theca*] : any of a genus (*Dimorphotheca*) of southern African composite herbs or subshrubs with showy terminal solitary flower heads and conspicuously toothed leaves
di·mor·phous \(')dī-'mȯr-fəs\ *adj* [Gk *dimorphos* having two forms, fr. *di-* + *-morphos* -morphous] **1** : crystallizing in two different forms **2** : DIMORPHIC 1b
dim·out \'dim-ˌau̇t\ *n* : a restriction limiting the use or showing of lights at night esp. during the threat of an air raid; *also* : a condition of partial darkness produced by this restriction
¹dim·ple \'dim-pəl\ *n* [ME *dympull*; akin to OHG *tumphilo* whirlpool, OE *dyppan* to dip — more at DIP] **1** : a slight natural indentation in the surface of some part of the human body **2** : a depression or indentation on a surface (as of a golf ball) — **dim·ply** \-p(ə-)lē\ *adj*
²dimple *vb* **dim·pled; dim·pling** \-p(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* : to mark with dimples ~ *vi* : to exhibit or form dimples
dim·wit \'dim-ˌwit\ *n* : a stupid or mentally slow person
dim–wit·ted \-'wit-əd\ *adj* : not mentally bright : STUPID — **dim–wit·ted·ly** *adv* — **dim–wit·ted·ness** *n*
¹din \'din\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *dyne*; akin to ON *dynr* din, Skt *dhvanati* it roars] : a loud continued noise; *esp* : a welter of discordant sounds ⟨a world of savage violence and incessant ~ —Thomas Wolfe⟩
²din *vb* **dinned; din·ning** *vt* **1** : to assail or deafen with loud continued noise **2** : to impress by insistent repetition ~ *vi* : to make a loud noise
³din *abbr* dinar
di·nar \di-'när, 'dē-ˌ\ *n* [Ar *dīnār*, fr. Gk *dēnarion* denarius, fr. L *denarius*] **1** : a gold coin formerly used in Muslim countries **2 a** —see MONEY table **b** —see *rial* at MONEY table
¹dine \'dīn\ *vb* **dined; din·ing** [ME *dinen*, fr. OF *diner*, fr. (assumed) VL *disjejunare* to break one's fast, fr. L *dis-* + LL *jejunare* to fast, fr. L *jejunus* fasting] *vi* : to take dinner ~ *vt* : to give a dinner to : FEED ⟨wined and *dined* his friends⟩
²dine *n*, *Scot* : DINNER
din·er \'dī-nər\ *n* **1** : one that dines **2 a** : DINING CAR **b** : a restaurant usu. resembling a dining car in shape
din·er–out \ˌdī-nə-'rau̇t\ *n*, *pl* **diners–out** : one who dines away from home esp. in the course of an active social life
di·nette \dī-'net\ *n* : a small space usu. off a kitchen used for informal dining; *also* : furniture for such a space
¹ding \'diŋ\ *vb* [prob. imit.] *vt* : to dwell on with tiresome repetition ⟨keeps ~*ing* it into him that the less he smokes the better —Samuel Butler †1902⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to make a ringing sound : CLANG **2** : to speak with tiresome reiteration
²ding *n* [*ding* (to strike), fr. ME *dingen*] : a damaged area esp. on the surface of a surfboard
ding–a–ling *n* [prob. euphemism for *damn fool*] : NITWIT, KOOK
ding·bat \'diŋ-ˌbat\ *n* [origin unknown] : a typographical ornament (as an asterisk) used typically to call attention to an opening sentence or to make a break between two paragraphs
¹ding·dong \'diŋ-ˌdȯŋ, -ˌdäŋ\ *n* [imit.] : the ringing sound produced by repeated strokes esp. on a bell
²dingdong *vi* **1** : to make a dingdong sound **2** : to repeat a sound or action tediously or insistently
³dingdong *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or resembling the ringing sound made by a bell **2** : marked by a rapid exchange or alternation (as of blows or words)
din·ghy \'diŋ-(k)ē, -gē\ *n*, *pl* **dinghies** [Bengali *ḍiṅgi* & Hindi *ḍiṅgī*] **1** : an East Indian rowboat or sailboat **2** : a small boat propelled by oars, sails, or motor that is often carried on a larger boat as a tender or a lifeboat **3** : a rubber life raft
din·gle \'diŋ-gəl\ *n* [ME, abyss] : a small wooded valley : DELL
din·gle·ber·ry \'diŋ-gəl-ˌber-ē\ *n* [origin unknown] : a shrub (*Vaccinium erythrocarpus*) of the southeastern U.S.; *also* : its globose dark red edible berry
din·go \'diŋ-(ˌ)gō\ *n*, *pl* **dingoes** [native name in Australia] : a reddish brown wild dog (*Canis dingo*) of Australia



dingo

din·gus \'diŋ-(g)əs\ *n* [D or G; D *dinges*, prob. fr. G *dings*, fr. gen. of *ding* thing, fr. OHG — more at THING] : something (as a gadget) whose common name is unknown or forgotten
din·gy \'din-jē\ *adj* **din·gi·er; -est** [origin unknown] **1** : DIRTY, DISCOLORED **2** : SHABBY, SQUALID — **din·gi·ly** \-jə-lē\ *adv* — **din·gi·ness** \-jē-nəs\ *n*
dining car *n* : a railroad car in which meals are served
dining room *n* : a room used for the taking of meals
dinitro- *comb form* : containing two nitro groups
di·ni·tro·ben·zene \(ˌ)dī-ˌnī-trō-'ben-ˌzēn, -(ˌ)ben-'\ *n* [ISV] : any of three isomeric toxic compounds $C_6H_4(NO_2)_2$; *esp* : the yellow meta-isomer used chiefly as a dye intermediate
di·ni·tro·phe·nol \-'fē-ˌnōl, -fi-'\ *n* : any of six isomeric crystalline compounds $C_6H_4N_2O_5$ some of whose derivatives are pesticides; *esp* : a highly toxic compound that increases fat metabolism and was formerly used in weight control
¹dink \'diŋk\ *n* [*dink* (to hit with a drop shot), prob. of imit. origin] : DROP SHOT
²dink *n* [prob. alter. of *dick*] : PENIS — usu. considered vulgar
din·key *or* **din·ky** \'diŋ-kē\ *n*, *pl* **dinkeys** *or* **dinkies** [prob. fr. *dinky*] : a small locomotive used esp. for hauling freight, logging, and shunting
¹din·kum \'diŋ-kəm\ *adj* [prob. fr. E dial. *dinkum*, n., work] *Austral* : AUTHENTIC, GENUINE
²dinkum *adv*, *Austral* : TRULY, HONESTLY
din·ky \'diŋ-kē\ *adj* **din·ki·er; -est** [Sc *dink* neat] : SMALL, INSIGNIFICANT
din·ner \'din-ər\ *n*, *often attrib* [ME *diner*, fr. OF, fr. *diner* to dine] **1 a** : the principal meal of the day **b** : a formal feast or banquet **2** : TABLE D'HÔTE 2 **3** : the food prepared for a dinner ⟨eat your ~⟩ **4** : a packaged meal usu. for quick preparation ⟨warmed up a frozen Chinese ~⟩ — **din·ner·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
dinner jacket *n* : a jacket for formal evening wear
din·ner·ware \'din-ər-ˌwa(ə)r, -ˌwe(ə)r\ *n* : tableware other than flatware
di·no·fla·gel·late \ˌdī-nō-'flaj-ə-lət, -ˌlāt; -flə-'jel-ət\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *dinos* rotation, eddy + NL *flagellum*] : any of an order (Dinoflagellata) of chiefly marine planktonic usu. solitary plantlike flagellates that include luminescent forms, forms important in marine food chains, and forms causing red tide
di·no·saur \'dī-nə-ˌsȯ(ə)r\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *deinos* terrible + *sauros* lizard — more at DIRE, SAURIAN] **1** : any of a group (Dinosauria) of extinct chiefly terrestrial carnivorous or herbivorous reptiles **2** : any of various large extinct reptiles — **di·no·sau·ri·an** \ˌdī-nə-'sȯr-ē-ən\ *adj or n* — **di·no·sau·ric** \-'sȯr-ik\ *adj*
di·no·there \'dī-nə-ˌthi(ə)r\ *n* [NL *Deinotherium*, genus name, fr. Gk *deinos* + NL *-therium*] : any of a genus (*Deinotherium*) of extinct proboscidean mammals with a pair of downward-directed tusks
¹dint \'dint\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *dynt*] **1** *archaic* : BLOW, STROKE **2** : FORCE, POWER **3** : ¹DENT — **by dint of** : by force of : because of
²dint *vt* **1** : to make a dint in **2** : to impress or drive in with force
di·nu·cle·o·tide \(ˌ)dī-'n(y)ü-klē-ə-ˌtīd\ *n* : a nucleotide consisting of two units each composed of a phosphate, a pentose, and a nitrogen base
di·oc·e·san \dī-'äs-ə-sən *also* ˌdī-ə-'sēz-ᵊn\ *n* : a bishop having jurisdiction over a diocese
di·o·cese \'dī-ə-səs, -ˌsēz, -ˌsēs\ *n*, *pl* **-ce·ses** \-sə-səz, -ˌsē-zəz, -ˌsē-səz, -ə-ˌsēz\ [ME *diocise*, fr. MF, fr. LL *diocesis*, alter. of *dioecesis*, fr. L, administrative division, fr. Gk *dioikēsis* administration, administrative division, fr. *dioikein* to keep house, govern, fr. *dia-* + *oikein* to dwell, manage, fr. *oikos* house — more at VICINITY] : the territorial jurisdiction of a bishop — **di·oc·e·san** \dī-'äs-ə-sən *also* ˌdī-ə-'sēz-ᵊn\ *adj*
di·ode \'dī-ˌōd\ *n* [ISV] **1** : a 2-electrode electron tube having a cathode and an anode **2** : a rectifier that consists of a semiconducting crystal with two terminals and that is analogous in use to an electron tube diode
di·oe·cious \(')dī-'ē-shəs\ *adj* [deriv. of Gk *di-* + *oikos* house] **1** : having male reproductive organs in one individual and female in another **2** : having staminate and pistillate flowers borne on different individuals — **di·oe·cious·ly** *adv* — **di·oe·cism** \-'ē-ˌsiz-əm\ *n*
di·oi·cous \-'ȯi-kəs\ *adj* [NL *dioicus*, fr. *di-* + Gk *oikos*] : having archegonia and antheridia on separate plants
di·ol \'dī-ˌōl, -ˌȯl\ *n* [ISV *di-* + ¹*-ol*] : a compound (as glycol) containing two hydroxyl groups
di·ole·fin \dī-'ō-lə-fən\ *n* [ISV *di-* + *olefin*] : any of a series of aliphatic hydrocarbons containing two double bonds — called also *diene*
Di·o·me·des \ˌdī-ə-'mēd-ēz\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Diomēdēs*] : one of the Greek heroes of the Trojan War
Di·o·ny·sia \ˌdī-ə-'niz(h)-ē-ə, -'nis(h)-; -'nizh-ə, -'nish-; -'nī-sē-ə, -'nē-, -zē-\ *n pl* [L, fr. Gk, fr. neut. pl. of *dionysios* of Dionysus fr. *Dionysos*] : ancient Greek festival observances held in seasonal cycles in honor of Dionysus; *esp* : such observances marked by dramatic performances
Di·o·ny·si·ac \-'niz(h)-ē-ˌak, -'nis(h)-; -'nī-zē-, -'nē-, -sē-\ *adj* [L *dionysiacus*, fr. Gk *dionysiakos*, fr. *Dionysos*] : DIONYSIAN 2 — **Dionysiac** *n*
Di·o·ny·sian \-'niz(h)-ē-ən, -'nis(h)-; -'nizh-ən, -'nish-; -'nī-sē-ən, -'nē-, -zē-\ *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to Dionysius **b** : of or related to the theological writings once mistakenly attributed to Dionysius the Areopagite **2 a** : devoted to the worship of Dionysus **b** : being of a frenzied or orgiastic character
Di·o·ny·sus \ˌdī-ə-'nī-səs, -'nē-\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Dionysos*] : the Greek god of wine : BACCHUS
Di·o·phan·tine equation \ˌdī-ə-'fan-ˌtīn-, -'fant-ᵊn-\ *n* [*Diophantus*, 3d cent. A.D. Gk mathematician] : an indeterminate polynomial equation with integral coefficients for which it is required to find all integral solutions
di·op·side \dī-'äp-ˌsīd\ *n* [F, fr. *di-* + Gk *opsis* appearance — more at OPTIC] : a green to white mineral that consists of pyroxene containing little or no aluminum — **diopsidic** *adj*
di·op·ter *also* **di·op·tre** \dī-'äp-tər\ *n* [*diopter* (an optical instrument), fr. MF *dioptre*, fr. L *dioptra*, fr. Gk, fr. *dia-* + *opsesthai* to be going to see] : a unit of measurement of the refractive power of lenses equal to the reciprocal of the focal length in meters
di·op·tom·e·ter \(ˌ)dī-ˌäp-'täm-ət-ər\ *n* : an instrument used in measuring the accommodation and refraction of the eye — **di·optom·e·try** \-'täm-ə-trē\ *n*
di·op·tric \dī-'äp-trik\ *adj* [Gk *dioptrikos* of a diopter (instrument), fr. *dioptra*] **1** : that effects or serves in refraction of a beam of light : REFRACTIVE; *specif* : that assists vision by refracting and focalizing light **2** : produced by means of refraction
di·ora·ma \ˌdī-ə-'ram-ə, -'räm-\ *n* [F, fr. *dia-* + *-orama* (as in *panorama*, fr. E)] **1** : a scenic representation in which a partly trans-

lucent painting is seen from a distance through an opening **2 a** : a scenic representation in which sculptured figures and lifelike details are displayed usu. in miniature so as to blend indistinguishably with a realistic painted background **b** : a life-size exhibit of a wildlife specimen or scene with realistic natural surroundings and a painted background — **di·oram·ic** \-'ram-ik\ *adj*

di·o·rite \'dī-ə-ˌrīt\ *n* [F, irreg. fr. Gk *diorizein* to distinguish, fr. *dia-* + *horizein* to define — more at HORIZON] : a granular crystalline igneous rock commonly of acid plagioclase and hornblende, pyroxene, or biotite — **di·o·rit·ic** \ˌdī-ə-'rit-ik\ *adj*

Di·os·cu·ri \ˌdī-əs-'kyu̇(ə)r-ˌī, dī-'äs-kyə-ˌrī\ *n pl* [NL, fr. Gk *Dioskouroi*, lit., sons of Zeus, fr. *Dios* (gen. of *Zeus*; akin to L *divus* divine) + *kouroi*, pl. of *koros*, *koaros* boy — more at DEITY, CRESCENT] : the twins Castor and Pollux reunited as stars in the sky by Zeus after Castor's death and regarded as patrons of athletes, soldiers, and mariners

di·ox·ane \dī-'äk-ˌsān\ *n* [ISV *di-* + *ox-* + *-ane*] : a flammable toxic liquid diether $C_4H_8O_2$ used esp. as a solvent

di·ox·ide \(')dī-'äk-ˌsīd\ *n* [ISV] : an oxide (as carbon dioxide) containing two atoms of oxygen in the molecule

¹dip \'dip\ *vb* **dipped; dip·ping** [ME *dippen*, fr. OE *dyppan*; akin to OHG *tupfen* to wash, Lith *dubus* deep] *vt* **1 a** : to plunge or immerse momentarily or partially under the surface (as of a liquid) so as to moisten, cool, or coat ⟨~ candles⟩ **b** : to thrust in a way to suggest immersion **c** : to immerse (as a hog) in an antiseptic or parasiticidal solution **2** : to lift a portion of by reaching below the surface with something shaped to hold liquid : LADLE **3 a** *archaic* : INVOLVE **b** : MORTGAGE **4** : to lower and then raise again ⟨~ a flag in salute⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to plunge into a liquid and quickly emerge **b** : to immerse something into a processing liquid or finishing material **2 a** : to suddenly drop down or out of sight **b** *of an airplane* : to drop suddenly before climbing **c** : to decline or decrease moderately and usu. temporarily ⟨prices *dipped*⟩ **3 a** : to reach down inside or below a surface esp. to withdraw a part of the contents **b** : to make inroads for funds — used with *into* ⟨*dipped* into the family's savings⟩ **4** : to examine something casually or tentatively; *specif* : to read superficially **5** : to incline downward from the plane of the horizon — **dip·pa·ble** \'dip-ə-bəl\ *adj*

²dip *n* **1** : an act of dipping; *esp* : a brief plunge into the water for sport or exercise **2** : inclination downward: **a** : PITCH **b** : a sharp downward course : DROP **c** : the angle that a stratum or similar geological feature makes with a horizontal plane **3** : the angle formed with the horizon by a magnetic needle free to rotate in the vertical plane **4** : HOLLOW, DEPRESSION **5** : something obtained by or used in dipping **6 a** : a sauce or soft mixture into which food may be dipped **b** : a liquid preparation into which an object may be dipped (as for cleansing or coloring) **7** *slang* : PICKPOCKET

di·pep·ti·dase \dī-'pep-tə-ˌdās, -ˌdāz\ *n* : any of various enzymes that hydrolyze dipeptides but not polypeptides

di·pep·tide \(')dī-'pep-ˌtīd\ *n* : a peptide that yields two molecules of amino acid on hydrolysis

di·phase \'dī-ˌfāz\ *or* **di·pha·sic** \(')dī-'fā-zik\ *adj* : having two phases

di·phe·nyl \(')dī-'fen-ᵊl, -'fēn-\ *n* : BIPHENYL

di·phe·nyl·amine \(ˌ)dī-ˌfen-ᵊl-ə-'mēn, -ˌfēn-, -ᵊl-'am-ən\ *n* [ISV] : a crystalline pleasant-smelling compound $(C_6H_5)_2NH$ used chiefly in the manufacture of dyes and in stabilizing explosives

di·phe·nyl·hy·dan·to·in \-hī-'dant-ə-wən\ *n* [*diphenyl* + *hyd*rogen + all*antoin* (a chemical found in the allantoic liquid of cows)] : a crystalline compound $C_{15}H_{12}N_2O_2$ used in the form of its sodium salt in the treatment of epilepsy

di·phos·gene \(')dī-'fäz-ˌjēn\ *n* [ISV] : a liquid compound $C_2Cl_4O_2$ used as a poison gas in World War I

di·phos·phate \(')dī-'fäs-ˌfāt\ *n* : a phosphate containing two phosphate groups

di·phos·pho·gly·cer·ic acid \(')dī-'fäs-fō-glis-ˌer-ik-\ *n* : a diphosphate of glyceric acid that is an important intermediate in photosynthesis and in glycolysis and fermentation

di·phos·pho·pyr·i·dine nucleotide \-ˌpir-ə-ˌdēn-\ *n* [*di-* + *phosph-* + *pyridine*] : NAD

diph·the·ria \dif-'thir-ē-ə, dip-\ *n* [NL, fr. F *diphthérie*, fr. Gk *diphthera* leather; fr. the toughness of the false membrane] : an acute febrile contagious disease marked by the formation of a false membrane esp. in the throat and caused by a bacterium which produces a toxin causing inflammation of the heart and nervous system — **diph·the·ri·al** \-ē-əl\ *or* **diph·the·ri·an** \-ē-ən\ *adj* — **diph·the·rit·ic** \ˌdif-thə-'rit-ik, ˌdip-\ *adj*

¹diph·the·roid \'dif-thə-ˌrȯid\ *adj* : resembling diphtheria

²diphtheroid *n* : a bacterium that resembles the bacterium of diphtheria but does not produce diphtheria toxin

diph·thong \'dif-ˌthȯŋ, 'dip-\ *n* [ME *diptonge*, fr. MF *diptongue*, fr. LL *dipthongus*, fr. Gk *diphthongos*, fr. *di-* + *phthongos* voice, sound] **1** : a gliding monosyllabic speech sound (as the vowel combination that forms the last part of *toy*) that starts at or near the articulatory position for one vowel and moves to or toward the position of another **2** : DIGRAPH **3** : a form of the ligature æ or œ — **diph·thon·gal** \dif-'thȯŋ-(g)əl, dip-\ *adj*

diph·thong·iza·tion \(ˌ)dif-ˌthȯŋ-ə-'zā-shən, (ˌ)dip-\ *n* : the act of diphthongizing : the state of being diphthongized

diph·thong·ize \'dif-ˌthȯŋ-ˌīz, 'dip-\ *vb* **-ized; -iz·ing** *vi, of a simple vowel* : to change into a diphthong ~ *vt* : to pronounce as a diphthong

diphy- *or* **diphyo-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *diphy-*, fr. *diphyēs*, fr. *di-* + *phyein* to bring forth — more at BE] : double : bipartite ⟨*diphy*odont⟩

diphy·cer·cal \ˌdif-i-'sər-kəl\ *adj* [*diphy-* + *-cercal*] **1** *of a tail fin* : having the upper and lower portions alike or nearly so and the vertebral column extending to the tip **2** : having a diphycercal tail fin — **diphy·cer·cy** \'dif-i-ˌsər-sē, -ˌsər-kē\ *n*

di·phy·let·ic \ˌdī-fī-'let-ik\ *adj* [*di-* + *phyletic*] : derived from two lines of evolutionary descent ⟨~ dinosaurs⟩

di·phyl·lous \(')dī-'fil-əs\ *adj* [NL *diphyllus*, fr. *di-* + *-phyllus* -phyllous] : having two leaves

di·phy·odont \(')dī-'fī-ə-ˌdänt\ *adj* [ISV] : marked by the successive development of deciduous and permanent sets of teeth

dipl- *or* **diplo-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *diploos* — more at DOUBLE] **1** : double : twofold ⟨*diplo*pia⟩ **2** : diploid ⟨*diplo*phase⟩

di·ple·gia \dī-'plē-j(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL] : paralysis of corresponding parts on both sides of the body

di·plex \'dī-ˌpleks\ *adj* [alter. of *duplex*] : relating to or being simultaneous transmission or reception of two radio signals

dip·lo·ba·cil·lus \ˌdip-lō-bə-'sil-əs\ *n* [NL] : any of various small aerobic gram-negative bacilli parasitic on mucous membranes

dip·lo·blas·tic \-'blas-tik\ *adj* : having two germ layers — used of an embryo or lower invertebrate that lacks a true mesoderm

dip·lo·coc·cus \-'käk-əs\ *n* [NL, genus name] : any of a genus (*Diplococcus*) of gram-positive encapsulated bacteria that occur usu. in pairs, are parasitic, and include serious pathogens — **dip·lo·coccal** \-'käk-əl\ *or* **dip·lo·coc·cic** \-'käk-(s)ik\ *adj*

di·plod·o·cus \də-'präd-ə-kəs, dī-\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. *dipl-* + Gk *dokos* beam, fr. *dekesthai*, *dechesthai* to receive; akin to L *decēre* to be fitting — more at DECENT] : any of a genus (*Diplodocus*) of very large herbivorous dinosaurs from Colorado and Wyoming

dip·loe \'dip-lə-ˌwē\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *diploē*, fr. *diploos* double] : cancellous bony tissue between the external and internal layers of the skull — **di·plo·ic** \də-'plō-ik, dī-\ *adj*

¹dip·loid \'dip-ˌlȯid\ *adj* : having the basic chromosome number doubled — **dip·loi·dy** \-ˌlȯid-ē\ *n*

²diploid *n* **1** : a diploid cell **2** : an individual or generation characterized by the diploid chromosome number

di·plo·ma \də-'plō-mə\ *n, pl* **diplomas** [L, passport, diploma, fr. Gk *diplōma* folded paper, passport, fr. *diploun* to double, fr. *diploos*] **1** *pl also* **di·plo·ma·ta** \-mət-ə\ : an official or state document : CHARTER **2** : a writing usu. under seal conferring some honor or privilege **3** : a document bearing record of graduation from or of a degree conferred by an educational institution

di·plo·ma·cy \də-'plō-mə-sē\ *n* **1** : the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations **2** : skill in handling affairs without arousing hostility : TACT

diploma mill *n* **1** : an institution of higher education operating without supervision of a state or professional agency and granting diplomas without the usual required courses and attendance **2** : an institution of higher education whose academic demands are minimal

dip·lo·mat \'dip-lə-ˌmat\ *n* [F *diplomate*, back-formation fr. *diplomatique*] : one employed or skilled in diplomacy

dip·lo·mate \'dip-lə-ˌmāt\ *n* [*diploma* + ¹*-ate*] : one who holds a diploma; *esp* : a physician qualified to practice in a medical specialty by advanced training and experience in the specialty followed by passing an intensive examination by a national board of senior specialists

dip·lo·mat·ic \ˌdip-lə-'mat-ik\ *adj* [in sense 1, fr. NL *diplomaticus*, fr. L *diplomat-*, *diploma*; in other senses, fr. F *diplomatique* connected with documents regulating international relations, fr. NL *diplomaticus*] **1 a** : PALEOGRAPHIC **b** : exactly reproducing the original ⟨a ~ edition⟩ **2 a** : concerned with or skilled in international relations **b** : of or relating to those conducting international relations ⟨~ immunity⟩ **3** : employing tact and conciliation esp. in situations of stress ***syn*** see SUAVE — **dip·lo·mat·i·cally** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

di·plo·ma·tist \də-'plō-mət-əst\ *n* : DIPLOMAT

dip·lont \'dip-ˌlänt\ *n* [ISV] : an organism with somatic cells having the diploid chromosome number — compare HAPLONT — **dip·lontic** \dip-'länt-ik\ *adj*

dip·lo·phase \'dip-lə-ˌfāz\ *n* : a diploid phase in a life cycle

dip·lo·pia \dip-'lō-pē-ə\ *n* [NL] : a disorder of vision in which two images of a single object are seen because of unequal action of the eye muscles — **dip·lo·pic** \-'lō-pik, -'läp-ik\ *adj*

dip·lo·pod \'dip-lə-ˌpäd\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *dipl-* + *pod-*, *pous* foot — more at FOOT] : MILLIPEDE — **dip·lop·o·dous** \dip-'läp-əd-əs\ *adj*

dip·lo·sis \dip-'lō-səs\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *diplōsis* action of doubling, fr. *diploun*] : restoration of the somatic chromosome number by fusion of two gametes in fertilization

dip·lo·tene \'dip-lə-ˌtēn\ *n* [ISV] : a stage of meiotic prophase which follows the pachytene and during which the paired homologous chromosomes begin to separate and chiasmata become visible — **diplotene** *adj*

dip net *n* : a small bag net with a handle that is used esp. to scoop small fish from the water

dip·noan \'dip-nə-wən\ *adj* [deriv. of Gk *dipnoos*, fr. *di-* + *pnoē* breath, fr. *pnein* to breathe — more at SNEEZE] : of or relating to a group (Dipnoi) of fishes with pulmonary circulation, gills, and lungs — **dipnoan** *n*

dip·o·dy \'dip-əd-ē\ *n, pl* **-dies** [LL *dipodia*, fr. Gk, fr. *dipod-*, *dipous* having two feet, fr. *di-* + *pod-*, *pous*] : a prosodic unit or measure of two feet — **di·pod·ic** \dī-'päd-ik\ *adj*

di·po·lar \'dī-ˌpō-lər, -'pō-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or having a dipole

di·pole \'dī-ˌpōl\ *n* [ISV] **1 a** : a pair of equal and opposite electric charges or magnetic poles of opposite sign separated by a small distance **b** : a body or system (as a molecule) having such charges **2** : a radio antenna consisting of two horizontal rods in line with each other with their ends slightly separated

dip·per \'dip-ər\ *n* **1** : one that dips: as **a** : a worker who dips articles **b** : something (as a long-handled cup) used for dipping **2** *cap* **a** : the seven principal stars in the constellation of Ursa Major arranged in a form resembling a dipper — called also *Big Dipper* **b** : the seven principal stars in Ursa Minor similarly ar-

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ranged with the North Star forming the outer end of the handle — called also *Little Dipper* **3** : any of several birds (as a bufflehead or water ouzel) skilled in diving — **dip·per·ful** \-ˌfu̇l\ *n*

di·pro·pel·lant \ˌdī-prə-ˈpel-ənt\ *n* : BIPROPELLANT

dip·so·ma·nia \ˌdip-sə-ˈmā-nē-ə, -nyə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *dipsa* thirst + LL *mania*] : an uncontrollable craving for alcoholic liquors — **dip·so·ma·ni·ac** \-nē-ˌak\ *n* — **dip·so·ma·ni·a·cal** \ˌdip-sō-mə-ˈnī-ə-kəl\ *adj*

dip·stick \ˈdip-ˌstik\ *n* : a graduated rod for indicating depth (as of oil in a crankcase)

dip·ter·an \ˈdip-tə-rən\ *adj* [deriv. of Gk *dipteros*] : of, relating to, or being a two-winged fly — **dipteran** *n*

dip·tero·carp \ˈdip-tə-rō-ˌkärp\ *n* [NL *Dipterocarpaceae*, group name, fr. *Dipterocarpus*, genus name, fr. *dipterus* dipterous + *-carpus* -carpous] : any of a family (Dipterocarpaceae) of tall trees of tropical Asia, Indonesia, and the Philippines that have a 2-winged fruit and are the source of valuable timber, aromatic oils, and resins; *esp* : a member of the type genus (*Dipterocarpus*)

dip·ter·on \ˈdip-tə-ˌrän\ *n, pl* **-tera** \-rə\ [Gk, neut. of *dipteros*] : TWO-WINGED FLY

dip·ter·ous \ˈdip-tə-rəs\ *adj* [NL *dipterus*, fr. Gk *dipteros*, fr. *di-* + *pteron* wing — more at FEATHER] **1** : having two wings or wing-like appendages **2** : of or relating to the two-winged flies

dip·tych \ˈdip-(ˌ)tik\ *n* [LL *diptycha*, pl., fr. Gk, fr. neut. pl. of *diptychos* folded in two, fr. *di-* + *ptychē* fold] **1** : a 2-leaved hinged tablet folding together to protect writing on its waxed surfaces **2** : a picture or series of pictures (as an altarpiece) painted or carved on two hinged tablets **3** : a work made up of two matching parts



diptych 2

di·quat \ˈdī-ˌkwät\ *n* [*di-* + *quat*ernary] : a powerful nonpersistent herbicide $C_{12}H_{12}Br_2N_2$ that has been used to control water weeds (as the water hyacinth)

dir *abbr* director

dir·dum \ˈdi(ə)rd-əm, ˈdərd-\ *n* [ME (northern dial.) *durdan*, fr. ScGael, grumbling, hum, dim. of *durd* hum] *Scot* : BLAME

dire \ˈdī(ə)r\ *adj* **dir·er; dir·est** [L *dirus*; akin to Gk *deinos* terrible, Skt *dvesti* he hates] **1 a** : exciting horror ⟨~ suffering⟩ **b** : DISMAL, OPPRESSIVE ⟨~ days⟩ **2** : warning of disaster ⟨a ~ forecast⟩ **3 a** : desperately urgent ⟨~ need⟩ **b** : EXTREME ⟨~ poverty⟩ — **dire·ly** *adv* — **dire·ness** *n*

¹di·rect \də-ˈrekt, dī-\ *vb* [ME *directen*, fr. L *directus*, pp. of *dirigere* to set straight, direct — more at DRESS] *vt* **1 a** *obs* : to write (a letter) to a person **b** : to mark with the name and address of the intended recipient **c** : to impart orally **d** : to adapt in expression so as to have particular applicability ⟨a lawyer who ~*s* his appeals to intelligence and character⟩ **2** : to cause to turn, move, or point undeviatingly or to follow a straight course ⟨X rays are ~*ed* through the body⟩ **3** : to point, extend, or project in a specified line or course **4** : to show or point out the way for **5 a** : to regulate the activities or course of **b** : to carry out the organizing, energizing, and supervising of **c** : to dominate and determine the course of **d** : to train and lead performances of **6** : to request or enjoin with authority ~ *vi* **1** : to point out, prescribe, or determine a course or procedure **2** : to act as director ***syn*** see CONDUCT, COMMAND

²direct *adj* [ME, fr. L *directus*, fr. pp. of *dirigere*] **1 a** : proceeding from one point to another in time or space without deviation or interruption : STRAIGHT **b** : proceeding by the shortest way ⟨the ~ route⟩ **2 a** : stemming immediately from a source ⟨~ result⟩ **b** : being or passing in a straight line or descent from parent to offspring : LINEAL ⟨~ ancestor⟩ **c** : having no compromising or impairing element ⟨~ insult⟩ **3** : characterized by close logical, causal, or consequential relationship ⟨~ evidence⟩ **4** : NATURAL, STRAIGHTFORWARD ⟨~ manner⟩ **5 a** : marked by absence of an intervening agency, instrumentality, or influence **b** : effected by the action of the people or the electorate and not by representatives **c** : consisting of or reproducing the exact words of a speaker or writer **6** : capable of dyeing without the aid of a mordant : SUBSTANTIVE **7** *of a celestial body* : moving in the general planetary direction from west to east : not retrograde — **di·rect·ness** \-ˈrek(t)-nəs\ *n*

³direct *adv* : in a direct way: as **a** : from point to point without deviation : by the shortest way ⟨suggesting I write to her ~ — John Willett⟩ **b** : from the source without interruption or diversion ⟨the writer must take his material ~ from life —Douglas Stewart⟩ **c** : without an intervening agency or step ⟨those who did go ~ to the people . . . rallied a considerable majority of the voters —H. S. Ashmore⟩

direct action *n* : action that seeks to achieve an end directly and by the most immediately effective means (as boycott or strike)

direct current *n* : an electric current flowing in one direction only and substantially constant in value — abbr. *DC*

di·rect·ed *adj* **1** : having a positive or negative sense ⟨~ line segment⟩ **2** : subject to supervision or regulation ⟨a ~ reading program for students⟩

di·rec·tion \də-ˈrek-shən, dī-\ *n* **1** : guidance or supervision of action or conduct : MANAGEMENT **2 a** : the art and technique of directing an orchestra or theatrical production **b** : a word, phrase, or sign indicating the appropriate tempo, mood, or intensity of a passage or movement in music **3** *archaic* : SUPERSCRIPTION **4 a** : something imposed as authoritative instruction or bidding : ORDER **b** : an explicit instruction **5** : the line or course on which something is moving or is aimed to move or along which something is pointing or facing **6 a** : a channel or direct course of thought or action **b** : TENDENCY, TREND **c** : a guiding, governing, or motivating purpose **7** *archaic* : DIRECTORATE 1 — **di·rec·tion·less** \-ləs\ *adj*

di·rec·tion·al \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or indicating direction in space: **a** : suitable for detecting the direction from which radio signals come or for sending out radio signals in one direction only **b** : operating most effectively in a particular direction **2** : relating to direction or guidance esp. of thought or effort — **di·rec·tion·al·i·ty** \-ˌrek-shə-ˈnal-ət-ē\ *n*

direction angle *n* : an angle made by a given line with an axis of reference; *specif* : one of these angles made by a straight line with the three axes of a rectangular Cartesian coordinate system — usu. used in pl.

direction cosine *n* : one of the cosines of the three angles between a directed line in space and the positive direction of the axes of a rectangular Cartesian coordinate system — usu. used in pl.

direction finder *n* : a radio receiving device for determining the direction of incoming radio waves that typically consists of a coil antenna rotating freely on a vertical axis

¹di·rec·tive \də-ˈrek-tiv, dī-\ *adj* **1** : serving or intended to guide, govern, or influence **2** : serving to point direction; *specif* : DIRECTIONAL 1b **3** : of or relating to psychotherapy or counseling in which the counselor introduces information, content, or attitudes not previously expressed by the client

²directive *n* : something that serves to direct, guide, and usu. impel toward an action or goal; *esp* : an authoritative instrument issued by a high-level body or official

di·rec·tiv·i·ty \də-ˌrek-ˈtiv-ət-ē, (ˌ)dī-\ *n* : the property of being directional

direct lighting *n* : lighting in which the greater part of the light goes directly from the source to the area lit

¹di·rect·ly \də-ˈrek-(t)lē, dī-, *in sense 2* də-ˈrek-lē *or* ˈdrek-lē\ *adv* **1** : in a direct manner ⟨~ relevant⟩ ⟨the road runs ~ east and west⟩ **2 a** : without delay : IMMEDIATELY **b** : in a little while : SHORTLY ***syn*** see PRESENTLY

²di·rect·ly \də-ˈrek-(t)lē, dī-; ˈdrek-lē\ *conj, chiefly Brit* : immediately after : as soon as ⟨~ I received it I rang up the shipping company —F. W. Crofts⟩

di·rect·ness \də-ˈrek(t)-nəs, dī-\ *n* **1** : the character of being accurate in course or aim **2** : strict pertinence : STRAIGHTFORWARDNESS

direct object *n* : a grammatical object representing the primary goal or the result of the action of a verb ⟨*me* in "he hit me" and *house* in "we built a house" are *direct objects*⟩

di·rec·tor \də-ˈrek-tər, dī-\ *n* : one that directs: as **a** : the head of an organized group or administrative unit (as a bureau or school) **b** : one of a group of persons entrusted with the overall direction of a corporate enterprise **c** : one that supervises the production of a show (as for stage or screen) with responsibility for action, lighting, music, and rehearsals **d** : CONDUCTOR c — **di·rec·tor·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

di·rec·tor·ate \də-ˈrek-t(ə-)rət, dī-\ *n* **1** : the office of director **2 a** : a board of directors (as of a corporation) **b** : membership on a board of directors **3** : an executive staff (as of a program, bureau, or department)

di·rec·to·ri·al \də-ˌrek-ˈtōr-ē-əl, (ˌ)dī-, -ˈtȯr-\ *adj* **1** : serving to direct **2** : of or relating to a director or to theatrical direction **3** : of, relating to, or administered by a directory

director's chair *n* [fr. its use by motion picture directors on the set] : a lightweight folding armchair with a back and seat usu. of cotton duck

¹di·rec·to·ry \də-ˈrek-t(ə-)rē, dī-\ *adj* : serving to direct; *specif* : providing advisory but not compulsory guidance

²directory *n, pl* **-ries** [ML *directorium*, fr. neut. of LL *directorius* directorial, fr. L *directus*, pp.] **1 a** : a book or collection of directions, rules, or ordinances **b** : an alphabetical or classified list (as of names and addresses) **2** : a body of directors

direct primary *n* : a primary in which nominations of candidates for office are made by direct vote

di·rec·tress \də-ˈrek-trəs, dī-\ *n* : a female director

di·rec·trix \-triks\ *n, pl* **-trix·es** \-trik-səz\ *also* **-tri·ces** \-trə-ˌsēz\ [ML, fem. of LL *director*, fr. L *directus*, pp.] **1** *archaic* : DIRECTRESS **2** : a fixed curve with which a generatrix maintains a given relationship in generating a geometric figure; *specif* : a straight line the distance to which from any point of a conic section is in fixed ratio to the distance from the same point to a focus

direct tax *n* : a tax exacted directly from the person on whom the ultimate burden of the tax is expected to fall

dire·ful \ˈdī(ə)r-fəl\ *adj* **1** : DREADFUL **2** : OMINOUS — **dire·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv*

dire wolf *n* : a large lupine mammal (*Canis dirus* or *Aenocyon dirus*) found in Pleistocene deposits of No. America

dirge \ˈdərj\ *n* [ME *dirige*, the Office of the Dead, fr. the first word of a LL antiphon, fr. L, imper. of *dirigere*] **1** : a song or hymn of grief or lamentation; *esp* : one intended to accompany funeral or memorial rites **2** : a slow, solemn, and mournful piece of music

dir·ham \də-ˈram\ *n* [Ar, fr. L *drachma* drachma] **1** — see MONEY table **2** — see *dinar* at MONEY table

¹di·ri·gi·ble \ˈdir-ə-jə-bəl, də-ˈrij-ə-\ *adj* [L *dirigere*] : capable of being steered

²dirigible *n* [*dirigible* (*balloon*)] : AIRSHIP

¹dirk \ˈdərk\ *n* [Sc *durk*] : a long straight-bladed dagger

²dirk *vt* : to stab with a dirk

dirl \ˈdir(ə)l, ˈdərl\ *vi* [prob. alter. of *thirl*] *Scot* : TREMBLE, QUIVER

dirndl \ˈdərn-dᵊl\ *n* [short for G *dirndlkleid*, fr. G dial. *dirndl* girl + G *kleid* dress] **1** : a dress style with tight bodice, short sleeves, low neck, and gathered skirt **2** : a full skirt with a tight waistband

dirt \ˈdərt\ *n* [ME *drit*, fr. ON; akin to OE *drītan* to defecate, L *foria* diarrhea] **1 a** : EXCREMENT **b** : a filthy or soiling substance (as mud, dust, or grime) **c** *archaic* : something worthless **d** : a contemptible person **2 a** : loose or packed soil or sand : EARTH **b** (1) : alluvial earth in placer mining (2) : slate and waste in coal mines **3 a** : an abject or filthy state : SQUALOR **b** : CORRUPTION, CHICANERY **c** : licentiousness of language or theme **d** : scandalous or malicious gossip

dirt farmer *n* : a farmer who earns his living by farming his own land; *esp* : one who farms without the help of hired hands or tenants
dirt road *n* : an unpaved road
¹dirty \'dərt-ē\ *adj* **dirt·i·er; -est** **1 a** : not clean or pure ⟨~ clothes⟩ **b** : likely to befoul or defile with dirt ⟨~ jobs⟩ **c** : tedious, disagreeable, and unrecognized or thankless ⟨undertook the ~ tasks that no one else wanted to bother with⟩ **d** : contaminated with infecting organisms ⟨~ wounds⟩ **2 a** : BASE, SORDID ⟨war is a ~ business⟩ **b** : UNSPORTSMANLIKE ⟨a ~ trick⟩ ⟨~ players⟩ **c** : highly regrettable : GRIEVOUS ⟨a ~ shame⟩ **3** : INDECENT, SMUTTY ⟨~ language⟩ **4** : FOGGY, STORMY **5 a** *of color* : not clear and bright : DULLISH ⟨drab *dirty*-pink walls⟩ **b** : characterized by a husky, rasping, or raw tonal quality — used esp. of jazz **6** : conveying ill-natured resentment ⟨gave him a ~ look⟩ **7** : having considerable fallout ⟨~ bombs⟩ — **dirt·i·ly** \'dərt-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **dirt·i·ness** \'dərt-ē-nəs\ *n*
syn DIRTY, FILTHY, FOUL, NASTY, SQUALID *shared meaning element* : conspicuously unclean or impure. DIRTY emphasizes the fact of the presence of dirt more than an emotional reaction to it ⟨children *dirty* from play⟩ ⟨a *dirty* littered street⟩ FILTHY carries a strong suggestion of offensiveness and typically of gradually accumulated dirt that begrimes and besmears ⟨a stained greasy floor, utterly *filthy*⟩ FOUL implies extreme offensiveness and an accumulation of what is rotten or stinking ⟨the *foul* oil-and-garbage whiffs from the river —Herman Wouk⟩ NASTY applies to what is actually foul or is repugnant to one used to or expecting freshness, cleanliness, or sweetness ⟨it's a *nasty* job to clean up after a sick cat⟩ In practice, *nasty* is often weakened to the point of being no more than a synonym of *unpleasant* or *disagreeable* ⟨had a *nasty* fall⟩ ⟨his answer gave her a *nasty* shock⟩ SQUALID adds to the idea of dirtiness and filth that of slovenly neglect ⟨living in *squalid* poverty⟩ ⟨*squalid* slums⟩
All these terms are applicable to moral uncleanness or baseness or obscenity. DIRTY then stresses meanness or despicableness ⟨the creature's at his *dirty* work again —Alexander Pope⟩ while FILTHY and FOUL describe disgusting obscenity or loathsome behavior ⟨*filthy* language⟩ ⟨a *foul* story⟩ and NASTY implies a peculiarly offensive unpleasantness ⟨a cheap and *nasty* imitation of the real thing —Robert Wilkes⟩ Distinctively, SQUALID implies sordidness as well as baseness and dirtiness ⟨her life was a series of *squalid* affairs⟩ ***ant*** clean
²dirty *vb* **dirt·ied; dirty·ing** *vt* **1** : to make dirty **2 a** : to stain with dishonor : SULLY **b** : to debase by distorting the real nature of ~ *vi* : to become soiled
dirty linen *n* : private matters whose public exposure brings distress and embarrassment
dirty old man *n* : a lecherous mature man
dirty pool *n* : underhanded or unsportsmanlike conduct
dirty word *n* : a word or expression that is inappropriate, opprobrious, or derogatory in a particular frame of reference
dirty work *n* : behavior or an act that is mean, treacherous, or unfair ⟨the *dirty work* in general elections is often pale by contrast with the primaries —B. L. Felknor⟩
dis *abbr* **1** discharge **2** discount **3** distance
Dis \'dis\ *n* [L] : the Roman god of the underworld — compare PLUTO
dis- *prefix* [ME *dis-, des-*, fr. OF & L; OF *des-, dis-*, fr. L *dis-*, lit., apart; akin to OE *te-* apart, L *duo* two — more at TWO] **1 a** : do the opposite of ⟨*dis*establish⟩ **b** : deprive of (a specified quality, rank, or object) ⟨*dis*able⟩ ⟨*dis*prince⟩ ⟨*dis*frock⟩ **c** : exclude or expel from ⟨*dis*bar⟩ **2** : opposite or absence of ⟨*dis*union⟩ ⟨*dis*affection⟩ **3** : not ⟨*dis*agreeable⟩ **4** : completely ⟨*dis*annul⟩ **5** [by folk etymology] : DYS- ⟨*dis*function⟩
dis·abil·i·ty \ˌdis-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* **1 a** : the condition of being disabled **b** : inability to pursue an occupation because of physical or mental impairment **2 a** : lack of legal qualification to do something **b** : a nonlegal disqualification, restriction, or disadvantage
dis·able \dis-'ā-bəl, diz-\ *vt* **dis·abled; dis·abling** \-b(ə-)liŋ\ **1** : to deprive of legal right, qualification, or capacity **2** : to make incapable or ineffective; *esp* : to deprive of physical, moral, or intellectual strength : CRIPPLE ***syn*** see WEAKEN ***ant*** rehabilitate — **dis·able·ment** \-bəl-mənt\ *n*
dis·abuse \ˌdis-ə-'byüz\ *vt* [F *désabuser*, fr. *dés-* dis- + *abuser* to abuse] : to free from error or fallacy
di·sac·cha·ri·dase \(ˌ)dī-'sak-ə-rə-ˌdās, -ˌdāz\ *n* : an enzyme (as maltase or lactase) that hydrolyzes disaccharides
di·sac·cha·ride \(ˌ)dī-'sak-ə-ˌrīd\ *n* : any of a class of sugars (as sucrose) that yields on hydrolysis two monosaccharide molecules
¹dis·ac·cord \ˌdis-ə-'kȯ(ə)rd\ *vi* [ME *disacorden*, fr. MF *desacorder*, fr. *desacort* disagreement, fr. *des-* dis- + *acort* accord] : CLASH, DISAGREE
²disaccord *n* : lack of harmony : DISAGREEMENT
dis·ac·cus·tom \ˌdis-ə-'kəs-təm\ *vt* [MF *desaccoustumer*, fr. OF *desacostumer*, fr. *des-* + *acostumer* to accustom] : to free from a habit
¹dis·ad·van·tage \ˌdis-əd-'vant-ij\ *n* [ME *disavauntage*, fr. MF *desavantage*, fr. OF, fr. *des-* + *avantage* advantage] **1** : loss or damage esp. to reputation, credit, or finances : DETRIMENT **2 a** : an unfavorable, inferior, or prejudicial condition ⟨we were at a ~⟩ **b** : HANDICAP ⟨it put us under a serious ~⟩
²disadvantage *vt* : to place at a disadvantage : HARM
¹dis·ad·van·taged *adj* : lacking in the basic resources or conditions (as standard housing, medical and educational facilities, and civil rights) believed to be necessary for an equal position in society — **dis·ad·van·taged·ness** \-ij(d)-nəs\ *n*
²disadvantaged *n, pl* **disadvantaged** : one that is deprived and underprivileged (as in cultural, economic, and social matters)
dis·ad·van·ta·geous \(ˌ)dis-ˌad-ˌvan-'tā-jəs, -vən-\ *adj* **1** : constituting a disadvantage **2** : DEROGATORY, DISPARAGING — **dis·ad·van·ta·geous·ly** *adv* — **dis·ad·van·ta·geous·ness** *n*
dis·af·fect \ˌdis-ə-'fekt\ *vt* : to alienate the affection or loyalty of ***syn*** see ESTRANGE ***ant*** win (*as to a cause*) — **dis·af·fec·tion** \-'fek-shən\ *n*
dis·af·fect·ed *adj* : discontented and resentful esp. against authority : REBELLIOUS
dis·af·fil·i·ate \ˌdis-ə-'fil-ē-ˌāt\ *vt* : DISASSOCIATE ~ *vi* : to terminate an affiliation — **dis·af·fil·i·a·tion** \-ˌfil-ē-'ā-shən\ *n*
dis·af·firm \ˌdis-ə-'fərm\ *vt* **1** : CONTRADICT **2** : to refuse to confirm : ANNUL, REPUDIATE — **dis·af·fir·mance** \-'fər-mən(t)s\ *n* — **dis·af·fir·ma·tion** \(ˌ)dis-ˌaf-ər-'mā-shən\ *n*
dis·ag·gre·gate \(')dis-'ag-ri-ˌgāt\ *vt* : to separate into component parts ⟨~ sandstone⟩ ⟨~ demographic data⟩ ~ *vi* : to break up or apart ⟨the molecules of a gel ~ to form a sol⟩ — **dis·ag·gre·ga·tion** \(ˌ)dis-ˌag-ri-'gā-shən\ *n* — **dis·ag·gre·ga·tive** \(')dis-'ag-ri-ˌgāt-iv\ *adj*
dis·agree \ˌdis-ə-'grē\ *vi* [ME *disagreen*, fr. MF *desagreer*, fr. *des-* + *agreer* to agree] **1** : to fail to agree ⟨the two accounts ~⟩ **2** : to differ in opinion ⟨he *disagreed* with me on every topic⟩ **3** : to be unsuitable ⟨fried foods ~ with me⟩
dis·agree·able \-ə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : causing discomfort : UNPLEASANT, OFFENSIVE **2** : marked by ill temper : PEEVISH — **dis·agree·abil·i·ty** \-ˌgrē-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **dis·agree·able·ness** *n* — **dis·agree·ably** \-blē\ *adv*
dis·agree·ment \ˌdis-ə-'grē-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of disagreeing **2 a** : the state of being at variance : DISPARITY **b** : QUARREL
dis·al·low \ˌdis-ə-'laù\ *vt* **1** : to deny the force, truth, or validity of **2** : to refuse to allow — **dis·al·low·ance** \-ən(t)s\ *n*
dis·am·big·u·ate \ˌdis-am-'big-yə-ˌwāt\ *vt* **-ated; -at·ing** : to establish a single semantic or grammatical interpretation for — **dis·am·big·u·a·tion** \-ˌbig-yə-'wā-shən\ *n*
dis·an·nul \ˌdis-ə-'nəl\ *vt* : ANNUL, CANCEL
dis·ap·pear \ˌdis-ə-'pi(ə)r\ *vi* **1** : to pass from view suddenly or gradually **2** : to cease to be — **dis·ap·pear·ance** \-'pir-ən(t)s\ *n*
dis·ap·point \ˌdis-ə-'pȯint\ *vb* [MF *desapointier*, fr. *des-* dis- + *apointier* to arrange — more at APPOINT] *vt* : to fail to meet the expectation or hope of : FRUSTRATE ~ *vi* : to cause disappointment ⟨where the show ~*s* most is in the work of the younger generation —John Ashbery⟩
dis·ap·point·ed *adj* **1** : defeated in expectation or hope : THWARTED **2** *obs* : not adequately equipped — **dis·ap·point·ed·ly** *adv*
dis·ap·point·ing *adj* : failing to meet expectations — **dis·ap·point·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
dis·ap·point·ment \ˌdis-ə-'pȯint-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act or an instance of disappointing : the state or emotion of being disappointed **2** : one that disappoints
dis·ap·pro·ba·tion \(ˌ)dis-ˌap-rə-'bā-shən\ *n* : the act or state of disapproving : the state of being disapproved : CONDEMNATION
dis·ap·prov·al \ˌdis-ə-'prü-vəl\ *n* : DISAPPROBATION, CENSURE
dis·ap·prove \-'prüv\ *vt* **1** : to pass unfavorable judgment on : CONDEMN **2** : to refuse approval to : REJECT ~ *vi* : to feel or express disapproval — **dis·ap·prov·er** *n* — **dis·ap·prov·ing·ly** \-'prü-viŋ-lē\ *adv*
syn DISAPPROVE, DEPRECATE *shared meaning element* : to feel or express an objection ***ant*** approve
dis·arm \(')dis-'ärm, diz-\ *vb* [ME *desarmen*, fr. MF *desarmer*, fr. OF, fr. *des-* + *armer* to arm] *vt* **1 a** : to divest of arms **b** : to deprive of a means of attack or defense **c** : to make harmless **2 a** : to deprive of means, reason, or disposition to be hostile **b** : to win over ~ *vi* **1** : to lay aside arms **2** : to give up or reduce armed forces — **dis·ar·ma·ment** \-'är-mə-mənt\ *n* — **dis·arm·er** *n*
dis·arm·ing *adj* : allaying criticism or hostility : INGRATIATING — **dis·arm·ing·ly** \-'är-miŋ-lē\ *adv*
dis·ar·range \ˌdis-ə-'rānj\ *vt* : to disturb the arrangement or order of — **dis·ar·range·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
¹dis·ar·ray \ˌdis-ə-'rā\ *n* **1** : a lack of order or sequence : CONFUSION, DISORDER **2** : disorderly dress : DISHABILLE
²disarray *vt* [ME *disarayen*, fr. MF *desarroyer*, fr. OF *desareer*, fr. *des-* + *areer* to array] **1** : to throw into disorder **2** : UNDRESS
dis·ar·tic·u·late \ˌdis-är-'tik-yə-ˌlāt\ *vi* : to become disjointed ~ *vt* : DISJOINT — **dis·ar·tic·u·la·tion** \-ˌtik-yə-'lā-shən\ *n*
dis·as·sem·ble \ˌdis-ə-'sem-bəl\ *vt* : to take apart ⟨~ a watch⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to come apart ⟨the automobile parts ~ into sections⟩ **2** : DISPERSE, SCATTER ⟨the crowd began to ~⟩ — **dis·as·sem·bla·ble** \-b(ə-)lə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·as·sem·bly** \-blē\ *n*
dis·as·so·ci·ate \ˌdis-ə-'sō-s(h)ē-ˌāt\ *vt* : to detach from association : DISSOCIATE — **dis·as·so·ci·a·tion** \-ˌsō-sē-'ā-shən, -shē-\ *n*
di·sas·ter \diz-'as-tər, dis-\ *n* [MF & OIt; MF *desastre*, fr. OIt *disastro*, fr. *dis-* (fr. L) + *astro* star, fr. L *astrum* — more at ASTRAL] **1** *obs* : an unfavorable aspect of a planet or star **2** : a sudden calamitous event bringing great damage, loss, or destruction; *broadly* : a sudden or great misfortune
syn DISASTER, CALAMITY, CATASTROPHE, CATACLYSM *shared meaning element* : an event or situation that is regarded as a terrible misfortune
disaster area *n* : an area officially declared to be the scene of an emergency created by a disaster and therefore qualified to receive certain types of governmental aid (as emergency loans and relief supplies)
di·sas·trous \diz-'as-trəs *also* dis-\ *adj* : attended by or causing suffering or disaster : CALAMITOUS — **di·sas·trous·ly** *adv*
dis·avow \ˌdis-ə-'vaù\ *vt* [ME *desavowen*, fr. MF *desavouer*, fr. OF, fr. *des-* dis- + *avouer* to avow] **1** : to refuse to acknowledge : DISCLAIM **2** : to deny responsibility for : REPUDIATE — **dis·avow·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·avow·al** \-'vaù(-ə)l\ *n*
dis·band \dis-'band\ *vb* [MF *desbander*, fr. *des-* + *bande* band] *vt* : to break up the organization of : DISSOLVE ~ *vi* : to break up as an organization : DISPERSE — **dis·band·ment** \-'ban(d)-mənt\ *n*

dis·bar \dis-'bär\ *vt* : to expel from the bar or the legal profession : deprive (an attorney) of legal status and privileges — **dis·bar·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
dis·be·lief \ˌdis-bə-'lēf\ *n* : the act of disbelieving : mental rejection of something as untrue ***syn*** see UNBELIEF ***ant*** belief
dis·be·lieve \-'lēv\ *vt* : to hold not to be true or real ~ *vi* : to withhold or reject belief ⟨~*s* in the sanctity of the status quo —W. C. Brownell⟩ — **dis·be·liev·er** *n*
dis·bound \dis-'baůnd\ *adj* : no longer having a binding ⟨a ~ pamphlet⟩
dis·branch \(')dis-'branch\ *vt* [MF *desbrancher*, fr. *des-* + *branche* branch] : to tear off (as a branch)
dis·bud \(')dis-'bəd\ *vt* **1** : to thin out flower buds in order to improve the quality of bloom of **2** : to dehorn (cattle) by destroying the undeveloped horn bud
dis·bur·den \(')dis-'bərd-ᵊn\ *vt* **1 a** : to rid of a burden ⟨~ a pack animal⟩ **b** : UNBURDEN ⟨~ your conscience⟩ **2** : UNLOAD ⟨~*ed* their merchandise in the town square⟩ ~ *vi* : DISCHARGE ⟨the vessels ~*ed* at the dock⟩ — **dis·bur·den·ment** \-mənt\ *n*
dis·burse \dis-'bərs\ *vt* **dis·bursed; dis·burs·ing** [MF *desbourser*, fr. OF *desborser*, fr. *des-* + *borser* to get money, fr. *borse* purse, fr. ML *bursa* — more at PURSE] **1 a** : to pay out : expend esp. from a fund **b** : to make a payment in settlement of : DEFRAY **2** : DISTRIBUTE ⟨~ property by will⟩ — **dis·burs·er** *n*
dis·burse·ment \-'bər-smənt\ *n* : the act of disbursing; *also* : funds paid out
[1]disc *var of* DISK
[2]disc *abbr* discount
disc- *or* **disci-** *or* **disco-** *comb form* [L, fr. Gk *disk-*, *disko-*, fr. *diskos*] **1** : disk ⟨*disci*gerous⟩ **2** : phonograph record ⟨*disco*phile⟩
dis·calced \(')dis-'kalst\ *adj* [part trans. of L *discalceatus*, fr. *dis-* + *calceatus*, pp. of *calceare* to put on shoes, fr. *calceus* shoe, fr. *calc-*, *calx* heel — more at CALK] : UNSHOD, BAREFOOT ⟨~ friars⟩
dis·cant \'dis-ˌkant\ *var of* DESCANT
[1]dis·card \dis-'kärd, 'dis-ˌ\ *vt* **1 a** : to remove (a playing card) from one's hand **b** : to play (any card except a trump) from a suit different from the one led **2** : to get rid of as useless or unpleasant ~ *vi* : to discard a playing card — **dis·card·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·card·er** *n*
syn DISCARD, CAST, SHED, SLOUGH, SCRAP, JUNK *shared meaning element* : to get rid of as of no further use, value, or service
[2]dis·card \'dis-ˌkärd\ *n* **1 a** : the act of discarding in a card game **b** : a card discarded **2** : one that is cast off or rejected
disc brake *n* : a brake that operates by the friction of a caliper pressing against the sides of a rotating disc
dis·cern \dis-'ərn, diz-\ *vb* [ME *discernen*, fr. MF *discerner*, fr. L *discernere* to separate, distinguish between, fr. *dis-* apart + *cernere* to sift — more at DIS-, CERTAIN] *vt* **1 a** : to detect with the eyes **b** : to detect with other senses than vision **2** : to come to know or recognize mentally **3** : to recognize or identify as separate and distinct : DISCRIMINATE ~ *vi* : to see or understand the difference — **dis·cern·er** *n* — **dis·cern·ible** *also* **dis·cern·able** \-'ər-nə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·cern·ibly** \-blē\ *adv*
dis·cern·ing *adj* : revealing insight and understanding : DISCRIMINATING ⟨a ~ critic⟩ — **dis·cern·ing·ly** \-'ər-niŋ-lē\ *adv*
dis·cern·ment \dis-'ərn-mənt, diz-\ *n* **1** : an act of discerning **2** : the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure : skill in discerning
syn DISCERNMENT, DISCRIMINATION, PERCEPTION, PENETRATION, INSIGHT, ACUMEN *shared meaning element* : keen intellectual vision. DISCERNMENT stresses skill and accuracy (as in reading character or appreciating art) ⟨a man of great intelligence and *discernment*⟩ ⟨the *discernment* revealed in her novels⟩ DISCRIMINATION emphasizes a capacity for distinguishing and selecting the excellent, the appropriate, or the true ⟨nobody should reproach them for reading indiscriminately . . . only by so doing can they learn *discrimination* —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ PERCEPTION implies quick acute discernment and delicacy of feeling ⟨persecutors were ordinary, reasonably well-intentioned people lacking in keen *perception* — C. H. Sykes⟩ PENETRATION implies a searching mind that goes beyond the obvious or superficial ⟨analyzed the underlying causes of the discontent with great *penetration*⟩ INSIGHT emphasizes depth of discernment coupled with understanding sympathy ⟨the ecstasy of imaginative vision, the sudden *insight* into the nature of things —Edmund Wilson⟩ ACUMEN suggests consistent penetration accompanied by shrewd soundness of judgment ⟨it is clear and bold, reflecting astute scholarship and logical *acumen* —L. L. Gerson⟩
[1]dis·charge \dis(h)-'chärj, 'dis(h)-ˌ\ *vb* [ME *dischargen*, fr. MF *descharger*, fr. LL *discarricare*, fr. L *dis-* + LL *carricare* to load — more at CHARGE] *vt* **1** : to relieve of a charge, load, or burden: **a** : UNLOAD **b** : to release from an obligation **2 a** : to let go : clear out **b** : SHOOT ⟨~ an arrow⟩ **c** : to release from confinement, custody, or care ⟨~ a prisoner⟩ **d** : to give outlet or vent to : EMIT **3 a** (1) : to dismiss from employment (2) : to release from service or duty ⟨~ a soldier⟩ **b** : to get rid of (as a debt or obligation) by performing an appropriate action (as payment) : FULFILL **c** : to set aside : ANNUL **d** : to order (a legislative committee) to end consideration of a bill in order to bring it before the house for action **4** : to bear and distribute (as the weight of a wall above an opening) **5** : to bleach out or remove (color or dye) in dyeing and printing textiles **6** : to cancel the record of the loan of (a library book) upon return ~ *vi* **1** : to throw off or deliver a load, charge, or burden **2 a** : to go off : FIRE — used of a gun **b** : RUN ⟨some dyes ~⟩ **c** : to pour forth fluid or other contents ***syn*** see FREE, PERFORM — **dis·charge·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·charg·ee** \(ˌ)dis(h)-ˌchär-'jē\ *n* — **dis·charg·er** \dis(h)-'chär-jər, 'dis(h)-ˌ\ *n*
[2]dis·charge \'dis(h)-ˌchärj, dis(h)-'\ *n* **1 a** : the act of relieving of something that oppresses : RELEASE **b** : something that discharges or releases; *esp* : a certification of release or payment **2** : the state of being discharged or relieved **3** : the act of discharging or unloading **4** : legal release from confinement **5** : a firing off **6 a** : a flowing or issuing out ⟨a ~ of spores⟩; *also* : a rate of flow **b** : something that is emitted ⟨a purulent ~⟩ **7** : the act of removing an obligation or liability **8 a** : release or dismissal esp. from an office or employment **b** : complete separation from military service **9 a** : the equalization of a difference of electric potential between two points **b** : the conversion of the chemical energy of a battery into electrical energy
discharge lamp *n* : an electric lamp in which discharge of electricity between electrodes causes luminosity of the enclosed vapor or gas or in which the luminosity of the enclosed gas is enhanced by phosphors
discharge tube *n* : an electron tube which contains gas or vapor at low pressure and through which conduction takes place when a high voltage is applied
dis·ci·flo·ral \ˌdis-(k)i-'flōr-əl, -'flȯr-\ *adj* : having flowers with the receptacle enlarged into a conspicuous disc
dis·ci·form \'dis-(k)ə-ˌfȯrm\ *adj* : round or oval in shape
dis·ci·ple \dis-'ī-pəl\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *discipul* & OF *desciple*, fr. LL and L; LL *discipulus* follower of Jesus Christ in his lifetime, fr. L, pupil] **1** : one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another: as **a** : one of the twelve in the inner circle of Christ's followers according to the Gospel accounts **b** : a convinced adherent of a school or individual **2** *cap* : a member of the Disciples of Christ founded in the U.S. in 1809 that holds the Bible alone to be the rule of faith and practice, baptizes by immersion, and has a congregational polity ***syn*** see FOLLOWER — **dis·ci·ple·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
dis·ci·plin·able \ˌdis-ə-'plin-ə-bəl; 'dis-ə-plən-\ *adj* **1** : DOCILE, TEACHABLE **2** : subject to or deserving discipline ⟨a ~ offense⟩
dis·ci·pli·nar·i·an \ˌdis-ə-plə-'ner-ē-ən\ *n* : one who disciplines or enforces order — **disciplinarian** *adj*
dis·ci·plin·ary \'dis-ə-plə-ˌner-ē, *esp Brit* ˌdis-ə-'plin-ə-rē\ *adj* **1 a** : of or relating to discipline **b** : designed to correct or punish breaches of discipline ⟨took ~ action⟩ **2** : of or relating to a particular field of study — **dis·ci·plin·ar·i·ly** \ˌdis-ə-plə-'ner-ə-lē\ *adv* — **dis·ci·plin·ar·i·ty** \-'nar-ət-ē\ *n*
[1]dis·ci·pline \'dis-ə-plən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *disciplina* teaching, learning, fr. *discipulus* pupil] **1** *obs* : INSTRUCTION **2** : a subject that is taught : a field of study **3** : training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character **4** : PUNISHMENT **5 a** : control gained by enforcing obedience or order **b** : orderly or prescribed conduct or pattern of behavior **c** : SELF-CONTROL **6** : a rule or system of rules governing conduct or activity — **dis·ci·plin·al** \-plən-ᵊl\ *adj*
[2]discipline *vt* **-plined; plin·ing** **1** : to punish or penalize for the sake of discipline **2** : to train or develop by instruction and exercise esp. in self-control **3 a** : to bring (a group) under control ⟨~ troops⟩ **b** : to impose order upon ⟨the writer ~*s* and refines his style⟩ ***syn*** see TEACH, PUNISH — **dis·ci·plin·er** *n*
dis·ci·plined *adj* : marked by or possessing discipline ⟨a ~ mind⟩
disc jockey *n* : an announcer of a radio or TV show of popular recorded music who often intersperses comments not related to the music
dis·claim \dis-'klām\ *vb* [AF *disclaimer*, fr. *dis-* + *claimer* to claim, fr. OF *clamer*] *vi* **1** : to make a disclaimer **2 a** *obs* : to disavow all part or share **b** : to utter denial ~ *vt* **1** : to renounce a legal claim to **2** : DENY, DISAVOW
dis·claim·er \-'klā-mər\ *n* [AF, fr. *disclaimer*, v.] **1 a** : a denial or disavowal of legal claim : relinquishment of or formal refusal to accept an interest or estate **b** : a writing that embodies a legal disclaimer **2 a** : DENIAL, DISAVOWAL **b** : REPUDIATION
dis·cla·ma·tion \ˌdis-klə-'mā-shən\ *n* : RENUNCIATION, DISAVOWAL
disc·like *var of* DISKLIKE
dis·cli·max \(')dis-'klī-ˌmaks\ *n* : a relatively stable ecological community often including kinds of organisms foreign to the region and displacing the climax because of disturbance esp. by man
[1]dis·close \dis-'klōz\ *vt* [ME *disclosen*, fr. MF *desclos-*, stem of *desclore* to disclose, fr. ML *disclaudere* to open, fr. L *dis-* + *claudere* to close — more at CLOSE] **1** *obs* : to open up **2 a** : to expose to view **b** *archaic* : HATCH **c** : to make known or public (something previously held close or secret) ⟨demands that politicians ~ the sources of their income⟩ ***syn*** see REVEAL — **dis·closer** *n*
[2]disclose *n, obs* : DISCLOSURE
dis·clo·sure \dis-'klō-zhər\ *n* **1** : the act or an instance of disclosing : EXPOSURE **2** : something disclosed : REVELATION
dis·co \'dis-(ˌ)kō\ *n, pl* **discos** : DISCOTHEQUE
disco- — see DISC-
dis·cog·ra·pher \dis-'käg-rə-fər\ *n* : one that compiles discographies
dis·cog·ra·phy \-fē\ *n, pl* **-phies** [F *discographie*, fr. *disc-* + *-graphie* -graphy] **1** : a descriptive list of phonograph records by category, composer, performer, or date of release **2** : the history of recorded music — **dis·co·graph·i·cal** \ˌdis-kə-'graf-i-kəl\ *also* **dis·co·graph·ic** \-ik\ *adj* — **dis·co·graph·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
dis·coid \'dis-ˌkȯid\ *adj* [LL *discoides* quoit-shaped, fr. Gk *diskoeidēs*, fr. *diskos* disk] **1** : resembling a disk or discus : being flat and circular **2** : relating to or having a disk: as **a** *of a composite floret* : situated in the floral disk **b** *of a composite flower head* : having only tubular florets
dis·coi·dal \dis-'kȯid-ᵊl\ *adj* : of, resembling, or producing a disk: as **a** *of a gastropod shell* : having the whorls form a flat coil **b** : having the villi restricted to one or more disklike areas
dis·col·or \(')dis-'kəl-ər\ *vb* [ME *discolouren*, fr. MF *descolourer*, fr. LL *discolorari*, fr. L *discolor* of another color, fr. *dis-* + *color*] *vt* : to alter or change the hue or color of ~ *vi* : to change color : STAIN, FADE
dis·col·or·ation \(ˌ)dis-ˌkəl-ə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of discoloring : the state of being discolored **2** : a discolored spot or formation : STAIN
dis·com·bob·u·late \ˌdis-kəm-'bäb-(y)ə-ˌlāt\ *vt* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [prob. alter. of *discompose*] : UPSET, CONFUSE ⟨the offensive had *discombobulated* all the German defensive arrangements —A. J. Liebling⟩ — **dis·com·bob·u·la·tion** \-ˌbäb-(y)ə-'lā-shən\ *n*

[1]dis·com·fit \dis-'kəm(p)-fət, *esp South* ˌdis-kəm-'fit\ *vt* [ME *discomfiten*, fr. OF *desconfit*, pp. of *desconfire*, fr. *des-* + *confire* to prepare — more at COMFIT] **1 a** *archaic* : to defeat in battle **b** : to frustrate the plans of : THWART **2** : to put into a state of perplexity and embarrassment : DISCONCERT ***syn*** see EMBARRASS

[2]discomfit *n* : DISCOMFITURE

dis·com·fi·ture \dis-'kəm(p)-fə-ˌchu̇(ə)r, -chər, -ˌt(y)u̇(ə)r\ *n* : the act of discomfiting : the state of being discomfited

[1]dis·com·fort \dis-'kəm(p)-fərt\ *vt* [ME *discomforten*, fr. MF *desconforter*, fr. OF, fr. *des-* + *conforter* to comfort] **1** *archaic* : DISMAY **2** : to make uncomfortable or uneasy — **dis·com·fort·able** \-'kəm(p)-fərt-ə-bəl, -'kəm(p)(f)-tə(r)-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·com·fort·er** \-'kəm(p)-fərt-ər\ *n*

[2]discomfort *n* **1** *archaic* : DISTRESS, GRIEF **2** : mental or physical uneasiness : ANNOYANCE ⟨he gave every sign of intense ~⟩

dis·com·mend \ˌdis-kə-'mend\ *vt* **1** : DISAPPROVE, DISPARAGE **2** : to cause to be viewed unfavorably — **dis·com·mend·able** \-'men-də-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·com·men·da·tion** \(ˌ)dis-ˌkäm-ən-'dā-shən, -ˌkäm-ˌen-\ *n*

dis·com·mode \ˌdis-kə-'mōd\ *vt* **-mod·ed; -mod·ing** [MF *discommoder*, fr. *dis-* + *commode* convenient — more at COMMODE] : to cause inconvenience to : TROUBLE

dis·com·pose \ˌdis-kəm-'pōz\ *vt* **1** : to destroy the composure or serenity of **2** : to disturb the order of — **dis·com·po·sure** \-'pō-zhər\ *n*

syn DISCOMPOSE, DISQUIET, DISTURB, PERTURB, AGITATE, UPSET, FLUSTER, FLURRY *shared meaning element* : to destroy or impair one's capacity for collected thought or decisive action ***ant*** compose

dis·con·cert \ˌdis-kən-'sərt\ *vt* [obs. F *disconcerter*, alter. of MF *desconcerter*, fr. *des-* + *concerter* to concert] **1** : to throw into confusion **2** : to disturb the composure of ***syn*** see EMBARRASS — **dis·con·cert·ing** *adj* — **dis·con·cert·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

dis·con·firm \ˌdis-kən-'fərm\ *vt* : to establish as invalid : DISPROVE

dis·con·form·able \ˌdis-kən-'fȯr-mə-bəl\ *adj* : of or relating to a disconformity in rocks — **dis·con·form·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

dis·con·for·mi·ty \ˌdis-kən-'fȯr-mət-ē\ *n* **1** *archaic* : NONCONFORMITY **2** : a break in a sequence of sedimentary rocks all of which have approximately the same dip

dis·con·nect \ˌdis-kə-'nekt\ *vt* : to sever the connection of or between ~ *vi* **1** : to terminate a connection **2** : to become detached or withdrawn ⟨he has periods when he ~*s* into silences — *Current Biog.*⟩

dis·con·nect·ed *adj* : not connected : INCOHERENT — **dis·con·nect·ed·ly** *adv* — **dis·con·nect·ed·ness** *n*

dis·con·so·late \dis-'kän(t)-s(ə-)lət\ *adj* [ME, fr. ML *disconsolatus*, fr. L *dis-* + *consolatus*, pp. of *consolari* to console] **1** : DEJECTED, DOWNCAST ⟨the team returned ~ from three losses⟩ **2** : CHEERLESS ⟨a clutch of ~ houses —D. H. Lawrence⟩ — **dis·con·so·late·ly** *adv* — **dis·con·so·late·ness** *n* — **dis·con·so·la·tion** \(ˌ)dis-ˌkän(t)-sə-'lā-shən\ *n*

[1]dis·con·tent \ˌdis-kən-'tent\ *adj* : DISCONTENTED

[2]discontent *n* : one who is discontented : MALCONTENT

[3]discontent *vt* : to make discontented — **dis·con·tent·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

[4]discontent *n* : lack of contentment: **a** : a sense of grievance : DISSATISFACTION ⟨the winter of our ~ —Shak.⟩ **b** : restless aspiration for improvement

dis·con·tent·ed *adj* : DISSATISFIED, MALCONTENT — **dis·con·tent·ed·ly** *adv* — **dis·con·tent·ed·ness** *n*

dis·con·tinu·ance \ˌdis-kən-'tin-yə-wən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act or an instance of discontinuing **2** : the interruption or termination of a legal action by failure to continue or by the plaintiff's entry of a discontinuing order

dis·con·tin·ue \ˌdis-kən-'tin-(ˌ)yü, -yə(-w)\ *vb* [ME *discontinuen*, fr. MF *discontinuer*, fr. ML *discontinuare*, fr. L *dis-* + *continuare* to continue] *vt* **1** : to break the continuity of : cease to operate, administer, use, or take **2** : to abandon or terminate by a legal discontinuance ~ *vi* : to come to an end; *specif* : to cease publication ***syn*** see STOP ***ant*** continue

dis·con·ti·nu·ity \(ˌ)dis-ˌkänt-ᵊn-'(y)ü-ət-ē\ *n* **1** : lack of continuity or cohesion **2** : GAP 5 **3** : a value of an argument at which a function is not continuous

dis·con·tin·u·ous \ˌdis-kən-'tin-yə-wəs\ *adj* **1 a** (1) : not continuous ⟨a ~ series of events⟩ (2) : not continued : DISCRETE ⟨~ features of terrain⟩ **b** : lacking sequence or coherence ⟨this ~ style⟩ **2** : having one or more discontinuities — used of a variable or a function — **dis·con·tin·u·ous·ly** *adv*

dis·co·phile \'dis-kə-ˌfīl\ *n* : one who studies and collects phonograph records

[1]dis·cord \'dis-ˌkȯ(ə)rd\ *n* **1 a** : lack of agreement or harmony (as between persons, things, or ideas) **b** : active quarreling or conflict resulting from discord among persons or factions : STRIFE **2 a** (1) : a combination of musical sounds that strike the ear harshly (2) : DISSONANCE **b** : a harsh or unpleasant sound

syn DISCORD, STRIFE, CONFLICT, CONTENTION, DISSENSION, DIFFERENCE, VARIANCE *shared meaning element* : the state of those who disagree and lack harmony or the acts and circumstances marking such a state

[2]dis·cord \'dis-ˌkȯ(ə)rd, dis-'\ *vi* [ME *discorden*, fr. OF *discorder*, fr. L *discordare*, fr. *discord-*, *discors* discordant, fr. *dis-* + *cord-*, *cor* heart — more at HEART] : DISAGREE, CLASH

dis·cor·dance \dis-'kȯrd-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* **1** : the state or an instance of being discordant **2** : DISSONANCE

dis·cor·dan·cy \-ᵊn-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** : DISCORDANCE

dis·cor·dant \-ᵊnt\ *adj* **1 a** : being at variance : DISAGREEING **b** : QUARRELSOME **2** : relating to a discord — **dis·cor·dant·ly** *adv*

dis·co·theque \'dis-kə-ˌtek, ˌdis-kə-'\ *n* [F *discothèque*, fr. *disque* disk, record + *-o-* + *-thèque* (as in *bibliothèque* library)] : a small intimate nightclub for dancing to live or recorded music; *broadly* : a nightclub often featuring psychedelic and mixed-media attractions (as slides, movies, special lighting effects, and kinetic sound)

[1]dis·count \'dis-ˌkau̇nt\ *n* **1** : a reduction made from the gross amount or value of something: as **a** (1) : a reduction made from a regular or list price (2) : a proportionate deduction from a debt account usu. made for cash or prompt payment **b** : a deduction made for interest in advancing money upon or purchasing a bill or note not due **2** : the act or practice of discounting **3** : a deduction taken or allowance made

[2]dis·count \'dis-ˌkau̇nt, dis-'\ *vb* [modif. of F *décompter*, fr. OF *desconter*, fr. ML *discomputare*, fr. L *dis-* + *computare* to count — more at COUNT] *vt* **1 a** : to make a deduction from usu. for cash or prompt payment **b** : to sell or offer for sale at a discount **2** : to lend money on after deducting the discount **3 a** : to leave out of account : DISREGARD **b** : to underestimate the importance of : MINIMIZE **c** (1) : to make allowance for bias or exaggeration in (2) : to view with doubt : DISBELIEVE **d** : to take into account (as a future event) in present calculations ~ *vi* : to give or make discounts

dis·count·able \dis-'kau̇nt-ə-bəl, 'dis-ˌ\ *adj* **1** : capable of being discounted ⟨a ~ note⟩ **2** : set apart for discounting ⟨within the ~ period⟩

[1]dis·coun·te·nance \dis-'kau̇nt-ᵊn-ən(t)s, -'kau̇nt-nən(t)s\ *vt* **1** : ABASH, DISCONCERT **2** : to look with disfavor on : discourage by evidence of disapproval

[2]discountenance *n* : DISFAVOR, DISAPPROVAL

dis·count·er \'dis-ˌkau̇nt-ər, dis-'\ *n* : one that discounts; *specif* : DISCOUNT STORE

discount house *n* : DISCOUNT STORE

discount rate *n* **1** : the interest on an annual basis deducted in advance on a bank or other loan **2** : the charge levied by a central bank for advances and rediscounts

discount store *n* : a store where merchandise (as consumer durable goods) is sold at a discount from suggested list price

dis·cour·age \dis-'kər-ij, -'kə-rij\ *vt* **-aged; -ag·ing** [MF *descorager*, fr. OF *descoragier*, fr. *des-* dis- + *corage* courage] **1** : to deprive of courage or confidence : DISHEARTEN **2 a** : to hinder by disfavoring : DETER **b** : to attempt to dissuade — **dis·cour·age·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·cour·ag·er** *n*

dis·cour·age·ment \-mənt\ *n* **1** : the act of discouraging : the state of being discouraged **2** : something that discourages : DETERRENT

dis·cour·ag·ing *adj* : lessening courage : DISHEARTENING — **dis·cour·ag·ing·ly** \-ij-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

[1]dis·course \'dis-ˌkō(ə)rs, -ˌkȯ(ə)rs, dis-'\ *n* [ME *discours*, fr. ML & LL *discursus*; ML, argument, fr. LL, conversation, fr. L, act of running about, fr. *discursus*, pp. of *discurrere* to run about, fr. *dis-* + *currere* to run — more at CAR] **1** *archaic* : the capacity of orderly thought or procedure : RATIONALITY **2** : verbal interchange of ideas; *esp* : CONVERSATION **3 a** : formal and orderly and usu. extended expression of thought on a subject **b** : connected speech or writing **4** *obs* : social familiarity

[2]dis·course \dis-'kō(ə)rs, -'kȯ(ə)rs, 'dis-ˌ\ *vb* **dis·coursed; dis·cours·ing** *vi* **1** : to express oneself esp. in oral discourse **2** : TALK, CONVERSE ~ *vt, archaic* : to give forth : UTTER — **dis·cours·er** *n*

dis·cour·te·ous \(')dis-'kərt-ē-əs\ *adj* : lacking courtesy : RUDE — **dis·cour·te·ous·ly** *adv* — **dis·cour·te·ous·ness** *n*

dis·cour·te·sy \-'kərt-ə-sē\ *n* **1** : RUDENESS **2** : a rude act

dis·cov·er \dis-'kəv-ər\ *vb* **dis·cov·ered; dis·cov·er·ing** \-'kəv-(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *discoveren*, fr. OF *descovrir*, fr. LL *discooperire*, fr. L *dis-* + *cooperire* to cover — more at COVER] *vt* **1 a** : to make known or visible : EXPOSE **b** *archaic* : DISPLAY **2** : to obtain sight or knowledge of for the first time : FIND ⟨~ the solution of a puzzle⟩ ~ *vi* : to make a discovery — **dis·cov·er·able** \-'kəv-(ə-)rə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·cov·er·er** \-ər-ər\ *n*

syn **1** see REVEAL
2 DISCOVER, ASCERTAIN, DETERMINE, UNEARTH, LEARN *shared meaning element* : to find out something not previously known to one
3 see INVENT

dis·cov·ery \dis-'kəv-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1 a** : the act or process of discovering **b** (1) *archaic* : DISCLOSURE (2) *obs* : DISPLAY **c** *obs* : EXPLORATION **2** : something discovered

Discovery Day *n* : COLUMBUS DAY

[1]dis·cred·it \(')dis-'kred-ət\ *vt* **1** : to refuse to accept as true or accurate : DISBELIEVE **2** : to cause disbelief in the accuracy or authority of **3** : to deprive of good repute : DISGRACE

[2]discredit *n* **1** : loss of credit or reputation ⟨I knew stories to the ~ of England —W. B. Yeats⟩ **2** : lack or loss of belief or confidence : DOUBT ⟨contradictions cast ~ on his testimony⟩

dis·cred·it·able \-ə-bəl\ *adj* : injurious to reputation — **dis·cred·it·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

dis·creet \dis-'krēt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *discret*, fr. ML *discretus*, fr. L, pp. of *discernere* to separate, distinguish between — more at DISCERN] **1** : having or showing discernment or good judgment in conduct and esp. in speech : PRUDENT; *esp* : capable of preserving prudent silence **2** : UNPRETENTIOUS, MODEST ⟨the warmth and ~ elegance of a civilized home —Joseph Wechsberg⟩ — **dis·creet·ly** *adv* — **dis·creet·ness** *n*

dis·crep·an·cy \dis-'krep-ən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** **1** : the quality or state of being discrepant : DIFFERENCE **2** : an instance of being discrepant

dis·crep·ant \-ənt\ *adj* [L *discrepant-*, *discrepans*, prp. of *discrepare* to sound discordantly, fr. *dis-* + *crepare* to rattle, creak — more at RAVEN] : being at variance : DISAGREEING ⟨widely ~ conclusions⟩ — **dis·crep·ant·ly** *adv*

dis·crete \dis-'krēt, 'dis-ˌ\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *discretus*] **1** : constituting a separate entity : individually distinct **2 a** : consisting of distinct or unconnected elements : NONCONTINUOUS **b** : taking on or having a finite or countably infinite number of values : not mathe-

matically continuous ⟨a ~ random variable⟩ ***syn*** see DISTINCT — **dis·crete·ly** *adv* — **dis·crete·ness** *n*

dis·cre·tion \dis-'kresh-ən\ *n* **1** : the quality of being discreet : CIRCUMSPECTION; *esp* : cautious reserve in speech **2** : ability to make responsible decisions **3 a** : individual choice or judgment ⟨left the decision to his ~⟩ **b** : power of free decision or latitude of choice within certain legal bounds ⟨reached the age of ~⟩ **4** : the result of separating or distinguishing ⟨breaking down every operation into discrete parts, and then making verbal the ~*s* that are made —Elinor Langer⟩

dis·cre·tion·ary \-'kresh-ə-,ner-ē\ *adj* **1** : left to discretion : exercised at one's own discretion **2** : available for discretionary use ⟨~ purchasing power⟩

discretionary account *n* : a security or commodity market account in which an agent (as a broker) is given power of attorney allowing him to make independent decisions and buy and sell for the account of his principal

dis·crim·i·na·bil·i·ty \-,krim-(ə-)nə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality of being discriminable ⟨the ~ of the various senses of a word⟩ **2** : the ability to discriminate

dis·crim·i·na·ble \dis-'krim-(ə-)nə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being discriminated — **dis·crim·i·na·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

dis·crim·i·nant \-'krim-(ə-)nənt\ *n* : a mathematical expression providing a criterion for the behavior of another more complicated expression, relation, or set of relations

dis·crim·i·nate \dis-'krim-ə-,nāt\ *vb* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [L *discriminatus*, pp. of *discriminare*, fr. *discrimin-, discrimen* distinction, fr. *discernere* to distinguish between — more at DISCERN] *vt* **1 a** : to mark or perceive the distinguishing or peculiar features of **b** : DISTINGUISH, DIFFERENTIATE ⟨~ hundreds of colors⟩ **2** : to distinguish by discerning or exposing differences; *esp* : to distinguish (one like object) from another ~ *vi* **1 a** : to make a distinction ⟨~ among the methods which should be used⟩ **b** : to use good judgment **2** : to make a difference in treatment or favor on a basis other than individual merit ⟨~ in favor of your friends⟩ ⟨~ against a certain nationality⟩

dis·crim·i·nat·ing *adj* **1** : making a distinction : DISTINGUISHING **2** : marked by discrimination: **a** : DISCERNING, JUDICIOUS **b** : DISCRIMINATORY — **dis·crim·i·nat·ing·ly** \-,nāt-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

dis·crim·i·na·tion \dis-,krim-ə-'nā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the act of discriminating **b** : the process by which two stimuli differing in some aspect are responded to differently : DIFFERENTIATION **2** : the quality or power of finely distinguishing **3 a** : the act, practice, or an instance of discriminating categorically rather than individually **b** : prejudiced or prejudicial outlook, action, or treatment ⟨provided major opportunities for Negro advancement on purely equal terms involving neither ~ nor preference —D. P. Moynihan⟩ ***syn*** see DISCERNMENT — **dis·crim·i·na·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

dis·crim·i·na·tive \dis-'krim-ə-,nāt-iv, 'krim-(ə-)nət-\ *adj* **1** : making distinctions **2** : DISCRIMINATORY 1 ⟨permitted tariffs which were grossly ~ —Mabel R. Gillis⟩

dis·crim·i·na·tor \dis-'krim-ə-,nāt-ər\ *n* : one that discriminates; *specif* : a circuit that can be adjusted to accept or reject signals of different characteristics (as amplitude or frequency)

dis·crim·i·na·to·ry \dis-'krim-(ə-)nə-,tōr-ē, -,tȯr-\ *adj* **1** : applying or favoring discrimination in treatment **2** : DISCRIMINATIVE 1 — **dis·crim·i·na·to·ri·ly** \-,krim-(ə-)nə-'tōr-ə-lē, -'tȯr-\ *adv*

dis·cur·sive \dis-'kər-siv\ *adj* [ML *discursivus*, fr. L *discursus*, pp. of *discurrere* to run about — more at DISCOURSE] **1** : passing from one topic to another : DIGRESSIVE **2** : marked by analytical reasoning — **dis·cur·sive·ly** *adv* — **dis·cur·sive·ness** *n*

dis·cus \'dis-kəs\ *n, pl* **dis·cus·es** [L — more at DISH] **1 a** : a disk (as of wood, rubber, or metal) that is thicker in the center than at the perimeter and that is hurled for distance **b** : a field event in which a discus of about 4½ pounds is hurled **2** : DISK 2, 3



1, discus 1a

dis·cuss \dis-'kəs\ *vt* [ME *discussen*, fr. L *discussus*, pp. of *discutere*, fr. *dis-* apart + *quatere* to shake — more at DIS-, QUASH] **1** *obs* : DISPEL **2 a** : to investigate by reasoning or argument **b** : to present in detail for examination or consideration ⟨~*ed* plans for the party⟩ **c** : to talk about **3** *obs* : DECLARE — **dis·cuss·able** *or* **dis·cuss·ible** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·cuss·er** *n*

syn DISCUSS, ARGUE, DEBATE, DISPUTE *shared meaning element* : to discourse about something in order to arrive at the truth or to convince others of the validity of one's position

dis·cus·sant \dis-'kəs-ᵊnt\ *n* : one who takes part in a formal discussion or symposium

dis·cus·sion \dis-'kəsh-ən\ *n* **1** : consideration of a question in open and usu. informal debate **2** : a formal treatment of a topic

¹dis·dain \dis-'dān\ *n* [ME *desdeyne*, fr. OF *desdeign*, fr. *desdeignier*] : a feeling of contempt for what is beneath one : SCORN

²disdain *vt* [ME *desdeynen*, fr. MF *desdeignier*, fr. (assumed) VL *disdignare*, fr. L *dis-* + *dignare* to deign — more at DEIGN] **1** : to look with scorn on **2** : to refuse or abstain from because of disdain **3** : to treat disdainfully ***syn*** see DESPISE ***ant*** favor

dis·dain·ful \-fəl\ *adj* : full of or expressing disdain ***syn*** see PROUD — **dis·dain·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **dis·dain·ful·ness** *n*

dis·ease \diz-'ēz\ *n* [ME *disese*, fr. MF *desaise*, fr. *des-* dis- + *aise* ease] **1** *obs* : TROUBLE **2** : a condition of the living animal or plant body or of one of its parts that impairs the performance of a vital function : SICKNESS, MALADY **3** : a harmful development (as in a social institution) ⟨the various ~*s* of civilization⟩ — **dis·eased** \-'ēzd\ *adj*

dis·econ·o·my \,dis-i-'kän-ə-mē\ *n* **1** : a lack of economy **2** : a factor responsible for an increase in cost

dis·em·bark \,dis-əm-'bärk\ *vb* [MF *desembarquer*, fr. *des-* + *embarquer* to embark] *vt* : to put ashore from a ship ~ *vi* **1** : to go ashore out of a ship **2** : to get out of a vehicle — **dis·em·bar·ka·tion** \(,)dis-,em-,bär-'kā-shən, -bər-\ *n*

dis·em·bar·rass \,dis-əm-'bar-əs\ *vt* : to free from something troublesome or superfluous ***syn*** see EXTRICATE

dis·em·body \,dis-əm-'bäd-ē\ *vt* : to divest of a body, of corporeal existence, or of reality

dis·em·bogue \,dis-əm-'bōg\ *vb* **-bogued; -bogu·ing** [modif. of Sp *desembocar*, fr. *des-* dis- (fr. L *dis-*) + *embocar* to put into the mouth, fr. *en* in (fr. L *in*) + *boca* mouth, fr. L *bucca* — more at POCK] *vi* : to flow or come forth from or as if from a channel ~ *vt* : to pour out : EMPTY

dis·em·bow·el \,dis-əm-'baù(-ə)l\ *vt* **1** : to take out the bowels of : EVISCERATE **2** : to remove the substance of — **dis·em·bow·el·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis·en·chant \,dis-ᵊn-'chant\ *vt* [MF *desenchanter*, fr. *des-* + *enchanter* to enchant] : to free from illusion — **dis·en·chant·er** *n* — **dis·en·chant·ing** *adj* — **dis·en·chant·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv* — **dis·en·chant·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis·en·cum·ber \,dis-ᵊn-'kəm-bər\ *vt* [MF *desencombrer*, fr. *des-* + *encombrer* to encumber] : to free from encumbrance : DISBURDEN ***syn*** see EXTRICATE

dis·en·dow \,dis-ᵊn-'daù\ *vt* : to strip of endowment — **dis·en·dow·er** \-'daù(-ə)r\ *n* — **dis·en·dow·ment** \-'daù-mənt\ *n*

dis·en·fran·chise \,dis-ᵊn-'fran-,chīz\ *vt* : DISFRANCHISE — **dis·en·fran·chise·ment** \-,chīz-mənt, -chəz-\ *n*

dis·en·gage \,dis-ᵊn-'gāj\ *vb* [F *désengager*, fr. MF, fr. *des-* + *engager* to engage] *vt* : to release from something that engages ~ *vi* : to release or detach oneself : WITHDRAW — **dis·en·gage·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis·en·tail \,dis-ᵊn-'tā(ə)l\ *vt* : to free from entail

dis·en·tan·gle \,dis-ᵊn-'taŋ-gəl\ *vt* : to free from entanglement : UNRAVEL ~ *vi* : to become disentangled ***syn*** see EXTRICATE ***ant*** entangle — **dis·en·tan·gle·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis·en·thrall *also* **dis·en·thral** \,dis-ᵊn-'thrȯl\ *vt* : to free from bondage : LIBERATE

dis·equil·i·brate \,dis-i-'kwil-ə-,brāt\ *vt* : to put out of balance — **dis·equil·i·bra·tion** \-,kwil-ə-'brā-shən\ *n*

dis·equi·lib·ri·um \(,)dis-,ē-kwə-'lib-rē-əm, -,ek-wə-\ *n* : loss or lack of equilibrium

dis·es·tab·lish \,dis-ə-'stab-lish\ *vt* : to deprive of an established status; *esp* : to deprive of the status and privileges of an established church — **dis·es·tab·lish·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis·es·tab·lish·men·tar·i·an \-,stab-lish-,men-'ter-ē-ən, -mən-\ *n, often cap* [*disestablishment*] : one who opposes an established order — **disestablishmentarian** *adj, often cap*

¹dis·es·teem \,dis-ə-'stēm\ *vt* : to regard with disfavor

²disesteem *n* : DISFAVOR, DISREPUTE

di·seuse \dē-'zə(r)z, -'züz\ *n, pl* **di·seuses** \-'zə(r)z(-əz), -'züz(-əz)\ [F, fem. of *diseur*, fr. OF, fr. *dire* to say, fr. L *dicere* — more at DICTION] : a skilled and usu. professional woman reciter

¹dis·fa·vor \(')dis-'fā-vər\ *n* [prob. fr. MF *desfaveur*, fr. *des-* dis- + *faveur* favor, fr. OF *favor*] **1** : DISAPPROVAL, DISLIKE ⟨practices looked upon with ~⟩ **2** : the state or fact of being deprived of favor ⟨fell into ~⟩ **3** : DISADVANTAGE

²disfavor *vt* : to withhold or withdraw favor from

dis·fea·ture \(')dis-'fē-chər\ *vt* : to mar the features of ***syn*** see DEFACE — **dis·fea·ture·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis·fig·ure \dis-'fig-yər, *esp Brit* -'fig-ər\ *vt* [ME *disfiguren*, fr. MF *desfigurer*, fr. *des-* + *figure*] **1** : to impair (as in beauty) by deep and persistent injuries ⟨a girl *disfigured* by smallpox⟩ **2** *obs* : DISGUISE ***syn*** see DEFACE — **dis·fig·ure·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis·fran·chise \(')dis-'fran-,chīz\ *vt* : to deprive of a franchise, of a legal right, or of some privilege or immunity; *esp* : to deprive of the right to vote — **dis·fran·chise·ment** \-,chīz-mənt, -chəz-\ *n*

dis·frock \(')dis-'fräk\ *vt* : UNFROCK

dis·func·tion *var of* DYSFUNCTION

dis·fur·nish \(')dis-'fər-nish\ *vt* [MF *desfourniss-*, stem of *desfournir*, fr. *des-* + *fournir* to furnish — more at FURNISH] : to make destitute of possessions : DIVEST — **dis·fur·nish·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis·gorge \(')dis-'gȯ(ə)rj\ *vb* [MF *desgorger*, fr. *des-* + *gorge*] *vt* **1 a** : to discharge by the throat and mouth : VOMIT **b** : to discharge violently, confusedly, or as a result of force **c** : to give up on request or under pressure ⟨refused to ~ his ill-gotten gains⟩ **2** : to discharge the contents of (as the stomach) ~ *vi* : to discharge contents ⟨where the river ~*s* into the sea⟩

¹dis·grace \dis-'grās\ *vt* **1** *archaic* : to humiliate by a superior showing **2** : to bring reproach or shame to ⟨*disgraced* his family⟩ **3** : to cause to lose favor or standing ⟨was *disgraced* by the hint of scandal⟩ — **dis·grac·er** *n*

²disgrace *n* [MF, fr. OIt *disgrazia*, fr. *dis-* (fr. L) + *grazia* grace, fr. L *gratia* — more at GRACE] **1 a** : loss of grace, favor, or honor **b** : the condition of one fallen from grace or honor **2** : something that disgraces ⟨that boy's manners are a ~⟩

syn DISGRACE, DISHONOR, DISREPUTE, SHAME, INFAMY, IGNOMINY, OPPROBRIUM *shared meaning element* : loss of esteem and good repute and the resulting denigration and contempt ***ant*** respect, esteem

dis·grace·ful \dis-'grās-fəl\ *adj* : bringing or involving disgrace — **dis·grace·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **dis·grace·ful·ness** *n*

dis·grun·tle \dis-'grənt-ᵊl\ *vt* **dis·grun·tled; dis·grun·tling** \-'grənt-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ [*dis-* + *gruntle* (to grumble), fr. ME *gruntlen*, freq. of *grunten* to grunt] : to make ill-humored or discontented ⟨the workers are *disgruntled* with their wages⟩ — **dis·grun·tle·ment** \-ᵊl-mənt\ *n*

¹dis·guise \dis-'gīz\ *vt* **dis·guised; dis·guis·ing** [ME *disgisen*, fr. MF *desguiser*, fr. OF, fr. *des-* + *guise*] **1 a** : to change the customary dress or appearance of **b** : to furnish with a false appearance or an assumed identity **2** *obs* : DISFIGURE **3** : to obscure the existence or true state or character of : CONCEAL — **dis·guised·ly** \-'gīz(-ə)d-lē\ *adv* — **dis·guise·ment** \-'gīz-mənt\ *n* — **dis·guis·er** *n*

syn DISGUISE, CLOAK, MASK, DISSEMBLE *shared meaning element* : to alter so as to hide the true appearance, identity, intention, meaning, or feelings

²disguise *n* **1** : apparel assumed to conceal one's identity or counterfeit another's **2 a** : form misrepresenting the true nature of something ⟨blessings in ~⟩ **b** : an artificial manner : PRETENSE ⟨threw off all ~⟩ **3** : the act of disguising

¹dis·gust \dis-'gəst\ *n* : marked aversion aroused by something highly distasteful : REPUGNANCE

²disgust *vb* [MF *desgouster*, fr. *des-* dis- + *goust* taste, fr. L *gustus*; akin to L *gustare* to taste — more at CHOOSE] *vt* **1** : to provoke to loathing, repugnance, or aversion : be offensive to **2** : to cause (one) to lose an interest or intention ⟨his failures ~*ed* him to the point that he stopped trying⟩ ~ *vi* : to cause disgust — **dis·gust·ed** *adj* — **dis·gust·ed·ly** *adv*

dis·gust·ful \-'gəst-fəl\ *adj* **1** : provoking disgust **2** : full of or accompanied by disgust — **dis·gust·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv*

dis·gust·ing *adj* : exciting disgust — **dis·gust·ing·ly** \-'gəs-tiŋ-lē\ *adv*

¹dish \'dish\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *disc* plate; akin to OHG *tisc* plate, table; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr. L *discus* quoit, disk, dish, fr. Gk *diskos*, fr. *dikein* to throw] **1 a** : a more or less concave vessel from which food is served **b** : the contents of a dish ⟨a ~ of strawberries⟩ **2** : food prepared in a particular way **3 a** (1) : any of various shallow concave vessels; *broadly* : something shallowly concave (2) : a directional microwave antenna having a concave usu. parabolic reflector **b** : the state of being concave or the degree of concavity **4 a** : something that is favored ⟨entertainment that is just his ~⟩ **b** : an attractive woman

²dish *vt* **1** : to put (as food for serving) into a dish — often used with *up* **2** : PRESENT — usu. used with *up* **3** : to make concave like a dish

dis·ha·bille \,dis-ə-'bē(ə)l, -'bil, -'bē\ *n* [F *déshabillé*, fr. pp. of *déshabiller* to undress, fr. *dés-* dis- + *habiller* to dress — more at HABILIMENT] **1 a** *archaic* : NEGLIGEE **b** : the state of being dressed in a casual or careless style **2** : a deliberately careless or casual manner

dis·har·mon·ic \,dis-(,)här-'män-ik\ *adj* **1** : having a combination of bodily characters that results in an unusual form or appearance **2** : exhibiting or marked by allometry

dis·har·mo·ni·ous \-'mō-nē-əs\ *adj* **1** : lacking in harmony **2** : DISHARMONIC

dis·har·mo·nize \(')dis-'här-mə-,nīz\ *vt* : to make disharmonious

dis·har·mo·ny \-nē\ *n* : lack of harmony : DISCORD

dish·cloth \'dish-,klȯth\ *n* : a cloth for washing dishes

dishcloth gourd *n* : the fruit of any of several gourds (genus *Luffa*) having a fibrous interior that is dried and used like a sponge

dish·clout \'dish-,klaůt\ *n, Brit* : DISHCLOTH

dis·heart·en \(')dis-'härt-ᵊn\ *vt* : to cause to lose spirit or morale — **dis·heart·en·ing·ly** \-'härt-niŋ-lē, -ᵊn-iŋ-\ *adv* — **dis·heart·en·ment** \-'härt-ᵊn-mənt\ *n*

dished \'disht\ *adj* **1** : CONCAVE **2** *of a pair of vehicle wheels* : nearer together at the bottom than at the top

di·shev·el \dish-'ev-əl\ *vt* **di·shev·eled** *or* **di·shev·elled; di·shev·el·ing** *or* **di·shev·el·ling** \-'ev-(ə-)liŋ\ [back-formation fr. *disheveled*] : to throw into disorder or disarray

di·shev·eled *or* **di·shev·elled** *adj* [ME *discheveled*, part trans. of MF *deschevelé*, fr. pp. of *descheveler* to disarrange the hair, fr. *des-* + *chevel* hair, fr. L *capillus*] : marked by disorder or disarray

dis·hon·est \(')dis-'än-əst\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *deshoneste*, fr. *des-* + *honeste* honest] **1** *obs* : SHAMEFUL, UNCHASTE **2** : characterized by lack of truth, honesty, or trustworthiness — **dis·hon·est·ly** *adv*
syn DISHONEST, DECEITFUL, LYING, MENDACIOUS, UNTRUTHFUL *shared meaning element* : unworthy of trust or belief ***ant*** honest

dis·hon·es·ty \-ə-stē\ *n* **1** : lack of honesty or integrity : disposition to defraud or deceive **2** : a dishonest act : FRAUD

¹dis·hon·or \(')dis-'än-ər\ *n* [ME *dishonour*, fr. OF *deshonor*, fr. *des-* + *honor*] **1** : lack or loss of honor or reputation **2** : the state of one who has lost honor or prestige : SHAME ⟨would rather die than live in ~⟩ **3** : a cause of disgrace ⟨became a ~ to his family⟩ **4** : the nonpayment or nonacceptance of commercial paper by the party on whom it is drawn ***syn*** see DISGRACE ***ant*** honor — **dis·hon·or·er** \-'än-ər-ər\ *n*

²dishonor *vt* **1 a** : to treat in a degrading manner **b** : to bring shame on **2** : to refuse to accept or pay (as a draft, bill, check, or note)

dis·hon·or·able \(')dis-'än-(ə-)rə-bəl, -'än-ər-bəl\ *adj* **1** : lacking honor : SHAMEFUL ⟨~ conduct⟩ **2** *archaic* : not honored — **dis·hon·or·able·ness** *n* — **dis·hon·or·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

dish out *vt* **1** : to serve (food) from a dish **2** : to give freely ⟨the blatant picturing of crime and disorder *dished out* by the cinema — R. T. Flewelling⟩

dish·pan \'dish-,pan\ *n* : a large flat-bottomed pan used for washing dishes

dishpan hands *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : a condition of dryness, redness, and scaling of the hands that results typically from repeated exposure to, sensitivity to, or overuse of cleaning materials (as detergents) used in housework

dish·rag \'dish-,rag\ *n* : DISHCLOTH

dish towel *n* : a cloth for drying dishes

dish·ware \'dish-,wa(ə)r, -,we(ə)r\ *n* : tableware (as of china) used in serving food

dish·wash·er \-,wȯsh-ər, -,wäsh-\ *n* **1** : a worker employed to wash dishes **2** : a machine for washing dishes

dish·wa·ter \-,wȯt-ər, -,wät-\ *n* : water in which dishes have been or are to be washed

dishy \'dish-ē\ *adj, chiefly Brit* : ATTRACTIVE

¹dis·il·lu·sion \,dis-ə-'lü-zhən\ *n* : the condition of being disenchanted

²disillusion *vt* **dis·il·lu·sioned; dis·il·lu·sion·ing** \-'lüzh-(ə-)niŋ\ : to leave without illusion — **dis·il·lu·sion·ment** \-'lü-zhən-mənt\ *n*

dis·in·cen·tive \,dis-ᵊn-'sent-iv\ *n* : DETERRENT

dis·in·cli·na·tion \(,)dis-,in-klə-'nā-shən, -,iŋ-\ *n* : a preference for avoiding something : slight aversion

dis·in·cline \,dis-ᵊn-'klīn\ *vt* : to make unwilling

dis·in·clined *adj* : unwilling because of mild dislike or disapproval
syn DISINCLINED, HESITANT, RELUCTANT, LOATH, AVERSE *shared meaning element* : lacking the will or desire to do something indicated

dis·in·fect \,dis-ᵊn-'fekt\ *vt* [MF *desinfecter*, fr. *des-* + *infecter* to infect] : to free from infection esp. by destroying harmful microorganisms; *broadly* : CLEANSE — **dis·in·fec·tion** \-'fek-shən\ *n*

dis·in·fec·tant \-'fek-tənt\ *n* : an agent that frees from infection; *esp* : a chemical that destroys vegetative forms of harmful microorganisms but not ordinarily bacterial spores

dis·in·fest \,dis-ᵊn-'fest\ *vt* : to rid of small animal pests (as insects or rodents) — **dis·in·fes·ta·tion** \(,)dis-,in-,fes-'tā-shən\ *n*

dis·in·fes·tant \,dis-ᵊn-'fes-tənt\ *n* : a disinfesting agent

dis·in·fla·tion \,dis-ᵊn-'flā-shən\ *n* : a reversal of inflationary pressures — **dis·in·fla·tion·ary** \-shə-,ner-ē\ *adj*

dis·in·gen·u·ous \,dis-ᵊn-'jen-yə-wəs\ *adj* : lacking in candor; *also* : giving a false appearance of simple frankness : CALCULATING — **dis·in·gen·u·ous·ly** *adv* — **dis·in·gen·u·ous·ness** *n*

dis·in·her·it \,dis-ᵊn-'her-ət\ *vt* **1** : to prevent deliberately (as by making a will) from inheriting **2** : to deprive of natural or human rights or of previously held special privileges — **dis·in·her·i·tance** \-'her-ət-ən(t)s\ *n*

dis·in·hi·bi·tion \(,)dis-,in-(h)ə-'bish-ən\ *n* : loss of a conditioned reflex (as by the action of interfering stimuli)

dis·in·sec·tion \,dis-ᵊn-'sek-shən\ *n* [*dis-* + *insect* + *-ion*] : DISINSECTIZATION

dis·in·sect·iza·tion \-,sek-tə-'zā-shən\ *n* : removal of insects (as from an aircraft)

dis·in·te·grate \(')dis-'int-ə-,grāt\ *vt* **1** : to break or decompose into constituent elements, parts, or small particles **2** : to destroy the unity or integrity of ~ *vi* **1** : to break or separate into constituent elements or parts **2** : to lose unity or integrity by or as if by breaking into parts **3** : to undergo a change in composition ⟨an atomic nucleus that ~*s* because of radioactivity⟩ — **dis·in·te·gration** \(,)dis-,int-ə-'grā-shən\ *n* — **dis·in·te·gra·tive** \(')dis-'int-ə-,grāt-iv \ *adj* — **dis·in·te·gra·tor** \-,grāt-ər\ *n*

dis·in·ter \,dis-ᵊn-'tər\ *vt* **1** : to take out of the grave or tomb **2** : to bring to light : UNEARTH — **dis·in·ter·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

¹dis·in·ter·est \(')dis-'in-trəst; -'int-ə-rəst, -ə-,rest, -ərst; -'in-,trest\ *vt* : to divest of interest

²disinterest *n* **1** : DISADVANTAGE **2** : lack of self-interest : DISINTERESTEDNESS **3** : lack of interest : APATHY

dis·in·ter·est·ed *adj* **1** : not having the mind or feelings engaged : UNINTERESTED ⟨is supremely ~ in all efforts to find a peaceful solution —C. L. Sulzberger⟩ **2** : free from selfish motive or interest : UNBIASED ⟨a ~ decision⟩ ⟨~ intellectual curiosity is the lifeblood of real civilization —G. M. Trevelyan⟩ ***syn*** see INDIFFERENT ***ant*** interested — **dis·in·ter·est·ed·ly** *adv* — **dis·in·ter·est·ed·ness** *n*

dis·in·tox·i·cate \,dis-ᵊn-'täk-sə-,kāt\ *vt* : to free (as a drug user or an alcoholic) from an intoxicating agent in the body or from dependence on such an agent — **dis·in·tox·i·ca·tion** \-,täk-sə-'kā-shən\ *n*

dis·in·vest·ment \,dis-ᵊn-'ves(t)-mənt\ *n* : consumption of capital

dis·join \(')dis-'jȯin\ *vb* [MF *desjoindre*, fr. L *disjungere*, fr. *dis-* + *jungere* to join — more at YOKE] *vt* : to end the joining of ~ *vi* : to become detached

¹dis·joint \-'jȯint\ *adj* [ME *disjoynt*, fr. MF *desjoint*, pp. of *desjoindre*] **1** *obs* : DISJOINTED 2a **2** : having no elements in common ⟨~ mathematical sets⟩

²disjoint *vt* **1** : to disturb the orderly structure or arrangement of **2** : to take apart at the joints ~ *vi* : to come apart at the joints

dis·joint·ed *adj* **1** : separated at or as if at the joint **2 a** : being thrown out of orderly function ⟨a ~ society⟩ **b** : lacking coherence or orderly sequence ⟨an incomplete and ~ history⟩ — **dis·joint·ed·ly** *adv* — **dis·joint·ed·ness** *n*

¹dis·junct \dis-'jəŋ(k)t\ *adj* [L *disjunctus*, pp. of *disjungere* to disjoin] : marked by separation of or from usu. contiguous parts or individuals: as **a** : DISCONTINUOUS **b** : relating to melodic progression by intervals larger than a major second — compare CONJUNCT **c** *of an insect* : having head, thorax, and abdomen separated by deep constrictions

²dis·junct \'dis-,jəŋ(k)t, dis-'\ *n* : any of the alternatives comprising a logical disjunction

dis·junc·tion \dis-'jəŋ(k)-shən\ *n* **1** : a sharp cleavage : DISUNION, SEPARATION ⟨the ~ between theory and practice⟩ **2 a** : a complex sentence in logic that is true when either one or both of its constituent sentences are true — compare INCLUSIVE DISJUNCTION **b** : a complex sentence in logic that is true when one and only one of its constituent sentences is true — compare EXCLUSIVE DISJUNCTION

¹dis·junc·tive \-'jəŋ(k)-tiv\ *n* : a disjunctive conjunction

²disjunctive *adj* **1** : marked by breaks or disunity ⟨a ~ narrative sequence⟩ **2 a** : being or belonging to a complex proposition one or both of whose terms are true **b** : expressing an alternative or opposition between the meanings of the words connected ⟨the ~ conjunction *or*⟩ **c** : expressed by mutually exclusive alternatives joined by *or* ⟨~ pleading⟩ **3** *of a pronoun form* : stressed and not attached to the verb as an enclitic or proclitic — **dis·junctive·ly** *adv*

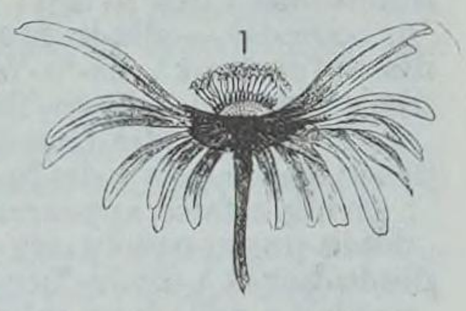
dis·junc·ture \-'jəŋ(k)-chər\ *n* : DISJUNCTION

¹disk *or* **disc** \'disk\ *n, often attrib* [L *discus* — more at DISH] **1 a** *archaic* : DISCUS 1 **b** : the seemingly flat figure of a celestial body ⟨the solar ~⟩ **2 a** : the central part of the flower head of a typical composite made up of closely packed tubular flowers **b** *usu disc* : an enlargement of the torus around, beneath, or above the pistil of a flower **3** : any of various rounded and flattened animal

anatomical structures **4 a** : a thin circular object **b** *usu disc* : a phonograph record **c** : a round flat plate coated with a magnetic substance on which data for a computer is stored **5** *usu disc* : one of the concave circular steel tools with sharpened edge making up the working part of a disc harrow or plow; *also* : an implement employing such tools — **disk·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj*

²disk *or* **disc** *vt* **1** : to cultivate with an implement (as a harrow or plow) that turns and loosens the soil with a series of disks **2** *usu disc* : to record on a phonograph disc

disk flower *n* : one of the tubular flowers in the disk of a composite plant — called also *disk floret*



1 disk flowers

disk wheel *n* : a wheel presenting a solid surface from hub to rim

dis·lik·able *also* **dis·like·able** \(ˈ)dis-ˈlī-kə-bəl\ *adj* : easy to dislike

¹dis·like \(ˈ)dis-ˈlīk\ *vt* **1** *archaic* : DISPLEASE **2** : to regard with dislike : DISAPPROVE **3** *obs* : to show aversion to — **dis·lik·er** *n*

²dislike *n* **1** : a feeling of aversion or disapproval **2** *obs* : DISCORD

dis·limn \(ˈ)dis-ˈlim\ *vb* : DIM

dis·lo·cate \ˈdis-lō-ˌkāt, -lə-; (ˈ)dis-ˈlō-\ *vt* [ML *dislocatus*, pp. of *dislocare*, fr. L *dis-* + *locare* to locate] **1** : to put out of place; *specif* : to displace (a bone) from normal connections with another bone **2** : DISRUPT

dis·lo·ca·tion \ˌdis-(ˌ)lō-ˈkā-shən, -lə-\ *n* : the act of dislocating : the state of being dislocated: as **a** : displacement of one or more bones at a joint **b** : a discontinuity in the otherwise normal lattice structure of a crystal **c** : disruption of an established order

dis·lodge \(ˈ)dis-ˈläj\ *vb* [ME *disloggen*, fr. MF *desloger*, fr. *des-* + *loger* to lodge, fr. *loge* lodge] *vt* **1** : to force out of a secure or settled position ⟨*dislodged* the rock with a shovel⟩ **2** : to drive from a position of hiding, defense, or advantage ~ *vi* : to leave a lodging place

dis·loy·al \(ˈ)dis-ˈlȯi(-ə)l\ *adj* [MF *desloial*, fr. OF, fr. *des-* + *loial* loyal] : lacking in loyalty : untrue to personal obligations or allegiance ⟨his ~ refusal to help his friend⟩ ***syn*** see FAITHLESS ***ant*** loyal — **dis·loy·al·ly** \-ˈlȯi-ə-lē\ *adv*

dis·loy·al·ty \-ˈlȯi(-ə)l-tē\ *n* : lack of loyalty

dis·mal \ˈdiz-məl\ *adj* [ME, fr. *dismal*, n., days marked as unlucky in medieval calendars, fr. AF, fr. ML *dies mali*, lit., evil days] **1** *obs* : DISASTROUS, DREADFUL **2** : showing or causing gloom or depression **3** : lacking interest or merit — **dis·mal·ly** \-mə-lē\ *adv* — **dis·mal·ness** *n*

dis·man·tle \(ˈ)dis-ˈmant-ᵊl\ *vt* **dis·man·tled; dis·man·tling** \-ˈmant-liŋ, -ᵊl-iŋ\ [MF *desmanteler*, fr. *des-* + *mantel* mantle] **1** : to strip of dress or covering : DIVEST **2** : to strip of furniture and equipment **3** : to take to pieces — **dis·man·tle·ment** \-ˈmant-ᵊl-mənt\ *n*

dis·mast \(ˈ)dis-ˈmast\ *vt* : to remove or break off the mast of

¹dis·may \dis-ˈmā, diz-\ *vt* [ME *dismayen*, fr. (assumed) OF *desmaiier*, fr. OF *des-* + *-maiier* (as in *esmaiier* to dismay), fr. (assumed) VL *-magare*, of Gmc origin] : to deprive of courage, resolution, and initiative through the pressure of sudden fear or anxiety or great perplexity ⟨~*ed* at the size of his adversary⟩ — **dis·may·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

syn DISMAY, APPALL, HORRIFY, DAUNT *shared meaning element* : to unnerve and check by arousing fear, apprehension, or aversion ***ant*** cheer

²dismay *n* **1** : sudden loss of courage or resolution from alarm or fear **2 a** : sudden disappointment **b** : PERTURBATION

disme \ˈdīm\ *n* [obs. E, tenth, fr. obs. F, fr. MF *disme, dime* — more at DIME] : a U.S. 10-cent coin struck in 1792

dis·mem·ber \(ˈ)dis-ˈmem-bər\ *vt* **dis·mem·bered; dis·mem·ber·ing** \-b(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *dismembren*, fr. OF *desmembrer*, fr. *des-* + *membre* member] **1** : to cut off or disjoin the limbs, members, or parts of **2** : to break up or tear into pieces — **dis·mem·ber·ment** \-bər-mənt\ *n*

dis·miss \dis-ˈmis\ *vt* [modif. of L *dimissus*, pp. of *dimittere*, fr. *dis-* apart + *mittere* to send — more at DIS-, SMITE] **1** : to permit or cause to leave ⟨~*ed* his visitor⟩ **2** : to remove from position or service : DISCHARGE **3 a** : to bar from attention or serious consideration ⟨~*ed* the thought⟩ **b** : to put out of judicial consideration ⟨~*ed* all charges⟩ ***syn*** see EJECT

dis·miss·al \-ˈmis-əl\ *n* : the act of dismissing : the fact or state of being dismissed

dis·mis·sion \-ˈmish-ən\ *n* : DISMISSAL

dis·mis·sive \dis-ˈmis-iv\ *adj* : giving dismissal : serving to dismiss

¹dis·mount \(ˈ)dis-ˈmau̇nt\ *vb* [prob. modif. of MF *desmonter*, fr. *des-* + *monter* to mount] *vi* **1** *obs* : DESCEND **2** : to alight from an elevated position (as on a horse) ~ *vt* **1** : to throw down or remove from a mount or an elevated position; *esp* : UNHORSE **2** : DISASSEMBLE

²dismount *n* : the act of dismounting

dis·obe·di·ence \ˌdis-ə-ˈbēd-ē-ən(t)s\ *n* : refusal or neglect to obey

dis·obe·di·ent \-ənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *desobedient*, fr. *des-* + *obedient*] : refusing or neglecting to obey — **dis·obe·di·ent·ly** *adv*

dis·obey \ˌdis-ə-ˈbā\ *vb* [ME *disobeyen*, fr. MF *desobeir*, fr. *des-* + *obeir* to obey] *vt* : to fail to obey ~ *vi* : to be disobedient — **dis·obey·er** *n*

dis·oblige \ˌdis-ə-ˈblīj\ *vt* [F *désobliger*, fr. MF, fr. *des-* + *obliger* to oblige] **1** : to go counter to the wishes of **2** : to put out : INCONVENIENCE

di·so·di·um phosphate \(ˌ)dī-ˌsōd-ē-əm-\ *n* : a sodium phosphate Na_2HPO_4

di·so·mic \(ˈ)dī-ˈsō-mik\ *adj* [*di-* + *-somic*] : having one or more chromosomes duplicated but not an entire genome duplicated

¹dis·or·der \(ˈ)dis-ˈȯrd-ər, diz-\ *vt* **1** : to disturb the order of **2** : to disturb the regular or normal functions of

²disorder *n* **1** : lack of order ⟨clothes in ~⟩ **2** : breach of the peace or public order ⟨troubled times marked by social ~*s*⟩ **3** : an abnormal physical or mental condition : AILMENT

dis·or·dered *adj* **1** *obs* **a** : morally reprehensible **b** : UNRULY **2 a** : marked by disorder **b** : not functioning in a normal orderly healthy way — **dis·or·dered·ly** *adv* — **dis·or·dered·ness** *n*

¹dis·or·der·ly \-ˈȯrd-ər-lē\ *adv, archaic* : in a disorderly manner

²disorderly *adj* **1** : characterized by disorder ⟨a ~ pile of clothes⟩ **2** : engaged in conduct offensive to public order ⟨charged with being drunk and ~⟩ — **dis·or·der·li·ness** *n*

disorderly conduct *n* : a petty offense chiefly against public order and decency that falls short of an indictable misdemeanor

dis·or·ga·nize \(ˈ)dis-ˈȯr-gə-ˌnīz\ *vt* [F *désorganiser*, fr. *dés-* dis- + *organiser* to organize] : to destroy or interrupt the orderly structure or function of — **dis·or·ga·ni·za·tion** \(ˌ)dis-ˌȯrg-(ə-)nə-ˈzā-shən\ *n*

dis·or·ga·nized *adj* : lacking coherence, system, or central guiding agency ⟨~ work habits⟩

dis·ori·ent \(ˈ)dis-ˈōr-ē-ˌent, -ˈȯr-\ *vt* [F *désorienter*, fr. *dés-* dis- + *orienter* to orient, fr. MF, fr. *orient*, n.] **1 a** : to cause to lose bearings : displace from normal position or relationship **b** : to cause to lose the sense of time, place, or identity **2** : CONFUSE

dis·ori·en·tate \-ē-ən-ˌtāt, -ē-ˌen-\ *vt* : DISORIENT — **dis·ori·en·ta·tion** \(ˌ)dis-ˌōr-ē-ən-ˈtā-shən, -ˌȯr-, -ē-ˌen-\ *n*

dis·own \(ˈ)dis-ˈōn\ *vt* **1** : to refuse to acknowledge as one's own **2 a** : to repudiate any connection or identification with **b** : to deny the validity or authority of — **dis·own·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

disp *abbr* dispensary

dis·par·age \dis-ˈpar-ij\ *vt* **-aged; -ag·ing** [ME *disparagen* to degrade by marriage below one's class, disparage, fr. MF *desparagier* to marry below one's class, fr. OF, fr. *des-* dis- + *parage* extraction, lineage, fr. *per* peer] **1** : to lower in rank or reputation : DEGRADE **2** : to depreciate by indirect means (as invidious comparison) : speak slightingly about ***syn*** see DECRY ***ant*** applaud — **dis·par·age·ment** \-ij-mənt\ *n* — **dis·par·ag·er** *n* — **dis·par·ag·ing** *adj* — **dis·par·ag·ing·ly** \-ij-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

dis·pa·rate \dis-ˈpar-ət, ˈdis-p(ə-)rət\ *adj* [L *disparatus*, pp. of *disparare* to separate, fr. *dis-* + *parare* to prepare — more at PARE] **1** : markedly distinct in quality or character **2** : containing or made up of fundamentally different and often incongruous elements ***syn*** see DIFFERENT ***ant*** comparable, analogous — **dis·pa·rate·ly** *adv* — **dis·pa·rate·ness** *n*

dis·par·i·ty \dis-ˈpar-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** [MF *desparité*, fr. LL *disparitat-, disparitas*, fr. L *dis-* + LL *paritat-, paritas* parity] : the state of being disparate : DIFFERENCE

dis·part \(ˈ)dis-ˈpärt\ *vb* [It & L; It *dispartire*, fr. L, fr. *dis-* + *partire* to divide — more at PART] *archaic* : SEPARATE, DIVIDE

dis·pas·sion \(ˈ)dis-ˈpash-ən\ *n* : absence of passion : COOLNESS

dis·pas·sion·ate \-(ə-)nət\ *adj* : not influenced by strong feeling; *esp* : not affected by personal or emotional involvement ⟨a ~ critic⟩ ⟨a ~ approach to a problem⟩ ***syn*** see FAIR — **dis·pas·sion·ate·ly** *adv* — **dis·pas·sion·ate·ness** *n*

¹dis·patch \dis-ˈpach\ *vb* [Sp *despachar* or It *dispacciare*, fr. Prov *despachar* to get rid of, fr. MF *despeechier* to set free, fr. OF, fr. *des-* + *-peechier* (as in *empeechier* to hinder) — more at IMPEACH] *vt* **1** : to send off or away with promptness or speed esp. on official business **2 a** : to kill with quick efficiency ⟨~ an injured dog⟩ **b** *obs* : DEPRIVE **3** : to dispose of (as a task) rapidly or efficiently ~ *vi, archaic* : to make haste : HURRY ***syn*** see KILL — **dis·patch·er** *n*

²dispatch *n* **1** : the act of dispatching: as **a** *obs* : DISMISSAL **b** : the act of killing **c** (1) : prompt settlement (as of an item of business) (2) : quick riddance **d** : a sending off : SHIPMENT **2 a** : a message sent with speed; *esp* : an important official message sent by a diplomatic, military, or naval officer ⟨sent a ~ to the war department⟩ ⟨his military record brought him three mentions in ~*es* —*Current Biog.*⟩ **b** : a news item sent in by a correspondent to a newspaper **3** : promptness and efficiency in performance or transmission ***syn*** see HASTE

dispatch case *n* : a case for carrying papers

dis·pel \dis-ˈpel\ *vt* **dis·pelled; dis·pel·ling** [L *dispellere*, fr. *dis-* + *pellere* to drive, beat — more at FELT] : to drive away by scattering : DISSIPATE ***syn*** see SCATTER

dis·pens·able \dis-ˈpen(t)-sə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being dispensed with : UNESSENTIAL — **dis·pens·abil·i·ty** \-ˌpen(t)-sə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n*

dis·pen·sa·ry \dis-ˈpen(t)s-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1** : a place where medical or dental aid is dispensed **2** : a store where liquor is sold under state regulations

dis·pen·sa·tion \ˌdis-pən-ˈsā-shən, -ˌpen-\ *n* **1 a** : a general state or ordering of things; *specif* : a system of revealed commands and promises regulating human affairs **b** : a particular arrangement or provision esp. of providence or nature **2 a** : an exemption from a law or from an impediment, vow, or oath **b** : a formal authorization **3 a** : the act of dispensing **b** : something dispensed or distributed — **dis·pen·sa·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

dis·pen·sa·to·ry \dis-ˈpen(t)-sə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ries** **1** : a medicinal formulary **2** *archaic* : a place for keeping medical supplies

dis·pense \dis-ˈpen(t)s\ *vb* **dis·pensed; dis·pens·ing** [ME *dispensen*, fr. ML & L; ML *dispensare* to grant dispensation, fr. L, to distribute, fr. *dispensus*, pp. of *dispendere* to weigh out, fr. *dis-* + *pendere* to weigh — more at SPAN] *vt* **1 a** : to deal out in portions **b** : ADMINISTER ⟨~ justice⟩ **2** : to give dispensation to : EXEMPT **3** : to prepare and distribute (medication) ~ *vi, archaic* : to grant dispensation ***syn*** see DISTRIBUTE — **dispense with** **1** : to suspend the operation of ⟨a people that has *dispensed with* its monarchy⟩ **2** : to do without ⟨could *dispense with* his assistants⟩

dis·pens·er \-ˈpen(t)-sər\ *n* : one that dispenses: as **a** : a container that extrudes, sprays, or feeds out in convenient units **b** : a usu. mechanical device for vending merchandise

dis·peo·ple \(ˈ)dis-ˈpē-pəl\ *vt* : DEPOPULATE

dis·pers·al \dis-ˈpər-səl\ *n* : the act or result of dispersing; *specif* : the process or result of the spreading of organisms from one place to another

dis·per·sant \dis-ˈpər-sənt\ *n* : a dispersing agent; *esp* : a substance for promoting the formation and stabilization of a dispersion of one substance in another — **dispersant** *adj*

dis·perse \dis-'pərs\ *vb* **dis·persed; dis·pers·ing** [ME *dysparsen*, fr. MF *disperser*, fr. L *dispersus*, pp. of *dispergere* to scatter, fr. *dis-* + *spargere* to scatter — more at SPARK] *vt* **1 a** : to cause to break up ⟨the meeting was *dispersed*⟩ **b** : to cause to become spread widely **c** : to cause to evaporate or vanish ⟨sunlight *dispersing* the vapor⟩ **2** : to spread or distribute from a fixed or constant source: as **a** *archaic* : DISSEMINATE **b** : to subject (as light) to dispersion **c** : to distribute (as fine particles) more or less evenly throughout a medium ~ *vi* **1** : to break up in random fashion ⟨the crowd *dispersed* at the policeman's request⟩ **2 a** : to become dispersed **b** : DISSIPATE, VANISH ⟨the fog *dispersed* toward morning⟩ ***syn*** see SCATTER — **dis·persed·ly** \-'pər-səd-lē, -'pərst-lē\ *adv* — **dis·pers·er** *n* — **dis·pers·ible** \-'pər-sə-bəl\ *adj*

disperse system *n* : DISPERSION 5b

dis·per·sion \dis-'pər-zhən, -shən\ *n* **1** *cap* : DIASPORA 1a **2** : the act or process of dispersing : the state of being dispersed **3** : the scattering of the values of a frequency distribution from an average **4** : the separation of light into colors by refraction or diffraction with formation of a spectrum; *also* : the separation of nonhomogeneous radiation into components in accordance with some characteristic (as energy) **5 a** : a dispersed substance **b** : a system consisting of a dispersed substance and the medium in which it is dispersed : COLLOID 1b

dis·per·sive \-'pər-siv, -ziv\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to dispersion ⟨a ~ medium⟩ ⟨the ~ power of a lens⟩ **2** : tending to disperse — **dis·per·sive·ly** *adv* — **dis·per·sive·ness** *n*

dis·per·soid \-'pər-ˌsȯid\ *n* : finely divided particles of one substance dispersed in another

dispir·it \(')dis-'pir-ət\ *vt* [*dis-* + *spirit*] : to deprive of morale or enthusiasm — **dispir·it·ed** *adj* — **dispir·it·ed·ly** *adv* — **dispir·it·ed·ness** *n*

dis·pit·eous \dis-'pit-ē-əs\ *adj* [alter. of *despiteous*] *archaic* : CRUEL

dis·place \(')dis-'plās\ *vt* [prob. fr. MF *desplacer*, fr. *des-* dis- + *place*] **1 a** : to remove from the usual or proper place; *specif* : to expel or force to flee from home or homeland **b** : to remove from an office **c** *obs* : to drive out : BANISH **2 a** : to remove physically out of position ⟨water *displaced* by a floating object⟩ **b** : to take the place of (as in a chemical reaction) : SUPPLANT ***syn*** see REPLACE — **dis·place·able** \-'plā-sə-bəl\ *adj*

dis·place·ment \dis-'plā-smənt\ *n* **1** : the act or process of displacing : the state of being displaced **2 a** : the volume or weight of a fluid (as water) displaced by a floating body (as a ship) of equal weight **b** : the difference between the initial position of a body and any later position **c** : the volume displaced by a piston (as in a pump or an engine) in a single stroke; *also* : the total volume so displaced by all the pistons in an internal-combustion engine (as in an automobile) **3** : the substitution of another form of behavior for what is normal or expected esp. when the normal response is nonadaptive

dis·plant \dis-'plant\ *vt* [MF *desplanter*, fr. *des-* + *planter* to plant, fr. LL *plantare*] **1** : DISPLACE, REMOVE **2** : SUPPLANT

¹dis·play \dis-'plā\ *vb* [ME *displayen*, fr. AF *despleier*, fr. L *displicare* to scatter, fr. *dis-* + *plicare* to fold — more at PLY] *vt* **1 a** : to put or spread before the view in display ⟨~ the flag⟩ **b** : to make evident ⟨~*ed* great skill⟩ **c** : to exhibit ostentatiously ⟨liked to ~ his erudition⟩ **2** *obs* : DESCRY ~ *vi* **1** *obs* : to show off **2** : to make a breeding display ⟨penguins ~*ed* and copulated⟩

²display *n, often attrib* **1 a** (1) : a setting or presentation of something in open view ⟨a fireworks ~⟩ (2) : a clear sign or evidence : EXHIBITION ⟨a ~ of courage⟩ **b** : ostentatious show **c** : type composition designed to catch the eye; *also* : printed matter so composed **d** : an eye-catching arrangement by which something is exhibited **e** : a device (as a cathode-ray tube) that gives information in visual form in communications ⟨a computer ~⟩ ⟨a radar ~⟩ **2** : a pattern of behavior exhibited esp. by male birds in the breeding season

dis·please \(')dis-'plēz\ *vb* [ME *displesen*, fr. MF *desplaisir*, fr. (assumed) VL *displacēre*, fr. L *dis-* + *placēre* to please] *vt* **1** : to incur the disapproval of esp. as accompanied by annoyance or dislike ⟨fired any employee who *displeased* him⟩ **2** : to be offensive to ⟨abstract art ~*s* him⟩ ~ *vi* : to give displeasure ⟨signs of inattention calculated to ~⟩

dis·plea·sure \(')dis-'plezh-ər, -'plāzh-\ *n* **1** : the feeling of one that is displeased : DISFAVOR **2** : DISCOMFORT, UNHAPPINESS **3** *archaic* : OFFENSE, INJURY

dis·plode \dis-'plōd\ *vb* **dis·plod·ed; dis·plod·ing** [L *displodere*, fr. *dis-* + *plaudere* to clap, applaud] *archaic* : EXPLODE — **dis·plo·sion** \-'plō-zhən\ *n*

¹dis·port \dis-'pō(ə)rt, -'pȯ(ə)rt\ *n, archaic* : SPORT, PASTIME

²disport *vb* [ME *disporten*, fr. MF *desporter*, fr. *des-* + *porter* to carry] *vt* **1** : DIVERT, AMUSE **2** : DISPLAY ~ *vi* : to amuse oneself in light or lively fashion : FROLIC — **dis·port·ment** \-mənt\ *n*

¹dis·pos·able \dis-'pō-zə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : subject to or available for disposal; *specif* : remaining to an individual after deduction of taxes ⟨~ income⟩ **2** : designed to be used once and then thrown away ⟨~ towels⟩ — **dis·pos·abil·i·ty** \-ˌpō-zə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*

²disposable *n* : something (as a paper blanket) that is disposable

dis·pos·al \dis-'pō-zəl\ *n* **1** : the act or process of disposing: as **a** : orderly placement or distribution **b** : REGULATION, ADMINISTRATION **c** : BESTOWAL **d** : systematic destruction; *esp* : destruction or transformation of garbage **2** : the power or authority to dispose of ⟨the car was at my ~⟩ **3** [*garbage disposal unit*] : a device used to reduce waste matter (as by grinding)

¹dis·pose \dis-'pōz\ *vb* **dis·posed; dis·pos·ing** [ME *disposen*, fr. MF *disposer*, fr. L *disponere* to arrange (perf. indic. *disposui*), fr. *dis-* + *ponere* to put — more at POSITION] *vt* **1** : to give a tendency to : INCLINE ⟨faulty diet ~*s* one to sickness⟩ **2 a** : to put in place : set in readiness : ARRANGE ⟨*disposing* troops for withdrawal⟩ **b** *obs* : REGULATE **c** : BESTOW ~ *vi* **1** : to settle a matter finally **2** *obs* : to come to terms ***syn*** see INCLINE — **dis·pos·er** *n* — **dispose of** **1** : to place, distribute, or arrange esp. in an orderly way **2 a** : to transfer to the control of another ⟨*disposing of* his personal property⟩ **b** (1) : to get rid of ⟨waste that is hard to *dispose of*⟩ (2) : to deal with conclusively ⟨*disposed of* the matter efficiently⟩

²dispose *n* **1** *obs* : DISPOSAL **2** *obs* **a** : DISPOSITION **b** : DEMEANOR

dis·po·si·tion \ˌdis-pə-'zish-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *disposition-*, *dispositio*, fr. *dispositus*, pp. of *disponere*] **1** : the act or the power of disposing or the state of being disposed: as **a** : ADMINISTRATION, CONTROL **b** : final arrangement : SETTLEMENT ⟨the ~ of the case⟩ **c** (1) : transfer to the care or possession of another (2) : the power of such transferal **d** : orderly arrangement **2 a** : prevailing tendency, mood, or inclination **b** : temperamental makeup **c** : the tendency of something to act in a certain manner under given circumstances
syn DISPOSITION, TEMPERAMENT, TEMPER, CHARACTER, PERSONALITY *shared meaning element* : the dominant quality or qualities distinguishing a person or group

dis·pos·i·tive \dis-'päz-ət-iv\ *adj* : directed towards or effecting disposition (as of a case) ⟨~ evidence⟩

dis·pos·sess \ˌdis-pə-'zes *also* -'ses\ *vt* [MF *despossesser*, fr. *des-* dis- + *possesser* to possess] : to put out of possession or occupancy — **dis·pos·ses·sion** \-'zesh-ən *also* -'sesh-\ *n* — **dis·pos·ses·sor** \-'zes-ər *also* -'ses-\ *n*

dis·pos·sessed *adj* : deprived of homes, possessions, and security

dis·po·sure \dis-'pō-zhər\ *n, archaic* : DISPOSAL, DISPOSITION

¹dis·praise \(')dis-'prāz\ *vt* [ME *dispraisen*, fr. OF *despreisier*, fr. *des-* dis- + *preisier* to praise] : to comment on with disapproval or censure — **dis·prais·er** *n* — **dis·prais·ing·ly** \-'prā-ziŋ-lē\ *adv*

²dispraise *n* : an expression of disapproval : DISPARAGEMENT

dispread \dis-'pred\ *vt* : to spread abroad or out

dis·prize \(')dis-'prīz\ *vt* [MF *despriser*, fr. OF *despreisier* to dispraise] *archaic* : UNDERVALUE, SCORN

dis·proof \(')dis-'prüf\ *n* **1** : the action of disproving **2** : evidence that disproves

¹dis·pro·por·tion \ˌdis-prə-'pōr-shən, -'pȯr-\ *n* : lack of proportion, symmetry, or proper relation : DISPARITY; *also* : an instance of such disparity — **dis·pro·por·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

²disproportion *vt* : to make out of proportion : MISMATCH

dis·pro·por·tion·ate \-sh(ə-)nət\ *adj* : being out of proportion — **dis·pro·por·tion·ate·ly** *adv*

dis·pro·por·tion·ation \-ˌpōr-shə-'nā-shən, -ˌpȯr-\ *n* : the transformation of a substance into two or more dissimilar substances usu. by simultaneous oxidation and reduction — **dis·pro·por·tion·ate** \-'pōr-shə-ˌnāt, -'pȯr-\ *vi*

dis·prove \(')dis-'prüv\ *vt* [ME *disproven*, fr. MF *desprover*, fr. *des-* + *prover* to prove] : to prove to be false : REFUTE — **dis·prov·able** \-'prü-və-bəl\ *adj*
syn DISPROVE, REFUTE, CONFUTE, REBUT, CONTROVERT *shared meaning element* : to show or try to show by presenting evidence that something (as a claim, statement, or charge) is not true ***ant*** prove, demonstrate

dis·pu·tant \dis-'pyüt-ᵊnt, 'dis-pyət-ənt\ *n* : one that is engaged in a dispute

dis·pu·ta·tion \ˌdis-pyə-'tā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of disputing : DEBATE **2** : an academic exercise in oral defense of a thesis by formal logic

dis·pu·ta·tious \-shəs\ *adj* **1** : inclined to dispute **2** : provoking debate : CONTROVERSIAL — **dis·pu·ta·tious·ly** *adv* — **dis·pu·ta·tious·ness** *n*

¹dis·pute \dis-'pyüt\ *vb* **dis·put·ed; dis·put·ing** [ME *disputen*, fr. OF *desputer*, fr. L *disputare* to discuss, fr. *dis-* + *putare* to think] *vi* : to engage in argument : DEBATE; *esp* : to argue irritably or with irritating persistence ~ *vt* **1 a** : to make the subject of disputation **b** : to call into question ⟨the honesty of his intent was never *disputed*⟩ **2 a** : to struggle against ⟨*disputed* the advance of the invaders⟩ **b** : to struggle over : CONTEST ⟨the defending troops *disputed* every inch of ground⟩ ***syn*** see DISCUSS — **dis·pu·ta·ble** \dis-'pyüt-ə-bəl, 'dis-pyət-\ *adj* — **dis·pu·ta·bly** \-blē\ *adv* — **dis·put·er** *n*

²dis·pute \dis-'pyüt, 'dis-ˌ\ *n* **1 a** : verbal controversy : DEBATE **b** : QUARREL **2** *obs* : physical combat

dis·qual·i·fi·ca·tion \(ˌ)dis-ˌkwäl-ə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of disqualifying : the state of being disqualified ⟨~ from office⟩ **2** : something that disqualifies or incapacitates

dis·qual·i·fy \(')dis-'kwäl-ə-ˌfī\ *vt* **1** : to deprive of the required qualities, properties, or conditions : make unfit **2** : to deprive of a power, right, or privilege **3** : to make ineligible for a prize or for further competition because of violations of the rules

dis·quan·ti·ty \(')dis-'kwän(t)-ət-ē\ *vt, obs* : DIMINISH, LESSEN

¹dis·qui·et \(')dis-'kwī-ət\ *vt* : to take away the peace or tranquillity of : DISTURB, ALARM ***syn*** see DISCOMPOSE ***ant*** tranquilize, soothe — **dis·qui·et·ing** *adj* — **dis·qui·et·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

²disquiet *n* : lack of peace or tranquillity : ANXIETY

³disquiet *adj, archaic* : UNEASY, DISQUIETED — **dis·qui·et·ly** *adv*

dis·qui·etude \(')dis-'kwī-ə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* : AGITATION, ANXIETY

dis·qui·si·tion \ˌdis-kwə-'zish-ən\ *n* [L *disquisition-*, *disquisitio*, fr. *disquisitus*, pp. of *disquirere* to inquire diligently, fr. *dis-* + *quaerere* to seek — more at QUEST] : a formal inquiry into or discussion of a subject : DISCOURSE

dis·rate \(')dis-'rāt\ *vt* : to reduce in rank : DEMOTE ***syn*** see DEGRADE

¹dis·re·gard \ˌdis-ri-'gärd\ *vt* : to pay no attention to : treat as unworthy of regard or notice ***syn*** see NEGLECT

²disregard *n* : the act of disregarding : the state of being disregarded : NEGLECT — **dis·re·gard·ful** \-fəl\ *adj*

dis·re·lat·ed \ˌdis-ri-'lāt-əd\ *adj* : not related

dis·re·la·tion \-'lā-shən\ *n* : lack of a fitting or proportionate connection or relationship

¹dis·rel·ish \(')dis-'rel-ish\ *vt* : to find unpalatable or distasteful

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²disrelish *n* : lack of relish : DISTASTE, DISLIKE
dis·re·mem·ber \ˌdis-ri-ˈmem-bər\ *vt* : FORGET ⟨I ~ rightly what I did —Elizabeth C. Gaskell⟩
dis·re·pair \ˌdis-ri-ˈpa(ə)r, -ˈpe(ə)r\ *n* : the state of being in need of repair ⟨a building fallen into ~⟩
dis·rep·u·ta·ble \(ˈ)dis-ˈrep-yət-ə-bəl\ *adj* : not reputable — **dis·rep·u·ta·bil·i·ty** \(ˌ)dis-ˈrep-yət-ə-bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **dis·rep·u·ta·ble·ness** \(ˈ)dis-ˈrep-yət-ə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **dis·rep·u·ta·bly** \-blē\ *adv*
dis·re·pute \ˌdis-ri-ˈpyüt\ *n* : lack or decline of good reputation : a state of being held in low esteem ⟨the hotel fell into ~ after the bar was added⟩ ***syn*** see DISGRACE ***ant*** repute
¹dis·re·spect \ˌdis-ri-ˈspekt\ *vt* : to have disrespect for
²disrespect *n* : lack of respect or reverence — **dis·re·spect·ful** \-fəl\ *adj* — **dis·re·spect·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **dis·re·spect·ful·ness** *n*
dis·re·spect·able \ˌdis-ri-ˈspek-tə-bəl\ *adj* : not respectable — **dis·re·spect·abil·i·ty** \-ˌspek-tə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n*
dis·robe \(ˈ)dis-ˈrōb\ *vb* [MF *desrober*, fr. *des-* dis- + *robe* garment — more at ROBE] *vt* : to strip of clothing or covering ~ *vi* : to take off one's clothing
dis·rupt \dis-ˈrəpt\ *vt* [L *disruptus*, pp. of *disrumpere*, fr. *dis-* + *rumpere* to break — more at RUPTURE] **1 a** : to break apart : RUPTURE **b** : to throw into disorder ⟨agitators trying to ~ the meeting⟩ **2** : to cause to break down — **dis·rupt·er** *n* — **dis·rup·tion** \-ˈrəp-shən\ *n* — **dis·rup·tive** \-ˈrəp-tiv\ *adj* — **dis·rup·tive·ly** *adv* — **dis·rup·tive·ness** *n*
diss *abbr* dissertation
dis·sat·is·fac·tion \(ˌ)dis-ˌ(s)at-əs-ˈfak-shən\ *n* : the quality or state of being dissatisfied : DISCONTENT
dis·sat·is·fac·to·ry \-ˈfak-t(ə-)rē\ *adj* : causing dissatisfaction
dis·sat·is·fy \(ˈ)dis-ˈ(s)at-əs-ˌfī\ *vt* : to fail to satisfy : DISPLEASE
dis·save \(ˈ)dis-ˈ(s)āv\ *vi* : to use savings for current expenses
dis·seat \(ˈ)dis-ˈ(s)ēt\ *vt, archaic* : UNSEAT
dis·sect \dis-ˈekt; dī-ˈsekt, ˈdī-ˌ\ *vb* [L *dissectus*, pp. of *dissecare* to cut apart, fr. *dis-* + *secare* to cut — more at SAW] *vt* **1** : to separate into pieces : expose the several parts of (as an animal) for scientific examination **2** : to analyze and interpret minutely ~ *vi* : to make a dissection ***syn*** see ANALYZE — **dis·sec·tor** \-ər\ *n*
dis·sect·ed *adj* **1** : cut deeply into fine lobes ⟨a ~ leaf⟩ **2** : divided into hills and ridges (as by gorges) ⟨a ~ plateau⟩
dis·sec·tion \dis-ˈek-shən; dī-ˈsek-, ˈdī-ˌ\ *n* **1** : the act or process of dissecting : the state of being dissected **2** : an anatomical specimen prepared by dissecting
dis·seise *or* **dis·seize** \(ˈ)dis-ˈ(s)ēz\ *vt* **dis·seised** *or* **dis·seized; dis·seis·ing** *or* **dis·seiz·ing** [ME *disseisen*, fr. ML *disseisiare* & AF *disseisir*, fr. OF *dessaisir*, fr. *des-* + *saisir* to put in possession of — more at SEIZE] : to deprive esp. wrongfully of seisin : DISPOSSESS
dis·sei·sin *or* **dis·sei·zin** \-ˈ(s)ēz-ᵊn\ *n* [ME *dysseysyne*, fr. AF *disseisine*, fr. OF *dessaisine*, fr. *des-* dis- + *saisine* seisin] : the act of disseising : the state of being disseised
dis·sem·ble \dis-ˈem-bəl\ *vb* **dis·sem·bled; dis·sem·bling** \-bə-)liŋ\ [alter. of obs. *dissimule*, fr. ME *dissimulen*, fr. MF *dissimuler*, fr. L *dissimulare* — more at DISSIMULATE] *vt* **1** : to hide under a false appearance **2** : to put on the appearance of : SIMULATE ~ *vi* : to put on a false appearance : conceal facts, intentions, or feelings under some pretense ***syn*** see DISGUISE — **dis·sem·bler** \-b(ə-)lər\ *n*
dis·sem·i·nate \dis-ˈem-ə-ˌnāt\ *vb* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [L *disseminatus*, pp. of *disseminare*, fr. *dis-* + *seminare* to sow, fr. *semin-*, *semen* seed — more at SEMEN] *vt* **1** : to spread abroad as though sowing seed ⟨~ ideas⟩ **2** : to disperse throughout ~ *vi* : to spread widely — **dis·sem·i·na·tion** \-ˌem-ə-ˈnā-shən\ *n* — **dis·sem·i·na·tor** \-ˈem-ə-ˌnāt-ər\ *n*
dis·sem·i·nule \dis-ˈem-ə-ˌn(y)ü(ə)l\ *n* : a part or organ (as a seed or spore) of a plant that ensures propagation
dis·sen·sion *also* **dis·sen·tion** \dis-ˈen-chən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *dissension-*, *dissensio*, fr. *dissensus*, pp. of *dissentire*] : DISAGREEMENT; *esp* : partisan and contentious quarreling ***syn*** see DISCORD ***ant*** accord, comity
¹dis·sent \dis-ˈent\ *vi* [ME *dissenten*, fr. L *dissentire*, fr. *dis-* + *sentire* to feel — more at SENSE] **1** : to withhold assent **2** : to differ in opinion
²dissent *n* : difference of opinion: as **a** : religious nonconformity **b** : a justice's nonconcurrence with a decision of the majority — called also *dissenting opinion*
dis·sent·er \dis-ˈent-ər\ *n* **1** : one that dissents **2** *cap* : an English Nonconformist
dis·sen·tient \dis-ˈen-ch(ē-)ənt\ *adj* [L *dissentient-*, *dissentiens*, prp. of *dissentire*] : expressing dissent — **dissentient** *n*
dis·sent·ing \dis-ˈent-iŋ\ *adj, often cap* : belonging to the party of English Nonconformists
dis·sep·i·ment \dis-ˈep-ə-mənt\ *n* [L *dissaepimentum* partition, fr. *dissaepire* to divide, fr. *dis-* + *saepire* to fence in — more at SEPTUM] : a dividing tissue : SEPTUM; *esp* : a partition between cells of a compound plant ovary
dis·sert \dis-ˈərt\ *vi* [L *dissertus*, pp. of *disserere*, fr. *dis-* + *serere* to join, arrange — more at SERIES] : DISCOURSE
dis·ser·tate \ˈdis-ər-ˌtāt\ *vi* **-tat·ed; -tat·ing** [L *dissertatus*, pp. of *dissertare*, fr. *dissertus*] : DISCOURSE — **dis·ser·ta·tor** \-ˌtāt-ər\ *n*
dis·ser·ta·tion \ˌdis-ər-ˈtā-shən\ *n* : an extended usu. written treatment of a subject; *specif* : one submitted for a doctorate
dis·serve \(ˈ)dis-ˈ(s)ərv\ *vt* : to serve badly or falsely : HARM ⟨*disserving* the very democracy in which he ardently believes —*New Republic*⟩
dis·ser·vice \(ˈ)dis-ˈ(s)ər-vəs\ *n* : ill service : INJURY ⟨they do a great ~ . . . to our society —Howard Kirschenbaum⟩
dis·sev·er \dis-ˈev-ər\ *vb* [ME *disseveren*, fr. OF *dessevrer*, fr. LL *disseparare*, fr. L *dis-* + *separare* to separate] *vt* : SEVER, SEPARATE ~ *vi* : to come apart : DISUNITE — **dis·sev·er·ance** \-ˈev-(ə-)rən(t)s\ *n* — **dis·sev·er·ment** \-ˈev-ər-mənt\ *n*
dis·si·dence \ˈdis-əd-ən(t)s\ *n* : DISSENT, DISAGREEMENT ⟨arresting people for political ~ —Peggy Durdin⟩
dis·si·dent \-ənt\ *adj* [L *dissident-*, *dissidens*, prp. of *dissidēre* to sit apart, disagree, fr. *dis-* + *sedēre* to sit — more at SIT] : differing with an opinion or a group : DISAFFECTED — **dissident** *n*
dis·sim·i·lar \(ˈ)dis-ˈ(s)im-(ə-)lər\ *adj* : UNLIKE — **dis·sim·i·lar·i·ty** \(ˌ)dis-ˌ(s)im-ə-ˈlar-ət-ē\ *n* — **dis·sim·i·lar·ly** \(ˈ)dis-ˈ(s)im-(ə-)lər-lē\ *adv*
dis·sim·i·late \(ˈ)dis-ˈim-ə-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [*dis-* + *-similate* (as in *assimilate*)] *vt* : to make dissimilar ~ *vi* : to become dissimilar — **dis·sim·i·la·tive** \-ˌlāt-iv\ *adj* — **dis·sim·i·la·to·ry** \-(ə-)lə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*
dis·sim·i·la·tion \(ˌ)dis-ˌim-ə-ˈlā-shən\ *n* : the act of making or the process of becoming dissimilar: as **a** : CATABOLISM **b** : the development of dissimilarity between two identical or closely related sounds in a word
dis·si·mil·i·tude \ˌdis-(s)ə-ˈmil-ə-ˌt(y)üd\ *n* [L *dissimilitudo*, fr. *dissimilis* unlike, fr. *dis-* + *similis* like] : lack of resemblance
dis·sim·u·late \(ˈ)dis-ˈim-yə-ˌlāt\ *vb* **-lat·ed; -lat·ing** [L *dissimulatus*, pp. of *dissimulare*, fr. *dis-* + *simulare* to simulate] *vt* : to hide under a false appearance : DISSEMBLE ~ *vi* : to engage in dissembling — **dis·sim·u·la·tion** \(ˌ)dis-ˌim-yə-ˈlā-shən\ *n* — **dis·sim·u·la·tor** \(ˈ)dis-ˈim-yə-ˌlāt-ər\ *n*
dis·si·pate \ˈdis-ə-ˌpāt\ *vb* **-pat·ed; -pat·ing** [L *dissipatus*, pp. of *dissipare*, fr. *dis-* + *supare* to throw; akin to ON *svāf* spear, Skt *svapū* broom] *vt* **1 a** : to break up and drive off (as a crowd) **b** : to cause to spread out or spread thin to the point of vanishing : DISSOLVE **c** : to lose (as heat or electricity) irrecoverably : DISPEL **2 a** : to expend aimlessly or foolishly **b** : to use up esp. foolishly or heedlessly ⟨soon *dissipated* his estate⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to separate into parts and scatter or vanish **2** : to be extravagant or dissolute in the pursuit of pleasure; *esp* : to drink to excess ***syn*** **1** see SCATTER **2** see WASTE ***ant*** accumulate, concentrate — **dis·si·pat·er** *n*
dis·si·pat·ed *adj* : given to or marked by dissipation : DISSOLUTE — **dis·si·pat·ed·ly** *adv* — **dis·si·pat·ed·ness** *n*
dis·si·pa·tion \ˌdis-ə-ˈpā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of dissipating : the state of being dissipated: **a** : DISPERSION, DIFFUSION **b** *archaic* : DISSOLUTION, DISINTEGRATION **c** : wasteful expenditure **d** : intemperate living; *esp* : excessive drinking **2** : DIVERSION, AMUSEMENT
dis·si·pa·tive \ˈdis-ə-ˌpāt-iv\ *adj* : relating to dissipation esp. of heat
dis·so·cia·ble \(ˈ)dis-ˈō-sh(ē-)ə-bəl, -sē-ə-\ *adj* : SEPARABLE — **dis·so·cia·bil·i·ty** \(ˌ)dis-ˌō-sh(ē-)ə-ˈbil-ət-ē, -sē-ə-\ *n*
dis·so·cial \(ˈ)dis-ˈ(s)ō-shəl\ *adj* : UNSOCIAL, SELFISH
dis·so·ciant \dis-ˈō-s(h)ē-ənt, -ˈō-shənt\ *adj* : producing or resulting from dissociation; *specif* : MUTANT
dis·so·ci·ate \(ˈ)dis-ˈō-s(h)ē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *dissociatus*, pp. of *dissociare*, fr. *dis-* + *sociare* to join, fr. *socius* companion — more at SOCIAL] *vt* **1** : to separate from association or union with another : DISCONNECT **2** : DISUNITE; *specif* : to subject to chemical dissociation ~ *vi* **1** : to undergo dissociation **2** : to mutate esp. reversibly
dis·so·ci·a·tion \(ˌ)dis-ˌō-sē-ˈā-shən, -shē-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of dissociating : the state of being dissociated: as **a** : the process by which a chemical combination breaks up into simpler constituents; *esp* : one that results from the action of energy (as heat) on a gas or of a solvent on a dissolved substance **b** : the separation of an idea or activity from the mainstream of consciousness or of behavior esp. as a mechanism of ego defense **2** : the property inherent in some biological stocks (as of certain bacteria) of differentiating into two or more distinct and relatively permanent strains; *also* : such a strain — **dis·so·cia·tive** \(ˈ)dis-ˈō-s(h)ē-ˌāt-iv, -shət-iv\ *adj*
dis·sol·u·ble \dis-ˈäl-yə-bəl\ *adj* [L *dissolubilis*, fr. *dissolvere* to dissolve] : capable of being dissolved or disintegrated — **dis·sol·u·bil·i·ty** \-ˌäl-yə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n*
dis·so·lute \ˈdis-ə-ˌlüt, -lət\ *adj* [L *dissolutus*, fr. pp. of *dissolvere* to loosen, dissolve] : lacking restraint; *esp* : loose in morals — **dis·so·lute·ly** *adv* — **dis·so·lute·ness** *n*
dis·so·lu·tion \ˌdis-ə-ˈlü-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of dissolving: as **a** : separation into component parts **b** (1) : DISINTEGRATION, DECAY (2) : DEATH ⟨grew convinced of his friend's approaching ~ —Elinor Wylie⟩ **c** : termination or destruction by breaking down, disrupting, or dispersing ⟨the ~ of the republic⟩ **d** : LIQUEFACTION **2** *obs* : PROFLIGACY
¹dis·solve \diz-ˈälv, -ˈȯlv\ *vb* [ME *dissolven*, fr. L *dissolvere*, fr. *dis-* + *solvere* to loosen — more at SOLVE] *vt* **1 a** : to cause to disperse or disappear : DESTROY **b** : to separate into component parts : DISINTEGRATE **c** : to bring to an end : TERMINATE ⟨~ parliament⟩ **2 a** : to cause to pass into solution ⟨~ sugar in water⟩ **b** : MELT, LIQUEFY **c** : to cause to be emotionally moved **d** : to fade out (a motion-picture or television shot) in a dissolve **3** *archaic* : DETACH, LOOSEN **4** : to clear up ⟨~ the mystery⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to become dissipated or decomposed **b** : to break up : DISPERSE **c** : to fade away **2 a** : to become fluid : MELT **b** : to pass into solution **c** : to be overcome emotionally **d** : to resolve itself as if by dissolution ***syn*** see ADJOURN — **dis·solv·able** \-ˈäl-və-bəl, -ˈȯl-\ *adj* — **dis·solv·er** *n*
²dissolve *n* : a gradual superimposing of one motion-picture or television shot upon another on a screen
dis·sol·vent \diz-ˈäl-vənt, -ˈȯl-\ *adj* : SOLVENT 2 — **dissolvent** *n*
dis·so·nance \ˈdis-ə-nən(t)s\ *n* **1** : a mingling of discordant sounds; *specif* : a clashing musical interval **2** : lack of agreement; *specif* : inconsistency between the beliefs one holds or between one's actions and one's beliefs ⟨cognitive ~⟩ : DISCORD **3** : an unresolved musical note or chord; *specif* : an interval not included in a major or minor triad or its inversions
dis·so·nant \-nənt\ *adj* [MF or L; MF, fr. L *dissonant-*, *dissonans*, prp. of *dissonare* to be discordant, fr. *dis-* + *sonare* to sound — more at SOUND] **1** : marked by dissonance : DISCORDANT **2** : INCONGRUOUS **3** : harmonically unresolved — **dis·so·nant·ly** *adv*
dis·spir·it \(ˈ)dis-ˈ(s)pir-ət\ *var of* DISPIRIT
dis·suade \dis-ˈwād\ *vt* **dis·suad·ed; dis·suad·ing** [MF or L; MF *dissuader*, fr. L *dissuadēre*, fr. *dis-* + *suadēre* to urge — more at SUASION] **1 a** *archaic* : to advise against (an action) **b** : to ad-

vise (a person) against something **2** : to turn from something by persuasion ⟨~ a friend from joining the society⟩ — **dis·suad·er** *n*

dis·sua·sion \dis-'wā-zhən\ *n* [MF or L; MF, fr. L *dissuasion-, dissuasio*, fr. *dissuasus*, pp. of *dissuadēre*] : the act of dissuading

dis·sua·sive \dis-'wā-siv, -ziv\ *adj* : tending to dissuade — **dis·sua·sive·ly** *adv* — **dis·sua·sive·ness** *n*

dis·syl·lab·ic \ˌdis-ə-'lab-ik, ˌdī-sə-\, **dis·syl·la·ble** \'dis-ˌil-ə-bəl, (')dis-'(s)il-; 'dī-ˌsil-, (')dī-'sil-\ *var of* DISYLLABIC, DISYLLABLE

dis·sym·me·try \(')dis-'(s)im-ə-trē\ *n* : the absence of or the lack of symmetry — **dis·sym·met·ric** \ˌdis-(s)ə-'me-trik\ *adj*

dist *abbr* **1** distance **2** district

¹dis·taff \'dis-ˌtaf\ *n, pl* **distaffs** \-ˌtafs, -ˌtavz\ [ME *distaf*, fr. OE *distæf*, fr. *dis-* (akin to MLG *dise* bunch of flax) + *stæf* staff] **1 a** : a staff for holding the flax, tow, or wool in spinning **b** : woman's work or domain **2** : the female branch or side of a family



1, distaff 1a

²distaff *adj* : MATERNAL, FEMALE ⟨the ~ side of the family⟩ — compare SPEAR

dis·tain \dis-'tān\ *vt* [ME *disteynen*, fr. MF *desteindre* to take away the color of, fr. OF, fr. *des-* dis- + *teindre* to dye, fr. L *tingere* to wet, dye — more at TINGE] **1** *archaic* : STAIN **2** *archaic* : DISHONOR

dis·tal \'dis-tᵊl\ *adj* [*dist*ant + *-al*] : far from the point of attachment or origin — compare PROXIMAL — **dis·tal·ly** \-tᵊl-ē\ *adv*

distal convoluted tubule *n* : the convoluted portion of the vertebrate nephron that lies between the loop of Henle and the nonsecretory part of the nephron and that is concerned esp. with the concentration of urine

¹dis·tance \'dis-tən(t)s\ *n* **1** *obs* : DISCORD **2 a** : separation in time **b** : the degree or amount of separation between two points, lines, surfaces, or objects measured along the shortest path joining them **c** : an extent of area or an advance along a route measured linearly **d** : an extent of advance away or along from a point considered primary or original **e** : EXPANSE **3** : the quality or state of being distant: as **a** : spatial remoteness **b** : RESERVE, COLDNESS **c** : DIFFERENCE, DISPARITY **4** : a distant point or region

²distance *vt* **dis·tanced; dis·tanc·ing** **1** : to place or keep at a distance **2** : to leave far behind : OUTSTRIP

dis·tant \'dis-tənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *distant-, distans*, prp. of *distare* to stand apart, be distant, fr. *dis-* + *stare* to stand — more at STAND] **1 a** : separated in space : AWAY **b** : situated at a great distance : FAR-OFF **c** : separated by a great distance from each other : far apart **2** : separated in a relationship other than spatial ⟨a ~ relative⟩ **3** : different in kind **4** : reserved or aloof in personal relationship : COLD ⟨~ politeness⟩ **5 a** : coming from or going to a distance ⟨~ voyages⟩ **b** : concerned with or directed toward things at a distance ⟨~ thoughts⟩ — **dis·tant·ly** *adv* — **dis·tant·ness** *n*

syn DISTANT, FAR, FAR-OFF, FARAWAY, REMOTE, REMOVED *shared meaning element* : not close in space, time, or relationship

¹dis·taste \(')dis-'tāst\ *vt* **1** *archaic* : to feel aversion to **2** *archaic* : OFFEND, DISPLEASE ~ *vi, obs* : to have an offensive taste

²distaste *n* **1 a** : dislike of food or drink **b** : AVERSION, DISINCLINATION **2** *obs* : ANNOYANCE, DISCOMFORT

dis·taste·ful \(')dis-'tāst-fəl\ *adj* **1 a** : unpleasant to the taste : LOATHSOME **b** : objectionable because offensive to one's personal taste : DISAGREEABLE ⟨boys who find study ~⟩ **2** : showing distaste or aversion ⟨a ~ expression on her face⟩ ***syn*** see REPUGNANT ***ant*** agreeable, palatable — **dis·taste·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **dis·taste·ful·ness** *n*

¹dis·tem·per \dis-'tem-pər\ *vt* [ME *distempren*, fr. LL *distemperare* to temper badly, fr. L *dis-* + *temperare* to temper] **1** : to throw out of order **2** *archaic* : DERANGE, UNSETTLE

²distemper *n* **1** : bad humor or temper **2** : a disordered or abnormal bodily state esp. of quadruped mammals: as **a** : a highly contagious virus disease esp. of dogs marked by fever and by respiratory and sometimes nervous symptoms **b** : STRANGLES **c** : PANLEUCOPENIA **d** : a severe frequently fatal infectious nasopharyngeal inflammation of rabbits **3** : political or social disorder ⟨in the middle ages . . . resistance was an ordinary remedy for political ~*s* —T. B. Macaulay⟩ — **dis·tem·per·ate** \-p(ə-)rət\ *adj*

³distemper *vt* [ME *distemperen*, fr. MF *destemprer*, fr. L *dis-* + *temperare*] **1** *obs* : to dilute with or soak, steep, or dissolve in a liquid **2 a** : to mix (ingredients) to produce distemper **b** : to paint in or with distemper

⁴distemper *n* **1** : a process of painting in which the pigments are mixed with an emulsion of egg yolk, with size, or with white of egg as a vehicle and which is used for scene painting or mural decoration **2 a** : the paint or the prepared ground used in the distemper process **b** : a painting done in distemper **3** : any of numerous paints using water as a vehicle

dis·tem·per·a·ture \dis-'tem-pə(r)-ˌchu̇(ə)r, -p(ə-)rə-, -chər, -ˌt(y)u̇(ə)r\ *n* : a disordered condition

dis·tem·per·oid \dis-'tem-pə-ˌrȯid\ *adj* : resembling distemper; *specif* : of, relating to, or being an attenuated canine distemper virus used to develop immunity to natural distemper infection

dis·tend \dis-'tend\ *vb* [ME *distenden*, fr. L *distendere*, fr. *dis-* + *tendere* to stretch — more at THIN] *vt* **1** : EXTEND **2** : to enlarge from internal pressure : SWELL ~ *vi* : to become expanded ***syn*** see EXPAND ***ant*** constrict

dis·ten·si·ble \-'ten(t)-sə-bəl\ *adj* [LL *distensus*, pp. of L *distendere*] : capable of being distended — **dis·ten·si·bil·i·ty** \-ˌten(t)-sə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*

dis·ten·sion *or* **dis·ten·tion** \dis-'ten-chən\ *n* [L *distention-, distentio*, fr. *distentus*, pp. of *distendere*] : the act of distending or the state of being distended esp. unduly or abnormally

dis·tent \dis-'tent\ *adj, obs* : spread out : DISTENDED

dis·tich \'dis-(ˌ)tik\ *n* [L *distichon*, fr. Gk, fr. neut. of *distichos* having two rows, fr. *di-* + *stichos* row, verse; akin to Gk *steichein* to go — more at STAIR] : a strophic unit of two lines

dis·ti·chous \'dis-ti-kəs\ *adj* [LL *distichus*, fr. Gk *distichos*] **1** : disposed in two vertical rows ⟨~ leaves⟩ **2** : divided into two segments ⟨~ antennae⟩ — **dis·ti·chous·ly** *adv*

dis·till *also* **dis·til** \dis-'til\ *vb* **dis·tilled; dis·till·ing** [ME *distillen*, fr. MF *distiller*, fr. LL *distillare*, alter. of L *destillare*, fr. *de-* + *stillare* to drip, fr. *stilla* drop; akin to OE *stān* stone — more at STONE] *vt* **1** : to let fall, exude, or precipitate in drops or in a wet mist **2 a** : to subject to or transform by distillation **b** : to obtain by or as if by distillation **c** : to extract the essence of : CONCENTRATE ~ *vi* **1 a** : to fall or materialize in drops or in a fine moisture : DROP **b** : to appear slowly or in small quantities at a time **2 a** : to undergo distillation **b** : to condense or drop from a still after distillation

dis·til·late \'dis-tə-ˌlāt, -lət; dis-'til-ət\ *n* **1** : a liquid product condensed from vapor during distillation **2** : something resembling a distillate in being a concentration, an abstract, or an essence ⟨this book is a ~ of facts —*N. Y. Times Bk. Rev.*⟩

dis·til·la·tion \ˌdis-tə-'lā-shən\ *n* **1** : a process that consists of driving gas or vapor from liquids or solids by heating and condensing to liquid products and that is used esp. for purification, fractionation, or the formation of new substances **2** : DISTILLATE

dis·till·er \dis-'til-ər\ *n* : one that distills esp. alcoholic liquors

dis·till·ery \dis-'til-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : the works where distilling (as of alcoholic liquors) is done

dis·tinct \dis-'tiŋ(k)t\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *distinctus*, fr. pp. of *distinguere*] **1** : distinguishable to the eye or mind as discrete ⟨things similar in effect but wholly ~ in motive —Hilaire Belloc⟩ **2** : readily perceptible to the senses or mind : presenting a clear unmistakable impression ⟨a neat ~ handwriting⟩ ⟨the review gives a ~ idea of the book⟩ **3** *archaic* : notably decorated **4 a** : NOTABLE ⟨felt his sobriety a ~ achievement⟩ **b** : DECIDED ⟨there's a ~ possibility of snow⟩ — **dis·tinct·ly** \-'tiŋ(k)-tlē, -'tiŋ-klē\ *adv* — **dis·tinct·ness** \-'tiŋt-nəs, -'tiŋk-nəs\ *n*

syn **1** DISTINCT, SEVERAL, SEPARATE, DISCRETE *shared meaning element* : not being each and every one the same **2** see EVIDENT ***ant*** indistinct, nebulous

dis·tinc·tion \dis-'tiŋ(k)-shən\ *n* **1 a** *archaic* : DIVISION **b** : CLASS **2 a** : the act of distinguishing a difference : DISCRIMINATION, DIFFERENTIATION **b** : the object or result of distinguishing : CONTRAST **3** : a distinguishing mark **4** : the quality or state of being distinguishable ⟨there is no appreciable ~ between the twins⟩ **5 a** : the quality or state of being distinguished ⟨a man of some ~⟩ **b** : special honor or recognition ⟨graduated from college with ~⟩ **c** : the quality or state of being worthy

dis·tinc·tive \dis-'tiŋ(k)-tiv\ *adj* **1 a** : serving to distinguish **b** : having or giving style or distinction **2** : capable of making a segment of utterance different in meaning as well as in sound from an otherwise identical utterance ***syn*** see CHARACTERISTIC ***ant*** typical — **dis·tinc·tive·ly** *adv* — **dis·tinc·tive·ness** *n*

dis·tin·gué \ˌdēs-ˌtaŋ-'gā, (ˌ)dis-; di-'staŋ-ˌ\ *adj* [F, fr. pp. of *distinguer*] : distinguished esp. in manner or bearing

dis·tin·guish \dis-'tiŋ-(g)wish\ *vb* [MF *distinguer*, fr. L *distinguere*, lit., to separate by pricking, fr. *dis-* + *-stinguere* (akin to L *instigare* to urge on) — more at STICK] *vt* **1** : to perceive as being separate or different ⟨~ the sound of a piano in an orchestra⟩ **2 a** : to mark as separate or different **b** : to separate into kinds, classes, or categories **c** : to set above or apart from others **d** : CHARACTERIZE **3 a** : DISCERN ⟨~*ed* a light in the distance⟩ **b** : to single out ~ *vi* : to perceive a difference — **dis·tin·guish·abil·i·ty** \-ˌtiŋ-(g)wish-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **dis·tin·guish·able** \-'tiŋ-(g)wish-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·tin·guish·ably** \-blē\ *adv*

dis·tin·guished *adj* **1** : marked by eminence, distinction, or excellence **2** : befitting an eminent person ***syn*** see FAMOUS

Distinguished Conduct Medal *n* : a British military decoration awarded for distinguished conduct in the field

Distinguished Flying Cross *n* **1** : a U.S. military decoration awarded for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight **2** : a British military decoration awarded for acts of gallantry when flying in operations against an enemy

Distinguished Service Cross *n* **1** : a U.S. Army decoration awarded for extraordinary heroism during operations against an armed enemy **2** : a British military decoration awarded for distinguished service against the enemy

Distinguished Service Medal *n* **1** : a U.S. military decoration awarded for exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a wartime duty of great responsibility **2** : a British military decoration awarded for distinguished conduct in war

Distinguished Service Order *n* : a British military decoration awarded for special services in action

distn *abbr* distillation

di·stome \'dī-ˌstōm\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *di-* + *stomat-, stoma* mouth — more at STOMACH] : any of various trematode worms with both oral and ventral suckers

dis·tort \dis-'tȯ(ə)rt\ *vt* [L *distortus*, pp. of *distorquēre*, fr. *dis-* + *torquēre* to twist — more at TORTURE] **1** : to twist out of the true meaning or proportion ⟨~*ed* the news to make it sensational⟩ **2** : to twist out of a natural, normal, or original shape or condition ⟨a face ~*ed* by pain⟩ **3** : PERVERT ***syn*** see DEFORM — **dis·tort·er** *n*

dis·tor·tion \dis-'tȯr-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of distorting **2** : the quality or state of being distorted : a product of distortion: as **a** : a lack of proportionality in an image resulting from defects in the

optical system **b** : falsified reproduction of an audio or video signal caused by change in the wave form of the original signal — **dis·tor·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

distr *abbr* distribute; distribution

¹dis·tract \dis-'trakt, 'dis-ˌ\ *adj, archaic* : INSANE, MAD

²dis·tract \dis-'trakt\ *vt* [ME *distracten*, fr. L *distractus*, pp. of *distrahere*, lit., to draw apart, fr. *dis-* + *trahere* to draw — more at DRAW] **1 a** : to turn aside : DIVERT **b** : to draw or direct (as one's attention) to a different object or in different directions at the same time **2** : to stir up or confuse with conflicting emotions or motives : HARASS ***syn*** see PUZZLE ***ant*** collect (*as one's thoughts*) — **dis·tract·i·bil·i·ty** \-ˌtrak-tə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **dis·tract·ible** \-'trak-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·tract·ing·ly** \-tiŋ-lē\ *adv*

dis·tract·ed·ly *adv* : in the manner of one that is distracted

dis·trac·tion \dis-'trak-shən\ *n* **1** : the act of distracting or the state of being distracted; *esp* : mental confusion **2** : something that distracts; *esp* : AMUSEMENT — **dis·trac·tive** \-'trak-tiv\ *adj*

dis·train \dis-'trān\ *vb* [ME *distreynen*, fr. OF *destreindre*, fr. ML *distringere*, fr. L, to draw apart, detain, fr. *dis-* + *stringere* to bind tight — more at STRAIN] *vt* **1** : to levy a distress upon **2** : to seize by distress ~ *vi* : to levy a distress — **dis·train·able** \-'trā-nə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis·train·er** \-'trā-nər\ *or* **dis·train·or** \-'trā-nər, -ˌtrā-'nȯ(ə)r\ *n*

dis·traint \dis-'trānt\ *n* [*distrain* + *-t* (as in *constraint*)] : the act or action of distraining

dis·trait \di-'strā\ *adj* [F, fr. L *distractus*] : ABSENTMINDED; *esp* : inattentive or distracted because of anxiety or apprehension

dis·traught \dis-'trȯt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *distractus*] **1** : agitated with doubt or mental conflict **2** : CRAZED — **dis·traught·ly** *adv*

¹dis·tress \dis-'tres\ *n* [ME *destresse*, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *districtia*, fr. L *districtus*, pp. of *distringere*] **1 a** : seizure and detention of the goods of another as pledge or to obtain satisfaction of a claim by the sale of the goods seized; *broadly* : an act of distraining **b** : something that is distrained **2** *obs* : CONSTRAINT **3 a** : anguish of body or mind : TROUBLE **b** : a painful situation : MISFORTUNE **4** : a state of danger or desperate need ⟨a ship in ~⟩ ***syn*** DISTRESS, SUFFERING, MISERY, AGONY *shared meaning element* : the state of being in trouble or in mental or physical anguish

²distress *vt* **1** : to subject to great strain or difficulties **2** : to cause to worry or be troubled : UPSET **3** *archaic* : to force or overcome by inflicting pain **4** : to mar (wood or furniture) deliberately to give an effect of age ⟨~*ed* cherry⟩ ***syn*** see TROUBLE — **dis·tress·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

³distress *adj* **1** : offered for sale at a loss ⟨~ merchandise⟩ **2** : involving distress goods ⟨a ~ sale⟩

dis·tress·ful \dis-'tres-fəl\ *adj* : causing distress : full of distress — **dis·tress·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **dis·tress·ful·ness** *n*

dis·trib·u·tary \dis-'trib-yə-ˌter-ē\ *n, pl* **-tar·ies** : a river branch flowing away from the main stream

dis·trib·ute \dis-'trib-yət, *Brit also* 'dis-trib-ˌyüt\ *vt* **-ut·ed; -ut·ing** [ME *distributen*, fr. L *distributus*, pp. of *distribuere*, fr. *dis-* + *tribuere* to allot — more at TRIBUTE] **1** : to divide among several or many : APPORTION **2 a** : to spread out so as to cover something : SCATTER **b** : SUPPLY ⟨~ magazines to subscribers⟩ **c** : to use (a term) so as to convey information about every member of the class named ⟨the proposition "all men are mortal" ~*s* "man" but not "mortal"⟩ **3 a** : to divide or separate esp. into kinds **b** : to return the units of (as typeset matter) to the proper storage places — **dis·trib·u·tee** \dis-ˌtrib-yə-'tē\ *n*

syn DISTRIBUTE, DISPENSE, DIVIDE, DEAL, DOLE *shared meaning element* : to give out, usu. in shares, to each member of a group ***ant*** collect (*as supplies*), amass (*as wealth*)

dis·trib·ut·ed *adj* : characterized by a statistical distribution of a particular kind ⟨a normally ~ random variable⟩

dis·tri·bu·tion \ˌdis-trə-'byü-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the act or process of distributing **b** : the apportionment by a court of the personal property of an intestate **2 a** : the position, arrangement, or frequency of occurrence (as of the members of a group) over an area or throughout a space or unit of time **b** : the natural geographic range of an organism **3 a** : something distributed **b** (1) : FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION (2) : PROBABILITY FUNCTION (3) : PROBABILITY DENSITY FUNCTION 2 **4 a** : a device by which something is distributed **b** : the pattern of branching and termination of a ramifying structure (as a nerve) **5** : the marketing or merchandising of commodities — **dis·tri·bu·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

distribution function *n* : a function that gives the probability that a random variable is less than or equal to the independent variable of the function

dis·trib·u·tive \dis-'trib-yət-iv\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to distribution: as **a** : dealing a proper share to each of a group **b** : diffusing more or less evenly **2** *of a word* : referring singly and without exception to the members of a group ⟨*each, either,* and *none* are ~⟩ **3** : producing the same element when operating on a whole as when operating on each part and collecting the results ⟨multiplication is ~ relative to addition since $a(b + c) = ab + ac$⟩ — **dis·trib·u·tive·ly** *adv* — **dis·trib·u·tive·ness** *n* — **dis·trib·u·tiv·i·ty** \-ˌtrib-yə-'tiv-ət-ē\ *n*

distributive education *n, often cap D & E* : a vocational program set up between schools and employers in which the student receives both classroom instruction and on-the-job training

dis·trib·u·tor \dis-'trib-yət-ər\ *n* **1** : one that distributes **2** : one that markets a commodity; *esp* : WHOLESALER **3** : an apparatus for directing the secondary current from the induction coil to the various spark plugs of an engine in their proper firing order

¹dis·trict \'dis-(ˌ)trikt\ *n, often attrib* [F, fr. ML *districtus* jurisdiction, district, fr. *districtus*, pp. of *distringere* to distrain — more at DISTRAIN] **1** : a territorial division (as for administrative or electoral purposes) **2** : an area, region, or section with a distinguishing character

²district *vt* : to divide or organize into districts

district attorney *n* : the prosecuting officer of a judicial district

district court *n* : a trial court that has jurisdiction over certain cases within a specific judicial district

district superintendent *n* : a church official supervising a district

¹dis·trust \(')dis-'trəst\ *vt* : to have no trust or confidence in

²distrust *n* : the lack or absence of trust : SUSPICION, WARINESS

dis·trust·ful \-'trəst-fəl\ *adj* : having or showing distrust — **dis·trust·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **dis·trust·ful·ness** *n*

dis·turb \dis-'tərb\ *vb* [ME *disturben, destourben*, fr. OF & L; OF *destourber*, fr. L *disturbare*, fr. *dis-* + *turbare* to throw into disorder — more at TURBID] *vt* **1 a** : to interfere with : INTERRUPT **b** : to alter the position or arrangement of **2 a** : to destroy the tranquillity or composure of **b** : to throw into disorder **c** : ALARM **d** : to put to inconvenience ~ *vi* : to cause disturbance ***syn*** see DISCOMPOSE — **dis·turb·er** *n* — **dis·turb·ing·ly** \-'tər-biŋ-lē\ *adv*

dis·tur·bance \dis-'tər-bən(t)s\ *n* **1** : the act of disturbing : the state of being disturbed **2** : a local variation from the average or normal wind conditions

dis·turbed *adj* **1** : showing symptoms of emotional illness **2** : designed for or occupied by disturbed patients ⟨~ wards⟩

di·sub·sti·tut·ed \(')dī-'səb-stə-ˌt(y)üt-əd\ *adj* : having two substituent atoms or groups in a molecule

di·sul·fide \(')dī-'səl-ˌfīd\ *n* **1** : a compound containing two atoms of sulfur combined with an element or radical **2** : an organic compound containing the bivalent group SS composed of two sulfur atoms

di·sul·fi·ram \dī-'səl-fə-ˌram\ *n* [*disulfide* + *thiourea* + *amyl*] : a compound $C_{10}H_{20}N_2S_4$ that causes a severe physiological reaction to alcohol and is used in the treatment of alcoholism

di·sul·fo·ton \dī-'səl-fə-ˌtän\ *n* [*diethyl* + *sulfo-* + *-ton* (prob. fr. *thionate*)] : an organophosphorus systemic insecticide $C_8H_{19}O_2PS_3$

dis·union \dish-'ü-nyən, (')dis(h)-'yü-\ *n* **1** : the termination or destruction of union : SEPARATION **2** : DISUNITY

dis·union·ist \-nyə-nəst\ *n* : one who favors disunion; *specif* : an American secessionist

dis·unite \ˌdish-ü-'nīt, ˌdis(h)-yü-\ *vt* : DIVIDE, SEPARATE

dis·uni·ty \dish-'ü-nət-ē, (')dis(h)-'yü-\ *n* : lack of unity; *esp* : DISSENSION

¹dis·use \dish-'üz, (')dis(h)-'yüz\ *vt* : to discontinue the use or practice of

²dis·use \-'üs, -'yüs\ *n* : cessation of use or practice

dis·util·i·ty \ˌdish-ü-'til-ət-ē, ˌdis(h)-yü-\ *n* : ability to cause fatigue, inconvenience, discomfort, or pain ⟨~ of labor⟩

¹dis·val·ue \(')dis-'val-(ˌ)yü, -yə(-w)\ *vt* **1** *archaic* : UNDERVALUE, DEPRECIATE **2** : to consider of little value

²disvalue *n* **1** *obs* : DISREGARD, DISESTEEM **2** : a negative value

di·syl·la·ble \'dī-ˌsil-ə-bəl, (')dī-'sil-; 'dis-ˌil-, (')dis-'(s)il-\ *n* [part trans. of MF *dissilabe*, fr. L *disyllabus* having two syllables, fr. Gk *disyllabos*, fr. *di-* + *syllabē* syllable] : a linguistic form consisting of two syllables — **di·syl·lab·ic** \ˌdī-sə-'lab-ik, ˌdis-(s)ə-\ *adj*

dit \'dit\ *n* [imit.] : a dot in radio or telegraphic code

¹ditch \'dich\ *n* [ME *dich*, fr. OE *dīc* dike, ditch] : a long narrow excavation dug in the earth (as for defense, drainage, or irrigation)

²ditch *vt* **1 a** : to enclose with a ditch **b** : to dig a ditch in **2 a** : to cause (a train) to derail **b** : to drive (a car) into a ditch **c** : to make a forced landing of (an airplane) on water **3** : to get rid of : DISCARD

ditch·dig·ger \-ˌdig-ər\ *n* **1** : one that digs ditches **2** : one employed at menial and usu. hard physical labor

ditch reed *n* : a tall No. American reed (*Phragmites communis*) with broad flat leaves

dite \'dīt\ *n* [alter. of *doit*] *dial* : MITE, BIT

¹dith·er \'di<u>th</u>-ər\ *vi* **dith·ered; dith·er·ing** \-(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *didderen*] **1** : SHIVER, TREMBLE ⟨the ~*ing* of grass —Wallace Stevens⟩ **2** : to act nervously or indecisively : VACILLATE — **dith·er·er** \-ər-ər\ *n*

²dither *n* : a highly nervous, excited, or agitated state : EXCITEMENT, CONFUSION — **dith·ery** \'di<u>th</u>-ə-rē\ *adj*

dithi- *or* **dithio-** *comb form* [ISV *di-* + *thi-*] : containing two atoms of sulfur usu. in place of two oxygen atoms

di·thi·ol \(')dī-'thī-ˌȯl, -ˌōl\ *adj* : containing two SH groups composed of sulfur and hydrogen

dith·y·ramb \'dith-i-ˌram(b)\ *n, pl* **-rambs** \-ˌramz\ [Gk *dithyrambos*] **1** : a usu. short poem in an inspired wild irregular strain **2** : a statement or writing in an exalted or enthusiastic vein — **dith·y·ram·bic** \ˌdith-i-'ram-bik\ *adj* — **dith·y·ram·bi·cal·ly** \-bi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

dit·ta·ny \'dit-ᵊn-ē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [ME *ditoyne*, fr. MF *ditayne*, fr. L *dictamnum*, fr. Gk *diktamnon*] **1** : a pink-flowered herb (*Origanum dictamnus*) that is native to Crete **2** : an American herb (*Conila origanoides*) of the mint family that has much-branched stems

¹dit·to \'dit-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **dittos** [It dial., pp. of It *dire* to say, fr. L *dicere* — more at DICTION] **1** : a thing mentioned previously or above — used to avoid repeating a word; often symbolized by inverted commas or apostrophes **2** : a ditto mark

²ditto *vt* **1** : to repeat the action or statement of **2** [fr. *Ditto*, a trademark] : to copy (as printed matter) on a duplicator

³ditto *adv* : as before or aforesaid : in the same manner

⁴ditto *adj* : having the same characteristics : SIMILAR

dit·ty \'dit-ē\ *n, pl* **ditties** [ME *ditee*, fr. OF *ditié* poem, fr. pp. of *ditier* to compose, fr. L *dictare* to dictate, compose] : an esp. simple and unaffected song

ditty bag \'dit-ē-\ *n* [origin unknown] : a bag used esp. by sailors to hold small articles of gear (as thread, needles, and tape)

ditty box *n* : a box used for the same purpose as a ditty bag

di·ure·sis \ˌdī-(y)ə-'rē-səs\ *n, pl* **di·ure·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL] : an increased excretion of urine

di·uret·ic \ˌdī-(y)ə-'ret-ik\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or LL; MF *diuretique*, fr. LL *diureticus*, fr. Gk *diourētikos*, fr. *diourein* to urinate, fr. *dia-* + *ourein* to urinate — more at URINE] : tending to increase the flow of urine — **diuretic** *n* — **di·uret·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

¹di·ur·nal \dī-'ərn-ᵊl\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *diurnalis* — more at JOURNAL] **1 a** : recurring every day ⟨~ task⟩ **b** : having a daily cycle ⟨~ tides⟩ **2 a** : of, relating to, or occurring in the daytime ⟨the city's

~ noises〉 **b** : opening during the day and closing at night 〈~ flowers〉 ***syn*** see DAILY — **di·ur·nal·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

²diurnal *n* **1** *archaic* : DAYBOOK, DIARY **2** *archaic* : JOURNAL

di·u·ron \'dī-(y)ə-ˌrän\ *n* [*di*chlor- + *u*rea + ¹*-on*] : a persistent herbicide $C_9H_{10}Cl_2N_2O$ used esp. to control annual weeds

div *abbr* **1** divided **2** dividend **3** division **4** divorced

di·va \'dē-və\ *n, pl* **divas** *or* **di·ve** \-(ˌ)vā\ [It, lit., goddess, fr. L, fem. of *divus* divine, god — more at DEITY] : PRIMA DONNA 1

di·va·gate \'dī-və-ˌgāt, 'div-ə-\ *vi* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing** [LL *divagatus*, pp. of *divagari*, fr. L *dis-* + *vagari* to wander — more at VAGARY] **1** : to wander about **2** : DIVERGE — **di·va·ga·tion** \ˌdī-və-'gā-shən, ˌdiv-ə-\ *n*

di·va·lent \(ˈ)dī-'vā-lənt\ *adj* : BIVALENT

di·van \'dī-ˌvan, *esp in senses other than 3 also* di-'van, di-'vän, dī-'van\ *n* [Turk, fr. Per *dīwān* account book] **1 a** : the privy council of the Ottoman Empire **b** : COUNCIL **2 a** : a council chamber **b** : a smoking room **3** : a large couch or sofa usu. without back or arms often designed for use as a bed **4** : a collection of poems in Persian or Arabic usu. by one author

di·var·i·cate \dī-'var-ə-ˌkāt, də-\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [L *divaricatus*, pp. of *divaricare*, fr. *dis-* + *varicare* to straddle — more at PREVARICATE] : to spread apart : branch off : DIVERGE

di·var·i·ca·tion \(ˌ)dī-ˌvar-ə-'kā-shən, də-\ *n* **1** : the action, process, or fact of divaricating **2** : a divergence of opinion

¹dive \'dīv\ *vb* **dived** \'dīvd\ *or* **dove** \'dōv\; **dived; div·ing** [ME *diven, duven*, fr. OE *dȳfan* to dip & *dūfan* to dive; akin to OE *dyppan* to dip — more at DIP] *vi* **1 a** : to plunge into water headfirst; *specif* : to execute a dive **b** : SUBMERGE **2 a** : to descend or fall precipitously **b** : to plunge one's hand into something **c** *of an airplane* : to descend in a dive **3 a** : to plunge into some matter or activity **b** : LUNGE ~ *vt* **1** : to thrust into something **2** : to cause to descend ***syn*** see PLUNGE

²dive *n* **1** : the act or an instance of diving: as **a** (1) : a plunge into water executed in a prescribed manner (2) : a submerging of a submarine (3) : a steep descent of an airplane at greater than the maximum horizontal speed **b** : a sharp decline **2** : a disreputable bar **3** : a faked knockout — usu. used in the phrase *take a dive* **4** : an offensive play in football in which the ballcarrier plunges into the line for short yardage

dive–bomb \'dīv-ˌbäm\ *vt* : to bomb from an airplane by making a steep dive toward the target before releasing the bomb — **dive–bomb·er** *n*

div·er \'dī-vər\ *n* **1** : one that dives **2 a** : a person who stays underwater for long periods by having air supplied from the surface or by carrying a supply of compressed air **b** : any of various diving birds; *esp* : LOON

di·verge \də-'vərj, dī-\ *vb* **di·verged; di·verg·ing** [ML *divergere*, fr. L *dis-* + *vergere* to incline — more at WRENCH] *vi* **1 a** : to move or extend in different directions from a common point : draw apart 〈*diverging* rays of light〉 **b** : to become or be different in character or form : differ in opinion **2** : to turn aside from a path or course : DEVIATE **3** : to be mathematically divergent ~ *vt* : DEFLECT ***syn*** see SWERVE

di·ver·gence \-'vər-jən(t)s\ *n* **1 a** : a drawing apart (as of lines extending from a common center) **b** : DIFFERENCE, DISAGREEMENT **c** : the acquisition of dissimilar characters by related organisms in unlike environments **2** : a deviation from a course or standard **3** : the state of being mathematically divergent

di·ver·gen·cy \-jən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** : DIVERGENCE

di·ver·gent \-jənt\ *adj* [L *divergent-, divergens*, prp. of *divergere*] **1 a** : diverging from each other **b** : differing from each other or from a standard : DEVIANT 〈the ~ interests of capital and labor〉 **2** : relating to or being an infinite sequence that does not have a limit or an infinite series whose partial sums do not have a limit **3** : causing divergence of rays 〈a ~ lens〉 ***syn*** see DIFFERENT ***ant*** convergent — **di·ver·gent·ly** *adv*

di·vers \'dī-vərz\ *adj* [ME *divers, diverse*] : VARIOUS

di·verse \dī-'vərs, də-', 'dī-ˌ\ *adj* [ME *divers, diverse*, fr. OF & L; OF *divers*, fr. L *diversus*, fr. pp. of *divertere*] **1** : differing from one another : UNLIKE **2** : having various forms or qualities ***syn*** see DIFFERENT ***ant*** identical, selfsame — **di·verse·ly** *adv* — **di·verse·ness** *n*

di·ver·si·fy \də-'vər-sə-ˌfī, dī-\ *vb* **-fied; -fy·ing** *vt* **1** : to make diverse : give variety to 〈~ a course of study〉 **2** : to balance (as an investment portfolio) defensively by dividing funds among securities of different industries or of different classes **3** : to increase the variety of the products of ~ *vi* **1** : to produce variety **2** : to engage in varied operations — **di·ver·si·fi·ca·tion** \-ˌvər-sə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* — **di·ver·si·fi·er** \-'vər-sə-ˌfī(-ə)r\ *n*

di·ver·sion \də-'vər-zhən, dī-, -shən\ *n* **1** : the act or an instance of diverting from a course, activity, or use : DEVIATION **2** : something that diverts or amuses : PASTIME **3** : an attack or feint that draws the attention and force of an enemy from the point of the principal operation — **di·ver·sion·ary** \-zhə-ˌner-ē, -shə-\ *adj*

di·ver·sion·ist \-zhə-nəst, -shə-\ *n* **1** : one characterized by political deviation **2** : one engaged in diversionary activities

di·ver·si·ty \də-'vər-sət-ē, dī-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the condition of being different **2** : an instance or a point of difference

di·vert \də-'vərt, dī-\ *vb* [ME *diverten*, fr. MF & L; MF *divertir*, fr. L *divertere* to turn in opposite directions, fr. *dis-* + *vertere* to turn — more at WORTH] *vi* : to turn aside : DEVIATE 〈was trained as a doctor but ~*ed* to diplomacy〉 ~ *vt* **1 a** : to turn from one course or use to another : DEFLECT **b** : DISTRACT **2** : to give pleasure to esp. by distracting the attention from what burdens or distresses ***syn*** see AMUSE

di·ver·tic·u·li·tis \ˌdī-vər-ˌtik-yə-'līt-əs\ *n* : inflammation of a diverticulum

di·ver·tic·u·lo·sis \-ˌlō-səs\ *n* : an intestinal disorder characterized by the presence of many diverticula

di·ver·tic·u·lum \ˌdī-vər-'tik-yə-ləm\ *n, pl* **-la** \-lə\ [NL, fr. L, bypath, prob. alter. of *deverticulum*, fr. *devertere* to turn aside, fr. *de-* + *vertere*] **1** : a pocket or closed branch opening off a main passage **2** : an abnormal pouch or sac opening from a hollow organ (as the intestine or bladder)

di·ver·ti·men·to \di-ˌvərt-ə-'ment-(ˌ)ō, -ˌvert-\ *n, pl* **-men·ti** \-'ment-(ˌ)ē\ *or* **-mentos** [It, lit., diversion, fr. *divertire* to divert, amuse, fr. F *divertir*] **1** : an instrumental chamber work in several movements **2** : DIVERTISSEMENT 1

di·ver·tisse·ment \di-'vərt-əs-mənt, -əz-, *F* dē-ver-tē-smäⁿ\ *n, pl* **divertissements** \-mən(t)s, -smäⁿ(z)\ [F, lit., diversion, fr. *divertiss-* (stem of *divertir*)] **1** : a ballet suite used as an interlude **2** : DIVERTIMENTO 1 **3** : DIVERSION, ENTERTAINMENT

Di·ves \'dī-(ˌ)vēz\ *n* [ME, fr. L, rich, rich man; misunderstood as a proper name in Lk 16:19] : a rich man

di·vest \dī-'vest, də-\ *vt* [alter. of *devest*] **1 a** : to undress or strip esp. of clothing, ornament, or equipment **b** : to deprive or dispossess esp. of property, authority, or title **c** : RID, FREE **2** : to take away from a person — **di·vest·ment** \-'ves(t)-mənt\ *n*

di·ves·ti·ture \dī-'ves-tə-ˌchu̇(ə)r, -chər, -t(y)u̇(ə)r, də-\ *n* [*divest* + *-iture* (as in *investiture*)] **1** : the act of divesting **2** : the compulsory transfer of title or disposal of interests (as stock in a corporation) upon government order

¹di·vide \də-'vīd\ *vb* **di·vid·ed; di·vid·ing** [ME *dividen*, fr. L *dividere*, fr. *dis-* + *-videre* to separate — more at WIDOW] *vt* **1 a** : to separate into two or more parts, areas, or groups **b** : to separate into classes, categories, or divisions **c** : CLEAVE, PART **2 a** : to separate into portions and give out in shares : DISTRIBUTE **b** : to possess, enjoy, or make use of in common **c** : APPORTION **3 a** : to cause to be separate, distinct, or apart from one another **b** : to separate into opposing sides or parties **c** : to cause (a parliamentary body) to vote by division **4 a** : to mark divisions on : GRADUATE 〈~ a sextant〉 **b** (1) : to subject (a number or quantity) to the operation of finding how many times it contains another number or quantity 〈~ 42 by 14〉 (2) : to use as a divisor — used with *into* 〈~ 14 into 42〉 (3) : to locate one or more points on (a line or its extension) ~ *vi* **1** : to perform mathematical division **2 a** (1) : to become separated into parts (2) : to branch out **b** : to become separated or disunited esp. in opinion or interest **c** : to vote by division ***syn*** **1** see SEPARATE ***ant*** unite **2** see DISTRIBUTE — **di·vid·able** \-'vīd-ə-bəl\ *adj*

²divide *n* **1** : an act of dividing **2 a** : a dividing ridge between drainage areas : WATERSHED **b** : a point or line of division

di·vid·ed *adj* **1 a** : separated into parts or pieces **b** *of a leaf* : cut into distinct parts by incisions extending to the base or to the midrib **c** : having the opposing streams of traffic separated (as by a median strip) 〈a ~ highway〉 **2 a** : disagreeing with each other : DISUNITED **b** : directed or moved toward conflicting interests, states, or objects **3** : separated by distance 〈familiar objects from which she had never dreamed of being ~ —James Joyce〉

div·i·dend \'div-ə-ˌdend, -əd-ənd\ *n* [ME *divident*, fr. L *dividendus*, gerundive of *dividere*] **1** : an individual share of something distributed: as **a** : a share in a pro rata distribution (as of profits) to stockholders **b** : a share of surplus allocated to a policyholder in a participating insurance policy **2** : BONUS **3 a** : a number to be divided **b** : a sum or fund to be divided and distributed

di·vid·er \də-'vīd-ər\ *n* **1** : one that divides **2** *pl* : an instrument for measuring or marking (as in dividing lines) **3** : something serving as a partition between separate spaces within a larger area

di·vi–di·vi \ˌdē-vē-'dē-vē, ˌdiv-ē-'div-ē\ *n* [Sp *dividivi* of Cariban origin; akin to Cumanagoto *diwidiwi* divi-divi] : a small leguminous tree (*Caesalpinia coriaria*) of tropical America with twisted astringent pods that contain a large proportion of tannin

div·i·na·tion \ˌdiv-ə-'nā-shən\ *n* [ME *divinacioun*, fr. L *divination-, divinatio*, fr. *divinatus*, pp. of *divinare*] **1** : the art or practice that seeks to foresee or foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge usu. by the interpretation of omens or by the aid of supernatural powers **2** : unusual insight : intuitive perception — **di·vi·na·to·ry** \də-'vin-ə-ˌtōr-ē, də-'vī-nə-, 'div-ə-nə-, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj*

¹di·vine \də-'vīn\ *adj* **di·vin·er; -est** [ME *divin*, fr. MF, fr. L *divinus*, fr. *divus* god — more at DEITY] **1 a** : of, relating to, or proceeding directly from God or a god 〈the ~ right of kings〉 **b** : being a deity 〈the ~ Savior〉 **c** : directed to a deity 〈~ worship〉 **2 a** : supremely good : SUPERB 〈her pies were simply ~〉 **b** : HEAVENLY, GODLIKE — **di·vine·ly** *adv*

²divine *n* [ME, fr. ML *divinus*, fr. L, soothsayer, fr. *divinus*, adj.] **1** : CLERGYMAN **2** : THEOLOGIAN

³divine *vb* **di·vined; di·vin·ing** [ME *divinen*, fr. MF & L; MF *diviner*, fr. L *divinare*, fr. *divinus*, n.] *vt* **1** : to discover intuitively : INFER **2** : to discover or locate (as water) by means of a divining rod ~ *vi* **1** : to practice divination : PROPHESY **2** : to perceive intuitively ***syn*** see FORESEE

Divine Liturgy *n* : the Eastern Orthodox eucharistic rite

Divine Office *n* : the office for the canonical hours of prayer that priests and religious say daily

di·vin·er \də-'vī-nər\ *n* **1** : one that practices divination : SOOTHSAYER **2** : one that seeks to discover the location of water or minerals underground with the aid of a divining rod

divine right *n* : the right of a sovereign to rule as set forth by the theory of government that holds that a monarch receives his right to rule directly from God and not from the people

divine service *n* : a service of Christian worship; *specif* : such a service that is not sacramental in character

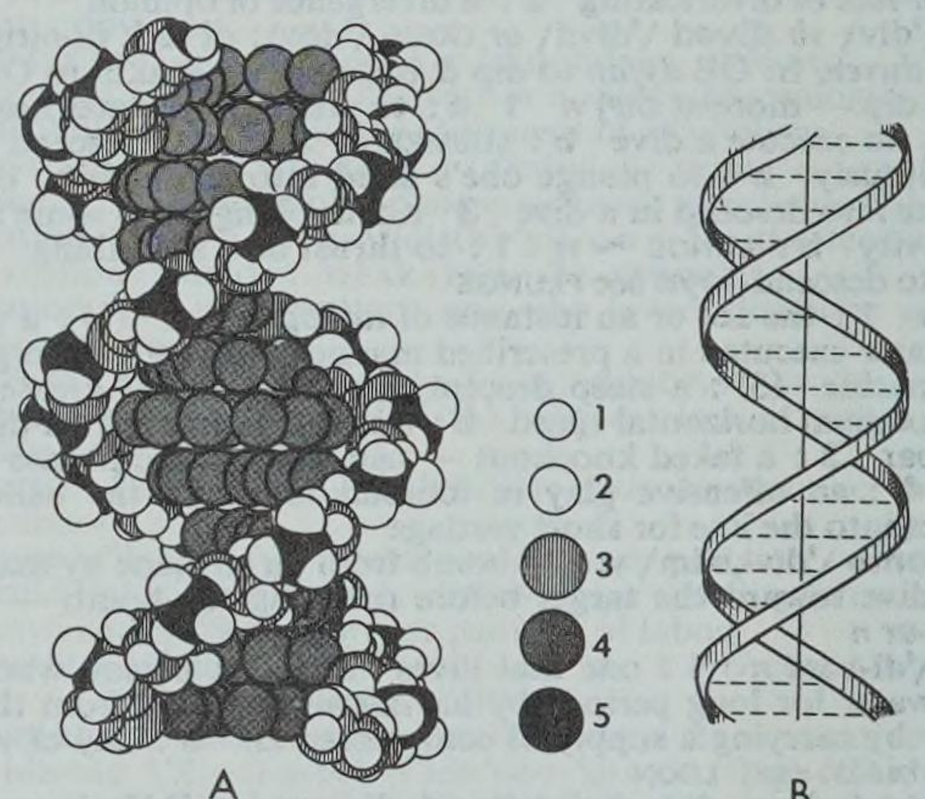
diving bell *n* : a diving apparatus consisting of a container open only at the bottom and supplied with compressed air by a hose

diving duck *n* : any of various ducks (as a bufflehead) that frequent deep waters and obtain their food by diving

diving suit *n* : a waterproof suit with a helmet that is supplied with air pumped through a tube

divining rod *n* : a forked rod believed to indicate the presence of water or minerals by dipping downward when held over a vein

di·vin·i·ty \də-'vin-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being divine **2** *often cap* : a divine being: as **a** : GOD 1 **b** (1) : GOD 2 (2) : GODDESS **3** : THEOLOGY **4** : fudge made of whipped egg whites, sugar, and nuts
divinity school *n* : a professional school having a religious curriculum esp. for ministerial candidates
di·vis·i·bil·i·ty \də-ˌviz-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* : the state of being divisible
di·vis·i·ble \də-'viz-ə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being divided
di·vi·sion \də-'vizh-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *division-, divisio,* fr. *divisus,* pp. of *dividere* to divide] **1 a** : the act or process of dividing : the state of being divided **b** : the act, process, or an instance of distributing among a number : DISTRIBUTION **c** *obs* : a method of arranging or disposing (as troops) **2** : one of the parts, sections, or groupings into which a whole is divided or is divisible **3 a** : a major military unit that contains the necessary tactical and administrative services to function as a self-contained unit capable of independent action **b** : a military unit made up normally of five battle groups **c** (1) : the basic unit of men for administration aboard ship and ashore (2) : a tactical subdivision of a squadron of ships **d** : a unit of the U. S. Air Force higher than a wing and lower than an air force **4 a** : a portion of a territorial unit marked off for a particular purpose (as administrative or judicial functions) **b** : an administrative or operating unit of a governmental, business, or educational organization **5** : a group of organisms forming part of a larger group; *specif* : a primary category of the plant kingdom **6** : competitive class or category (as in boxing or wrestling) **7 a** : something that divides, separates, or marks off **b** : the act, process, or an instance of separating or keeping apart : SEPARATION **8** : the condition or an instance of being divided in opinion or interest : DISAGREEMENT, DISUNITY ⟨exploited the ~*s* between the two countries⟩ **9** : the physical separation into different lobbies of the members of a parliamentary body voting for and against a question **10** : the mathematical operation of dividing **11** : plant propagation by dividing parts and planting segments capable of producing roots and shoots ***syn*** see PART — **di·vi·sion·al** \-'vizh-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj*
di·vi·sion·ism \-'vizh-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n, often cap* : POINTILLISM — **di·vi·sion·ist** \-'vizh-(ə-)nəst\ *n or adj*
division of labor : the breakdown of labor into its components and their distribution among different persons, groups, or machines to increase productive efficiency
division sign *n* **1** : the symbol ÷ used to indicate division **2** : the diagonal / used to indicate a fraction
di·vi·sive \də-'vī-siv *also* -'vis-iv *or* -'viz-iv *or* -'vī-ziv\ *adj* : creating disunity or dissension — **di·vi·sive·ly** *adv* — **di·vi·sive·ness** *n*
di·vi·sor \də-'vī-zər\ *n* : the number by which a dividend is divided
¹di·vorce \də-'vō(ə)rs, -'vȯ(ə)rs *also* dī-\ *n* [ME *divorse,* fr. MF, fr. L *divortium,* fr. *divertere, divortere* to divert, to leave one's husband] **1** : a legal dissolution of a marriage **2** : SEPARATION, SEVERANCE
²divorce *vt* **di·vorced; di·vorc·ing** **1 a** : to end marriage with (one's spouse) by divorce **b** : to dissolve the marriage contract between **2** : to terminate an existing relationship or union : SEPARATE ⟨~ church from state⟩ ***syn*** see SEPARATE
di·vor·cée \də-ˌvōr-'sā, -ˌvȯr-, -'sē, -'vōr-ˌ, -'vȯr-ˌ\ *n* [F, fr. fem. of *divorcé,* pp. of *divorcer* to divorce, fr. MF *divorse*] : a divorced woman
di·vorce·ment \də-'vōr-smənt, -'vȯr- *also* dī-\ *n* : DIVORCE 2
div·ot \'div-ət\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** *Scot* : a square of turf or sod **2** : a piece of turf dug from a golf fairway in making a shot
di·vulge \də-'vəlj, dī-\ *vt* **di·vulged; di·vulg·ing** [ME *divulgen,* fr. L *divulgare,* fr. *dis-* + *vulgare* to make known] **1** *archaic* : to make public : PROCLAIM **2** : to make known (as a confidence or secret) ***syn*** see REVEAL — **di·vul·gence** \-'vəl-jən(t)s\ *n*
di·vul·sion \dī-'vəl-shən\ *n* [L *divulsion-, divulsio,* fr. *divulsus,* pp. of *divellere* to tear apart, fr. *dis-* + *vellere* to pluck — more at VULNERABLE] : a tearing apart
div·vy \'div-ē\ *vt* **div·vied; div·vy·ing** [by shortening & alter. fr. *divide*] : DIVIDE, SHARE — often used with *up* ⟨*divvied* up the candy⟩
Dix·ie \'dik-sē\ *n* [name for the Southern states in the song *Dixie* (1859) by Daniel D. Emmett] : the Southern states of the U.S.
Dix·ie·crat \-ˌkrat\ *n* : a dissident southern Democrat; *specif* : a supporter of a 1948 presidential ticket opposing the civil rights stand of the Democrats — **Dix·ie·crat·ic** \ˌdik-sē-'krat-ik\ *adj*
dix·ie·land \-ˌland\ *n* [prob. fr. the *Original Dixieland Jazz Band*] : jazz music in duple time usu. played by a small band and characterized by ensemble and solo improvisation
di·zen \'dīz-ᵊn, 'diz-ᵊn\ *vt* [earlier *disen* to dress a distaff with flax, fr. MD] *archaic* : BEDIZEN
di·zy·got·ic \ˌdī-zī-'gät-ik\ *also* **di·zy·gous** \(')dī-'zī-gəs\ *adj* [*di-* + *zygotic, -zygous*] *of twins* : FRATERNAL
diz·zi·ness \'diz-ē-nəs\ *n* : the condition of being dizzy : VERTIGO
¹diz·zy \'diz-ē\ *adj* **diz·zi·er; -est** [ME *disy,* fr. OE *dysig* stupid; akin to OHG *tusig* stupid, L *furere* to rage — more at DUST] **1** : FOOLISH, SILLY **2 a** : having a whirling sensation in the head with a tendency to fall **b** : mentally confused **3 a** : causing giddiness or mental confusion **b** : caused by or marked by giddiness **c** : extremely rapid — **diz·zi·ly** \'diz-ə-lē\ *adv*
²dizzy *vt* **diz·zied; diz·zy·ing** **1** : to make dizzy or giddy **2** : BEWILDER ⟨prospects so brilliant as to ~ the mind⟩ — **diz·zy·ing·ly** \-ē-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
DJ *abbr* **1** disc jockey **2** district judge **3** doctor of jurisprudence **4** dust jacket
djel·la·ba *also* **djel·la·bah** \jə-'läb-ə\ *n* [F *djellaba,* fr. Ar *jallabah*] : a long loose garment with full sleeves and a hood
DJIA *abbr* Dow-Jones Industrial Average
djin *or* **djinn** \'jin\ *or* **djin·ni** *var of* JINN
dk *abbr* **1** dark **2** deck **3** dock
dkg *abbr* dekagram
dkl *abbr* dekaliter
dkm *abbr* dekameter
dks *abbr* dekastere
dl *abbr* deciliter
dl- \(')dē-'el, 'dē-ˌ\ *prefix* **1** *also* **d,l-** : consisting of equal amounts of the dextro and levo forms of a specified compound ⟨*dl*-tartaric acid⟩ **2** : consisting of equal amounts of the D- and L- forms of a specified compound ⟨DL-fructose⟩
D layer *n* : a layer that may exist within the D region of the ionosphere; *also* : D REGION
DLitt *or* **DLit** *abbr* [L *doctor litterarum*] doctor of letters; doctor of literature
DLO *abbr* **1** dead letter office **2** dispatch loading only
DLS *abbr* doctor of library science
dm *abbr* decimeter
DM *abbr* deutsche mark
DMD *abbr* [NL *dentariae medicinae doctor*] doctor of dental medicine
DML *abbr* doctor of modern languages
DMn *abbr* doctor of ministry
DMSO \ˌdē-ˌem-ˌes-'ō\ *n* : DIMETHYLSULFOXIDE
DMZ *abbr* demilitarized zone
dn *abbr* down
DNA \ˌdē-ˌen-'ā\ *n* [*d*eoxyribo*n*ucleic *a*cid] : any of various nucleic acids that are localized esp. in cell nuclei, are the molecular basis of heredity in many organisms, and are constructed of a double helix held together by hydrogen bonds between purine and pyrimidine bases which project inward from two chains containing alternate links of deoxyribose and phosphate



DNA: *A* molecular model, *1* hydrogen, *2* oxygen, *3* carbon in the helical phosphate ester chains, *4* carbon and nitrogen in the cross-linked purine and pyrimidine bases, *5* phosphorus; *B* double helix

DN·ase \(')dē-'en-ˌās, -ˌāz\ *also* **DNA·ase** \(ˌ)dē-ˌen-'ā-ˌās, -ˌāz\ *n* : DEOXYRIBONUCLEASE
DNB *abbr* Dictionary of National Biography
¹do \(')dü, də(-w)\ *vb* **did** \(')did, dəd\; **done** \'dən\; **do·ing** \'dü-iŋ\; **does** \(')dəz\ [ME *don,* fr. OE *dōn;* akin to OHG *tuon* to do, L *-dere* to put, *facere* to make, do, Gk *tithenai* to place, set] *vt* **1** : to bring to pass : carry out **2** : PUT — used chiefly in *do to death* **3 a** : PERFORM, EXECUTE ⟨~ some work⟩ ⟨*did* his duty⟩ **b** : COMMIT ⟨crimes *done* deliberately⟩ **4 a** : to bring about : EFFECT ⟨sleep will ~ you good⟩ **b** : to give freely : PAY ⟨~ honor to his memory⟩ **5** : to bring to an end : FINISH — used in the past participle ⟨the job is finally *done*⟩ **6** : to put forth : EXERT ⟨*did* his best to win the race⟩ **7** : to wear out esp. by physical exertion : EXHAUST ⟨at the end of the race the boys were pretty well *done*⟩ **8** : to bring into existence : PRODUCE ⟨~ a biography on the general⟩ **9** : to play the part of ⟨*did* the main character in several movies⟩ **10** : to treat unfairly; *esp* : CHEAT ⟨*did* him out of his inheritance⟩ **11** : to treat or deal with in any way typically with the sense of preparation or with that of care or attention: **a** (1) : to put in order : CLEAN ⟨was ~*ing* the kitchen when the phone rang⟩ (2) : to make ready for use : WASH ⟨*did* the dishes right after supper⟩ **b** : COOK ⟨likes his steak *done* rare⟩ **c** : SET, ARRANGE ⟨had her hair *done* in a style he didn't like⟩ **d** : to apply cosmetics to ⟨took half an hour to ~ her face⟩ **e** : DECORATE, FURNISH ⟨*did* the living room in Early American⟩ **12 a** : to work at esp. as a vocation ⟨what to ~ after college⟩ **b** : to prepare or work out esp. by studying ⟨~*ing* his homework⟩ **13 a** : to pass over (as distance) : TRAVERSE **b** : to travel at a speed of ⟨~*ing* 80 on the turnpike⟩ **14** : TOUR ⟨~*ing* 12 countries in 12 days⟩ **15** : to serve out (as a term) in prison **16** : to serve the needs of : SUIT ⟨worms will ~ us for bait⟩ **17** : to approve esp. by custom, opinion, or propriety ⟨you oughtn't to say a thing like that . . . it's not *done* —Dorothy Sayers⟩ **18** — used as a substitute verb to avoid repetition ⟨if you must make such a racket, ~ it somewhere else⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : ACT, BEHAVE ⟨~ as I say⟩ **2 a** : to get along : FARE ⟨~ well in school⟩ **b** : to carry on business or affairs : MANAGE ⟨we can ~ without your help⟩ **c** : to make good use ⟨~ with a cup of coffee⟩ **3** : to take place : HAPPEN ⟨what's ~*ing* across the street⟩ **4** : to come to or make an end : FINISH — used in the past participle **5** : to be active or busy ⟨let us then be up and ~*ing* —H. W. Longfellow⟩ **6** : to be adequate or sufficient : SERVE ⟨half of that will ~⟩ **7** : to be fitting : conform to custom or propriety ⟨won't ~ to be late⟩ **8** — used as a substitute verb to avoid repetition ⟨wanted to run and play as children ~⟩ **9** — used in the imperative after an imperative to add emphasis ⟨be quiet ~⟩ ~ *verbal auxiliary* **1 a** — used with the infinitive without *to* to form present and past tenses in legal and parliamentary language ⟨~ hereby bequeath⟩ and in poetry ⟨give what she *did* crave —Shak.⟩ **b** — used with the infinitive without *to* to form present and past tenses in declarative sentences with inverted word order ⟨fervently ~ we pray — Abraham Lincoln⟩, in interrogative sentences ⟨*did* you hear that⟩, and in negative sentences ⟨we *don't* know⟩ ⟨*don't* go⟩ **2** — used

with the infinitive without *to* to form present and past tenses expressing emphasis ⟨I ~ say⟩ ⟨~ be careful⟩ — **do away with** **1** : to put an end to : ABOLISH **2** : to put to death : KILL — **do by** : to deal with : TREAT — **do for** **1** : to attend to the wants and needs of : take care of ⟨*did for* her while she was sick⟩ **2** : to bring about the death or ruin of — **do one's thing** : to do what is personally satisfying — **do proud** : to give cause for pride or gratification — **to do** : necessary to be done ⟨ten thousand times I've done my best and all's *to do* again —A. E. Housman⟩

²do \'dü\ *n, pl* **dos** *or* **do's** \'düz\ **1** *chiefly dial* : FUSS, ADO **2** *archaic* : DEED, DUTY **3** *chiefly Brit* **a** : a festive get-together : AFFAIR, PARTY **b** : BATTLE **4** : a command or entreaty to do something ⟨consider all the ~*s* and don'ts of the problem⟩ **5** *Brit* : CHEAT, SWINDLE

³do \'dō\ *n* [It] : the 1st tone of the diatonic scale in solmization

⁴do *abbr* ditto

DO *abbr* **1** defense order **2** doctor of osteopathy

DOA *abbr* dead on arrival

do·able \'dü-ə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being done : PRACTICABLE

DOB *abbr* date of birth

dob·bin \'däb-ən\ *n* [*Dobbin*, nickname for *Robert*] **1** : a farm horse **2** : a quiet plodding horse

Do·bell's solution \'dō-ˌbelz-, dō-ˌ\ *n* [Horace B. *Dobell* †1917 E physician] : an aqueous solution of borate of sodium, sodium bicarbonate, glycerin, and phenol used as a nose or throat spray

Do·ber·man pin·scher \ˌdō-bər-mən-'pin-chər\ *n* [G *Dobermann-pinscher*, fr. Ludwig *Dobermann*, 19th cent. G dog breeder + G *pinscher*, a breed of hunting dog] : a short-haired medium-sized dog of a breed of German origin



Doberman pinscher

dob·son \'däb-sən\ *n* [prob. fr. the name *Dobson*] : HELLGRAMMITE

dob·son·fly \-ˌflī\ *n* : a winged megalopterous insect (family Corydalidae) with very long slender mandibles in the male and a large carnivorous aquatic larva — compare HELLGRAMMITE

doc *abbr* document

do·cent \'dōs-ᵊnt, dō(t)-'sent\ *n* [obs. G (now *dozent*), fr. L *docent-, docens*, prp. of *docēre*] **1** : a college or university teacher or lecturer **2** : a person who conducts groups through a museum or art gallery

do·ce·tic \dō-'sēt-ik, -'set-\ *adj, often cap* [Gk *Dokētai* Docetists, fr. *dokein* to seem — more at DECENT] : of or relating to Docetism or the Docetists

Do·ce·tism \dō-'sēt-ˌiz-əm, 'dō-sə-ˌtiz-\ *n* : a belief opposed as heresy in early Christianity that Christ only seemed to have a human body and to suffer and die on the cross — **Do·ce·tist** \-'sēt-əst, -sət-əst\ *n*

doch–an–dor·rach \ˌdäk̲-ən-'dȯr-ək̲\ *or* **doch–an–dor·ris** \-'dȯr-əs\ *n* [ScGael & IrGael *deoch an doruis*, lit., drink of the door] *Scot & Irish* : a parting drink : STIRRUP CUP

doc·ile \'däs-əl *also* -ˌīl, *esp Brit* 'dō-ˌsīl\ *adj* [L *docilis*, fr. *docēre* to teach; akin to L *decēre* to be fitting — more at DECENT] **1** : easily taught : TEACHABLE **2** : easily led or managed : TRACTABLE ***syn*** see OBEDIENT ***ant*** indocile, unruly, ungovernable — **doc·ile·ly** \'däs-ə(l)-lē\ *adv* — **do·cil·i·ty** \dä-'sil-ət-ē, dō-\ *n*

¹dock \'däk\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *docce;* akin to MD *docke* dock, ScGael *dogha* burdock] **1** : any of a genus (*Rumex*) of the buckwheat family of coarse weedy plants that have long taproots and are used as potherbs and in folk medicine **2** : any of several usu. broad-leaved weedy plants

²dock *n* [ME *dok*, fr. OE *-docca* (as in *fingirdocca* finger muscle); akin to OHG *tocka* doll, ON *dokka* bundle] **1** : the solid part of an animal's tail as distinguished from the hair **2** : the cropped tail of an animal after clipping the hair or cropping the end

³dock *vt* **1** **a** : to cut off the end of a body part of; *specif* : to remove part of the tail of **b** : to cut (as ears or a tail) short **2** **a** : to take away a part of : ABRIDGE **b** : to subject (as wages) to a deduction **3** : to deprive of a benefit ordinarily due esp. as a penalty for a fault ⟨~*ed* for tardiness⟩

⁴dock *n* [prob. fr. MD *docke* dock, ditch, fr. L *duction-, ductio* act of leading — more at DOUCHE] **1** : a usu. artificial basin or enclosure for the reception of ships that is equipped with means for controlling the water height **2** : the waterway extending between two piers for the reception of ships **3** : a place (as a wharf or platform) for the loading or unloading of materials **4** : scaffolding for the inspection and repair of aircraft; *broadly* : HANGAR

⁵dock *vt* **1** : to haul or guide into a dock **2** : to join (as two spacecraft) mechanically while in space ~ *vi* **1** : to come into dock **2** : to become docked

⁶dock *n* [Flem *docke* cage] : the place in a criminal court where a prisoner stands or sits during trial — **in the dock** : on trial ⟨soon found himself *in the dock* for robbery⟩

dock·age \'däk-ij\ *n* **1** : a charge for the use of a dock **2** : docking facilities **3** : the docking of ships

¹dock·er \'däk-ər\ *n* : one that docks the tails of animals

²docker *n* : one connected with docks; *esp* : LONGSHOREMAN

¹dock·et \'däk-ət\ *n* [ME *doggette*] **1** : a brief written summary of a document : ABSTRACT **2** **a** (1) : a formal abridged record of the proceedings in a legal action (2) : a register of such records **b** (1) : a list of legal causes to be tried (2) : a calendar of business matters to be acted on : AGENDA **3** : an identifying statement about a document placed on its outer surface or cover

²docket *vt* **1** : to inscribe (as a document) with an identifying statement **2** : to make a brief abstract of (as a legal matter) and inscribe it in a list **3** : to place on the docket for legal action

dock·hand \'däk-ˌhand\ *n* : LONGSHOREMAN

dock·land \-ˌland\ *n, Brit* : the part of a port occupied by docks; *also* : a residential section adjacent to docks

dock·side \-ˌsīd\ *n* : the shore or area adjacent to a dock

dock·work·er \-ˌwər-kər\ *n* : LONGSHOREMAN

dock·yard \-ˌyärd\ *n* **1** : SHIPYARD **2** *Brit* : NAVY YARD

¹doc·tor \'däk-tər\ *n* [ME *doctour* teacher, doctor, fr. MF & ML; MF, fr. ML *doctor*, fr. L, teacher, fr. *doctus*, pp. of *docēre* to teach — more at DOCILE] **1** **a** : an eminent theologian declared a sound expounder of doctrine by the Roman Catholic Church — called also *doctor of the church* **b** : a learned or authoritative teacher **c** : a person who has earned one of the highest academic degrees (as a PhD) conferred by a university **d** : a person awarded an honorary doctorate (as an LLD or LittD) by a college or university **2** **a** : one skilled or specializing in healing arts; *esp* : a physician, surgeon, dentist, or veterinarian licensed to practice his profession **b** : MEDICINE MAN **3** **a** : material added (as to food) to produce a desired effect **b** : a blade (as of metal) for spreading a coating or scraping a surface **4** : a usu. makeshift and emergency mechanical contrivance or attachment for remedying a difficulty **5** : any of several brightly colored artificial flies — **doc·tor·al** \-t(ə-)rəl\ *adj* — **doc·tor·less** \-tər-ləs\ *adj* — **doc·tor·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

²doctor *vb* **doc·tored; doc·tor·ing** \-t(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* **1** **a** : to give medical treatment to **b** : to restore to good condition : REPAIR ⟨~ an old clock⟩ **2** **a** : to adapt or modify for a desired end by alteration or special treatment ⟨~*ed* the play to suit the audience⟩ **b** : to alter deceptively ⟨accused of ~*ing* the election returns⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to practice medicine **2** *dial* : to take medicine

doc·tor·ate \'däk-t(ə-)rət\ *n* : the degree, title, or rank of a doctor

doctor book *n* : a book intended to supplement the knowledge of the individual in matters of home medication

¹doc·tri·naire \ˌdäk-trə-'na(ə)r, -'ne(ə)r\ *n* [F, fr. *doctrine*] : one who attempts to put into effect an abstract doctrine or theory with little or no regard for practical difficulties

²doctrinaire *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of a doctrinaire : DOGMATIC ***syn*** see DICTATORIAL — **doc·tri·nair·ism** \-'na(ə)r-ˌiz-əm, -'ne(ə)r-\ *n*

doc·trin·al \'däk-trən-ᵊl, *esp Brit* däk-'trīn-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or preoccupied with doctrine — **doc·trin·al·ly** \-ᵊl-ē\ *adv*

doc·trine \'däk-trən\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *doctrina*, fr. *doctor*] **1** *archaic* : TEACHING, INSTRUCTION **2** **a** : something that is taught **b** : a principle or position or the body of principles in a branch of knowledge or system of belief : DOGMA **c** : a principle of law established through past decisions **d** : a statement of fundamental government policy esp. in international relations ***syn*** DOCTRINE, DOGMA, TENET *shared meaning element* : a principle accepted as valid and authoritative

doctrine of descent : a theory in biology: all animals and plants are direct descendants of previous animals or plants

¹doc·u·ment \'däk-yə-mənt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. LL & L; LL *documentum* official paper, fr. L, lesson, proof, fr. *docēre* to teach — more at DOCILE] **1** **a** *archaic* : PROOF, EVIDENCE **b** : an original or official paper relied on as the basis, proof, or support of something **2** **a** : a writing conveying information **b** : a material substance (as a coin or stone) having on it a representation of the thoughts of men by means of some conventional mark or symbol **c** : DOCUMENTARY — **doc·u·men·tal** \ˌdäk-yə-'ment-ᵊl\ *adj*

²doc·u·ment \'däk-yə-ˌment\ *vt* **1** : to furnish documentary evidence of **2** : to furnish with documents **3** **a** : to provide with factual or substantial support for statements made or a hypothesis proposed; *esp* : to equip with exact references to authoritative supporting information ⟨the thesis was well ~*ed* with footnotes on every page⟩ **b** : to construct or produce (as a movie or novel) with a high proportion of details closely reproducing authentic situations or events ⟨his film ~*ed* the living conditions in the ghetto⟩ **4** : to furnish (a ship) with ship's papers as required by law for the manifesting of ownership and cargo — **doc·u·ment·able** \-ə-bəl, ˌdäk-yə-'\ *adj* — **doc·u·ment·er** \'däk-yə-ˌment-ər\ *n*

doc·u·men·tal·ist \ˌdäk-yə-'ment-ᵊl-əst\ *n* : a specialist in documentation

doc·u·men·tar·i·an \ˌdäk-yə-mən-'ter-ē-ən, -ˌmen-\ *n* [*²documentary*] : one who employs or advocates documentary presentation (as in photographic art or fiction)

doc·u·men·ta·rist \-'ment-ə-rəst\ *n* [*²documentary*] : DOCUMENTARIAN

¹doc·u·men·ta·ry \ˌdäk-yə-'ment-ə-rē, -'men-trē\ *adj* **1** : being or consisting of documents : contained or certified in writing ⟨~ evidence⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or employing documentation in literature or art; *broadly* : FACTUAL, OBJECTIVE ⟨a ~ film of the war⟩ — **doc·u·men·tar·i·ly** \-mən-'ter-ə-lē, -ˌmen-\ *adv*

²documentary *n, pl* **-ries** : a documentary presentation (as a film or novel)

doc·u·men·ta·tion \ˌdäk-yə-mən-'tā-shən, -ˌmen-\ *n* **1** : the act or an instance of furnishing or authenticating with documents **2** **a** : the provision of documents in substantiation; *also* : documentary evidence **b** (1) : the use of historical documents (2) : conformity to historical or objective facts (3) : the provision of footnotes, appendices, or addenda referring to or containing documentary evidence **3** : INFORMATION SCIENCE — **doc·u·men·ta·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

DOD *abbr* Department of Defense

¹dod·der \'däd-ər\ *n* [ME *doder;* akin to OE *dydring* yolk, Norw *dudra* to tremble, L *fumus* smoke — more at FUME] : any of a genus (*Cuscuta*) of dicotyledonous leafless elongated wiry herbs that are deficient in chlorophyll and are parasitic on other plants

²dodder *vi* **dod·dered; dod·der·ing** \'däd-(ə-)riŋ\ [ME *dadiren*] **1** : to tremble or shake from weakness or age **2** : to progress feebly

and unsteadily ⟨an old man ~*ing* down the walk⟩ — **dod·der·er** \-ər-ər\ *n*

dod·dered \'däd-ərd\ *adj* [prob. alter. of *dodded*, fr. pp. of E dial. *dod* to lop, fr. ME *dodden*] **1** : deprived of branches through age or decay ⟨a ~ oak⟩ **2** : INFIRM, ENFEEBLED

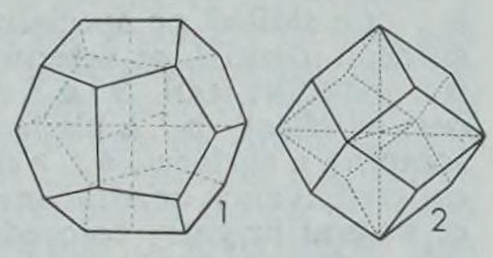
dod·der·ing \'däd-(ə-)riŋ\ *adj* : FOOLISH, SENILE ⟨a ~ old man⟩

dod·dery \-(ə-)rē\ *adj* : DODDERED, DODDERING

dodeca- *or* **dodec-** *comb form* [L, fr. Gk *dōdeka-*, *dōdek-*, fr. *dōdeka*, *dyōdeka*, fr. *dyō*, *dyo* two + *deka* ten] : twelve ⟨*dodeca*phonic⟩

do·deca·gon \dō-'dek-ə-ˌgän\ *n* [Gk *dōdekagōnon*, fr. *dōdeka-* + *-gōnon* -gon] : a polygon of 12 angles and 12 sides

do·deca·he·dron \(ˌ)dō-ˌdek-ə-'hē-drən\ *n, pl* **-drons** *or* **-dra** \-drə\ [Gk *dōdekaedron*, fr. *dōdeka-* + *-edron* -hedron] : a solid having 12 plane faces — **do·deca·he·dral** \-drəl\ *adj*



dodecahedrons: *1* pentagonal, *2* rhomboid

do·deca·phon·ic \(ˌ)dō-ˌdek-ə-'fän-ik\ *adj* [*dodeca-* + *phon-* + *-ic*] : TWELVE-TONE — **do·deca·phon·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **do·deca·pho·nist** \dō-'dek-ə-fə-nəst, -ˌfō-; ˌdōd-i-'kaf-ə-nəst\ *n* — **do·deca·pho·ny** \-nē\ *n*

¹dodge \'däj\ *vb* **dodged; dodg·ing** [origin unknown] *vi* **1** : to evade a responsibility or a duty esp. by trickery or deceit **2 a** : to move to and fro or from place to place usu. in an irregular course ⟨*dodged* through the crowd⟩ **b** : to make a sudden movement in a new direction (as to evade a blow) ⟨*dodged* behind the door⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to evade (as a duty) usu. indirectly and by trickery ⟨*dodged* the draft by leaving the country⟩ **2 a** : to evade by a sudden or repeated shift of position **b** : to avoid an encounter with **3** : to reduce the intensity of (a portion of a photograph) by selectively shading during printing

²dodge *n* **1** : an act of evading by sudden bodily movement **2 a** : an artful device to evade, deceive, or trick **b** : EXPEDIENT

dodge ball *n* : a game in which players stand in a circle and try to hit opponents within the circle with a large inflated ball

dodg·er \'däj-ər\ *n* **1** : one that dodges; *esp* : one who uses tricky devices **2** : a small leaflet : CIRCULAR **3** : CORN DODGER

dodg·ery \'däj-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : EVASION, TRICKERY

dodgy \'däj-ē\ *adj, chiefly Brit* : EVASIVE, TRICKY

do-do \'dōd-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **dodoes** *or* **dodos** [Pg *doudo*, fr. *doudo* silly, stupid] **1 a** : an extinct heavy flightless bird (*Raphus cucullatus*, syn. *Didus ineptus*) related to the pigeons but larger than a turkey formerly present on the island of Mauritius **b** : an extinct bird of the island of Réunion similar to and apparently closely related to the dodo **2 a** : one hopelessly behind the times **b** : a stupid person



dodo 1a

doe \'dō\ *n, pl* **does** *or* **doe** [ME *do*, fr. OE *dā*; akin to G dial. *tē* doe] : the adult female fallow deer; *broadly* : the female esp. when adult of any of various mammals of which the male is called buck

do·er \'dü-ər\ *n* : one that takes an active part ⟨a thinker or a ~⟩

does *pres 3d sing of* DO

doe·skin \'dō-ˌskin\ *n* **1** : the skin of does or leather made of it; *also* : soft leather from sheep or lambskins **2** : a compact coating and sportswear fabric napped and felted for a smooth surface

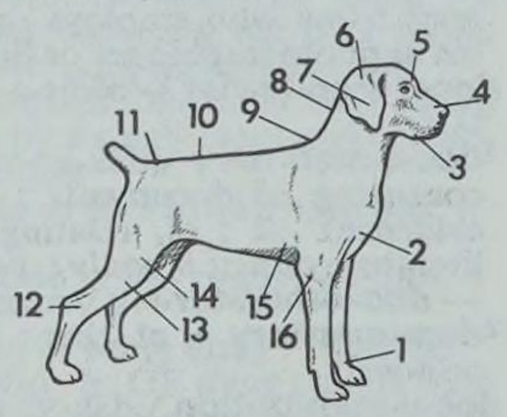
doesn't \'dəz-ᵊnt\ : does not

do·est \'dü-əst\ *archaic pres 2d sing of* DO

do·eth \'dü-əth\ *archaic pres 3d sing of* DO

doff \'däf, 'dȯf\ *vt* [ME *doffen*, fr. *don* to do + *of* off] **1 a** : to remove (an article of wear) from the body **b** : to take off (the hat) in greeting or as a sign of respect **2** : to rid oneself of : put aside ⟨among his intimate friends his studied reserve was ~*ed* —W. J. Ghent⟩

¹dog \'dȯg\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *docga*] **1 a** : a highly variable carnivorous domesticated mammal (*Canis familiaris*) prob. descended from the common wolf **b** : any of a family (Canidae, the dog family) of carnivores to which the dog belongs **c** : a male dog **2 a** : a worthless person **b** : FELLOW, CHAP ⟨a lazy ~⟩ **3 a** : any of various usu. simple mechanical devices for holding, gripping, or fastening that consist of a spike, rod, or bar **b** : ANDIRON **4 a** : SUN DOG **b** : FOGBOW **5** : affected stylishness or dignity ⟨liked to put on the ~⟩ **6** *cap* : either of the constellations Canis Major or Canis Minor **7** *pl* : FEET **8** : something inferior of its kind **9** *pl* : RUIN ⟨go to the ~*s*⟩ **10 a** : an investment (as a stock or bond) not worth its price **b** : a slow-moving or undesirable piece of merchandise **11** : an unattractive woman or girl **12** : a theatrical or musical flop **13** : ¹HOT DOG — **dog·like** \'dȯ-ˌglīk\ *adj*



dog: *1* pastern, *2* chest, *3* flews, *4* muzzle, *5* stop, *6* occiput, *7* leather, *8* crest, *9* withers, *10* loin, *11* rump, *12* hock, *13* knee, *14* stifle, *15* brisket, *16* elbow

²dog *vt* **dogged; dog·ging** **1 a** : to hunt or track like a hound **b** : to worry as if by dogs : HOUND **2** : to fasten with a dog — **dog it** : to fail to do one's best : GOLDBRICK

³dog *adv* : EXTREMELY, UTTERLY ⟨*dog*-tired⟩

⁴dog *adj* **1** : CANINE **2** : SPURIOUS; *esp* : unlike that used by native speakers or writers ⟨~ Latin⟩ ⟨~ French⟩

dog·bane \'dȯg-ˌbān\ *n* : any of a genus (*Apocynum* of the family Apocynaceae, the dogbane family) comprising chiefly tropical and often poisonous plants with milky juice and usu. showy flowers

dog·ber·ry \-ˌber-ē\ *n* : any of several plants bearing unpalatable fruit: as **a** : a prickly wild gooseberry (*Ribes cynosbati*) **b** : a mountain ash (*Pyrus americana*) of the eastern U.S. and Canada

dog biscuit *n* **1** : a hard dry cracker for dogs **2** : a hard coarse cracker (as hardtack) for human consumption

dog·cart \'dȯg-ˌkärt\ *n* **1** : a cart drawn by a dog **2** : a light two-wheeled carriage with two transverse seats set back to back

dog·catch·er \-ˌkach-ər, -ˌkech-\ *n* : a community official assigned to catch and dispose of stray dogs

dog collar *n* **1** : a collar for a dog **2** *slang* : CLERICAL COLLAR **3** : a wide flexible snug-fitting necklace

dog days *n pl* [fr. their being reckoned from the heliacal rising of the Dog Star (Sirius)] **1** : the period between early July and early September when the hot sultry weather of summer usu. occurs in the northern hemisphere **2** : a period of stagnation or inactivity

dog·dom \'dȯg-dəm\ *n* : the world of dogs or of dog fanciers ⟨the elite of pure-bred ~ —W. R. Fletcher⟩

doge \'dōj\ *n* [It dial., fr. L *duc-*, *dux* leader — more at DUKE] : the chief magistrate in the republics of Venice and Genoa

dog–ear \'dȯ-ˌgi(ə)r\ *n* : the turned-down corner of a page esp. of a book — **dog–ear** *vt*

dog–eared \'dȯ-ˌgi(ə)rd\ *adj* **1** : having dog-ears ⟨a ~ book⟩ **2** : SHABBY, WORN

dog–eat–dog \ˌdȯ-ˌgēt-'dȯg\ *adj* : marked by ruthless self-interest ⟨~ competition⟩

dog·face \'dȯg-ˌfās\ *n* : SOLDIER; *esp* : INFANTRYMAN

dog fennel *n* **1** : a strong-scented European chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) naturalized along roadsides in the U.S. **2** : an annual composite weed (*Eupatorium capillifolium*) with dissected leaves and a lax inflorescence

dog·fight \'dȯg-ˌfīt\ *n* **1** : a fight between dogs; *broadly* : a fiercely disputed contest **2** : a fight between two or more fighter planes usu. at close quarters — **dogfight** *vi*

dog·fish \-ˌfish\ *n* : any of various small sharks (as of the families Squalidae, Carcharhinidae, and Scyliorhinidae) that often appear in schools near shore, are destructive to fish, and have livers valued for oil and flesh often made into fertilizer

dog·ged \'dȯ-gəd\ *adj* : stubbornly determined : TENACIOUS ***syn*** see OBSTINATE ***ant*** faltering — **dog·ged·ly** *adv* — **dog·ged·ness** *n*

¹dog·ger·el \'dȯg-(ə-)rəl, 'däg-\ *adj* [ME *dogerel*] : loosely styled and irregular in measure esp. for burlesque or comic effect; *also* : marked by triviality or inferior worth ⟨~ lines of verse⟩

²doggerel *n* **1** : doggerel verse **2** : an example of doggerel verse

dog·gery \'dȯ-gə-rē\ *n, pl* **-ger·ies** : a cheap saloon : DIVE

dog·gie bag \'dȯ-gē-\ *n* [²*doggy*; fr. the presumption that such leftovers are intended for a pet dog] : a bag used for carrying home leftover food and esp. meat from a meal eaten at a restaurant

dog·gish \'dȯ-gish\ *adj* **1** : CANINE **2** : stylish in a showy way — **dog·gish·ly** *adv* — **dog·gish·ness** *n*

dog·go \'dȯ-(ˌ)gō\ *adv* [prob. fr. ¹*dog*] : in hiding — used chiefly in the phrase *to lie doggo*

¹dog·gone \'däg-'gän, 'dȯg-'gȯn\ *vb* **dog·goned; dog·gon·ing** [euphemism for *God damn*] : DAMN

²doggone *n* : DAMN

dog·goned *or* **dog·gone** \ˌdäg-ˌgän(d), ˌdȯg-ˌgȯn(d)\ *adj or adv* : DAMNED

¹dog·gy \'dȯ-gē\ *adj* **dog·gi·er; -est** **1** : resembling or suggestive of a dog ⟨a ~ odor⟩ **2** : concerned with or fond of dogs ⟨a book for ~ experts⟩ **3** : STYLISH, SHOWY

²dog·gy *or* **dog·gie** \'dȯ-gē\ *n, pl* **doggies** **1** : a small dog **2** — used as a pet name or calling name for any dog

dog·house \'dȯg-ˌhaus\ *n* : a shelter for a dog —**in the doghouse** : in a state of disfavor

do·gie \'dō-gē\ *n* [origin unknown] *chiefly West* : a motherless calf in a range herd

dog in the manger [fr. the fable of the dog who prevented an ox from eating hay which he did not want himself] : a person who selfishly withholds from others something useless to himself

¹dog·leg \'dȯ-ˌgleg, -ˌglāg\ *n* **1 a** : something having an abrupt angle **b** : a sharp bend (as in a road) **2** : a golf hole having an angled fairway

²dogleg *adj* : crooked or bent like a dog's hind leg

³dogleg *vi* : to proceed along a dogleg course ⟨the single narrow street that ~*s* through town —Russ Leadabrand⟩

dog·ma \'dȯg-mə, 'däg-\ *n* [L *dogmat-*, *dogma*, fr. Gk, fr. *dokein* to seem — more at DECENT] **1 a** : something held as an established opinion; *esp* : a definite authoritative tenet **b** : a code of such tenets ⟨pedagogical ~⟩ **c** : a point of view or tenet put forth as authoritative without adequate grounds **2** : a doctrine or body of doctrines concerning faith or morals formally stated and authoritatively proclaimed by a church ***syn*** see DOCTRINE

dog·mat·ic \dȯg-'mat-ik, däg-\ *adj* **1** : characterized by or given to the use of dogmatism ⟨a ~ critic⟩ **2** : of or relating to dogma ***syn*** see DICTATORIAL — **dog·mat·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **dog·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **dog·mat·i·cal·ness** \-i-kəl-nəs\ *n*

dog·mat·ics \-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : a branch of theology that seeks to interpret the dogmas of a religious faith

dogmatic theology *n* : DOGMATICS

dog·ma·tism \'dȯg-mə-ˌtiz-əm, 'däg-\ *n* **1** : positiveness in assertion of opinion esp. when unwarranted or arrogant **2** : a viewpoint or system of ideas based on insufficiently examined premises

dog·ma·tist \-mət-əst\ *n* : one who dogmatizes

dog·ma·tize \'dȯg-mə-ˌtīz, 'däg-\ *vb* **-tized; -tiz·ing** [F *dogmatiser*, fr. LL *dogmatizare*, fr. Gk *dogmatizein*, fr. *dogmat-*, *dogma*] *vi* : to speak or write dogmatically ~ *vt* : to state as a dogma or in a dogmatic manner — **dog·ma·ti·za·tion** \ˌdȯg-mət-ə-'zā-shən, ˌdäg-\ *n* — **dog·ma·tiz·er** *n*

dog·nap \'dȯg-ˌnap\ *vt* **-napped** *or* **-naped** \-ˌnapt\; **-nap·ping** *or* **-nap·ing** \-ˌnap-iŋ\ [¹*dog* + *-nap* (as in *kidnap*)] : to steal (a dog) often for the purpose of selling to a scientific laboratory — **dog·nap·per** *or* **dog·nap·er** *n*

do–good \'dü-ˌgud\ *adj* : designed sometimes impracticably and too zealously toward bettering the conditions under which others live — **do–good·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n*

do–good·er \-ər\ *n* : an earnest usu. impractical and often naive and ineffectual humanitarian or reformer
do–good·ing \-iŋ\ *n* : the activities of a do-gooder
dog paddle *n* : an elementary form of swimming in which the arms paddle in the water and the legs maintain a kicking motion — **dog–pad·dle** *vi*
dogs·body \'dȯgz-ˌbäd-ē\ *n* [Brit naval slang *dogsbody* pudding made of peas, junior officer] *chiefly Brit* : DRUDGE
dog's chance *n* : a bare chance in one's favor ⟨didn't have a *dog's chance*⟩
dog·sled \'dȯg-ˌsled\ *n* : a sled drawn by dogs
dog's life *n* : a miserable drab existence
Dog Star *n* **1** : SIRIUS **2** : PROCYON
dog tag *n* **1** : a metal disk or plate on a dog collar bearing a license registration number **2** : a military identification tag
dog·tooth \'dȯg-ˌtüth\ *n* **1** : CANINE 1, EYETOOTH **2** : an architectural ornament common in early English Gothic consisting usu. of four leaves radiating from a raised point at the center
dogtooth violet *n* : any of a genus (*Erythronium*) of small spring-flowering bulbous herbs of the lily family
¹dog·trot \'dȯg-ˌträt\ *n* **1** : a quick easy gait suggesting that of a dog **2** *South & Midland* : a roofed passage similar to a breezeway; *esp* : one connecting two parts of a cabin
²dogtrot *vi* : to move or progress at a dogtrot
dog·watch \'dȯ-ˌgwäch\ *n* **1** : either of two watches of two hours on shipboard that extend from 4 to 6 and 6 to 8 p.m. **2** : any of various night shifts; *esp* : the last shift
dog·wood \'dȯ-ˌgwu̇d\ *n* : any of a genus (*Cornus*)of trees and shrubs (family Cornaceae, the dogwood family) with heads of small flowers and often showy involucres
doi·ly \'dȯi-lē\ *n, pl* **doilies** [*Doily* or *Doyley fl* 1712 London draper] **1** : a small napkin **2** : a small often decorative mat
do in *vt* **1 a** : to bring about the defeat or destruction of : RUIN ⟨the financial loss *did* him *in*⟩ **b** : to bring about the death of : KILL ⟨tried to *do* him *in* with a club⟩ **c** : to wear out ⟨walking all day nearly *did* us *in*⟩ **2** : CHEAT
do·ing \'dü-iŋ\ *n* **1** : the act of performing or executing : ACTION ⟨that will take a great deal of ~⟩ **2** *pl* **a** : things that are done or that occur ⟨everyday ~*s*⟩ **b** : social activities
doit \'dȯit\ *n* [D *duit;* akin to ON *thveiti* small coin, *thveita* to hew] **1** : an old Dutch coin equal to about ¼ stiver **2** : TRIFLE 1
do–it–yourself \ˌdü-ə-chər-'self\ *adj* : of, relating to, or designed for use by or as if by an amateur or hobbyist ⟨~ tools⟩ ⟨~ car model kit⟩ — **do–it–your·self·er** \-'sel-fər\ *n*
do·jo \'dō-(ˌ)jō\ *n, pl* **dojos** [Jap *dōjō*, fr. *dō* way, art + *-jō* ground] : a school for training in various arts of self-defense (as judo and karate)
dol *abbr* dollar
dol·ce \'dōl-(ˌ)chā\ *adj or adv* [It, lit., sweet, fr. L *dulcis* — more at DULCET] : SOFT, SMOOTH — used as a direction in music
dol·ce far nien·te \'dōl-chē-ˌfär-nē-'ent-ē\ *n* [It, lit., sweet doing nothing] : pleasant relaxation in carefree idleness
dol·ce vi·ta \ˌdōl-chā-'vē-(ˌ)tä\ *n* [It, lit., sweet life] : a life of indolence and self-indulgence
dol·drums \'dōl-drəmz, 'däl-, 'dȯl-\ *n pl* [prob. akin to OE *dol* foolish] **1** : a spell of listlessness or despondency : BLUES **2** : a part of the ocean near the equator abounding in calms, squalls, and light shifting winds **3** : a state of inactivity, stagnation, or slump
¹dole \'dōl\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *dāl* portion] **1** *archaic* : one's allotted share, portion, or destiny **2 a** (1) : a giving or distribution of food, money, or clothing to the needy (2) : a grant of government funds to the unemployed **b** : something distributed at intervals to the needy **c** : something portioned out and distributed usu. grudgingly or bit by bit ***syn*** see RATION
²dole *vt* **doled; dol·ing** **1** : to give or distribute as a charity **2** : to give or deliver in small portions : PARCEL — used with *out* ***syn*** see DISTRIBUTE
³dole *n* [ME *dol*, fr. OF, fr. LL *dolus*, alter. of L *dolor*] *archaic* : GRIEF, SORROW
dole·ful \'dōl-fəl\ *adj* **1** : causing grief or affliction ⟨a ~ loss⟩ **2** : full of grief : CHEERLESS ⟨a ~ face⟩ **3** : expressing grief : SAD ⟨a ~ melody⟩ — **dole·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **dole·ful·ness** *n*
dol·er·ite \'däl-ə-ˌrīt\ *n* [F *dolérite*, fr. Gk *doleros* deceitful, fr. *dolos* deceit; fr. its being easily mistaken for diorite — more at TALE] **1** : any of various coarse basalts **2** *Brit* : DIABASE 3 **3** : any of various dark igneous rocks whose constituents are not determinable megascopically — **dol·er·it·ic** \ˌdäl-ə-'rit-ik\ *adj*
dole·some \'dōl-səm\ *adj* : DOLEFUL
dolich- *or* **dolicho-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *dolichos* — more at LONG] : long
dol·i·cho·ce·phal·ic \ˌdäl-i-kō-sə-'fal-ik\ *adj* [NL *dolichocephalus* dolichocephalic individual, fr. *dolich-* + *-cephalus* (fr. Gk *kephalē* head) — more at CEPHALIC] : having a relatively long head with cephalic index of less than 75 — **dol·i·cho·ceph·a·lism** \-'sef-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* — **dol·i·cho·ceph·a·ly** \-'sef-ə-lē\ *n*
dol·i·cho·cra·ni·al \-'krā-nē-əl\ *also* **dol·i·cho·cra·nic** \-nik\ *adj* [ISV] : having a relatively long head with a cranial index of less than 75 — **dol·i·cho·cra·ny** \'däl-i-kō-ˌkrā-nē\ *n*
doll \'däl, 'dȯl\ *n* [prob. fr. *Doll*, nickname for *Dorothy*] **1** : a small-scale figure of a human being used esp. as a child's plaything **2 a** (1) : a pretty but often empty-headed young woman (2) : WOMAN **b** : DARLING, SWEETHEART **c** : an attractive person — **doll·ish** \-ish\ *adj* — **doll·ish·ly** *adv* — **doll·ish·ness** *n*
dol·lar \'däl-ər\ *n, often attrib* [D or LG *daler*, fr. G *taler*, short for *joachimstaler*, fr. Sankt *Joachimsthal*, Bohemia, where talers were first made] **1** : TALER **2** : any of numerous coins patterned after the taler (as a Spanish peso) **3 a** : any of various basic monetary units (as in the U.S. and Canada) — see MONEY table **b** : a coin, note, or token representing one dollar
dollar averaging *n* : investment in a security at regular intervals of a uniform sum regardless of the price level in order to obtain an overall reduction in cost per unit — called also *dollar cost averaging*
dollar–a–year *adj* : compensated by a token salary usu. for government service ⟨a ~ man⟩
dollar day *n* : a day on which a merchant makes special offerings of goods and services for one dollar; *broadly* : a day on which bargain prices in many lines are offered
dollar diplomacy *n* **1** : diplomacy used by a country to promote its financial or commercial interests abroad **2** : diplomacy that seeks to strengthen the power of a country or effect its purposes in foreign relations by the use of its financial resources
dollar gap *n* : the amount of additional dollar receipts required by a country to meet dollar obligations
dollar sign *n* : a mark $ placed before a number to indicate that it stands for dollars — called also *dollar mark*
doll·house \'däl-ˌhau̇s, 'dȯl-\ *n* **1** : a child's small-scale toy house **2** : a dwelling so small as to suggest resemblance to a house for dolls
dol·lop \'däl-əp\ *n* [origin unknown] **1 a** : a lump or blob of a usu. semiliquid substance ⟨a ~ of jelly⟩ **b** : an unmeasured amount (as of hard liquor) : DASH ⟨coffee laced with a ~ of brandy⟩ **2** : a small amount or admixture ⟨prose without one ~ of sentimentality —Ann Currah⟩
doll up *vt* **1** : to dress elegantly or extravagantly **2** : to make more attractive (as by addition of decorative details)
¹dol·ly \'däl-ē, 'dȯ-lē\ *n, pl* **dollies** **1** : DOLL **2 a** : a wooden-pronged instrument for beating and stirring clothes in the process of washing them in a tub **b** : a device turning on a vertical axis by a handle or winch for stirring ore to be washed **3** : a heavy bar with a cupped head for holding against the head of a rivet while the other end is being headed **4** : a compact narrow-gauge railroad locomotive for moving construction trains and for switching **5 a** : a platform on a roller or on wheels or casters for moving heavy objects **b** : a wheeled platform for a television or motion-picture camera
²dolly *vb* **dol·lied; dol·ly·ing** *vt* **1** : to treat with a dolly **2** : to move or convey on a dolly ~ *vi* : to move a motion-picture or television camera about on a dolly while shooting a scene
dol·man \'dōl-mən, 'dȯl-, 'däl-\ *n, pl* **dolmans** [F *doliman*, fr. Turk *dolama*, a Turkish robe] : a woman's coat made with dolman sleeves
dolman sleeve *n* : a sleeve very wide at the armhole and tight at the wrist often cut in one piece with the bodice
dol·men \'dōl-mən, 'dȯl-, 'däl-\ *n* [F, fr. Bret *tolmen*, fr. *tol* table + *men* stone] : a prehistoric monument of two or more upright stones supporting a horizontal stone slab found esp. in Britain and France and thought to be a tomb


dolmen

do·lo·mite \'dō-lə-ˌmīt, 'däl-ə-\ *n* [F, fr. Déodat de *Dolomieu* †1801 F geologist] **1** : a mineral $CaMg(CO_3)_2$ consisting of a calcium magnesium carbonate found in crystals and in extensive beds as a compact limestone **2** : a limestone or marble rich in magnesium carbonate — **do·lo·mit·ic** \ˌdō-lə-'mit-ik, ˌdäl-ə-\ *adj*
do·lo·mi·tize \'dō-lə-mə-ˌtīz, 'däl-ə-\ *vt* **-tized; -tiz·ing** : to convert into dolomite — **do·lo·mi·ti·za·tion** \ˌdō-lə-mət-ə-'zā-shən, ˌdäl-ə-, -ˌmīt-\ *n*
do·lor \'dō-lər, 'däl-ər\ *n* [ME *dolour*, fr. MF, fr. L *dolor* pain, grief, fr. *dolēre* to feel pain, grieve — more at CONDOLE] : mental suffering or anguish : SORROW
do·lor·ous \'dō-lə-rəs, 'däl-ə-\ *adj* : causing, marked by, or expressive of misery or grief — **do·lor·ous·ly** *adv* — **do·lor·ous·ness** *n*
do·lour *chiefly Brit var of* DOLOR
dol·phin \'däl-fən, 'dȯl-\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *dophin, daufin*, fr. OF *dalfin*, fr. OProv, fr. ML *dalfinus*, alter. of L *delphinus*, fr. Gk *delphin-, delphis;* akin to Gk *delphys* womb, Skt *garbha*] **1 a** : any of various small toothed whales (family Delphinidae) with the snout more or less elongated into a beak and the neck vertebrae partially fused **b** : PORPOISE 1 **2** : either of two active pelagic percoid food fishes (genus *Coryphaena*) of tropical and temperate seas **3** *cap* : DELPHINUS **4** : a spar or buoy for mooring boats; *also* : a cluster of closely driven piles used as a fender for a dock or as a mooring or guide for boats


dolphin 1a

dolphin striker *n* : a vertical spar under the end of the bowsprit of a sailboat to extend and support the martingale
dolt \'dōlt\ *n* [prob. akin to OE *dol* foolish] : a stupid fellow — **dolt·ish** \'dōl-tish\ *adj* — **dolt·ish·ly** *adv* — **dolt·ish·ness** *n*
dom *abbr* **1** domestic **2** dominant **3** dominion
Dom [L *dominus* master] **1** \(ˌ)däm\ — used as a title for some monks and canons regular **2** \(ˌ)dōⁿ\ — used as a title prefixed to the Christian name of a Portuguese or Brazilian man of rank
DOM *abbr* [ML *Deo optimo maximo*] to God, the best and greatest
-dom \dəm\ *n suffix* [ME, fr. OE *-dōm;* akin to OHG *-tuom* -dom, OE *dōm* judgment — more at DOOM] **1 a** : dignity : office ⟨duke*dom*⟩ **b** : realm : jurisdiction ⟨king*dom*⟩ **2** : state or fact of being ⟨free*dom*⟩ **3** : those having a (specified) office, occupation, interest, or character ⟨official*dom*⟩
do·main \dō-'mān, də-\ *n* [MF *domaine, demaine*, fr. L *dominium*, fr. *dominus*] **1 a** : complete and absolute ownership of land — compare EMINENT DOMAIN **b** : land so owned **2** : a territory over which dominion is exercised **3** : a region distinctively marked by

some physical feature ⟨the ~ of rushing streams, tall trees, and lakes⟩ **4** : a sphere of influence or activity ⟨the ~ of art⟩ **5** : the set of elements to which a mathematical or logical variable is limited; *specif* : the set on which a function is defined **6** : any of the small randomly oriented regions of uniform magnetization in a ferromagnetic substance **7** : INTEGRAL DOMAIN

[1]dome \'dōm\ *n* [F, It, & L; F *dôme* dome, cathedral, fr. It *duomo* cathedral, fr. ML *domus* church, fr. L, house — more at TIMBER] **1** *archaic* : a stately building : MANSION **2** : a large hemispherical roof or ceiling **3** : a natural formation or other structure that resembles the dome or cupola of a building **4** : a form of crystal composed of planes parallel to a lateral axis that meet above in a horizontal edge like a roof — **dom·al** \'dō-məl\ *adj*

[2]dome *vb* **domed; dom·ing** *vt* **1** : to cover with a dome **2** : to form into a dome ~ *vi* : to swell upward or outward like a dome

Domes·day Book \'dümz-ˌdā-, 'dōmz-\ *n* [ME, fr. *domesday* doomsday] : a record of a survey of English lands made by order of William the Conqueror about 1086

[1]do·mes·tic \də-'mes-tik\ *adj* [MF *domestique*, fr. L *domesticus*, fr. *domus*] **1** : of or relating to the household or the family **2** : of, relating to, or carried on within one and esp. one's own country ⟨~ politics⟩ ⟨~ wines⟩ **3** : INDIGENOUS **4 a** : living near or about the habitations of man **b** : TAME, DOMESTICATED **5** : devoted to home duties and pleasures — **do·mes·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

[2]domestic *n* **1** : a household servant **2** : an article of domestic manufacture — usu. used in pl.

domestic animal *n* : any of various animals (as the horse or sheep) domesticated by man so as to live and breed in a tame condition

[1]do·mes·ti·cate \də-'mes-ti-ˌkāt\ *vt* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** **1** : to bring into domestic use : ADOPT **2** : to fit for domestic life **3** : to adapt (an animal or plant) to life in intimate association with and to the advantage of man **4** : to bring to the level of ordinary people : FAMILIARIZE — **do·mes·ti·ca·tion** \-ˌmes-ti-'kā-shən\ *n*

[2]do·mes·ti·cate \-kət, -ˌkāt\ *n* : a domesticated animal or plant

domestic fowl *n* **1** : POULTRY **2** : a bird of one of the breeds developed from the jungle fowl (*Gallus gallus*) esp. for meat or egg production : CHICKEN

do·mes·tic·i·ty \ˌdō-ˌmes-'tis-ət-ē, -məs-; ˌdäm-əs-, -ˌes-; də-ˌmes-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the quality or state of being domestic or domesticated **2** : domestic activities or life **3** *pl* : domestic affairs

domestic prelate *n* : a priest having permanent honorary membership in the papal household

domestic relations court *n* : COURT OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS

domestic science *n* : instruction and training in domestic management and the household arts (as cooking and sewing)

dom·i·cal \'dō-mi-kəl, 'däm-i-\ *adj* : relating to, shaped like, or having a dome

[1]do·mi·cile \'däm-ə-ˌsīl, 'dō-mə-; 'däm-ə-səl\ *also* **dom·i·cil** \'däm-ə-səl\ *n* [MF, fr. L *domicilium*, fr. *domus*] **1** : a dwelling place : place of residence : HOME **2 a** : a person's fixed, permanent, and principal home for legal purposes **b** : RESIDENCE 2b

[2]domicile *vt* **-ciled; -cil·ing** : to establish in or provide with a domicile

do·mi·cil·i·ary \ˌdäm-ə-'sil-ē-ˌer-ē, ˌdō-mə-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or constituting a domicile: as **a** : provided or taking place in the home ⟨~ meal service for elderly and housebound people⟩ **b** : providing care and living space for persons (as veterans) so disabled as to be unable to live independently ⟨the ~ section of the state hospital⟩

do·mi·cil·i·ate \ˌdäm-ə-'sil-ē-ˌāt, ˌdō-mə-\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *domicilium*] *vt* **1** : DOMICILE **2** : DOMESTICATE 3, 4 ~ *vi* : RESIDE — **do·mi·cil·i·a·tion** \-ˌsil-ē-'ā-shən\ *n*

dom·i·nance \'däm(-ə)-nən(t)s\ *n* : the fact or state of being dominant: as **a** : dominant position in an order of forcefulness : ASCENDANCY; *specif* : the relative position of an individual in a social hierarchy **b** : the quality of one of a pair of alleles or traits that suppresses expression of the other in the heterozygous condition **c** : the influence or control over ecological communities exerted by a dominant **d** : functional asymmetry between a pair of bodily structures (as the right and left hands)

[1]dom·i·nant \-nənt\ *adj* [MF or L; MF, fr. L *dominant-, dominans*, prp. of *dominari*] **1** : commanding, controlling, or prevailing over all others **2** : overlooking and commanding from a superior elevation **3** : of, relating to, or exerting ecological dominance **4** *of paired bodily structures* : being the more effective or predominant one in action ⟨~ eye⟩ **5** : of, relating to, or exerting genetic dominance — **dom·i·nant·ly** *adv*

syn DOMINANT, PREDOMINANT, PARAMOUNT, PREPONDERANT, SOVEREIGN *shared meaning element* : superior to all others in power, influence, or importance ***ant*** subordinate

[2]dominant *n* **1 a** : a dominant genetic character or factor **b** : any of one or more kinds of organism (as a species) in an ecological association that exerts a controlling influence on the environment and thereby largely determines what other kinds of organisms share in the association **c** : a dominant individual in a social hierarchy **2** : the fifth note of a diatonic scale

dom·i·nate \'däm-ə-ˌnāt\ *vb* **-nat·ed; -nat·ing** [L *dominatus*, pp. of *dominari*, fr. *dominus* master — more at DAME] *vt* **1** : RULE, CONTROL **2** : to exert the supreme determining or guiding influence on **3** : to overlook from a superior elevation or command because of superior height **4** : to have a commanding or preeminent place or position in ⟨name brands ~ the market⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to have or exert mastery, control, or preeminence **2** : to occupy a more elevated or superior position — **dom·i·na·tive** \-ˌnāt-iv\ *adj* — **dom·i·na·tor** \-ˌnāt-ər\ *n*

dom·i·na·tion \ˌdäm-ə-'nā-shən\ *n* **1** : supremacy or preeminence over another **2** : exercise of mastery or preponderant influence **3** *pl* : DOMINION 3

dom·i·neer \ˌdäm-ə-'ni(ə)r\ *vb* [D *domineren*, fr. F *dominer*, fr. L *dominari*] *vi* : to exercise arbitrary or overbearing control ~ *vt* : to tyrannize over

dom·i·neer·ing *adj* : inclined to domineer ***syn*** see MASTERFUL ***ant*** subservient — **dom·i·neer·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv* — **dom·i·neer·ing·ness** *n*

do·min·i·cal \də-'min-i-kəl\ *adj* [LL *dominicalis*, fr. *dominicus* (*dies*) the Lord's day, fr. L *dominicus* of a lord, fr. *dominus* lord, master] **1** : of or relating to Jesus Christ as Lord **2** : of or relating to the Lord's day

dominical letter *n* : the letter designating Sundays in a given year (as for finding the date of Easter) when the first seven letters of the alphabet are applied consecutively to the days of the year beginning with *A* on Jan. 1 and skipping the intercalary day in leap year

Do·min·i·can \də-'min-i-kən\ *n* [St. *Dominic*] : a member of a mendicant order of friars founded by St. Dominic in 1215 and dedicated esp. to preaching — **Dominican** *adj*

dom·i·nick \'däm-ə-(ˌ)nik, -ˌnek\ *or* **dom·i·nick·er** \-ˌnek-ər, -ˌnik-\ *n, often cap* : DOMINIQUE

do·mi·nie *1 oftenest* 'däm-ə-nē, *2 oftenest* 'dō-mə-\ *n* [L *domine*, voc. of *dominus*] **1** : PEDAGOGUE **2** : CLERGYMAN

do·min·ion \də-'min-yən\ *n* [ME *dominioun*, fr. MF *dominion*, modif. of L *dominium*, fr. *dominus*] **1** : supreme authority : SOVEREIGNTY **2** : DOMAIN **3** *pl* : an order of angels — see CELESTIAL HIERARCHY **4** *often cap* : a self-governing nation of the British Commonwealth other than the United Kingdom that acknowledges the British monarch as chief of state **5** : absolute ownership

Dominion Day *n* : July 1 observed as a legal holiday in Canada in commemoration of the proclamation of dominion status in 1867

dom·i·nique \'däm-ə-(ˌ)nik, -ˌnək\ *n* [*Dominique* (Dominica), one of the Windward islands, West Indies] : any of an American breed of domestic fowl with a rose comb, yellow legs, and barred plumage; *broadly* : a barred fowl

dom·i·no \'däm-ə-ˌnō\ *n, pl* **-noes** *or* **-nos** [F, prob. fr. L (in the ritual formula *benedicamus Domino* let us bless the Lord)] **1 a** (1) : a long loose hooded cloak usu. worn with a half mask as a masquerade costume (2) : a half mask worn with a masquerade costume **b** : a person wearing a domino **2** [F, fr. It] **a** : a flat rectangular block (as of wood or plastic) whose face is divided into two equal parts that are blank or bear from one to usu. six dots arranged as on dice faces **b** *pl but usu sing in constr* : any of several games played with a set of usu. 28 dominoes

domino theory *n* [fr. the fact that if a number of dominoes are stood on end one behind the other with slight intervening spaces, a slight push on the first will result in the toppling of all the others] : a theory that if one nation in Southeast Asia becomes Communist-controlled the neighboring nations will also become Communist-controlled

[1]don \'dän\ *n* [Sp, fr. L *dominus* master — more at DAME] **1** : a Spanish nobleman or gentleman — used as a title prefixed to the Christian name **2** *archaic* : a person of consequence : GRANDEE **3** : a head, tutor, or fellow in a college of Oxford or Cambridge University; *broadly* : a college or university professor

[2]don \'dän\ *vt* **donned; don·ning** [*do* + *on*] **1** : to put on (an article of wear) **2** : to envelop oneself in : ASSUME

Don *abbr* Donegal

do·na \ˌdō-nə\ *n* [Pg, fr. L *domina*] : a Portuguese or Brazilian woman of rank — used as a title prefixed to the Christian name

do·ña \ˌdō-nyə\ *n* [Sp, fr. L *domina* lady] : a Spanish woman of rank — used as a title prefixed to the Christian name

do·nate \'dō-ˌnāt, dō-'\ *vb* **do·nat·ed; do·nat·ing** [back-formation fr. *donation*] *vt* **1** : to make a gift of; *esp* : to contribute to a public or charitable cause ⟨~ a site for a park⟩ **2** : to give off or transfer (as electrons) ~ *vi* : to make a donation ***syn*** see GIVE

do·na·tion \dō-'nā-shən\ *n* [ME *donatyowne*, fr. L *donation-, donatio*, fr. *donatus*, pp. of *donare* to present, fr. *donum* gift; akin to L *dare* to give — more at DATE] **1** : the action of making a gift esp. to a charity or public institution **2** : a free contribution : GIFT

Do·na·tism \'dō-nə-ˌtiz-əm, 'dän-ə-\ *n* [*Donatus*, 4th cent. bishop of Carthage] : the doctrines of a Christian sect arising in No. Africa in 311 and holding that sanctity is essential for the administration of sacraments and church membership — **Do·na·tist** \-təst\ *n*

[1]do·na·tive \'dō-nət-iv, 'dän-ət-\ *n* : a special gift or donation

[2]do·na·tive *same or* 'dō-ˌnāt-, dō-'\ *adj* [L *donativus*, fr. *donatus*] : characterized by, capable of, or subject to donation ⟨a ~ trust⟩

do·na·tor \'dō-ˌnāt-ər, dō-'\ *n* : DONOR

[1]done \'dən\ *past part of* DO

[2]done *adj* **1** : conformable to social convention **2** : arrived at or brought to an end : THROUGH **3** : physically exhausted : SPENT **4** : gone by : OVER **5** : doomed to failure, defeat, or death **6** : cooked sufficiently

do·nee \dō-'nē\ *n* [*donor*] : a recipient of a gift

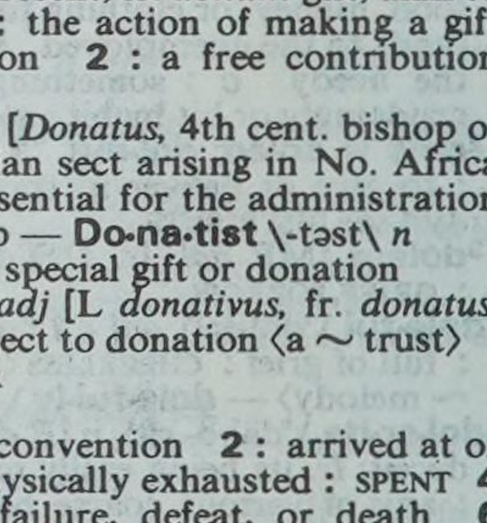
done for \'dən-ˌfȯ(ə)r\ *adj* **1** : mortally stricken : DOOMED **2** : left with no capacity or opportunity for recovery : RUINED **3** : sunk in defeat : BEATEN

done·ness \'dən-nəs\ *n* : the condition of being cooked to the desired degree

[1]dong \'dȯŋ, 'däŋ\ *n* [origin unknown] : PENIS — usu. considered vulgar

[2]dong *n* [Annamese] **1** — see MONEY table **2** : a coin of South Vietnam worth one piaster

don·jon \'dän-jən, 'dən-\ *n* [ME — more at DUNGEON] : a massive inner tower in a medieval castle



1 donjon

Don Juan \(')dän-'(h)wän, dän-'jü-ən\ *n* [Sp] **1** : a legendary Spaniard proverbial for his seduction of women **2** : LIBERTINE, RAKE

don·key \'däŋ-kē, 'dəŋ-, 'dȯŋ-\ *n, pl* **donkeys** [perh. fr. [1]*dun* + *-key* (as in *monkey*)] **1** : the domestic ass (*Equus asinus*) **2** : a stupid or obstinate person

donkey engine *n* **1** : a small usu. portable auxiliary engine **2** : a small locomotive used in switching

donkey's years *n pl* : a very long time ⟨place where there'd been no fires for *donkey's years* —Malcolm Lowry⟩

don·key·work \'däŋ-kē-ˌwərk, 'dəŋ-, 'dȯŋ-\ *n* : monotonous and routine work : DRUDGERY
don·na \ˌdän-ə, ˌdȯn-\ *n, pl* **don·ne** \-(ˌ)ā\ [It, fr. L *domina*] : an Italian woman esp. of rank — used as a title prefixed to the Christian name
don·née \dȯ-'nā, (ˌ)də-\ *n, pl* **données** \-'nā(z)\ [F, fr. fem. of *donné*, pp. of *donner* to give, fr. L *donare* to donate] : the set of assumptions upon which a work of fiction or drama proceeds
don·nish \'dän-ish\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of a university don : PEDANTIC — **don·nish·ly** *adv* — **don·nish·ness** *n*
don·ny·brook \'dän-ē-ˌbrůk\ *n, often cap* [*Donnybrook* Fair, annual Irish event known for its brawls] : an uproarious brawl : FREE-FOR-ALL
do·nor \'dō-nər, -ˌnȯ(ə)r\ *n* [MF *doneur*, fr. L *donator*, fr. *donatus*] **1** : one that gives, donates, or presents **2** : one used as a source of biological material **3 a** : a compound capable of giving up a part (as an atom, radical, or elementary particle) for combination with an acceptor **b** : an impurity that is added to a semiconductor to increase the number of mobile electrons
¹do–noth·ing \'dü-ˌnəth-iŋ\ *n* : a shiftless or habitually lazy person
²do–nothing *adj* : marked by inactivity; *specif* : marked by lack of initiative, disinclination to disturb the status quo, or failure to make positive progress — **do–noth·ing·ism** \-ˌiz-əm\ *n*
Don Qui·xote \ˌdän-kē-'(h)ōt-ē, ˌdäŋ-; dän-'kwik-sət\ *n* [Sp] : the idealistic and impractical hero of Cervantes' *Don Quixote*
don·sie *or* **don·sy** \'dän(t)-sē\ *adj* [perh. fr. ScGael *donas* evil, harm] **1** *dial Brit* : UNLUCKY **2** *Scot* **a** : RESTIVE **b** : SAUCY
¹don't \(')dōnt\ **1** : do not **2** : does not — often used by educated speakers though the construction is sometimes objected to ⟨there are simply certain things he ~ know —Ezra Pound⟩
²don't \'dōnt\ *n* : a command or entreaty not to do something : PROHIBITION ⟨a long list of ~s⟩
donut *var of* DOUGHNUT
doo·dad \'dü-ˌdad\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : a small article whose common name is unknown or forgotten : GADGET **2** : an ornamental attachment or decoration ⟨a mantelpiece cluttered up with all kinds of ~s⟩
¹doo·dle \'düd-ᵊl\ *vb* **doo·dled; doo·dling** \'düd-liŋ, -ᵊliŋ\ [perh. fr. *doodle* (to ridicule)] *vi* **1** : to make a doodle **2** : DAWDLE, TRIFLE ~ *vt* : to produce by doodling — **doo·dler** \'düd-lər, -ᵊl-ər\ *n*
²doodle *n* : an aimless scribble, design, or sketch
doo·dle·bug \'düd-ᵊl-ˌbəg\ *n* [prob. fr. *doodle* (fool) + *bug*] **1** : the larva of an ant lion; *also* : any of several other insects **2** : a device (as a divining rod) used in attempting to locate underground gas, water, oil, or ores **3** : any of several small vehicles
doo·hick·ey \'dü-ˌhik-ē\ *n* [prob. fr. *doodad* + *hickey*] : DOODAD 1
¹doom \'düm\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *dōm;* akin to OHG *tuom* condition, state, OE *dōn* to do] **1** : a law or ordinance esp. in Anglo-Saxon England **2 a** : JUDGMENT, DECISION; *esp* : a judicial condemnation or sentence **b** (1) : JUDGMENT 3a (2) : JUDGMENT DAY 1 **3 a** : DESTINY; *esp* : unhappy destiny **b** : DEATH, RUIN ***syn*** see FATE
²doom *vt* **1** : to give judgment against : CONDEMN **2 a** : to fix the fate of : DESTINE **b** : to make certain the failure or destruction of
doom·ful \'düm-fəl\ *adj* : presaging doom : OMINOUS — **doom·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv*
doom·say·er \'düm-ˌsā-ər\ *n* : one given to forebodings and predictions of impending calamity
dooms·day \'dümz-ˌdā\ *n* : JUDGMENT DAY
doom·ster \'düm(p)-stər\ *n* **1** : JUDGE **2** : DOOMSAYER
door \'dō(ə)r, 'dȯ(ə)r\ *n, often attrib* [ME *dure, dor*, fr. OE *duru* door & *dor* gate; akin to OHG *turi* door, L *fores*, Gk *thyra*] **1** : a usu. swinging or sliding barrier by which an entry is closed and opened; *also* : a similar part of a piece of furniture **2** : DOORWAY **3** : a means of access ⟨~ to success⟩ — **door·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **at one's door** : as a charge against one as being responsible ⟨laid the blame *at our door*⟩
door·jamb \'dō(ə)r-ˌjam, 'dȯ(ə)r-\ *n* : an upright piece forming the side of a door opening
door·keep·er \-ˌkē-pər\ *n* : one that tends a door
door·knob \-ˌnäb\ *n* : a knob that when turned releases a door latch
door·man \-ˌman, -mən\ *n* : one that tends the door of a building (as a hotel or theater) and assists people (as in calling taxis)
door·mat \-ˌmat\ *n* **1** : a mat placed before or inside a door for wiping dirt from the shoes **2** : one that submits without protest to abuse or indignities
door·nail \-ˌnāl, -'nā(ə)l\ *n* : a large-headed nail — used chiefly in the phrase *dead as a doornail*
door·plate \-ˌplāt\ *n* : a nameplate on a door
door·post \-ˌpōst\ *n* : DOORJAMB
door prize *n* : a prize awarded to the holder of a winning ticket passed out at the entrance to an entertainment or function
door·sill \'dō(ə)r-ˌsil, ᵊdȯ(ə)r-\ *n* : SILL 1b
door·step \-ˌstep\ *n* : a step before an outer door
door·stop \-ˌstäp\ *n* **1** : a device (as a wedge or weight) for holding a door open **2** : a projection attached to a wall or floor and usu. having a rubber-tipped end for preventing damaging contact between an opened door and the wall
door–to–door \ˌdōrt-ə-'dō(ə)r, ˌdȯrt-ə-'dȯ(ə)r\ *adj* **1** : being or making a usu. unsolicited call (as for selling or canvassing) at every residence in an area **2** : providing delivery to a specified address ⟨direct ~ service⟩
door·way \'dō(ə)r-ˌwā, 'dȯ(ə)r-\ *n* **1** : the opening that a door closes; *esp* : an entrance into a building or room **2** : a means of gaining access ⟨exercise is a ~ to good health⟩
door·yard \-ˌyärd\ *n* : a yard about the door of a house
do·pa \'dō-pə, -(ˌ)pä\ *n* [*di*hydr*ox*y*p*henyl*a*lanine] : an amino acid $C_9H_{11}NO_4$ that in the levorotatory form is found in the broad bean and is used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease
do·pa·mine \'dō-pə-ˌmēn\ *n* [*dopa* + *amine*] : a decarboxylated form of dopa found esp. in the adrenal glands; *also* : DOPA
dop·ant \'dō-pənt\ *n* [²*dope*] : an impurity added usu. in minute amounts to a pure substance to alter its properties

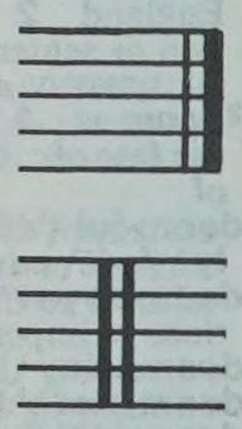
¹dope \'dōp\ *n* [D *doop* sauce, fr. *dopen* to dip; akin to OE *dyppan* to dip — more at DIP] **1 a** : a thick liquid or pasty preparation **b** : a preparation for giving a desired quality to a substance or surface; *specif* : an antiknock added to gasoline **2** : absorbent or adsorbent material used in various manufacturing processes (as the making of dynamite) **3 a** (1) : a narcotic preparation (as opium or heroin) (2) : a preparation given to a racehorse to stimulate it temporarily **b** *chiefly South* : a cola drink **c** (1) : a narcotic addict (2) : a stupid person **4** : information esp. from a reliable source ⟨inside ~ on the scandal⟩
²dope *vb* **doped; dop·ing** *vt* **1** : to treat or affect with dope; *specif* : to give a narcotic to **2** : to find a solution for ~ *vi* : to take dope — **dop·er** *n*
dope·ster \'dōp-stər\ *n* : a forecaster of the outcome of future events (as sports contests or elections)
dop·ey *or* **dopy** \'dō-pē\ *adj* **dop·i·er; -est** **1 a** : dulled by alcohol or a narcotic **b** : SLUGGISH, STUPEFIED **2** : DULL, STUPID — **dop·i·ness** *n*
dop·pel·gäng·er *or* **dop·pel·gang·er** \'dȯp-əl-ˌgeŋ-ər, ˌdəb-əl-'gaŋ-\ *n* [G *doppelgänger*, fr. *doppel-* double + *-gänger* goer] : a ghostly counterpart of a living person
Dopp·ler \'däp-lər\ *adj* : of, relating to, or utilizing a shift in frequency in accordance with the Doppler effect; *also* : of or relating to Doppler radar
Doppler effect *n* [Christian J. *Doppler*] : a change in the frequency with which waves (as sound, light, or radio waves) from a given source reach an observer when the source and the observer are in rapid motion with respect to each other so that the frequency increases or decreases according to the speed at which the distance is decreasing or increasing
Doppler radar *n* : a radar system that utilizes the Doppler effect for measuring velocity
dor·bee·tle \'dȯr-ˌbēt-ᵊl\ *n* [*dor* (buzzing insect)] : any of various beetles that fly with a buzzing sound; *specif* : a common European dung beetle (*Geotrupes stercorarius*)
Dor·cas \'dȯr-kəs\ *n* [Gk *Dorkas*] : a Christian woman of New Testament times who made clothing for the poor
dor·hawk \'dȯ(ə)r-ˌhȯk\ *n* [*dor* (buzzing insect); fr. its diet] : the common European nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)
Do·ri·an \'dōr-ē-ən, 'dȯr-\ *n* [L *dorius* of Doris, fr. Gk *dōrios*, fr. *Dōris*, region of ancient Greece] : one of an ancient Hellenic race that completed the overthrow of Mycenaean civilization and settled esp. in the Peloponnesus and Crete — **Dorian** *adj*
¹Dor·ic \'dȯr-ik, 'dȯr-\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or constituting Doric **2** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the Dorians **3** : belonging to the oldest and simplest Greek architectural order
²Doric *n* : a dialect of ancient Greek spoken esp. in the Peloponnesus, Crete, Sicily, and southern Italy
dorm \'dȯ(ə)rm\ *n* : DORMITORY
dor·man·cy \'dȯr-mən-sē\ *n* : the quality or state of being dormant
dor·mant \'dȯr-mənt\ *adj* [ME, fixed, stationary, fr. MF, fr. prp. of *dormir* to sleep, fr. L *dormire;* akin to Skt *drāti* he sleeps] **1** : represented on a coat of arms in a lying position with the head on the forepaws **2** : marked by a suspension of activity: as **a** : temporarily devoid of external activity ⟨a ~ volcano⟩ **b** : temporarily in abeyance yet capable of being activated or resumed ⟨a ~ judgment⟩ **3 a** : ASLEEP, INACTIVE **b** : having the faculties suspended : SLUGGISH **c** : having biological activity suspended: as (1) : being in a state of suspended animation (2) : not actively growing but protected (as by bud scales) from the environment — used of plant parts **4** : associated with, carried out, or applied during dormancy ⟨~ grafting⟩ ***syn*** see LATENT ***ant*** active
dor·mer \'dȯr-mər\ *n* [MF *dormeor* dormitory, fr. L *dormitorium*] : a window set vertically in a structure projecting through a sloping roof; *also* : the roofed structure containing such a window
dor·mie *or* **dor·my** \'dȯr-mē\ *adj* [origin unknown] : being ahead by as many holes in golf as remain to be played
dor·min \'dȯr-mən\ *n* [*dorm*ancy + *-in*] : ABSCISIC ACID
dor·mi·to·ry \'dȯr-mə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ries** [L *dormitorium*, fr. *dormitus*, pp. of *dormire*] **1** : a room for sleeping; *esp* : a large room containing numerous beds **2** : a residence hall providing rooms for individuals or for groups usu. without private baths **3** : a residential community from which the inhabitants commute to their places of employment
dor·mouse \'dȯ(ə)r-ˌmaůs\ *n* [ME *dormowse*, perh. fr. MF *dormir* + ME *mous* mouse] : any of numerous small Old World rodents (family Gliridae) that resemble small squirrels


dormouse

dor·nick \'dȯr-nik, 'dän-ik\ *n* [prob. fr. IrGael *dornōg*] : a small stone or chunk of rock
do·ron·i·cum \də-'rän-i-kəm\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Ar *darūnaj*, a plant of this genus] : any of a genus (*Doronicum*) of Eurasian perennial composite herbs including several cultivated for their showy yellow flower heads
dorp \'dȯ(ə)rp\ *n* [D, fr. MD; akin to OHG *dorf* village — more at THORP] : VILLAGE
dor·per \'dȯr-pər\ *n* [*Dor*set Horn + Blackhead *Per*sian (a breed of sheep)] : any of a breed of mutton-producing sheep with white body and black face developed in southern Africa
Dors *abbr* Dorset
dors- *or* **dorsi-** *or* **dorso-** *comb form* [LL *dors-*, fr. L *dorsum*] **1** : back ⟨*dors*ad⟩ **2** : dorsal and ⟨*dorso*lateral⟩

dor·sad \'dȯ(ə)r-ˌsad\ *adv* : toward the back : DORSALLY
[1]dor·sal \'dȯr-səl\ *adj* [LL *dorsalis*, fr. L *dorsum* back] **1** : relating to or situated near or on the back esp. of an animal or of one of its parts **2** : ABAXIAL — **dor·sal·ly** \-sə-lē\ *adv*
[2]dorsal *n* : a dorsally located part; *esp* : a thoracic vertebra
dorsal lip *n* : the margin of the fold of blastula wall that delineates the dorsal limit of the blastopore, constitutes the primary organizer, and forms the point of origin of chordamesoderm
dorsal root *n* : the one of the two roots of a spinal nerve that passes dorsally to the spinal cord and consists of sensory fibers
dor·set horn \'dȯr-sət-\ *n, often cap D&H* [*Dorset*, England] : any of an English breed of sheep that have very large horns
dor·si·ven·tral \ˌdȯr-si-'ven-trəl\ *adj* **1** : having distinct dorsal and ventral surfaces **2** : DORSOVENTRAL 1 — **dor·si·ven·tral·i·ty** \-ven-'tral-ət-ē\ *n* — **dor·si·ven·tral·ly** \-'ven-trə-lē\ *adv*
dor·so·lat·er·al \ˌdȯr-sō-'lat-ə-rəl, -'la-trəl\ *adj* : of, relating to, or involving both the back and the sides
dor·so·ven·tral \-'ven-trəl\ *adj* [ISV] **1** : extending from the dorsal toward the ventral side **2** : DORSIVENTRAL 1 — **dor·so·ven·tral·i·ty** \-ven-'tral-ət-ē\ *n* — **dor·so·ven·tral·ly** \-trə-lē\ *adv*
dor·sum \'dȯr-səm\ *n, pl* **dor·sa** \-sə\ [L] **1** : BACK; *esp* : the entire dorsal surface of an animal **2** : the upper surface of an appendage or part
do·ry \'dōr-ē, 'dȯr-\ *n, pl* **dories** [Miskito *dóri* dugout] : a flat-bottomed boat with high flaring sides, sharp bow, and deep V-shaped transom
dos·age \'dō-sij\ *n* **1 a** : the amount of a therapeutic dose **b** (1) : the giving of such a dose (2) : regulation or determination of doses **2 a** : the addition of an ingredient or the application of an agent in a measured dose **b** : the presence and relative representation or strength of a factor or agent **3** : a dealing out of or an exposure to some experience in or as if in measured portions
[1]dose \'dōs\ *n* [F, fr. LL *dosis*, fr. Gk, lit., act of giving, fr. *didonai* to give — more at DATE] **1 a** : the measured quantity of a therapeutic agent to be taken at one time **b** : the quantity of radiation administered or absorbed **2** : a portion of a substance added during a process **3** : a part of an experience to which one is exposed ⟨a ~ of hard work⟩ **4** : a gonorrheal infection
[2]dose *vt* **dosed; dos·ing** **1** : to divide (as a medicine) into doses **2** : to give a dose to; *esp* : to give medicine to **3** : to treat with an application or agent
do–si–do \ˌdō-(ˌ)sē-'dō\ *n, pl* **do–si–dos** [F *dos-à-dos* back to back] : a square-dance figure: **a** : a figure in which the dancers pass each other right shoulder to right shoulder and circle each other back to back **b** : a figure in which the woman moves in a figure circling first her partner and then the man on her right
do·sim·e·ter \dō-'sim-ət-ər\ *n* [LL *dosis* + ISV *-meter*] : a device for measuring doses of X rays or of radioactivity — **do·si·met·ric** \ˌdō-sə-'me-trik\ *adj* — **do·sim·e·try** \dō-'sim-ə-trē\ *n*
[1]doss \'däs\ *n* [origin unknown] *chiefly Brit* : a crude or makeshift bed
[2]doss *vi, chiefly Brit* : to sleep or bed down in a convenient place
dos·sal \'däs-əl\ *or* **dor·sal** \'dȯr-səl\ *or* **dos·sel** \'däs-əl\ *n* [ML *dossale, dorsale*, fr. neut. of LL *dorsalis* dorsal] : an ornamental cloth hung behind and above an altar
dos·sier \'dȯs-ˌyā, 'dȯs-ē-ˌā, 'däs-\ *n* [F, bundle of documents labeled on the back, dossier, fr. *dos* back, fr. L *dorsum*] : a file of papers containing a detailed report or detailed information
dost \(')dəst\ *archaic pres 2d sing of* DO
[1]dot \'dät\ *n* [(assumed) ME, fr. OE *dott* head of a boil; akin to OHG *tutta* nipple] **1** : a small spot : SPECK **2 a** (1) : a small point made with a pointed instrument ⟨a ~ on the chart marked the ship's position⟩ (2) : a small round mark used in orthography or punctuation ⟨put a ~ over the *i*⟩ **b** : a centered point used as a multiplication sign **c** (1) : a point after a note or rest in music indicating augmentation of the time value by one half (2) : a point over or under a note indicating that it is to be played staccato **3** : a precise point esp. in time ⟨arrived at six on the ~⟩ **4** : a short click or buzz forming a letter or part of a letter (as in the Morse code)
[2]dot *vb* **dot·ted; dot·ting** *vt* **1** : to mark with a dot **2** : to intersperse with dots or objects scattered at random ⟨boats *dotting* the lake⟩ ~ *vi* : to make a dot — **dot·ter** *n*
[3]dot \'dȯt\ *n* [F, fr. L *dot-, dos* dowry] : DOWRY 2a
dot·age \'dōt-ij\ *n* : a state or period of senile decay marked by decline of mental poise and alertness — called also *second childhood*
do·tal \'dōt-ᵊl\ *adj* [L *dotalis*, fr. *dot-, dos*] : of or relating to a woman's marriage dowry
dot·ard \'dōt-ərd\ *n* : a person in his dotage
dote \'dōt\ *vi* **dot·ed; dot·ing** [ME *doten;* akin to MLG *dotten* to be foolish] **1** : to exhibit mental decline of or like that of old age : be in one's dotage **2** : to show excessive or foolish affection or fondness — used esp. with *on* ⟨*doted* on her only grandchild⟩ — **dot·er** *n* — **dot·ing·ly** \'dōt-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
doth \(')dəth\ *archaic pres 3d sing of* DO
dot product *n* [[1]*dot;* fr. its being commonly written *A·B*] : SCALAR PRODUCT
dotted swiss *n* : a sheer light muslin ornamented with evenly spaced raised dots
dot·ter·el \'dät-ə-rəl, 'dä-trəl\ *n* [ME *dotrelle*, irreg. fr. *doten* to dote] : a Eurasian plover (*Charadrius morinellus*) formerly common in England; *also* : any of various congeners chiefly of eastern Asia, Australia, and So. America
dot·tle \'dät-ᵊl\ *n* [ME *dottel* plug, fr. (assumed) ME *dot*] : unburned and partially burned tobacco caked in the bowl of a pipe
[1]dot·ty \'dät-ē\ *adj* : composed of or marked by dots
[2]dotty *adj* **dot·ti·er; -est** [alter. of Sc *dottle* fool, fr. ME *dotel*, fr. *doten*] **1** : being obsessed or infatuated **2 a** : mentally unbalanced : CRAZY ⟨thought the man was ~ for paying the boys so much money⟩ **b** : amiably eccentric ⟨an absentminded ~ old man⟩ **3** : amusingly absurd : RIDICULOUS ⟨some sublimely ~ exchanges of letters⟩ — **dot·ti·ly** \'dät-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **dot·ti·ness** \'dät-ē-nəs\ *n*

Dou·ay Version \dü-'ā-\ *n* [*Douay*, France] : an English translation of the Vulgate used by Roman Catholics
[1]dou·ble \'dəb-əl\ *adj* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *duplus*, fr. *duo* two + *-plus* multiplied by; akin to Gk *diploos* double, OE *fealdan* to fold — more at TWO, FOLD] **1** : having a twofold relation or character : DUAL **2** : consisting of two usu. combined members or parts ⟨an egg with a ~ yolk⟩ **3 a** : being twice as great or as many ⟨~ the number of expected applicants⟩ **b** *of a coin* : worth two of the specified amount ⟨~ eagle⟩ ⟨~ crown⟩ **4** : marked by duplicity : DECEITFUL **5** : folded in two **6** : of extra size, strength, or value ⟨a ~ martini⟩ **7** : having more than the normal number of floral leaves often at the expense of the sporophylls **8** *of rhyme* : involving correspondence of two syllables (as in *exciting* and *inviting*) — **dou·ble·ness** *n*
[2]double *n* **1** : something twice the usual size, strength, speed, quantity, or value: as **a** : a double amount **b** : a base hit in baseball that enables the batter to reach second base **2** : one that is the counterpart of another : DUPLICATE: as **a** : a living person that closely resembles another living person **b** : WRAITH **c** (1) : UNDERSTUDY (2) : one who resembles an actor and takes his place in scenes calling for special skills (3) : an actor who plays more than one role in a production **3 a** : a sharp turn (as in running) : REVERSAL **b** : an evasive shift **4** : something consisting of two paired members: as **a** : FOLD **b** : a combined bet placed on two different contests **c** : two consecutive strikes in bowling **5** *pl* : a game between two pairs of players **6** : an act of doubling in a card game
[3]double *adv* **1** : to twice the extent or amount **2** : two together
[4]double *vb* **dou·bled; dou·bling** \'dəb-(ə-)liŋ\ *vt* **1** : to make twice as great or as many: as **a** : to increase by adding an equal amount **b** : to amount to twice the number of **c** : to make a call in bridge that increases the value of odd tricks or undertricks at (an opponent's bid) **2 a** : to make of two thicknesses : FOLD **b** : CLENCH ⟨*doubled* his fist⟩ **c** : to cause to stoop **3** : to avoid by doubling : ELUDE **4 a** : to replace in a dramatic role **b** : to play (dramatic roles) by doubling **5 a** (1) : to advance or score (a base runner) by a double (2) : to bring about the scoring of (a run) by a double **b** : to put out (a base runner) in completing a double play ~ *vi* **1 a** : to become twice as much or as many **b** : to double a bid (as in bridge) **2 a** : to turn sharply and suddenly; *esp* : to turn back on one's course **b** : to follow a circuitous course **3** : to become bent or folded usu. in the middle — usu. used with *up* ⟨he *doubled* up in pain⟩ **4 a** : to serve an additional purpose or perform an additional duty **b** : to play a dramatic role as a double **5** : to make a double in baseball — **dou·bler** \-(ə-)lər\ *n*
double agent *n* : a spy pretending to serve one government while actually serving another
double bar *n* : two adjacent vertical lines or a heavy single line separating principal sections of a musical composition
dou·ble–bar·rel \ˌdəb-əl-'bar-əl\ *n* : a double-barreled gun
dou·ble–bar·reled \-əld\ *adj* **1** *of a firearm* : having two barrels mounted side by side **2** : TWOFOLD; *esp* : having a double purpose ⟨asked a ~ question⟩
double bass *n* : the largest instrument in the violin family tuned a fifth below the cello — **double bass·ist** \-'bā-səst\ *n*
double bassoon *n* : CONTRABASSOON
double bed *n* : a bed designed to sleep two persons
double bill *n* : a bill (as at a theatre) offering two principal features
double bind *n* : a psychological dilemma in which a usu. dependent person (as a child) receives conflicting interpersonal communications from a single source or faces disparagement no matter what his response to a situation
dou·ble–blind \ˌdəb-əl-'blīnd\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being an experimental procedure in which neither the subjects nor the experimenters know the makeup of the test and control groups during the actual course of the experiments — compare SINGLE-BLIND
double boiler *n* : a cooking utensil consisting of two saucepans fitting into each other so that the contents of the upper can be cooked or heated by boiling water in the lower
double bond *n* : a chemical bond consisting of two covalent bonds between two atoms in a molecule
dou·ble–breast·ed \ˌdəb-əl-'bres-təd\ *adj* **1** : having one half of the front lapped over the other and usu. a double row of buttons and a single row of buttonholes ⟨a ~ coat⟩ **2** : having a double-breasted coat ⟨a ~ suit⟩
double–check \ˌdəb-əl-'chek, 'dəb-əl-ˌ\ *vt* : to subject to a double check ⟨an article ~*ed* for accuracy⟩ ~ *vi* : to make a double check
double check *n* : a careful checking to determine accuracy, condition, or progress esp. of something already checked
double counterpoint *n* : two-part counterpoint so constructed that either part may be played above or below the other
dou·ble–cov·er \ˌdəb-əl-'kəv-ər\ *vt* : DOUBLE-TEAM
dou·ble–cross \ˌdəb-əl-'krȯs\ *vt* : to deceive by double-dealing : BETRAY — **dou·ble–cross·er** *n*
double cross *n* **1 a** : an act of winning or trying to win a fight or match after agreeing to lose it **b** : an act of betraying or cheating an associate **2** : a cross between first-generation hybrids of four separate inbred lines (as in the production of hybrid seed corn)
double dagger *n* : the character ‡ used commonly as the third in the series of reference marks — called also *diesis*


double bars


double bass

double date *n* : a date participated in by two couples — **dou·ble–date** *vi*
dou·ble–deal·er \ˌdəb-əl-ˈdē-lər\ *n* : one who practices double-dealing
¹dou·ble–deal·ing \-ˈdē-liŋ\ *n* : action contradictory to a professed attitude : DUPLICITY
²double–dealing *adj* : given to or marked by duplicity
dou·ble–deck \ˌdəb-əl-ˌdek\ *or* **dou·ble–decked** \-ˈdekt\ *adj* : having two decks, levels, or layers ⟨a ~ bus⟩ ⟨a ~ sandwich⟩
dou·ble–deck·er \-ˈdek-ər\ *n* : something that is double-deck
double decomposition *n* : METATHESIS b
dou·ble–dome \ˈdəb-əl-ˌdōm\ *n* : EGGHEAD
double door *n* : an opening with two vertical doors that meet in the middle of the opening when closed — compare DUTCH DOOR
double dribble *n* : an illegal action in basketball made when a player dribbles the ball with two hands simultaneously or continues to dribble after allowing the ball to come to rest in one or both hands
dou·ble–edged \ˌdəb-ə-ˈlejd\ *adj* **1** : having two cutting edges **2 a** : having a dual purpose or effect ⟨a spy with a ~ mission⟩ **b** : capable of being understood or interpreted in two ways ⟨a ~ slur⟩
dou·ble–end·ed \ˌdəb-ə-ˈlen-dəd\ *adj* : similar at both ends ⟨a ~ bolt⟩
dou·ble–end·er \-dər\ *n* : a ship with bow and stern of similar shape
dou·ble en·ten·dre \ˌdüb(-ə)-ˌlä⁽ⁿ⁾-ˈtä⁽ⁿ⁾dr², ˌdəb-ə-, -ˈtä⁽ⁿ⁾d(-rə)\ *n, pl* **double entendres** \-ˈtä⁽ⁿ⁾dr², -ˈtä⁽ⁿ⁾d-rəz, -ˈtä⁽ⁿ⁾n(d)z\ [obs. F, lit., double meaning] **1** : ambiguity of meaning arising from language that lends itself to more than one interpretation **2** : a word or expression capable of two interpretations one of which often has a risqué connotation
double entry *n* : a method of bookkeeping that recognizes both the receiving and the giving sides of a business transaction by debiting the amount of the transaction to one account and crediting it to another account so that the total debits equal the total credits
dou·ble–faced \ˌdəb-əl-ˈfāst\ *adj* **1** : having two faces or sides designed for use ⟨a ~ bookshelf⟩ **2** : TWO-FACED, HYPOCRITICAL
dou·ble–fault \-ˈfȯlt\ *vi* : to lose a point in tennis by making two consecutive faults while serving
double feature *n* : a movie program consisting of two main films
double fertilization *n* : fertilization characteristic of seed plants in which one sperm nucleus fuses with the egg nucleus to form an embryo and another fuses with polar nuclei to form endosperm
dou·ble·head·er \ˌdəb-əl-ˈhed-ər\ *n* **1** : a train pulled by two locomotives **2** : two games, contests, or events held consecutively on the same program
double hyphen *n* : a punctuation mark = used in place of a hyphen at the end of a line to indicate that the word so divided is normally hyphenated
double indemnity *n* : a provision in a life-insurance or accident policy whereby the company agrees to pay twice the face of the contract in case of accidental death
double jeopardy *n* : the putting of a person on trial for an offense for which he has previously been put on trial under a valid charge : two adjudications for one offense
dou·ble–joint·ed \ˌdəb-əl-ˈjȯint-əd\ *adj* : having a joint that permits an exceptional degree of freedom of motion of the parts joined
double knit *n* : a knitted fabric (as wool) made with a double set of needles to produce a double thickness of fabric with each thickness joined by interlocking stitches
double negative *n* : a now substandard syntactic construction containing two negatives and having a negative meaning ⟨"I didn't hear nothing" is a *double negative*⟩
dou·ble–park \ˌdəb-əl-ˈpärk\ *vi* : to double-park a vehicle ~ *vt* : to park (a vehicle) beside a row of automobiles already parked parallel to the curb
double play *n* : a play in baseball by which two players are put out
double precision *n* : the use of two computer words rather than one to represent a number
dou·ble–quick \ˈdəb-əl-ˌkwik\ *n* : DOUBLE TIME — **double–quick** *vi*
double reed *n* : two cane reeds bound and vibrating against each other and used as the mouthpiece of certain woodwind instruments
double refraction *n* : BIREFRINGENCE
dou·ble–ring \ˌdəb-əl-ˌriŋ\ *adj* : of or relating to a wedding ceremony in which each partner ceremonially gives the other a wedding ring while formally declaring wedded commitment
double salt *n* **1** : a salt (as an alum) yielding on hydrolysis two different cations or anions **2** : a salt regarded as a molecular combination of two distinct salts
dou·ble–space \ˌdəb-əl-ˈspās\ *vt* : to type (copy) leaving alternate lines blank ~ *vi* : to type on every other line
dou·ble·speak \ˈdəb-əl-ˌspēk\ *n* : DOUBLE-TALK 2
double standard *n* **1** : BIMETALLISM **2** : a set of principles that applies differently and usu. more rigorously to one group of people or circumstances than to another; *esp* : a code of morals that applies different and more severe standards of sexual behavior to women than to men
double star *n* **1** : BINARY STAR **2** : two stars in very nearly the same line of sight but seen as physically separate by means of a telescope
double sugar *n* : DISACCHARIDE
dou·blet \ˈdəb-lət\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. *double*] **1** : a man's close-fitting jacket worn in Europe esp. during the Renaissance **2** : something consisting of two identical or similar parts: as **a** : a lens consisting of two components; *specif* : a small magnifying hand lens consisting of two single lenses in a metal cylinder **b** : a spectrum line having two close components **c** : a domino with the same number of spots on each end **3** : a set of two identical or similar things; *specif* : two thrown dice with the same number of spots on the upper face **4** : one of a pair; *specif* : one of two or more words (as *guard* and *ward*) in the same language derived by different routes of transmission from the same source
dou·ble take \ˈdəb-əl-ˌtāk\ *n* : a delayed reaction to a surprising or significant situation after an initial failure to notice anything unusual — usu. used in the phrase *do a double take*
dou·ble–talk \-ˌtȯk\ *n* **1** : language that appears to be earnest and meaningful but in fact is a mixture of sense and nonsense **2** : inflated, involved, and often deliberately ambiguous language — **double–talk** *vi* — **dou·ble–talk·er** *n*
dou·ble–team \-ˌtēm\ *vt* : to block or guard (an opponent) with two players at one time
Double Ten *n* [trans. of Chin (Pek) *shuang¹ shih²*; fr. its being the tenth day of the tenth month] : October 10 observed by Nationalist China in commemoration of the revolution of 1911
dou·ble·think \ˈdəb-əl-ˌthiŋk\ *n* : a simultaneous belief in two contradictory ideas
dou·ble–time \ˈdəb-əl-ˌtīm\ *vi* : to move at double time
double time *n* **1** : a marching cadence of 180 36-inch steps per minute **2** : payment of a worker at twice his regular wage rate
dou·ble–tongue \ˌdəb-əl-ˌtəŋ\ *vi* : to cause the tongue to alternate rapidly between the positions for *t* and *k* so as to produce a fast succession of detached notes on a wind instrument
dou·ble·tree \ˈdəb-əl-(ˌ)trē\ *n* : an equalizing bar for use with a two-horse team
double twill *n* : a twill weave with intersecting diagonal lines going in opposite directions
dou·ble–u *as at* w\ *n* : the letter *w*
double up *vi* : to share accommodations designed for one
double vision *n* : DIPLOPIA
dou·bloon \ˌdəb-ˈlün\ *n* [Sp *doblón*, aug. of *dobla*, an old Spanish coin, fr. L *dupla*, fem. of *duplus* double — more at DOUBLE] : an old gold coin of Spain and Spanish America
dou·bly \ˈdəb-(ə-)lē\ *adv* **1** : to twice the degree **2** : in a twofold manner
¹doubt \ˈdaůt\ *vb* [ME *douten*, fr. OF *douter* to doubt, fr. L *dubitare*; akin to L *dubius* dubious — more at DUBIOUS] *vt* **1** *archaic* : FEAR **2** : to be in doubt about ⟨he ~*s* everyone's word⟩ **3 a** : to lack confidence in : DISTRUST ⟨find myself ~*ing* him even when I know that he is honest —H. L. Mencken⟩ **b** : to consider unlikely ⟨I ~ that it is authentic⟩ ~ *vi* : to be uncertain — **doubt·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **doubt·er** *n* — **doubt·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*
²doubt *n* **1 a** : uncertainty of belief or opinion that often interferes with decision-making **b** : a deliberate suspension of judgment **2** : a state of affairs giving rise to uncertainty, hesitation, or suspense **3 a** : a lack of confidence : DISTRUST **b** : an inclination not to believe or accept ***syn*** see UNCERTAINTY ***ant*** certitude, confidence — **no doubt** : ¹DOUBTLESS
doubt·ful \ˈdaůt-fəl\ *adj* **1** : giving rise to doubt : open to question ⟨it is ~ that they ever knew what happened⟩ ⟨a ~ proposition⟩ **2 a** : lacking a definite opinion, conviction, or determination ⟨they were ~ about the advantages of the new system⟩ **b** : uncertain in outcome : UNDECIDED ⟨a ~ progress⟩ ⟨the outcome of the election remains ~⟩ **3** : marked by qualities that raise doubts about worth, honesty, or validity — **doubt·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **doubt·ful·ness** *n*
syn DOUBTFUL, DUBIOUS, PROBLEMATIC, QUESTIONABLE *shared meaning element* : not affording assurance of the worth, soundness, success, or certainty of something or someone. *Doubtful* and *dubious* are sometimes used with little distinction ⟨a *doubtful* (or *dubious*) reputation⟩ ⟨we are *doubtful* (or *dubious*) about their chances of success⟩ but DOUBTFUL may positively impute worthlessness, unsoundness, failure, or uncertainty ⟨their future prospects are very *doubtful*⟩ ⟨his title to the property is *doubtful*⟩ while DUBIOUS can stress hesitation, mistrust, or suspicion (as in accepting or following); thus, a *doubtful* adherent to a party is one who cannot be counted on while a *dubious* adherent is less than wholeheartedly so because of uncertainties in his own mind; *doubtful* friends are probably not real friends while *dubious* friends give grounds for suspicion as to their worth or probity. PROBLEMATIC is applicable to any situation whose outcome is quite unpredictable ⟨success in the control of inflation remains *problematic*⟩ QUESTIONABLE may imply little more than the existence of doubt ⟨the legality of his action is *questionable*⟩ or it may stress doubt about propriety and imply strong or well-grounded suspicion ⟨*questionable* behavior⟩ ⟨a man of *questionable* reputation⟩ ***ant*** positive
doubting Thom·as \-ˈtäm-əs\ *n* [*Thomas*, apostle of Jesus who doubted Jesus' resurrection until he had proof of it (Jn 20:24–29)] : a habitually doubtful person
¹doubt·less \ˈdaůt-ləs\ *adv* **1** : without doubt **2** : PROBABLY
²doubtless *adj* : free from doubt : CERTAIN — **doubt·less·ly** *adv* — **doubt·less·ness** *n*
douce \ˈdüs\ *adj* [ME, sweet, pleasant, fr. MF, fr. fem. of *douz*, fr. L *dulcis*] *chiefly Scot* : SOBER, SEDATE ⟨the ~ faces of the mourners — L. J. A. Bell⟩ — **douce·ly** *adv, chiefly Scot*
dou·ceur \dü-ˈsər\ *n* [F, pleasantness, fr. LL *dulcor* sweetness, fr. L *dulcis* sweet] : a conciliatory gift
douche \ˈdüsh\ *n* [F, fr. It *doccia*, fr. *docciare* to douche, fr. *doccia* water pipe, prob. back-formation fr. *doccione* conduit, fr. L *duction-, ductio* action of leading, fr. *ductus*, pp. of *ducere* to lead — more at TOW] **1 a** : a jet or current esp. of water directed against a part or into a cavity of the body **b** : an act of cleansing with a douche **2** : a device for giving douches — **douche** *vb*
dough \ˈdō\ *n* [ME *dogh*, fr. OE *dāg*; akin to OHG *teic* dough, L *fingere* to shape, Gk *teichos* wall] **1** : a mixture of flour and other ingredients stiff enough to knead or roll **2** : something resembling dough esp. in consistency **3** : MONEY **4** : DOUGHBOY — **dough·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj*

dough·boy \-ˌbȯi\ *n* : an American infantryman esp. in World War I

dough·face \-ˌfās\ *n* : a northern congressman not opposed to slavery in the South before or during the Civil War; *also* : a northerner sympathetic to the South during the same period — **dough-faced** \-ˈfāst\ *adj*

dough·foot \-ˌfu̇t\ *n, pl* **dough·feet** \-ˌfēt\ *or* **doughfoots** : INFANTRYMAN

dough·nut \-(ˌ)nət\ *n* **1** : a small usu. ring-shaped cake fried in fat **2** : something that resembles a doughnut esp. in shape; *specif* : TORUS 4

dough·ty \ˈdau̇t-ē\ *adj* **dough·ti·er; -est** [ME, fr. OE *dohtig;* akin to OHG *toug* is useful, Gk *teuchein* to make] : marked by fearless resolution : VALIANT — **dough·ti·ly** \ˈdau̇t-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **dough·ti·ness** \ˈdau̇t-ē-nəs\ *n*

doughy \ˈdō-ē\ *adj* **dough·i·er; -est** : resembling dough: as **a** : not thoroughly baked **b** : unhealthily pale : PASTY ⟨a ~ complexion⟩

Doug·las fir \ˌdəg-ləs-\ *n* [David *Douglas* †1834 Sc botanist] : a tall evergreen timber tree (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) of the western U.S. having thick bark, pitchy wood, and pendulous cones — called also *Douglas spruce*

Dou·kho·bor \ˈdü-kə-ˌbȯ(ə)r\ *n* [Russ *dukhoborets,* fr. *dukh* spirit + *borets* wrestler] : a member of a Christian sect of 18th century Russian origin emphasizing the duty of obeying the inner light and rejecting church or civil authority

do up *vt* **1 a** : to clean and make ready for use or wear : LAUNDER ⟨*do up* a shirt⟩ **b** : to put in order ⟨the maid will *do up* your room⟩ **c** : REPAIR, RENOVATE ⟨*do up* old furniture⟩ **2 a** : to wrap up ⟨*do up* a package⟩ **b** : to put up : CAN **3** : to deck out : CLOTHE **4** : to wear out : EXHAUST

dour \ˈdau̇(ə)r, ˈdu̇(ə)r\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *durus* hard — more at DURING] **1** : STERN, HARSH **2** : OBSTINATE, UNYIELDING **3** : GLOOMY, SULLEN — **dour·ly** *adv* — **dour·ness** *n*

¹douse \ˈdüs, ˈdau̇s\ *n* [origin unknown] *Brit* : BLOW, STROKE

²douse \ˈdau̇s\ *vt* **doused; dous·ing** **1 a** : to take in ⟨~ a sail⟩ **b** : SLACKEN ⟨~ a rope⟩ **2** : DOFF ⟨*doused* my cap on entering the porch —W. M. Thackeray⟩

³douse \ˈdau̇s *also* ˈdau̇z\ *vb* **doused; dous·ing** [prob. fr. obs. E *douse* (to smite), fr. ¹*douse*] *vt* **1** : to plunge into water **2 a** : to throw a liquid on : DRENCH **b** : SLOSH **3** : EXTINGUISH ⟨~ the lights⟩ ~ *vi* : to fall or become plunged into water — **dous·er** *n*

⁴douse \ˈdau̇s *also* ˈdau̇z\ *n* : a heavy drenching

¹dove \ˈdəv\ *n* [ME, fr. (assumed) OE *dūfe;* akin to OHG *tūba* dove, and prob. to OE *dēaf* deaf] **1** : any of numerous pigeons; *esp* : a small wild pigeon **2** : a gentle woman or child **3** : an individual who takes a conciliatory attitude (as in a dispute) and advocates negotiations and compromise; *esp* : an opponent of war — compare HAWK — **dov·ish** \ˈdəv-ish\ *adj* — **dov·ish·ness** *n*

²dove \ˈdōv\ *past of* DIVE

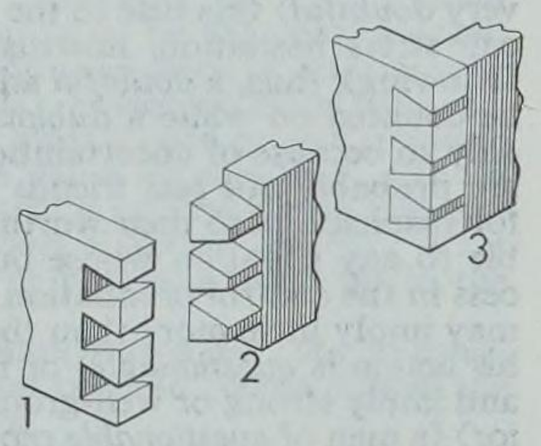
dove·cote \ˈdəv-ˌkōt, -ˌkät\ *or* **dove·cot** \-ˌkät\ *n* **1** : a small compartmented raised house or box for domestic pigeons **2** : a settled or harmonious group or organization ⟨theological ~*s* throughout the world were set in an uproar —Cecil Roth⟩

dove·kie \ˈdəv-kē\ *n* [dim. of *dove*] : a small short-billed auk (*Plautus alle*) breeding on arctic coasts and ranging south in winter

doven *var of* DAVEN

Do·ver's powder \ˌdō-vərz-\ *n* [Thomas *Dover* †1742 E physician] : a powder of ipecac and opium compounded in the U.S. with lactose and in England with potassium sulfate and used as an anodyne and diaphoretic

¹dove·tail \ˈdəv-ˌtāl\ *n* : something resembling a dove's tail; *esp* : a flaring tenon and a mortise into which it fits tightly making an interlocking joint between two pieces (as of wood)



dovetail: *1* mortises, *2* tenons, *3* joint

²dovetail *vt* **1 a** : to join by means of dovetails **b** : to cut to a dovetail **2 a** : to fit skillfully to form a whole **b** : to fit together with ~ *vi* : to fit together into a whole

dow \ˈdau̇\ *vi* **dought** \ˈdau̇t\ *or* **dowed** \ˈdau̇d\; **dow·ing** [ME *dow, deih* have worth, am able, fr. OE *dēah, dēag;* akin to OHG *toug* is worthy, is useful — more at DOUGHTY] *chiefly Scot* : to be able or capable

Dow \ˈdau̇\ *n* : DOW-JONES AVERAGE

dow·a·ger \ˈdau̇-i-jər\ *n* [MF *douagiere,* fr. *douage* dower, fr. *douer* to endow, fr. L *dotare,* fr. *dot-, dos* gift, dower — more at DOWRY] **1** : a widow holding property or a title received from her deceased husband **2** : a dignified elderly woman

¹dowdy \ˈdau̇d-ē\ *n, pl* **dowd·ies** **1** [dim. of *dowd* (dowdy), fr. ME *doude*] *archaic* : a dowdy woman **2** : PANDOWDY

²dowdy *adj* **dowd·i·er; -est** **1** : not neat or becoming in appearance : SHABBY **2 a** : lacking smartness or taste **b** : OLD-FASHIONED — **dowd·i·ly** \ˈdau̇d-ᵊl-ē\ *adv* — **dowd·i·ness** \ˈdau̇d-ē-nəs\ *n* — **dowdy·ish** \-ish\ *adj*

¹dow·el \ˈdau̇(-ə)l\ *n* [ME *dowle;* akin to OHG *tubili* plug, LGk *typhos* wedge] **1** : a pin fitting into a hole in an abutting piece to prevent motion or slipping; *also* : a round rod or stick used esp. for cutting up into dowels **2** : a piece of wood driven into a wall so that other pieces can be nailed to it

²dowel *vt* **-eled** *or* **-elled; -el·ing** *or* **-el·ling** : to fasten by or furnish with dowels

¹dow·er \ˈdau̇(-ə)r\ *n* [ME *dowere,* fr. MF *douaire,* modif. of ML *dotarium* — more at DOWRY] **1** : the part of or interest in the real estate of a deceased husband given by law to his widow during her life **2** : DOWRY

²dower *vt* : to supply with a dower or dowry : ENDOW

dow·itch·er \ˈdau̇-i-chər\ *n, pl* **dowitchers** *also* **dowitcher** [of Iroquoian origin; akin to Mohawk *tawis* dowitcher] : a long-billed snipe (*Limnodromus griseus*) intermediate in characters between the typical snipes (genus *Capella*) and the sandpipers

Dow–Jones average \ˌdau̇-jōnz-\ *n* [Charles H. *Dow* †1902 & Edward D. *Jones* †1920 Am financial statisticians] : an index of the relative price of securities based on the daily average price of selected lists of industrial, transportation, and utility common stocks

¹down \ˈdau̇n\ *n* [ME *doun* hill, fr. OE *dūn;* akin to ON *dūnn* down of feathers] **1** : an undulating usu. treeless upland with sparse soil — usu. used in pl. **2** *often cap* : a sheep of any breed originating in the downs of southern England

²down *adv* [ME *doun,* fr. OE *dūne,* short for *adūne, of dūne,* fr. *a-* (fr. *of*), *of* off, from + *dūne,* dat. of *dūn* hill] **1 a** (1) : toward or in a lower physical position (2) : to a lying or sitting position (3) : toward or to the ground, floor, or bottom **b** : on the spot : in cash ⟨paid $10 ~⟩ **c** : on paper ⟨put ~ what he says⟩ **2** : in a direction that is the opposite of up: as **a** : SOUTHWARD **b** : to or toward a point away from the speaker or the speaker's point of reference **3** — often used as an intensive ⟨cool ~ tensions and hostilities⟩ ⟨had the subject ~ pat⟩ **4** : to or toward a lower position in a series **5** : to or in a lower or worse condition or status **6** : from a past time **7** : to or in a state of less activity or prominence **8** : to a concentrated state ⟨got his report ~ to three pages⟩ ⟨boiled the sap ~ into syrup⟩ — **down to the ground** : PERFECTLY, COMPLETELY ⟨that suits me *down to the ground*⟩

³down *adj* **1 a** (1) : occupying a low position; *specif* : lying on the ground ⟨~ timber⟩ (2) : directed or going downward **b** : lower in price **c** : not being in play in football because of wholly stopped progress or because the officials stop the play ⟨marked the ball ~ on the 15-yard line⟩ **d** : defeated or trailing an opponent (as in points scored) ⟨~ two tricks⟩ ⟨~ by two touchdowns⟩ **e** *baseball* : OUT **2 a** : being in a state of reduced or low activity **b** (1) : DEPRESSED, DEJECTED (2) : SICK ⟨~ with flu⟩ **3** : FINISHED, DONE ⟨eight ~ and two to go⟩ — **down on** : having a low opinion of or dislike for ⟨~ on him⟩

⁴down \(ˌ)daun\ *prep* : down along, around, through, toward, in, into, or on

⁵down \ˈdaun\ *n* **1** : DESCENT, DEPRESSION **2** : an instance of putting down **3 a** : a complete play to advance the ball in football **b** : one of a series of four attempts to advance a football 10 yards **4** : DISLIKE, GRUDGE **5** : DOWNER 1

⁶down *vt* **1** : to cause to go or come down **2** : to cause (a football) to be out of play **3** : DEFEAT ~ *vi* : to go down

⁷down *n* [ME *doun,* fr. ON *dūnn*] **1** : a covering of soft fluffy feathers **2** : something soft and fluffy like down

down–and–out *adj* **1** : physically weakened or incapacitated **2** : DESTITUTE, IMPOVERISHED

¹down·beat \ˈdaun-ˌbēt\ *n* **1** : the downward stroke of a conductor indicating the principally accented note of a measure of music; *also* : the first beat of a measure **2** : a decline in activity or prosperity

²downbeat *adj* : PESSIMISTIC, GLOOMY

down–bow \ˈdaun-ˌbō\ *n* : a stroke in playing a bowed instrument (as a violin) in which the bow is drawn across the strings from the heel to the tip

down·cast \ˈdaun-\ *adj* **1** : low in spirit : DEJECTED **2** : directed downward ⟨with ~ eyes⟩

down·court \-ˈkō(ə)rt, -ˈkȯ(ə)rt\ *adv or adj* : in or into the opposite end of the court (as in basketball)

down east *adv or adj, often cap D & E* : in or into the northeast coastal section of the U.S. and parts of the Maritime Provinces of Canada; *specif* : in or into coastal Maine

down·er \ˈdau̇-nər\ *n* **1** : a depressant drug; *esp* : BARBITURATE **2** : a depressing experience or situation

down·fall \ˈdaun-ˌfȯl\ *n* **1 a** : a sudden fall (as from high rank or power) **b** : a fall (as of snow or rain) esp. when sudden or heavy **2** : something that causes a downfall (as of a person) ⟨drink was his ~⟩ — **down·fall·en** \-ˌfȯ-lən\ *adj*

down·field \-ˈfē(ə)ld\ *adv or adj* : in or into the part of the field toward which the offensive team is headed

¹down·grade \ˈdaun-ˌgrād\ *n* **1** : a downward grade (as of a road) **2** : a descent toward an inferior state — used esp. in the phrase *on the downgrade*

²downgrade *vt* **1** : MINIMIZE, DEPRECIATE **2** : to alter the status of (a job) so as to lower the rate of pay

down·haul \ˈdaun-ˌhȯl\ *n* : a rope or line for hauling down or holding down a sail or spar

down·heart·ed \-ˈhärt-əd\ *adj* : DOWNCAST, DEJECTED — **down·heart·ed·ly** *adv* — **down·heart·ed·ness** *n*

¹down·hill \ˈdaun-ˌhil\ *n* **1** : a descending gradient **2** : a skiing race against time down a trail

²down·hill \-ˈhil\ *adv* **1** : toward the bottom of a hill **2** : toward a lower or inferior state or level — used esp. in the phrase *go downhill*

³down·hill \-ˌhil\ *adj* **1** : sloping downhill **2** : of or relating to skiing downhill **3** : being the lower one or part esp. of a set; *specif* : being nearer the bottom of an incline ⟨your ~ ski, knee, hip and shoulder are angled slightly lower —Perry Fairbank⟩ **4** : not difficult : EASY ⟨had solved the biggest problems and the rest was ~⟩

down–home \ˌdaun-ˌhōm\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of the southern U.S. ⟨a ~ drawl⟩ ⟨traveled widely through the South in rhythm-and-blues bands . . . and this ~ element has never left his music —A. B. Spellman⟩

down payment *n* : a part of the full price paid at the time of purchase or delivery with the balance to be paid later

down·play \ˈdaun-ˌplā\ *vt* : to play down : DE-EMPHASIZE

down·pour \-ˌpō(ə)r, -ˌpȯ(ə)r\ *n* : a pouring or streaming downward; *esp* : a heavy rain

down·range \-ˈrānj\ *adv* : away from a launching site and along the course of a test range ⟨a missile landing 5000 miles ~⟩ — **down·range** *adj*

¹down·right \-ˌrīt\ *adv* **1** *archaic* : straight down **2** : THOROUGHLY, OUTRIGHT ⟨~ mean⟩ **3** : with straightforward directness

²downright *adj* **1** *archaic* : directed vertically downward **2** : ABSOLUTE, THOROUGH ⟨a ~ lie⟩ **3** : PLAIN, BLUNT ⟨a ~ man⟩ — **down·right·ly** *adv* — **down·right·ness** *n*
down·riv·er \'daůn-'riv-ər\ *adv or adj* : toward or at a point nearer the mouth of a river
down·shift \-ˌshift\ *vi* : to shift an automotive vehicle into a lower gear — **downshift** *n*
Down's syndrome \'daůnz-\ *n* [J. L. H. *Down* †1896 E physician] : MONGOLISM
¹down·stage \'daůn-'stāj\ *adv or adj* **1** : toward or at the front of a theatrical stage **2** : toward a motion-picture or television camera
²down·stage \-ˌstāj\ *n* : the part of a stage that is nearest the audience or camera
¹down·stairs \'daůn-'sta(ə)rz, -'ste(ə)rz\ *adv* : down the stairs : on or to a lower floor
²downstairs \ˌdaůn-ˌsta(ə)rz, -ˌste(ə)rz\ *adj* : situated on the main, lower, or ground floor of a building
³downstairs \'daůn-', 'daůn-ˌ\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : the lower floor of a building
down·state \-ˌstāt\ *n* : the chiefly southerly sections of a state of the U.S. as distinguished from a northerly part and esp. a metropolitan region often designated as *upstate* — **down·state** \-'stāt\ *adv or adj* — **down·stat·er** \-'stāt-ər\ *n*
down·stream \'daůn-'strēm\ *adv or adj* : in the direction of the flow of a stream
down·stroke \-ˌstrōk\ *n* : a stroke made in a downward direction
down·swing \-ˌswiŋ\ *n* **1** : a downward swing **2** : a downward trend esp. in business activity
down–the–line *adj* : all the way : COMPLETE ⟨a ~ union supporter⟩
down·time \'daůn-ˌtīm\ *n* : time during which a machine, department, or factory is inactive during normal operating hours
down–to–earth \ˌdaůn-tə-'(w)ərth\ *adj* : PRACTICAL, REALISTIC ⟨a ~ appraisal of the situation⟩ — **down–to–earth·ness** *n*
¹down·town \'daůn-'taůn\ *adv* : to, toward, or in the lower part of a town or city; *esp* : to, toward, or in the main business district — **downtown** \ˌdaůn-ˌtaůn\ *adj*
²downtown \'daůn-ˌtaůn\ *n* : the section of a town or city located downtown
down·trend \-ˌtrend\ *n* : a downturn esp. in business and economic activity
down·trod·den \'daůn-'träd-ᵊn\ *adj* : oppressed by superior power ⟨the ~ peasants⟩
down·turn \-ˌtərn\ *n* : a downward turn esp. toward a decline in business activity
down under *adv* : into or in Australia or New Zealand
¹down·ward \'daůn-wərd\ *or* **down·wards** \-wərdz\ *adv* **1 a** : from a higher to a lower place **b** : toward a direction that is the opposite of up **2** : from a higher to a lower condition **3 a** : from an earlier time **b** : from an ancestor or predecessor
²downward *adj* **1** : moving or extending downward **2** : descending from a head, origin, or source — **down·ward·ly** *adv* — **down·ward·ness** *n*
down·wind \'daůn-'wind\ *adv or adj* : in the direction that the wind is blowing
downy \'daů-nē\ *adj* **down·i·er; -est** **1** : resembling a bird's down **2** : covered with down **3** : made of down **4** : SOFT, SOOTHING ⟨shake off this ~ sleep, death's counterfeit —Shak.⟩
downy mildew *n* **1** : any of various parasitic lower fungi (family Peronosporaceae) that produce whitish masses of sporangiophores or conidiophores on the undersurface of the leaves of the host **2** : a plant disease caused by a downy mildew
downy woodpecker *n* : a small black-and-white woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*) of No. America that has a white back and is smaller than the hairy woodpecker
dow·ry \'daů(ə)r-ē\ *n, pl* **dowries** [ME *dowarie*, fr. AF, irreg. fr. ML *dotarium*, fr. L *dot-, dos* gift, marriage portion; akin to L *dare* to give — more at DATE] **1** *archaic* : DOWER 1 **2 a** : the money, goods, or estate that a woman brings to her husband in marriage **b** : a sum of money or its equivalent required of postulants by some orders of cloistered nuns **3** : a gift of money or property by a man to or for his bride **4** : a natural gift : TALENT
dow·sa·bel \'daů-sə-ˌbel, -zə-\ *n* [*Dowsabel*, fem. name] *obs* : SWEETHEART
¹dowse *var of* DOUSE
²dowse \'daůz\ *vb* **dowsed; dows·ing** [origin unknown] *vi* : to use a divining rod ~ *vt* : to find (as water) by dowsing
dows·er \'daů-zər\ *n* : DIVINING ROD; *also* : a person who uses it
Dow theory *n* : a system of stock-market forecasting based on the observed swings of the market itself
dox·ol·o·gy \däk-'säl-ə-jē\ *n, pl* **-gies** [ML *doxologia*, fr. LGk, fr. Gk *doxa* opinion, glory (fr. *dokein* to seem, seem good) + *-logia* -logy — more at DECENT] : a usu. liturgical expression of praise to God
doxy \'däk-sē\ *n, pl* **dox·ies** [perh. modif. of obs. D *docke* doll, fr. MD] **1** : a woman of loose morals : PROSTITUTE **2** : MISTRESS 5a
doy·en \'dȯi-ən, -ˌ(y)en; 'dwä-ˌyaⁿ(n)\ *n* [F, fr. LL *decanus* dean — more at DEAN] **1 a** : the senior man of a body or group **b** : a person uniquely skilled by long experience in some field of endeavor **2** : the oldest example of a category ⟨the ~ of the country's newspapers⟩
doy·enne \dȯi-'(y)en, dwä-'yen\ *n* [F, fem. of *doyen*] : a female doyen
doy·ley *var of* DOILY
doz *abbr* dozen
¹doze \'dōz\ *vb* **dozed; doz·ing** [prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *dūsa* to doze] *vt* : to pass (as time) drowsily ⟨*dozing* his life away⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to sleep lightly **b** : to fall into a light sleep — usu. used with *off* **2** : to be in a dull or stupefied condition — **doze** *n* — **doz·er** *n*
²doze *vt* **dozed; doz·ing** [prob. back-formation fr. *dozer* (bulldozer)] : BULLDOZE 2 — **doz·er** *n*

doz·en \'dəz-ᵊn\ *n, pl* **dozens** *or* **dozen** [ME *dozeine*, fr. OF *dozaine*, fr. *doze* twelve, fr. L *duodecim*, fr. *duo* two + *decem* ten — more at TWO, TEN] **1** : a group of 12 **2** : an indefinitely large number ⟨I've ~*s* of things to do⟩ — **dozen** *adj* — **doz·enth** \-ᵊn(t)th\ *adj*
dozy \'dō-zē\ *adj* **doz·i·er; -est** : DROWSY, SLEEPY — **doz·i·ness** *n*
¹DP \'dē-'pē\ *n, pl* **DP's** *or* **DPs** : DISPLACED PERSON
²DP *abbr* **1** data processing **2** degree of polymerization **3** dew point **4** doctor of podiatry **5** double play
DPE *abbr* doctor of physical education
DPh *abbr* doctor of philosophy
DPH *abbr* **1** department of public health **2** doctor of public health
DPN \ˌdē-ˌpē-'en\ *n* [*di*phosphop*y*ridine *n*ucleotide] : NAD
dpt *abbr* **1** department **2** deponent
DPT *abbr* diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus
dr *abbr* **1** debtor **2** drachma **3** dram **4** drive **5** drum
Dr *abbr* doctor
DR *abbr* **1** dead reckoning **2** dining room
¹drab \'drab\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : SLATTERN **2** : HARLOT
²drab *vi* **drabbed; drab·bing** : to associate with prostitutes
³drab *n* [MF *drap* cloth, fr. LL *drappus*] **1** : any of various cloths of a dull brown or gray color; *esp* : a thick woolen coating or a heavy cotton **2 a** : a light olive brown **b** : a dull, lifeless, or faded appearance or quality
⁴drab *adj* **drab·ber; drab·best** **1 a** : of the dull brown color of drab **b** : of the color drab **2** : characterized by dullness and monotony : CHEERLESS ⟨formal engagements are generally ~ and boring —Andrew Duncan⟩ — **drab·ly** *adv* — **drab·ness** *n*
⁵drab *n* [prob. alter. of *drib*] : a small amount — usu. used in the phrase *dribs and drabs*
drab·bet \'drab-ət\ *n* [³*drab* + *-et*] *dial Eng* : a coarse unbleached linen fabric
drab·ble \'drab-əl\ *vb* **drab·bled; drab·bling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *drabelen*] *vt* : DRAGGLE ~ *vi* : to become wet and muddy
dra·cae·na \drə-'sē-nə\ *n* [NL, fr. LL, she-serpent, fr. Gk *drakaina*, fem. of *drakōn* serpent — more at DRAGON] : any of two genera (*Dracaena* and *Cordyline*) of Old World tropical shrubs or trees of the lily family with naked branches ending in tufts of sword-shaped leaves
drachm \'dram\ *n* [alter. of ME *dragme* — more at DRAM] **1** : DRACHMA **2** : DRAM
drach·ma \'drak-mə\ *n, pl* **drach·mas** *or* **drach·mae** \-(ˌ)mē, -ˌmī\ *or* **drach·mai** \-ˌmī\ [L, fr. Gk *drachmē*— more at DRAM] **1 a** : any of various ancient Greek units of weight **b** : any of various modern units of weight; *esp* : DRAM 1 **2 a** : an ancient Greek silver coin equivalent to 6 obols **b** — see MONEY table
Dra·co \'drā-(ˌ)kō\ *n* [L (gen. *Draconis*), lit., dragon — more at DRAGON] : a northern circumpolar constellation within which is the north pole of the ecliptic
dra·co·ni·an \drā-'kō-nē-ən, drə-\ *adj, often cap* [L *Dracon-, Draco*] **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of Draco or the severe code of laws held to have been framed by him **2** : extremely harsh or cruel : RIGOROUS
¹dra·con·ic \drə-'kän-ik\ *adj* [L *dracon-, draco*] : of or relating to a dragon
²dra·con·ic \drā-'kän-ik, drə-\ *adj* : DRACONIAN
¹draft \'draft, 'dräft\ *n* [ME *draght;* akin to OE *dragan* to draw — more at DRAW] **1** : the act of drawing a net; *also* : the quantity of fish taken at one drawing **2 a** : the act of moving loads by drawing or pulling : PULL **b** : a team of animals together with what they draw **3 a** : the force required to pull an implement **b** : load or load-pulling capacity **4 a** : the act or an instance of drinking or inhaling; *also* : the portion drunk or inhaled in one such act **b** : a portion poured out or mixed for drinking : DOSE **5 a** : DELINEATION, REPRESENTATION; *specif* : a construction plan ⟨the ~ of a future building⟩ **b** : SCHEME, DESIGN **c** : a preliminary sketch, outline, or version ⟨the author's first ~⟩ **6** : the act, result, or plan of drawing out or stretching **7 a** : the act of drawing (as from a cask) **b** : a portion of liquid so drawn ⟨a ~ of beer⟩ **8** : an allowance granted a buyer for loss in weight **9** : the depth of water a ship draws esp. when loaded **10 a** (1) : a system or method for detaching or selecting individuals from a group (as for compulsory military service) (2) : an act or process of selecting an individual (as for political candidacy) without his expressed consent **b** : a group of individuals selected esp. by military draft **11 a** : an order for the payment of money drawn by one person or bank on another **b** : the act or an instance of drawing from or making demands upon something : DEMAND **12 a** : a current of air in a closed-in space **b** : a device for regulating the flow of air (as in a fireplace) **13** : ANGLE, TAPER; *specif* : the taper given to a pattern or die so that the work can be easily withdrawn **14** : a narrow border along the edge of a stone or across its face serving as a stonecutter's guide **15** : a system whereby exclusive rights to selected new players are apportioned among professional teams — **on draft** : ready to be drawn from a receptacle ⟨beer *on draft*⟩
²draft *adj* **1** : used for drawing loads ⟨~ animals⟩ **2** : constituting a preliminary or tentative version, sketch, or outline ⟨a ~ treaty⟩ **3** : being on draft ⟨~ beer⟩
³draft *vt* **1** : to detach or select for some purpose: as **a** : to conscript for military service **b** : to select (a professional athlete) by draft **2 a** : to draw the preliminary sketch, version, or plan of **b** : COMPOSE, PREPARE **3** : to draw off or away ⟨water ~*ed* by pumps⟩ **4** : to mark (as a stone) with a draft in masonry ~ *vi* **1** : to practice draftsmanship **2** : to drive close behind another car while racing at high speed in order to take advantage of the reduced air pressure created by the leading car — **draft·able** \'draf-

tə-bəl, 'drȧf-\ *adj* — **draft·ee** \draf-'tē, drȧf-\ *n* — **draft·er** \'draf-tər, 'drȧf-\ *n*

draft board *n* : a civilian board that registers, classifies, and selects men for compulsory military service

drafts·man \'draf(t)-smən, 'drȧf(t)-\ *n* **1** : one who draws legal documents or other writings **2** : one who draws plans and sketches (as of machinery or structures) **3** : an artist who excels in drawing — **drafts·man·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

drafty \'draf-tē, 'drȧf-\ *adj* **draft·i·er; -est** : of, relating to, or having a draft — **draft·i·ly** \-tə-lē\ *adv* — **draft·i·ness** \-tē-nəs\ *n*

¹drag \'drag\ *n* **1** : something that is dragged, pulled, or drawn along or over a surface: as **a** : HARROW **b** : a sledge for conveying heavy bodies **c** : CONVEYANCE **2** : something used to drag with; *esp* : a device for dragging under water to detect or obtain objects **3 a** : something that retards motion or action **b** (1) : the retarding force acting on a body (as an airplane) moving through a fluid (as air) parallel and opposite to the direction of motion (2) : friction between engine parts; *also* : retardation due to friction **c** : BURDEN, ENCUMBRANCE ⟨the ~ of population growth on living standards⟩ **4 a** : an object drawn over the ground to leave a scented trail **b** : a clog fastened to a trap to prevent the escape of a trapped animal **5 a** : the act or an instance of dragging or drawing: as (1) : a drawing along or over a surface with effort or pressure (2) : motion effected with slowness or difficulty; *also* : the condition of having or seeming to have such motion (3) : a draw on a pipe, cigarette, or cigar : PUFF; *also* : a draft of liquid **b** : a movement, inclination, or retardation caused by or as if by dragging **c** *slang* : influence securing special favor **6** : STREET, ROAD ⟨the main ~⟩ **7** *slang* : a girl that one is escorting **8** : woman's dress worn by a man — often used in the phrase *in drag* **9** : DRAG RACE **10** : one that is boring ⟨school is a ~ for some youngsters⟩

²drag *vb* **dragged; drag·ging** [ME *draggen*, fr. ON *draga* or OE *dragan* — more at DRAW] *vt* **1 a** (1) : to draw slowly or heavily : HAUL (2) : to cause to move with painful or undue slowness or difficulty ⟨*dragging* the musical tempo⟩ (3) : to cause to trail along a surface ⟨*dragged* his feet in the water⟩ **b** : to bring by force or compulsion ⟨had to ~ her husband to the opera⟩ **c** (1) : to pass (time) in lingering pain, tedium, or unhappiness (2) : PROTRACT ⟨~ a story out⟩ **2 a** : to explore with a drag **b** : to catch with a dragnet or trawl **3** : to hit (a bunt) by trailing the bat while moving toward first base ~ *vi* **1** : to hang or lag behind **2** : to fish or search with a drag **3** : to trail along on the ground **4** : to move on or proceed laboriously or tediously ⟨the book ~*s*⟩ **5** : DRAW ⟨~ on a cigarette⟩ **6** : to make a plucking or pulling movement **7** : to participate in a drag race ***syn*** see PULL — **drag·ging·ly** \'draj-iŋ-lē\ *adv* — **drag one's feet** *or* **drag one's heels** : to act in a deliberately slow, dilatory, or ineffective manner

drag bunt *n* : a bunt in baseball made by a left-handed batter by trailing the bat while moving toward first base; *broadly* : a bunt made with the object of getting on base safely rather than sacrificing

dra·gée \dra-'zhā\ *n* [F, fr. MF *dragie* — more at DREDGE] **1 a** : a sugar-coated nut **b** : a silver-coated candy for decorating cakes **2** : a sugar-coated medicated confection

drag·ger \'drag-ər\ *n* : one that drags; *specif* : a fishing boat operating a trawl or dragnet

drag·gle \'drag-əl\ *vb* **drag·gled; drag·gling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [freq. of *drag*] *vt* : to make wet and dirty by dragging ~ *vi* **1** : to trail on the ground **2** : STRAGGLE

drag·gle–tail \'drag-əl-ˌtāl\ *n* : SLATTERN

drag·gy \'drag-ē\ *adj* **drag·gi·er; -est** : SLUGGISH, DULL

drag·line \'drag-ˌlīn\ *n* **1** : a line used in or for dragging **2** : an excavating machine in which the bucket is attached by cables and operates by being drawn toward the machine

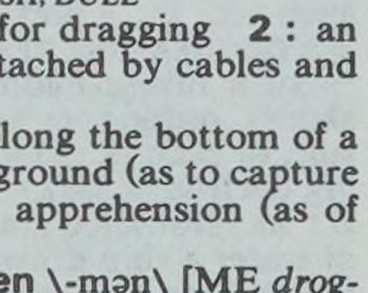
drag·net \'drag-ˌnet\ *n* **1 a** : a net drawn along the bottom of a body of water : TRAWL **b** : a net used on the ground (as to capture small game) **2** : a network of measures for apprehension (as of criminals)

drag·o·man \'drag-ə-mən\ *n, pl* **-mans,** *or* **-men** \-mən\ [ME *drogman*, fr. MF, fr. OIt *dragomanno*, fr. MGk *dragomanos*, fr. Ar *tarjumān*, fr. Aram *tūrgĕmānā*] : an interpreter chiefly of Arabic, Turkish, or Persian employed esp. in the Near East

drag·on \'drag-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *dracon-, draco* serpent, dragon, fr. Gk *drakōn* serpent; akin to OE *torht* bright, Gk *derkesthai* to see, look at] **1** *archaic* : a huge serpent **2** : a fabulous animal usu. represented as a monstrous winged and scaly serpent or saurian with a crested head and enormous claws **3** : a violent, combative, or very strict person **4 a** : a short musket formerly carried hooked to a soldier's belt; *also* : a soldier carrying such a musket **b** : an artillery tractor **5** : any of numerous small brilliantly colored arboreal lizards (genus *Draco*) of the East Indies and southern Asia having the hind ribs on each side prolonged and covered with a web of skin **6** *cap* : DRACO **7** : a formidable or baneful figure — **drag·on·ish** \-ə-nish\ *adj*

drag·on·et \ˌdrag-ə-'net, 'drag-ə-nət\ *n* **1** : a little dragon **2** : any of various small often brightly colored scaleless marine fishes constituting a family (Callionymidae); *esp* : a European fish (*Callionymus lyra*) sometimes used as food

drag·on·fly \'drag-ən-ˌflī\ *n* : any of a suborder (Anisoptera) of odonate insects that are larger and stouter than damselflies, hold the wings horizontal in repose, and have rectal gills during the naiad stage; *broadly* : ODONATE



dragonfly

drag·on·head \-ˌhed\ *n* : any of several mints (genus *Dracocephalum*) often grown for their showy flower heads; *esp* : a No. American plant (*D. parviflorum*)

dragon lizard *n* : an Indonesian monitor lizard (*Varanus komodoensis*) that is the largest of all known lizards and reaches 11 feet in length

dragon's blood *n* : any of several resinous mostly dark-red plant products; *specif* : a resin from the fruit of a palm (genus *Daemonorops*) used for coloring varnish and in photoengraving

dragon's teeth *n pl* [fr. the dragon's teeth sown by Cadmus which sprang up as armed warriors who killed one another off] **1** : seeds of strife **2** : wedge-shaped concrete antitank barriers laid in multiple rows

¹dra·goon \drə-'gün, dra-\ *n* [F *dragon* dragon, dragoon, fr. MF] : a member of a European military unit formerly composed of heavily armed mounted troops

²dragoon *vt* **1** : to reduce to subjection or persecute by harsh use of troops **2** : to force or attempt to force into submission by violent measures : HARASS

drag race *n* : an acceleration contest between vehicles (as automobiles) — **drag racing** *n*

drag·rope \'drag-ˌrōp\ *n* : a rope that drags or is used for dragging

drag·ster \'drag-stər\ *n* **1** : a vehicle (as an automobile) built or modified for use in a drag race **2** : one who participates in a drag race

drag strip *n* : the site of a drag race; *specif* : a narrow strip of pavement with a racing area at least ¼ mile long

drail \'drā(ə)l\ *n* [obs. E *drail* to drag, trail] : a heavy fishhook used in trolling

¹drain \'drān\ *vb* [ME *draynen*, fr. OE *drēahnian*] *vt* **1** *obs* : FILTER **2 a** : to draw off (liquid) gradually or completely ⟨~*ed* all the water out⟩ **b** : to cause the gradual disappearance of **c** : to exhaust physically or emotionally **3 a** : to make gradually dry ⟨~ a swamp⟩ **b** : to carry away the surface water of ⟨the river that ~*s* the valley⟩ **c** : to deplete or empty by or as if by drawing off by degrees or in increments ⟨war that ~*s* a nation of youth and wealth⟩ **d** : to empty by drinking the contents of ⟨~ a glass of beer⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to flow off gradually **b** : to disappear gradually : DWINDLE ⟨money ~*ing* away in expenses⟩ **2** : to become emptied or freed of liquid by its flowing or dropping **3** : to discharge surface or surplus water ***syn*** see DEPLETE — **drain·er** *n*

²drain *n* **1** : a means (as a pipe) by which usu. liquid matter is drained **2 a** : the act of draining **b** : a gradual outflow or withdrawal : DEPLETION ⟨a ruinous dollar ~⟩ **3** : something that causes depletion : BURDEN ⟨a ~ on the national resources⟩ — **down the drain** : being used wastefully or brought to nothing ⟨years of work went *down the drain* in the fire⟩

drain·age \'drā-nij\ *n* **1** : the act, process, or mode of draining; *also* : something drained off **2** : a device for draining : DRAIN; *also* : a system of drains **3** : an area or district drained

drain·pipe \'drān-ˌpīp\ *n* : a pipe for drainage

¹drake \'drāk\ *n* [ME, dragon, fr. OE *draca;* akin to ON *dreki* dragon; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc word borrowed fr. L *draco* dragon — more at DRAGON] **1** : a small piece of artillery of the 17th and 18th centuries **2** : MAYFLY

²drake *n* [ME; akin to OHG *antrahho* drake] : a male duck

¹dram \'dram\ *n* [ME *dragme*, fr. MF & LL; MF, dram, drachma, fr. LL *dragma*, fr. L *drachma*, fr. Gk *drachmē*, lit., handful, fr. *drassesthai* to grasp] **1 a** — see WEIGHT table **b** : FLUIDRAM **2 a** : a small portion of something to drink **b** : a small amount

²dram *abbr* **1** dramatic **2** dramatist

dra·ma \'dräm-ə, 'dram-\ *n* [LL *dramat-, drama*, fr. Gk, deed, drama, fr. *dran* to do, act; prob. akin to Lith *daryti* to do] **1** : a composition in verse or prose intended to portray life or character or to tell a story usu. involving conflicts and emotions through action and dialogue and typically designed for theatrical performance : PLAY — compare CLOSET DRAMA **2** : dramatic art, literature, or affairs **3 a** : a state, situation, or series of events involving interesting or intense conflict of forces **b** : dramatic state, effect, or quality ⟨the ~ of the courtroom proceedings⟩

dra·ma·logue \-ˌlȯg, -ˌläg\ *n* [*drama* + mono*logue*] : a reading of a play to an audience

Dram·a·mine \'dram-ə-ˌmēn\ *trademark* — used for dimenhydrinate

dra·mat·ic \drə-'mat-ik\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to the drama **2 a** : suitable to or characteristic of the drama : VIVID **b** : striking in appearance or effect **3** *of an opera singer* : having a powerful voice and a declamatory style — compare LYRIC — **dra·mat·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

dramatic irony *n* : IRONY 3b

dramatic monologue *n* : a literary work in which a character reveals himself in a monologue usu. addressed to a second person

dra·mat·ics \drə-'mat-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1** : the study or practice of theatrical arts (as acting and stagecraft) **2** : dramatic behavior or expression

dramatic unities *n pl* : the unities of time, place, and action that are observed in classical drama

dra·ma·tis per·so·nae \ˌdram-ət-ə-spər-'sō-(ˌ)nē, ˌdräm-, -ˌnī\ *n pl* [NL] **1** : the characters or actors in a drama **2** *sing in constr* : a list of the characters or actors in a drama

dra·ma·tist \'dram-ət-əst, 'dräm-\ *n* : PLAYWRIGHT

dra·ma·ti·za·tion \ˌdram-ət-ə-'zā-shən, ˌdräm-\ *n* **1** : the act or process of dramatizing **2** : a dramatized version (as of a novel)

dra·ma·tize \'dram-ə-ˌtīz, 'dräm-\ *vb* **-tized; -tiz·ing** *vt* **1** : to adapt (as a novel) for theatrical presentation **2** : to present or represent in a dramatic manner ~ *vi* **1** : to be suitable for dramatization **2** : to behave dramatically : put on an act — **dra·ma·tiz·able** \-ˌtī-zē-bəl\ *adj*

dra·ma·turge \'dram-ə-ˌtərj, 'dräm-\ *n* : a specialist in dramaturgy

dra·ma·tur·gy \'dram-ə-ˌtər-jē, 'dräm-\ *n* [G *dramaturgie*, fr. Gk *dramatourgia* dramatic composition, fr. *dramatourgos* dramatist, fr. *dramat-, drama* + *-ourgos* worker, fr. *ergon* work — more at WORK] : the art or technique of dramatic composition and theatrical representation — **dra·ma·tur·gic** \ˌdram-ə-'tər-jik, ˌdräm-\ *or* **dra·ma·tur·gi·cal** \-ji-kəl\ *adj* — **dra·ma·tur·gi·cal·ly** \-ji-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

dram·mock \'dram-ək\ *n* [ScGael *dramag* foul mixture] *chiefly Scot* : raw oatmeal mixed with cold water

dram·shop \'dram-ˌshäp\ *n* : BARROOM

drank *past of* DRINK

[1]drape \'drāp\ *vb* **draped; drap·ing** [ME *drapen* to weave, fr. MF *draper*, fr. *drap* cloth — more at DRAB] *vt* **1** : to cover or adorn with or as if with folds of cloth **2** : to cause to hang or stretch out loosely or carelessly ⟨*draped* his legs over the chair⟩ **3** : to arrange in flowing lines or folds ⟨a cleverly *draped* suit⟩ ~ *vi* : to become arranged in folds ⟨this silk ~*s* beautifully⟩ — **drap·able** *also* **drape·able** \'drā-pə-bəl\ *adj* — **drap·abil·i·ty** *also* **drape·abil·i·ty** \ˌdrā-pə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*

[2]drape *n* **1 a** : a drapery esp. for a window : CURTAIN **b** : a sterile covering used in an operating room — usu. used in pl. **2** : arrangement in or of folds **3** : the cut or hang of clothing

drap·er \'drā-pər\ *n, chiefly Brit* : a dealer in cloth and sometimes also in clothing and dry goods

drap·ery \'drā-p(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1** *Brit* : DRY GOODS **2 a** : a decorative piece of material usu. hung in loose folds and arranged in a graceful design **b** : hangings of heavy fabric for use as a curtain **3** : the draping or arranging of materials

dras·tic \'dras-tik\ *adj* [Gk *drastikos*, fr. *dran* to do] **1** : acting rapidly or violently ⟨a ~ purgative⟩ **2** : radical in effect or action : SEVERE ⟨~ measures⟩ — **dras·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

drat \'drat\ *vb* **drat·ted; drat·ting** [prob. euphemistic alter. of *God rot*] : DAMN — used as a mild oath

draught \'dräft\ *chiefly Brit var of* DRAFT

draughts \'draf(t)s\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [ME *draghtes*, fr. pl. of *draght* draft, move in chess] *Brit* : CHECKERS

draughts·man *chiefly Brit var of* DRAFTSMAN

Dra·vid·i·an \drə-'vid-ē-ən\ *n* [Skt *Drāviḍa*] **1** : a member of an ancient Australoid race of southern India **2** : DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES — **Dravidian** *adj*

Dravidian languages *n pl* : a language family of India, Ceylon, and Pakistan that includes Tamil, Telugu, Gondi, and Malayalam

[1]draw \'drȯ\ *vb* **drew** \'drü\; **drawn** \'drȯn\; **draw·ing** [ME *drawen, dragen*, fr. OE *dragan;* akin to ON *draga* to draw, drag and perh. to L *trahere* to pull, draw] *vt* **1** : to cause to move continuously toward or after a force applied in advance : HAUL, DRAG **2** : to cause to go in a certain direction (as by leading) ⟨*drew* him aside⟩ **3 a** : to bring by inducement or allure : ATTRACT ⟨honey ~*s* flies⟩ **b** : to bring in or gather from a specified group or area ⟨a college that ~*s* its students from many states⟩ **c** : to bring on oneself : PROVOKE ⟨*drew* enemy fire⟩ **d** : to bring out by way of response : ELICIT ⟨*drew* cheers from the audience⟩ **4** : INHALE ⟨*drew* a deep breath⟩ **5 a** : to bring or pull out by effort ⟨~ a knife⟩ **b** : to extract the essence from ⟨~ tea⟩ **c** : EVISCERATE ⟨plucking and ~*ing* a goose before cooking⟩ **d** : to derive to one's benefit ⟨*drew* inspiration from the old masters⟩ **6** : to require (a specified depth) to float in ⟨a ship that ~*s* 12 feet of water⟩ **7 a** : ACCUMULATE, GAIN ⟨~*ing* interest⟩ **b** : to take (money) from a place of deposit **c** : to use in making a cash demand ⟨~*ing* a check against his account⟩ **d** : to receive regularly or in due course ⟨~ a salary⟩ **8 a** : to take (cards) from a stack or from the dealer **b** : to receive or take at random ⟨*drew* a winning number⟩ **9** : to bend (a bow) by pulling back the string **10** : to cause to shrink or tighten **11** : to strike (a ball) so as to impart a backward spin **12** : to leave (a contest) undecided : TIE **13 a** (1) : to produce a likeness of by making lines on a surface (2) : to give a portrayal of : DELINEATE ⟨a writer who ~*s* his characters well⟩ **b** : to write out in due form ⟨~ a will⟩ **c** : to design or describe in detail : FORMULATE ⟨~ comparisons⟩ **14** : to infer from evidence or premises ⟨~ a conclusion⟩ **15** : to spread or elongate (metal) by hammering or by pulling through dies; *also* : to shape (plastic) by stretching or by drawing through dies ~ *vi* **1** : to come or go steadily or gradually ⟨night ~*s* near⟩ **2 a** : to move something by pulling ⟨~*ing* at the well⟩ **b** : to exert an attractive force ⟨the play is ~*ing* well⟩ **3 a** : to pull back a bowstring **b** : to bring out a weapon ⟨*drew*, aimed, and fired⟩ **4 a** : to produce or allow a draft ⟨the chimney ~*s* well⟩ **b** : to swell out in a wind ⟨all sails ~*ing*⟩ **5 a** : to wrinkle or tighten up : SHRINK **b** : to change shape by pulling or stretching **6 a** : to cause blood or pus to localize at one point **b** : STEEP ⟨give the tea time to ~⟩ **7** : to create a likeness or a picture in outlines : SKETCH **8** : to come out even in a contest **9 a** : to make a written demand for payment of money on deposit **b** : to obtain resources (as of information) ⟨~*ing* from a common fund of knowledge⟩ ***syn*** see PULL — **draw·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **draw a bead on** : to take aim at — **draw a blank** : to fail to gain a desired object (as information sought) — **draw on** *or* **draw upon** : to use as a source of supply ⟨*drawing on* the whole community for support⟩ — **draw straws** : to decide an issue by lottery in which straws of unequal length are used — **draw the line** *or* **draw a line** **1** : to fix an arbitrary boundary between things that tend to intermingle ⟨the difficulty of *drawing a line* between art and pornography⟩ **2** : to fix a boundary excluding what one will not tolerate or engage in

[2]draw *n* **1** : the act or process of drawing: as **a** : a sucking pull on something held with the lips ⟨take a ~ on his pipe⟩ **b** : a removal of a handgun from its holster ⟨the sheriff was quicker on the ~⟩ **c** : backward spin given to a ball by striking it below center — compare FOLLOW **2** : something that is drawn: as **a** : a card drawn to replace a discard in poker **b** : a lot or chance drawn at random **c** : the movable part of a drawbridge **3** : a contest left undecided or deadlocked : TIE **4** : something that draws attention or patronage **5 a** : the distance from the string to the back of a drawn bow **b** : the force required to draw a bow fully **6** : a gully shallower than a ravine **7** : the deal in draw poker to improve the players' hands after discarding **8** : a football play in which the quarterback drops back as if to pass and then hands off to a back moving straight ahead — compare BOOTLEG 3

draw away *vi* : to move ahead (as of an opponent in a race)

draw·back \'drȯ-ˌbak\ *n* **1** : a refund of duties esp. on an imported product subsequently exported or used to produce a product for export **2** : an objectionable feature : HINDRANCE

draw back \drȯ-'bak\ *vi* : to avoid an issue or commitment : RETREAT

draw·bar \'drȯ-ˌbär\ *n* **1** : a railroad coupler **2** : a beam across the rear of a tractor to which implements are hitched

draw·bridge \-ˌbrij\ *n* : a bridge made to be raised up, let down, or drawn aside so as to permit or hinder passage

draw·down \-ˌdau̇n\ *n* **1** : a lowering of a water level (as in a reservoir) **2** : the process of depleting

draw down \(ˌ)drȯ-'dau̇n\ *vt* : to deplete by using or spending ⟨an unfavorable trade balance *draws down* gold reserves⟩

draw·ee \drȯ-'ē\ *n* : the person on whom an order or bill of exchange is drawn

draw·er \'drȯ(-ə)r\ *n* **1** : one that draws: as **a** : a person who draws liquor **b** : DRAFTSMAN **c** : one who draws a bill of exchange or order for payment or makes a promissory note **2** : a sliding box or receptacle opened by pulling out and closed by pushing in **3** *pl* : an article of clothing (as underwear) for the lower body — **drawer·ful** \-ˌfu̇l\ *n*

draw in *vt* **1** : to cause or entice to enter or participate ⟨heard the argument but would not be *drawn in*⟩ **2** : to sketch roughly ⟨*drawing in* the first outlines⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to draw to an end ⟨the day *drew in*⟩ **b** : to shorten seasonally ⟨the evenings are already *drawing in*⟩ **2** : to become more cautious or economical

draw·ing \'drȯ(-)iŋ\ *n* **1** : an act or instance of drawing; *specif* : the process of deciding something by drawing lots **2** : the art or technique of representing an object or outlining a figure, plan, or sketch by means of lines **3** : something drawn or subject to drawing: as **a** : an amount drawn from a fund **b** : a representation formed by drawing : SKETCH

drawing account *n* : an account showing payments made to an employee (as a salesman) in advance of actual earnings or for traveling expenses

drawing board *n* **1** : a board used as a base for drafting on paper **2** : a planning stage ⟨a project still on the *drawing boards*⟩

drawing card *n* : something that attracts attention or patronage

drawing pin *n, Brit* : THUMBTACK

drawing room *n* [short for *withdrawing room*] **1 a** : a formal reception room **b** : a private room on a railroad passenger car with three berths and an enclosed toilet **2** : a formal reception

drawing table *n* : a table with a surface adjustable for elevation and angle of incline

draw·knife \'drȯ-ˌnīf\ *n* : a woodworker's tool having a blade with a handle at each end for use in shaving off surfaces — called also *drawshave*



drawknife

[1]drawl \'drȯl\ *vb* [prob. freq. of *draw*] *vi* : to speak slowly with vowels greatly prolonged ~ *vt* : to utter in a slow lengthened tone — **drawl·er** *n* — **drawl·ing·ly** \'drȯ-liŋ-lē\ *adv*

[2]drawl *n* : a drawling manner of speaking — **drawly** \'drȯ-lē\ *adj*

drawn butter *n* : melted butter often with seasoning

drawn·work \'drȯn-ˌwərk\ *n* : decoration on cloth made by drawing out threads according to a pattern

draw off *vt* : REMOVE, WITHDRAW ~ *vi* : to move apart : REGROUP ⟨the enemies' losses forced them to *draw off*⟩

draw on *vi* : APPROACH ⟨night *draws on*⟩ ~ *vt* : to bring on : CAUSE

draw out *vt* **1** : REMOVE, EXTRACT **2** : to extend beyond a minimum in time : PROTRACT 2 **3** : to cause to speak freely ⟨a reporter's ability to *draw* a person *out*⟩

draw·plate \'drȯ-ˌplāt\ *n* : a die with holes through which wires are drawn

draw play *n* : DRAW 8

draw poker *n* : poker in which each player is dealt five cards face down and after betting may discard cards and get replacements

draw·shave \'drȯ-ˌshāv\ *n* : DRAWKNIFE

draw shot *n* : a shot in billiards or pool made by striking the cue ball below its center to cause it to move back after striking the object ball

draw·string \'drȯ-ˌstriŋ\ *n* : a string, cord, or tape inserted into hems or casings or laced through eyelets for use in closing a bag or controlling fullness in garments or curtains

draw·tube \-'t(y)üb\ *n* : a telescoping tube (as for the eyepiece of a microscope)

draw up *vt* **1** : to bring (as troops) into array **2** : to draft in due form **3** : to straighten (oneself) to an erect posture esp. as an assertion of dignity or resentment **4** : to bring to a halt ~ *vi* : to come to a halt

[1]dray \'drā\ *n* [ME *draye*, a wheelless vehicle, fr. OE *dræge* dragnet; akin to OE *dragan* to pull — more at DRAW] : a vehicle used to haul goods; *specif* : a strong low cart or wagon without sides

[2]dray *vt* : to haul on a dray : CART

dray·age \'drā-ij\ *n* : the work or cost of hauling by dray

dray·man \'drā-mən\ *n* : one whose work is hauling by dray

[1]dread \'dred\ *vb* [ME *dreden*, fr. OE *drǣdan*] *vt* **1 a** : to fear greatly **b** *archaic* : to regard with awe **2** : to feel extreme reluctance to meet or face ~ *vi* : to be apprehensive or fearful

[2]dread *n* **1 a** : great fear esp. in the face of impending evil **b** : extreme uneasiness in the face of a disagreeable prospect ⟨his ~ of paperwork⟩ **c** *archaic* : AWE **2** : one causing fear or awe ⟨fire was an omnipresent ~ —F. W. Saunders⟩ ***syn*** see FEAR

[3]dread *adj* **1** : causing great fear or anxiety **2** : inspiring awe

[1]dread·ful \'dred-fəl\ *adj* **1 a** : inspiring dread : causing great and oppressive fear **b** : inspiring awe or reverence **2** : extremely distasteful, unpleasant, or shocking **3** : EXTREME ⟨~ disorder⟩ ***syn*** see FEARFUL — **dread·ful·ly** \-f(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **dread·ful·ness** \-fəl-nəs\ *n*

[2]dreadful *n* : a cheap and sensational story or periodical

dread·nought \'dred-ˌnȯt, -ˌnät\ *n* **1** : a warm garment of thick cloth; *also* : the cloth **2** [*Dreadnought*, Brit. battleship] : a battleship whose main armament consists of big guns of the same caliber
¹dream \'drēm\ *n, often attrib* [ME *dreem*, fr. OE *drēam* noise, joy] **1** : a series of thoughts, images, or emotions occurring during sleep **2** : an experience of waking life having the characteristics of a dream: as **a** : a visionary creation of the imagination : DAYDREAM **b** : a state of mind marked by abstraction or release from reality : REVERIE **c** : an object seen in a dreamlike state : VISION **3** : something notable for its beauty, excellence, or enjoyable quality ⟨the new car is a ~ to operate⟩ **4 a** : a strongly desired goal or purpose ⟨his ~ of becoming president⟩ **b** : something that fully satisfies a wish : IDEAL ⟨a meal that was a gourmet's ~⟩ — **dream·ful** \-fəl\ *adj* — **dream·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **dream·ful·ness** *n* — **dream·like** \'drēm-ˌlīk\ *adj*
²dream \'drēm\ *vb* **dreamed** \'drem(p)t, 'drēmd\ *or* **dreamt** \'drem(p)t\; **dream·ing** \'drē-miŋ\ *vi* **1** : to have a dream **2** : to indulge in daydreams or fantasies ⟨~*ing* of a better future⟩ **3** : to appear tranquil or dreamy ⟨houses ~*ing* in leafy shadows — Gladys Taber⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to have a dream of **2** : to consider as a possibility : IMAGINE **3** : to pass (time) in reverie or inaction — usu. used with *away* ⟨~*ing* the hours away⟩ — **dream of** : to consider possible or fitting ⟨wouldn't *dream of* disturbing you⟩
dream·er \'drē-mər\ *n* **1** : one that dreams **2 a** : one who lives in a world of fancy and imagination **b** : one who has ideas or conceives projects regarded as impractical : VISIONARY
dream·land \'drēm-ˌland\ *n* : an unreal delightful country existing only in imagination or in dreams : NEVER-NEVER LAND
dream·less \-ləs\ *adj* : having or evidencing no dreams ⟨a ~ sleep⟩ — **dream·less·ly** *adv* — **dream·less·ness** *n*
dream up *vt* : DEVISE, CONCOCT
dream vision *n* : a usu. medieval poem having a framework in which the poet pictures himself as falling asleep and envisioning in his dream a series of allegorical people and events
dream·world \'drēm-ˌwərld\ *n* : a world of illusion or fantasy
dreamy \'drē-mē\ *adj* **dream·i·er; -est** **1 a** : full of dreams ⟨a ~ night's sleep⟩ **b** : pleasantly abstracted from immediate reality **2** : given to dreaming or fantasy ⟨a ~ child⟩ **3 a** : suggestive of a dream in vague or visionary quality ⟨a ~ recollection of the incident⟩ **b** : quiet and soothing **c** : DELIGHTFUL, PLEASING — **dream·i·ly** \-mə-lē\ *adv* — **dream·i·ness** \-mē-nəs\ *n*
drear \'dri(ə)r\ *adj* : DREARY
drea·ry \'dri(ə)r-ē\ *adj* **drea·ri·er; -est** [ME *drery*, fr. OE *drēorig* sad, bloody, fr. *drēor* gore; akin to OHG *trūrēn* to be sad, Goth *driusan* to fall, Gk *thrauein* to shatter] **1** : SAD, DOLEFUL **2** : causing feelings of cheerlessness : GLOOMY — **drea·ri·ly** \'drir-ə-lē\ *adv* — **drear·i·ness** \'drir-ē-nəs\ *n*
dreck \'drek\ *n* [Yiddish *drek* & G *dreck*, fr. MHG *drec;* akin to OE *threax* rubbish, L *stercus* excrement] : TRASH, RUBBISH
¹dredge \'drej\ *n* [prob. fr. Sc *dreg-* (in *dregbot* dredge boat)] **1** : an apparatus usu. in the form of an oblong iron frame with an attached bag net used esp. for gathering fish and shellfish **2** : a machine for removing earth usu. by buckets on an endless chain or a suction tube **3** : a barge used in dredging
²dredge *vb* **dredged; dredg·ing** *vt* **1 a** : to dig, gather, or pull out with a dredge **b** : to deepen (as a waterway) with a dredging machine — often used with *up* **2** : to bring to light by deep searching ⟨*dredging* up memories⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to use a dredge **2** : to search deeply — **dredg·er** *n*
³dredge *vt* **dredged; dredg·ing** [obs. *dredge*, n., sweetmeat, fr. ME *drage, drege*, fr. MF *dragie*, modif. of L *tragemata* sweetmeats, fr. Gk *tragēmata*, pl. of *tragēma* sweetmeat, fr. *trōgein* to gnaw — more at TERSE] : to coat (food) by sprinkling (as with flour) — **dredg·er** *n*
dree \'drē\ *vt* **dreed; dree·ing** [ME *dreen*, fr. OE *drēogan* — more at DRUDGE] *chiefly Scot* : ENDURE, SUFFER
dreg \'dreg\ *n* [ME, fr. ON *dregg;* akin to L *fraces* dregs of oil, Gk *thrassein* to trouble] **1** : sediment contained in a liquid or precipitated from it : LEES — usu. used in pl. **2** : the most undesirable part — usu. used in pl. ⟨the ~*s* of society⟩ **3** : the last remaining part : VESTIGE
D region *n* : the lowest part of the ionosphere occurring between 25 and 40 miles above the surface of the earth
dreich \'drēk\ *adj* [ME, of Scand origin; akin to ON *drjūgr* lasting] *chiefly Scot* : DREARY
drei·del *also* **dreidl** \'drād-ᵊl\ *n* [Yiddish *dreidl*, fr. *dreien* to turn, fr. MHG *drǣjen*, fr. OHG *drāen* — more at THROW] **1** : a 4-sided toy marked with Hebrew letters and spun like a top in a game of chance **2** : a children's game of chance played esp. at Hanukkah with a dreidel
¹drench \'drench\ *n* **1** : a poisonous or medicinal drink; *specif* : a large dose of medicine mixed with liquid and put down the throat of an animal **2 a** : something that drenches **b** : a quantity sufficient to drench or saturate
²drench *vt* [ME *drenchen*, fr. OE *drencan;* akin to OE *drincan* to drink] **1 a** *archaic* : to force to drink **b** : to administer a drench to (an animal) **2** : to wet thoroughly (as by soaking or immersing in liquid) ⟨desserts ~*ed* with brandy⟩ **3** : to soak or cover thoroughly with liquid that falls or is precipitated **4** : to fill completely as if by soaking or precipitation : SATURATE ⟨a mind ~*ed* with esoteric lore⟩ ***syn*** see SOAK — **drench·er** *n*
¹dress \'dres\ *vb* [ME *dressen*, fr. MF *dresser*, fr. (assumed) VL *directiare*, fr. L *directus* direct, pp. of *dirigere* to direct, fr. *dis-* + *regere* to lead straight — more at RIGHT] *vt* **1 a** : to make or set straight **b** : to arrange (as troops) in a straight line and at proper intervals **2** *archaic* : to dress down **3 a** : to put clothes on **b** : to provide with clothing **4** : to add decorative details or accessories to : EMBELLISH **5** : to prepare for use or service **6 a** : to apply dressings or medicaments to **b** (1) : to arrange (the hair) by combing, brushing, or curling (2) : to groom and curry (an animal) **c** : to kill and prepare for market **d** : CULTIVATE, TEND; *esp* : to apply manure or fertilizer to **e** : to put through a finishing process; *specif* : to make (as lumber or stone) trim and smooth ~ *vi* **1 a** : to put on clothing **b** : to put on or wear formal, elaborate, or fancy clothes ⟨guests were expected to ~ for dinner⟩ **2** *of a food animal* : to weigh after being dressed **3** : to align oneself with the next soldier in a line to make the line straight — **dress ship** : to ornament a ship for a celebration by hoisting national ensigns at the mastheads and running a line of signal flags and pennants from bow to stern
²dress *n* **1** : APPAREL, CLOTHING **2** : an outer garment usu. for a woman or a girl **3** : covering, adornment, or appearance appropriate or peculiar to a particular time **4** : a particular form of presentation : GUISE
³dress *adj* **1** : relating to or used for a dress **2** : suitable for a formal occasion **3** : requiring or permitting formal dress ⟨a ~ affair⟩
dres·sage \drə-'säzh, dre-\ *n* : the execution by a horse of complex maneuvers in response to barely perceptible movements of a rider's hands, legs, and weight
dress circle *n* : the first or lowest curved tier of seats in a theater
dress down *vt* : to reprove severely
¹dress·er \'dres-ər\ *n* **1** *obs* : a table or sideboard for preparing and serving food **2** : a cupboard to hold dishes and cooking utensils **3** : a chest of drawers or bureau with a mirror
²dresser *n* : one that dresses ⟨a fashionable ~⟩
dresser set *n* : a set of toilet articles including hairbrush, comb, and mirror for use at a dresser or dressing table
dress·ing *n* **1 a** : the act or process of one who dresses **b** : an instance of such act or process **2 a** : a sauce for adding to a dish (as a salad) **b** : a seasoned mixture usu. used as a stuffing (as for poultry) **3 a** : material applied to cover a lesion **b** : fertilizing material (as manure or compost)
dressing glass *n* : a small mirror set to swing in a standing frame and used at a dresser or dressing table
dressing gown *n* : a robe (as of silk) worn esp. while dressing or resting
dressing room *n* : a room used chiefly for dressing; *esp* : a room in a theater for changing costumes and makeup
dressing station *n* : a station for giving first aid to the wounded
dressing table *n* : a table often fitted with drawers and a mirror in front of which one sits while dressing and grooming oneself
¹dress·mak·er \'dres-ˌmā-kər\ *n* : one that does dressmaking
²dressmaker *adj, of women's clothes* : having softness, rounded lines, and intricate detailing ⟨a ~ suit⟩
dress·mak·ing \-ˌmā-kiŋ\ *n* : the process or occupation of making dresses
dress rehearsal *n* : a full rehearsal of a play in costume and with stage properties shortly before the first performance
dress shirt *n* : a man's shirt esp. for wear with evening dress
dress suit *n* : a suit worn for full dress
dress uniform *n* : a uniform for formal wear
dress up *vt* **1 a** : to attire in best or formal clothes **b** : to attire in clothes suited to a particular role **2** : to present or cause to appear in a certain light (as by distortion or exaggeration) ⟨*dressed up* his story to make himself appear a hero⟩ ~ *vi* : to get dressed up
dressy \'dres-ē\ *adj* **dress·i·er; -est** **1** : showy in dress **2** : STYLISH, SMART — **dress·i·ness** *n*
drew *past of* DRAW
Drey·fu·sard \ˌdrī-f(y)ə-'sär(d), ˌdrā-, -'zär(d)\ *n* [F] : a defender or partisan of Alfred Dreyfus
drib \'drib\ *n* [prob. back-formation fr. *dribble & driblet*] : a small amount — usu. used in the phrase *dribs and drabs*
¹drib·ble \'drib-əl\ *vb* **drib·bled; drib·bling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [freq. of *drib* (to dribble)] *vi* **1** : to fall or flow in drops or in a thin intermittent stream : TRICKLE **2** : to let saliva trickle from a corner of the mouth : DROOL **3** : to come or issue in piecemeal or desultory fashion **4 a** : to dribble a ball or puck **b** : to proceed by dribbling **c** *of a ball* : to move with short bounces ~ *vt* **1** : to let or cause to fall in drops little by little **2** : to issue sporadically and in small bits **3 a** : to propel by successive slight taps or bounces with hand, foot, or stick **b** : to hit (as a baseball) so as to cause a slow bouncing — **drib·bler** \-(ə-)lər\ *n*
²dribble *n* **1 a** : a small trickling stream or flow **b** : a drizzling shower **2** : a tiny or insignificant bit or quantity **3** : an act or instance of dribbling a ball or puck
drib·let \'drib-lət\ *n* **1** : a trifling sum or part **2** : a drop of liquid
dried–fruit beetle *n* : a small broad brown beetle (*Carpophilus hemipterus*) that is a cosmopolitan pest on stored products
dried–up \'drī-'dəp\ *adj* : being wizened and shrivelled
¹drier *comparative of* DRY
²dri·er *also* **dry·er** \'drī(-ə)r\ *n* **1** : something that extracts or absorbs moisture **2** : a substance that accelerates drying (as of oils, paints, and printing inks) **3** *usu dryer* : a device for drying
driest *superlative of* DRY
¹drift \'drift\ *n* [ME; akin to OE *drīfan* to drive — more at DRIVE] **1 a** : the act of driving something along **b** : the flow or the velocity of the current of a river or ocean stream **2** : something driven, propelled, or urged along or drawn together in a clump by or as if by a natural agency: as **a** : wind-driven snow, rain, cloud, dust, or smoke usu. at or near the ground surface **b** (1) : a mass of matter (as sand) deposited together by or as if by wind or water (2) : a helter-skelter accumulation **c** : DROVE, FLOCK **d** : something (as driftwood) washed ashore **e** : rock debris deposited by natural agents; *specif* : a deposit of clay, sand, gravel, and boulders transported by a glacier or by running water from a glacier **3 a** : a general underlying design or tendency **b** : the underlying meaning, import, or purport of what is spoken or written **4** : something driven down upon or forced into a body: as **a** : a tool for ramming down or driving something **b** : a pin for stretching and aligning rivet holes **5** : the motion or action of drifting esp. spatially and usu. under external influence: as **a** : a ship's deviation from its course caused by currents **b** : one of the slower movements of oceanic circulation **c** : the lateral motion of an airplane due to air currents **d** : an easy moderate more or less steady flow or sweep along a spatial course **e** : a gradual shift in

attitude, opinion, or position **f** : an aimless course; *esp* : a foregoing of any attempt at direction or control **g** : a deviation from a true reproduction, representation, or reading **6 a** : a nearly horizontal mine passageway driven on or parallel to the course of a vein or rock stratum **b** : a small crosscut in a mine connecting two larger tunnels **7 a** : an assumed trend toward a general change in the structure of a language over a period of time **b** : GENETIC DRIFT **c** : a gradual change in the zero reading of an instrument or in any quantitive characteristic that is supposed to remain constant ***syn*** see TENDENCY

²drift *vi* **1 a** : to become driven or carried along by a current of water, wind, or air **b** : to move or float smoothly and effortlessly **2 a** : to move along a line of least resistance **b** : to move in a random or casual way **c** : to become carried along subject to no guidance or control ⟨the conversation ~*ed* from one topic to another⟩ **3 a** : to accumulate in a mass or become piled up in heaps by wind or water **b** : to become covered with a drift **4** : to vary or deviate from a set adjustment ~ *vt* **1 a** : to cause to be driven in a current **b** *West* : to drive (livestock) slowly esp. to allow grazing **2 a** : to pile in heaps **b** : to cover with drifts ⟨slopes that are heavily ~*ed* during the winter⟩ — **drift·ing·ly** \'drif-tiŋ-lē\ *adv*

drift·age \'drif-tij\ *n* **1** : a drifting of some object esp. through the action of wind or water **2** : deviation from a set course due to drifting **3** : drifted material ⟨seaweed and other ~⟩

drift·er \'drif-tər\ *n* : one that drifts; *esp* : one that travels or moves about aimlessly

drift fence *n* : a stretch of fence on range land esp. in the western U.S. for preventing cattle from drifting from their home range

drift·weed \'drif-ˌtwēd\ *n* : a seaweed (as of the genus *Laminaria*) that tends to break free and drift ashore

drift·wood \'drif-ˌtwu̇d\ *n* **1** : wood drifted or floated by water **2** : FLOTSAM 2

drifty \'drif-tē\ *adj* **drift·i·er; -est** : exhibiting or tending to form drifts

¹drill \'dril\ *vb* [D *drillen;* akin to OHG *drāen* to turn — more at THROW] *vt* **1 a** (1) : to bore or drive a hole in (2) : to make by piercing action ⟨~*ed* holes an inch apart⟩ **b** : to hit with piercing effect ⟨~*ed* a single to right field⟩ **2 a** : to fix something in the mind or habit pattern of by repetitive instruction ⟨~ pupils in spelling⟩ **b** : to impart or communicate by repetition ⟨impossible to ~ the simplest idea into some people⟩ **c** : to train or exercise in military drill ~ *vi* **1** : to make a hole with a drill **2** : to engage in an exercise **3** : to act on with penetrating effect ***syn*** see PRACTICE — **drill·abil·i·ty** \ˌdril-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **drill·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **drill·er** \'dril-ər\ *n*

²drill *n* **1** : an instrument with an edged or pointed end for making holes in hard substances by revolving or by a succession of blows; *also* : such an instrument with a machine for operating it **2** : the act or exercise of training soldiers in marching and the manual of arms **3 a** : a physical or mental exercise aimed at perfecting facility and skill esp. by regular practice **b** : a formal exercise by a team of marchers **c** *chiefly Brit* : the approved or correct procedure for accomplishing something efficiently **4 a** : a marine snail (*Urosalpinx cinerea*) destructive to oysters by boring through their shells and feeding on the soft parts **b** : any of several mollusks related to the drill **5** : a drilling sound

³drill *n* [prob. native name in West Africa] : a West African baboon (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*) closely related to the typical mandrills

⁴drill *n* [perh. fr. *drill* (rill)] **1 a** : a shallow furrow or trench into which seed is sown **b** : a row of seed sown in such a furrow **2** : a planting implement that makes holes or furrows, drops in the seed and sometimes fertilizer, and covers them with earth

⁵drill *vt* **1** : to sow (seeds) by dropping along a shallow furrow **2 a** : to sow with seed or set with seedlings inserted in drills **b** : to distribute seed or fertilizer in by means of a drill

⁶drill *n* [short for *drilling*] : a durable cotton fabric in twill weave

dril·ling \'dril-iŋ\ *n* [modif. of G *drillich,* fr. MHG *drilich* fabric woven with a threefold thread, fr. OHG *drilīh* made up of three threads, fr. L *trilic-, trilix,* fr. *tri-* + *licium* thread] : ⁶DRILL

drill·mas·ter \'dril-ˌmas-tər\ *n* **1** : an instructor in military drill **2** : an instructor or director who maintains severe discipline and who often stresses the trivial and unimportant

drill press *n* : an upright drilling machine in which the drill is pressed to the work by a hand lever or by power

drill team *n* : an exhibition marching team that engages in precision drill

drily *var of* DRYLY

¹drink \'driŋk\ *vb* **drank** \'draŋk\; **drunk** \'drəŋk\ *or* **drank; drink·ing** [ME *drinken,* fr. OE *drincan;* akin to OHG *trinkan* to drink] *vt* **1 a** : SWALLOW, IMBIBE **b** : to take in or suck up : ABSORB ⟨~*ing* air into his lungs⟩ **c** : to take in or receive avidly — usu. used with *in* ⟨*drank* in every word of the lecture⟩ **2** : to join in (a toast) **3** : to bring to a specified state by taking drink ⟨*drank* himself into oblivion⟩ ⟨~*ing* his troubles away⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to take liquid into the mouth for swallowing **b** : to receive into one's consciousness **2** : to partake of alcoholic beverages **3** : to join in a toast

²drink *n* **1 a** : liquid suitable for swallowing **b** : alcoholic liquor **2** : a draft or portion of liquid **3** : excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages **4** : a sizable body of water — used with *the*

¹drink·able \'driŋ-kə-bəl\ *adj* : suitable or safe for drinking — **drink·abil·i·ty** \ˌdriŋ-kə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*

²drinkable *n* : a liquid suitable for drinking : BEVERAGE

drink·er \'driŋ-kər\ *n* **1 a** : one that drinks **b** : one that drinks alcoholic beverages esp. to excess **2** : a device that provides water for domestic animals or poultry

drinking fountain *n* : a fixture with nozzle that delivers a stream of water for drinking

drinking song *n* : a song on a convivial theme appropriate for a group engaged in social drinking

¹drip \'drip\ *vb* **dripped; drip·ping** [ME *drippen,* fr. OE *dryppan;* akin to OE *dropa* drop] *vt* **1** : to let fall in drops **2** : to spill or let out copiously ⟨her voice *dripping* sarcasm⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to let fall drops of moisture or liquid **b** : to overflow with or as if with moisture ⟨a uniform *dripping* with gold braid⟩ ⟨a novel that ~*s* with sentimentality⟩ **2** : to fall in or as if in drops **3** : to waft or pass gently — **drip·per** *n*

²drip *n* **1 a** : a falling in drops **b** : liquid that falls, overflows, or is extruded in drops **2** : the sound made by or as if by falling drops **3** : a part of a cornice or other member that projects to throw off rainwater; *also* : an overlapping metal strip serving the same purpose **4** : a device for the administration of a fluid at a slow rate esp. into a vein; *also* : a material so administered **5** *slang* : a dull or unattractive person

drip coffee *n* : coffee made by letting boiling water drip slowly through finely ground coffee

¹drip–dry \'drip-'drī\ *vi* : to dry with few or no wrinkles when hung dripping wet

²drip–dry *adj* : made of a washable fabric that drip-dries

³drip–dry *n* : a drip-dry garment

drip·less \'drip-ləs\ *adj* : designed not to drip ⟨~ candles⟩

drip pan *n* : a pan for catching drippings — called also *dripping pan*

¹drip·ping \'drip-iŋ\ *n* : fat and juices drawn from meat during cooking — often used in pl.

²dripping *adv* : EXTREMELY — usu. used in the phrase *dripping wet*

drip pot *n* : a pot for making drip coffee

drip·py \'drip-ē\ *adj* **drip·pi·er; -est** **1** : RAINY, DRIZZLY **2** : MAWKISH 2

drip·stone \'drip-ˌstōn\ *n* **1** : a stone drip (as over a window) **2** : calcium carbonate in the form of stalactites or stalagmites

¹drive \'drīv\ *vb* **drove** \'drōv\; **driv·en** \'driv-ən\; **driv·ing** \'drī-viŋ\ [ME *driven,* fr. OE *drīfan;* akin to OHG *trīban* to drive] *vt* **1 a** : to impart a forward motion to by physical force ⟨waves *drove* the boat against the shore⟩ **b** : to repulse, remove, or cause to go by force, authority, or influence ⟨~ the enemy back⟩ **c** : to set or keep in motion or operation ⟨~ machinery by electricity⟩ **2 a** : to direct the motions and course of (a draft animal) **b** : to operate the mechanism and controls and direct the course of (as a vehicle) **c** : to convey in a vehicle **d** : to float (logs) down a stream **3** : to carry on or through energetically ⟨*driving* a hard bargain⟩ **4 a** : to exert inescapable or coercive pressure on : FORCE **b** : to compel to undergo or suffer a change (as in situation, awareness, or emotional state) ⟨*drove* him crazy⟩ **c** : to urge relentlessly to continuous exertion ⟨the sergeant *drove* his recruits⟩ **d** : to press or force into an activity, course, or direction ⟨the expensive drug habit that ~*s* addicts to steal⟩ **e** : to project, inject, or impress incisively ⟨*drove* his point home⟩ **5 a** : to cause (as game or cattle) to move in a desired direction **b** : to search (a district) for game **6** : to force (a passage) by pressing or digging **7 a** : to propel (an object of play) swiftly **b** : to hit (a golf ball) from the tee esp. with a driver **c** : to cause (a run or runner) to be scored in baseball — usu. used with *in* ~ *vi* **1 a** : to dash, plunge, or surge ahead rapidly or violently **b** : to rush along with force against an obstruction ⟨rain *driving* against the windshield⟩ **c** : to progress with strong momentum ⟨the rain was *driving* hard⟩ **2 a** : to operate a vehicle; *also* : HANDLE ⟨an auto that ~*s* well⟩ **b** : to have oneself carried in a vehicle **3** : to drive an object of play ***syn*** see MOVE — **driv·able** *also* **drive·able** \'drī-və-bəl\ *adj* — **drive at** : to have as an ultimate meaning or conclusion ⟨did not understand what she was *driving at* —Eric Goldman⟩

²drive *n* **1** : an act of driving: **a** : a trip in a carriage or automobile **b** : a collection and driving together of animals; *also* : the animals gathered **c** : a driving of cattle or sheep overland **d** : a hunt or shoot in which the game is driven within the hunter's range **e** : the guiding of logs downstream to a mill; *also* : the floating logs amassed in a drive **f** (1) : the act or an instance of driving an object of play (2) : the flight of a ball **2 a** : a private road : DRIVEWAY 2 **b** : a public road for driving (as in a park) **3** : an offensive, aggressive, or expansionist move; *esp* : a strong military attack against enemy-held terrain **4** : the state of being hurried and under pressure **5 a** : a strong systematic group effort : CAMPAIGN **b** : a sustained offensive effort ⟨the ~ that ended in a touchdown⟩ **6 a** : an urgent, basic, or instinctual need : a motivating physiological condition of the organism ⟨a sexual ~⟩ **b** : an impelling culturally acquired concern, interest, or longing ⟨enslaved by a ~ for perfection⟩ **c** : dynamic quality **7 a** : the means for giving motion to a machine or machine part **b** : the means by which the propulsive power of an automobile is applied to the road ⟨front wheel ~⟩ **c** : the means by which the propulsion of an automotive vehicle is controlled and directed ⟨a left-hand ~⟩ **8** : a device including a transport and heads for reading or writing tape and esp. magnetic tape — **drive** *adj*

¹drive–in \'drī-ˌvin\ *n* : a place of business (as a theater or restaurant) so laid out that patrons can be accommodated while remaining in their automobiles

²drive–in *adj* : laid out as a drive-in

¹driv·el \'driv-əl\ *vb* **-eled** *or* **-elled; -el·ing** *or* **-el·ling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [ME *drivelen,* fr. OE *dreflian;* akin to ON *draf* malt dregs, OE *deorc* dark] *vi* **1** : to let saliva dribble from the mouth : SLAVER **2** : to talk stupidly and carelessly ~ *vt* **1** : to utter in an infantile or imbecilic way **2** : to waste or fritter in a childish fashion — **driv·el·er** \-(ə-)lər\ *n*

²drivel *n* **1** *archaic* : saliva trickling from the mouth **2** : NONSENSE

drive·line \'drīv-ˌlīn\ *n* : the parts including the universal joint and the drive shaft that connect the transmission with the driving axles of an automobile

driv·en *adj* : having a compulsive or urgent quality ⟨a ~ sense of obligation⟩ — **driv·en·ness** \'driv-ən-nəs\ *n*
driv·er \'drī-vər\ *n* : one that drives: as **a** : COACHMAN **b** : the operator of a motor vehicle **c** : an implement (as a hammer) for driving **d** : a mechanical piece for imparting motion to another piece **e** : a golf club with a wooden head and nearly straight face used in driving — **driv·er·less** \-ləs\ *adj*
driver ant *n* : ARMY ANT; *specif* : any of various African and Asian ants (*Dorylus* or related genera) that move in vast armies
driver's license *n* : a license issued under governmental authority that permits the holder to operate a motor vehicle
driver's seat *n* : the position of top authority or dominance
drive shaft *n* : a shaft that transmits mechanical power
drive·way \'drīv-ˌwā\ *n* **1** : a road or way along which animals are driven **2** : a private road giving access from a public way to a building on abutting grounds
driv·ing *adj* **1 a** : communicating force ⟨a ~ wheel⟩ **b** : exerting pressure ⟨a ~ influence⟩ **2 a** : having great force ⟨a ~ rain⟩ **b** : acting with vigor : ENERGETIC ⟨a hard-*driving* worker⟩
driving range *n* : an area equipped with distance markers, clubs, balls, and tees for practicing golf drives
¹driz·zle \'driz-əl\ *vb* **driz·zled; driz·zling** \-(ə-)liŋ\ [perh. alter. of ME *drysnen* to fall, fr. OE *-drysnian* to disappear; akin to Goth *driusan* to fall] *vi* : to rain in very small drops or very lightly : SPRINKLE ~ *vt* **1** : to shed or let fall in minute drops or particles **2** : to make wet with minute drops — **driz·zling·ly** \-(ə-)liŋ-lē\ *adv*
²drizzle *n* : a fine misty rain — **driz·zly** \'driz-(ə-)lē\ *adj*
drogue \'drōg\ *n* [prob. alter. of ¹*drag*] **1** : SEA ANCHOR **2 a** : a cylindrical or funnel-shaped device towed as a target by an airplane **b** : a small parachute for stabilizing or decelerating something (as an astronaut's capsule) or for pulling a larger parachute out of stowage **3** : a funnel-shaped device which is attached to the end of a long flexible hose suspended from a tanker airplane in flight and into which the probe of another airplane in flight is fitted so as to receive fuel from the tanker airplane
droit \'drȯit, drə-'wä\ *n* [MF, fr. ML *directum*, fr. LL, neut. of *directus* just, fr. L, direct] : a legal right ⟨~*s* of admiralty⟩
droit du sei·gneur \drwä-dǖ-se-nʸœr\ *n* [F, right of the lord] : a supposed legal or customary right of a feudal lord to have sexual relations with a vassal's bride on her wedding night
¹droll \'drōl\ *adj* [F *drôle*, fr. *drôle* scamp, fr. MF *drolle*, fr. MD, imp] : having a humorous, whimsical, or odd quality ***syn*** see LAUGHABLE — **droll·ness** *n* — **drol·ly** \'drō(l)-lē\ *adv*
²droll *n* : one that amuses or diverts : JESTER, COMEDIAN
³droll *vi, archaic* : to make fun : JEST, SPORT
droll·ery \'drōl-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1** : something that is droll: as **a** : a comic picture or drawing **b** : a usu. brief comic show or entertainment **c** : an amusing story : JEST **2** : the act or an instance of jesting or burlesquing **3** : whimsical humor
-drome \ˌdrōm\ *n comb form* [*hippodrome*] **1** : racecourse ⟨motor=*drome*⟩ **2** : large specially prepared place ⟨aero*drome*⟩
drom·e·dary \'dräm-ə-ˌder-ē *also* 'drəm-\ *n, pl* **-dar·ies** [ME *dromedarie*, fr. MF *dromedaire*, fr. LL *dromedarius*, fr. L *dromad-*, *dromas*, fr. Gk, running; akin to Gk *dramein* to run, *dromos* racecourse, OE *treppan* to tread] **1** : a camel of unusual speed bred and trained esp. for riding **2** : the one-humped camel (*Camelus dromedarius*) of western Asia and northern Africa
drom·ond \'dräm-ənd\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *dromont*, fr. LL *dromon-*, *dromo* light ship, fr. Gk *dromōn*, fr. *dramein* to run] : a large fast=sailing galley or cutter of medieval times
-d·ro·mous \d-rə-məs\ *adj comb form* [NL *-dromus*, fr. Gk *-dromos* (akin to Gk *dramein*)] : running ⟨cata*dromous*⟩
¹drone \'drōn\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *drān;* akin to OHG *treno* drone] **1** : the male of a bee (as the honeybee) that has no sting and gathers no honey — see HONEYBEE illustration **2** : one that lives on the labors of others : PARASITE **3** : a pilotless airplane, helicopter, or ship controlled by radio signals
²drone *vb* **droned; dron·ing** *vi* **1 a** : to make a sustained deep murmuring, humming, or buzzing sound **b** : to talk in a persistently dull or monotonous tone **2** : to pass, proceed, or act in a dull, drowsy, or indifferent manner ⟨the trial *droned* on for months⟩ ~ *vt* **1** : to utter or pronounce with a drone **2** : to pass or spend in dull or monotonous activity or in idleness ⟨*droned* away the precious years of youth⟩ — **dron·er** *n* — **dron·ing·ly** \'drō-niŋ-lē\ *adv*
³drone *n* **1** : one of the usu. three pipes on a bagpipe that sound fixed continuous tones **2** : a deep sustained or monotonous sound : HUM **3** : an unvarying sustained bass note often serving as the tonic in a musical composition
¹drool \'drül\ *vb* [perh. alter. of *drivel*] *vi* **1 a** : to secrete saliva in anticipation of food **b** : DRIVEL 1 **2** : to make an effusive show of pleasure **3** : to talk nonsense ~ *vt* : to express sentimentally or effusively
²drool *n* : DRIVEL
¹droop \'drüp\ *vb* [ME *drupen*, fr. ON *drūpa;* akin to OE *dropa* drop — more at DROP] *vi* **1** : to hang or incline downward **2** : to sink gradually **3** : to become depressed or weakened : LANGUISH ~ *vt* : to let droop — **droop·ing·ly** \'drü-piŋ-lē\ *adv*
²droop *n* : the condition or appearance of drooping
droopy \'drü-pē\ *adj* **droop·i·er; -est** **1** : drooping or tending to droop **2** : GLOOMY
¹drop \'dräp\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *dropa;* akin to Goth *driusan* to fall — more at DREARY] **1 a** (1) : the quantity of fluid that falls in one spherical mass (2) *pl* : a dose of medicine measured by drops; *specif* : a solution for dilating the pupil of the eye **b** : a minute quantity or degree of something nonmaterial or intangible **c** : a small quantity of drink **d** : the smallest practical unit of liquid measure **2** : something that resembles a liquid drop: as **a** : a pendent ornament attached to a piece of jewelry; *also* : an earring with such a pendant **b** : a small globular cookie or candy **3** [²*drop*] **a** : the act or an instance of dropping : FALL **b** : a decline in quantity or quality **c** : a descent by parachute; *also* : the men or equipment dropped by parachute **d** : a central point or depository to which something (as mail) is brought for distribution or transmission **e** : a place used for the deposit and distribution of stolen or illegal goods **4 a** : the distance from a higher to a lower level or through which something drops **b** : a fall of electric potential **5** : a slot into which something is to be dropped **6** [²*drop*] : something that drops, hangs, or falls: as **a** : a movable plate that covers the keyhole of a lock **b** : an unframed piece of cloth stage scenery; *also* : DROP CURTAIN **c** : a hinged platform on a gallows **d** : a fallen fruit **7** : the advantage of having an opponent covered with a firearm; *broadly* : ADVANTAGE, SUPERIORITY — usu. used in the phrase *get the drop on*
²drop *vb* **dropped; drop·ping** *vi* **1** : to fall in drops **2 a** (1) : to fall unexpectedly or suddenly (2) : to descend from one line or level to another **b** : to fall in a state of collapse or death **c** *of a card* : to become played by reason of the obligation to follow suit **d** *of a ball* : to roll into a hole or basket **3** : to move with a favoring wind or current — usu. used with *down* **4** : to enter as if without conscious effort of will into some state, condition, or activity ⟨*dropped* into sleep⟩ **5 a** : to cease to be of concern : LAPSE ⟨let the matter ~⟩ **b** to become less ⟨production *dropped*⟩ — often used with *off* ~ *vt* **1** : to let fall : cause to fall **2 a** : to lower or cause to descend from one level or position to another **b** : to lower (wheels) in preparation for landing an airplane **c** : to cause to lessen or decrease : REDUCE ⟨*dropped* his speed⟩ **3** : to set down from a ship or vehicle : UNLOAD; *also* : AIR-DROP **4** : to cause (the voice) to be less loud **5 a** : to bring down with a shot or a blow **b** : to cause (a high card) to fall **c** : to toss or roll (a ball) into a hole or basket **6 a** : to give up (as an idea) **b** : to leave incomplete ⟨*dropped* what he was doing⟩ **c** : to break off an association or connection with : DISMISS ⟨~ a failing student⟩ **7 a** : to leave (a letter representing a speech sound) unsounded ⟨~ the *g* in *running*⟩ **b** : to leave out in writing **8 a** : to utter or mention in a casual way ⟨~ a suggestion⟩ **b** : WRITE ⟨~ us a line soon⟩ **9** *of an animal* : to give birth to **10** : LOSE ⟨*dropped* 3 games⟩ ⟨*dropped* $50 in a poker game⟩ **11** : to take (a drug) orally : SWALLOW ⟨~ acid⟩ — **drop back** **1** : to move toward the rear of an advancing line or column **2** : to move straight back from the line of scrimmage — used of a back in football — **drop behind** : to fail to keep up — **drop by** : to pay a brief casual visit — **drop in** : to pay an unexpected visit
drop cloth *n* : a protective sheet (as of cloth or plastic) used esp. by painters to cover floors and furniture
drop curtain *n* : a stage curtain that can be lowered and raised
drop–forge \'dräp-'fō(ə)rj, -'fȯ(ə)rj\ *vt* : to forge between dies by a drop hammer or punch press — **drop forger** *n*
drop forging *n* : a forging made by the force of a dropped weight
drop front *n* : a hinged cover on the front of a desk that may be lowered to provide a surface for writing
drop hammer *n* : a power hammer raised and then released to drop (as on metal resting on an anvil or die)
drop·head \'dräp-ˌhed\ *n* **1** : a device for a desk or table that enables an attached typewriter or sewing machine to be swung or dropped down to leave a flat table top **2** *Brit* : a convertible automobile
drop–in \'dräp-ˌin\ *n* **1** : one who drops in : a casual visitor **2** : an informal social gathering at which guests are invited to drop in
drop·kick \-'kik\ *n* : a kick made by dropping a football to the ground and kicking it at the moment it starts to rebound
drop–kick \-'kik\ *vi* : to make a dropkick ~ *vt* : to score (a goal) with a dropkick — **drop·kick·er** *n*
drop leaf *n* : a hinged leaf on the side or end of a table that can be folded down
drop·let \'dräp-lət\ *n* : a tiny drop (as of a liquid)
droplet infection *n* : infection transmitted by airborne droplets of sputum containing infectious organisms
drop letter *n* : a letter to be delivered from the office where mailed
drop·light \'dräp-ˌlīt\ *n* : an electric light suspended by a cord
drop–off \'dräp-ˌȯf\ *n* **1** : a very steep or perpendicular descent **2** : a marked dwindling or decline ⟨a ~ in attendance⟩
drop off \dräp-'ȯf\ *vi* : to fall asleep
drop·out \'dräp-ˌau̇t\ *n* **1** : one who drops out of school **2** : one who drops out of conventional society **3** : a spot on a magnetic tape from which data has disappeared
drop out \dräp-'au̇t\ *vi* : to withdraw from participation or membership : QUIT; *esp* : to withdraw from conventional society because of disenchantment with its values and mores
drop·page \'dräp-ij\ *n* : the part of a fruit crop that falls from the tree before it is ready for picking
drop pass *n* : a pass in ice hockey in which the dribbler skates past the puck leaving it for a teammate following close behind
dropped egg *n* : a poached egg
drop·per \'dräp-ər\ *n* **1** : one that drops **2** : a short glass tube fitted with a rubber bulb and used to measure liquids by drops — called also *eyedropper, medicine dropper* — **drop·per·ful** \-ˌfu̇l\ *n*
drop·ping *n* **1** : something dropped **2** *pl* : animal dung
drop seat *n* **1** : a hinged seat (as in a taxi) that may be dropped down **2** : a seat (as in an undergarment) that falls down when unbuttoned
drop·shot \'dräp-ˌshät\ *n* : a delicately hit ball or shuttlecock (as in tennis, badminton, or rackets) that drops quickly after crossing the net or dies after hitting a wall
drop·si·cal \'dräp-si-kəl\ *adj* **1** : relating to or affected with dropsy **2** : TURGID, SWOLLEN — **drop·si·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **drop·si·cal·ness** \-kəl-nəs\ *n*
drop·sonde \'dräp-ˌsänd\ *n* [*drop* + radio*sonde*] : a radiosonde dropped by parachute from a high-flying airplane
drop·sy \'dräp-sē\ *n* [ME *dropesie*, short for *ydropesie*, fr. OF, fr. L *hydropisis*, modif. of Gk *hydrōps*, fr. *hydōr* water — more at WATER] : EDEMA
drop zone *n* : the area in which troops, supplies, or equipment are to be air-dropped; *also* : the target on which a skydiver lands
dros·era \'dräs-ə-rə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk, fem. of *droseros* dewy, fr. *drosos* dew] : SUNDEW

drosh·ky \'dräsh-kē\ *also* **dros·ky** \'dräs-kē\ *n, pl* **droshkies** *also* **droskies** [Russ *drozhki,* fr. *droga* pole of a wagon] : any of various 2- or 4-wheeled carriages used esp. in Russia

dro·soph·i·la \drō-'säf-ə-lə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *drosos* + NL *-phila,* fem. of *-philus* -phil] : any of a genus (*Drosophila*) of small two-winged flies used in genetic research



drosera

dross \'dräs, 'drȯs\ *n* [ME *dros,* fr. OE *drōs* dregs] **1** : the scum that forms on the surface of molten metal **2** : waste or foreign matter : IMPURITY — **drossy** \-ē\ *adj*

drought *or* **drouth** \'draůt(h)\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *drūgath,* fr. *drūgian* to dry up; akin to OE *drȳge* dry — more at DRY] **1** : a prolonged period of dryness **2** : a prolonged or chronic shortage or lack of something — **drought·i·ness** *n* — **droughty** \-ē\ *adj*

¹drove \'drōv\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *drāf,* fr. *drīfan* to drive — more at DRIVE] **1** : a group of animals driven or moving in a body **2 a** : a crowd of people moving or acting together **b** : a large group of similar things **3 a** : a chisel used to form a grooved or roughly shaped surface on stone **b** : the grooved surface so formed

²drove *past of* DRIVE

drov·er \'drō-vər\ *n* : one that drives cattle or sheep

drown \'draůn\ *or substand* **drownd** \'draůnd\ *vb* **drowned** \'draůnd\ *or substand* **drownd·ed** \'draůn-dəd\; **drown·ing** \'draů-niŋ\ *or substand* **drownd·ing** \'draůn-diŋ\ [ME *drounen*] *vi* : to become drowned ~ *vt* **1 a** : to suffocate by submersion esp. in water **b** : to submerge esp. by a rise in the water level **c** : to wet thoroughly ⟨~*ed* the french fries with catsup⟩ **2** : to engage (oneself) deeply and strenuously ⟨~*ed* himself in work⟩ **3** : to cause (a sound) not to be heard by making a loud noise ⟨his speech was ~*ed* out by . . . boos —*New Yorker*⟩ **4** : to drive out (as a sensation or an idea) ⟨~*ed* his sorrows in liquor⟩

¹drowse \'draůz\ *vb* **drowsed; drows·ing** [prob. akin to Goth *driusan* to fall — more at DREARY] *vi* **1** : to fall into a light slumber **2** : to be inactive ~ *vt* **1** : to make drowsy or inactive **2** : to pass (time) drowsily or in drowsing

²drowse *n* : the act or an instance of drowsing : DOZE

drowsy \'draů-zē\ *adj* **drows·i·er; -est** **1 a** : ready to fall asleep **b** : tending to induce drowsiness **c** : INDOLENT, LETHARGIC **2** : giving the appearance of peaceful inactivity ***syn*** see SLEEPY — **drows·i·ly** \-zə-lē\ *adv* — **drows·i·ness** \-zē-nəs\ *n*

drub \'drəb\ *vb* **drubbed; drub·bing** [perh. fr. Ar *ḍaraba*] *vt* **1** : to beat severely (as with a cudgel) **2** : to abuse with words : BERATE ⟨the book was *drubbed* by every critic⟩ **3** : to defeat decisively ~ *vi* : DRUM, STAMP — **drub·ber** *n*

¹drudge \'drəj\ *vb* **drudged; drudg·ing** [ME *druggen;* prob. akin to OE *drēogan* to work, endure, L *firmus* firm] *vi* : to do hard, menial, or monotonous work ~ *vt* : to force to do hard, menial, or monotonous work — **drudg·er** *n*

²drudge *n* **1** : one who is obliged to do menial work **2** : one whose work is routine and boring

drudg·ery \'drəj-(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : dull, irksome, and distasteful work : uninspiring or menial labor ***syn*** see WORK

drudg·ing \'drəj-iŋ\ *adj* : MONOTONOUS, TIRING — **drudg·ing·ly** \-iŋ-lē\ *adv*

¹drug \'drəg\ *n* [ME *drogge*] **1 a** *obs* : a substance used in dyeing or chemical operations **b** : a substance used as a medication or in the preparation of medication **c** *according to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act* (1) : a substance recognized in an official pharmacopoeia or formulary (2) : a substance intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease (3) : a substance other than food intended to affect the structure or function of the body (4) : a substance intended for use as a component of a medicine but not a device or a component, part, or accessory of a device **2** : a commodity that is not salable or for which there is no demand — used in the phrase *drug on the market* **3** : a substance that causes addiction or habituation

²drug *vb* **drugged; drug·ging** *vt* **1** : to affect with a drug; *esp* : to stupefy by a narcotic drug **2** : to administer a drug to **3** : to lull or stupefy as if with a drug ~ *vi* : to take drugs for narcotic effect

drug·get \'drəg-ət\ *n* [MF *droguet,* dim. of *drogue* trash, drug] **1** : a wool or partly wool fabric formerly used for clothing **2** : a coarse durable cloth used chiefly as a floor covering **3** : a rug having a cotton warp and a wool filling

drug·gist \'drəg-əst\ *n* : one who sells or dispenses drugs and medicines: as **a** : PHARMACIST **b** : one who owns or manages a drugstore

drug·mak·er \'drəg-ˌmā-kər\ *n* : one that manufactures pharmaceuticals

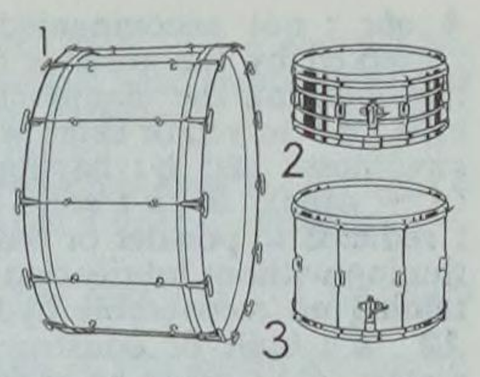
drug·store \-ˌstō(ə)r, -ˌstȯ(ə)r\ *n* : a retail store where medicines and miscellaneous articles (as food, cosmetics, and film) are sold : PHARMACY

drugstore cowboy *n* **1** : one who wears cowboy clothes but has had no experience as a cowboy **2** : one who loafs on street corners and in drugstores

dru·id \'drü-əd\ *n, often cap* [L *druides, druidae,* pl. fr. Gaulish *druides;* akin to OE *trēow* tree] : one of an ancient Celtic priesthood appearing in Irish and Welsh sagas and Christian legends as magicians and wizards — **dru·id·ess** \-əs\ *n, often cap* — **dru·id·ic** \drü-'id-ik\ *or* **dru·id·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj, often cap*

dru·id·ism \'drü-ə-ˌdiz-əm\ *n, often cap* : the system of religion, philosophy, and instruction of the druids

¹drum \'drəm\ *n* [prob. fr. D *trom;* akin to MHG *trumme* drum] **1** : a percussion instrument usu. consisting of a hollow cylinder with a drumhead stretched over each end that is beaten with a stick or a pair of sticks in playing; *broadly* : a nonmetallic hollow instrument or device beaten to produce a deep-toned rumbling or booming sound **2** : TYMPANIC MEMBRANE **3** : the sound of a drum; *also* : a sound similar to that of a drum **4** : something resembling a drum in shape: as **a** : a cylindrical machine or mechanical device or part; *esp* : a metal cylinder coated with magnetic material on which data (as for a computer) may be recorded **b** : a cylindrical container; *specif* : a usu. metal container for liquids having a capacity between 12 and 110 gallons **c** : a disk-shaped magazine for an automatic weapon **5** : any of various percoid fishes (family Sciaenidae) that make a drumming noise — **drum·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj*



drums 1: *1* bass, *2* snare (for orchestra), *3* snare (for parades)

²drum *vb* **drummed; drum·ming** *vi* **1** : to beat a drum **2** : to make a succession of strokes or vibrations that produce sounds like drumbeats **3** : to throb or sound rhythmically **4** : to stir up interest : SOLICIT ~ *vt* **1** : to summon or enlist by or as if by beating a drum ⟨*drummed* into service⟩ **2** : to dismiss ignominiously : EXPEL — usu. used with *out* **3** : to drive or force by steady effort or reiteration ⟨*drummed* the speech into her head⟩ **4 a** : to strike or tap repeatedly **b** : to produce (rhythmic sounds) by such action

³drum *n* [ScGael *druim* back, ridge, fr. OIr *druimm*] **1** *chiefly Scot* : a long narrow hill or ridge **2** : DRUMLIN

drum·beat \'drəm-ˌbēt\ *n* **1** : a stroke on a drum or its sound **2** : a cause advocated vociferously

drum·beat·er \-ər\ *n* : a vociferous supporter of a cause — **drum·beat·ing** \-iŋ\ *n*

drum·fire \'drəm-ˌfī(ə)r\ *n* **1** : artillery firing so continuous as to sound like a drumroll **2** : something suggestive of drumfire in intensity ⟨a ~ of publicity⟩

drum·head \-ˌhed\ *n* **1** : the material (as skin or plastic) stretched over each end of a drum **2** : the top of a capstan that is pierced with sockets for the levers used in turning it

drumhead court–martial *n* [fr. the use of a drumhead as a table] : a summary court-martial that tries offenses on the battlefield

drum·lin \'drəm-lən\ *n* [IrGael *druim* back, ridge (fr. OIr *druimm*) + E *-lin* (alter. of *-ling*)] : an elongate or oval hill or glacial drift

drum major *n* : the marching leader of a band

drum ma·jor·ette \ˌdrəm-ˌmā-jə-'ret\ *n* **1** : a female drum major **2** : a baton twirler who accompanies a marching band

drum·mer \'drəm-ər\ *n* **1** : one that plays a drum **2** : TRAVELING SALESMAN

drum printer *n* : a line printer in which the printing element is a revolving drum

drum·roll \'drəm-ˌrōl\ *n* : a roll on a drum or its sound

drum·stick \-ˌstik\ *n* **1** : a stick for beating a drum **2** : the segment of a fowl's leg between the thigh and tarsus

drum up *vt* **1** : to bring about by persistent effort ⟨*drum up* some business⟩ **2** : INVENT, ORIGINATE ⟨*drum up* a new time-saving method⟩

¹drunk *past part of* DRINK

²drunk \'drəŋk\ *adj* [ME *drunke,* alter. of *drunken*] **1** : having the faculties impaired by alcohol **2** : dominated by an intense feeling ⟨~ with power⟩ **3** : of, relating to, or caused by intoxication : DRUNKEN

³drunk *n* **1** : a period of excessive drinking **2** : DRUNKARD

drunk·ard \'drəŋ-kərd\ *n* : one who is habitually drunk

drunk·en \'drəŋ-kən\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *druncen,* fr. pp. of *drincan* to drink] **1** : DRUNK 1 **2** *obs* : saturated with liquid **3 a** : given to habitual excessive use of alcohol **b** : of, relating to, or characterized by intoxication ⟨they come from . . . broken homes, ~ homes —P. B. Gilliam⟩ **c** : resulting from or as if from intoxication ⟨a ~ brawl⟩ **4** : unsteady or lurching as if from alcoholic intoxication — **drunk·en·ly** *adv* — **drunk·en·ness** \-kən-nəs\ *n*

drunk·o·me·ter \ˌdrəŋ-'käm-ət-ər, 'drəŋ-kə-ˌmēt-\ *n* : a device for measuring alcohol content of the blood by chemical analysis of the breath

dru·pa·ceous \drü-'pā-shəs\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to a drupe **2** : bearing drupes

drupe \'drüp\ *n* [NL *drupa,* fr. L overripe olive, fr. Gk *dryppa* olive] : a one-seeded indehiscent fruit having a hard bony endocarp, a fleshy mesocarp, and a thin exocarp that is flexible (as in the cherry) or dry and almost leathery (as in the almond)

drupe·let \'drü-plət\ *n* : a small drupe; *specif* : one of the individual parts of an aggregate fruit (as the raspberry)

druth·ers \'drəth-ərz\ *n pl* [*druther,* alter. of *would rather*] *dial* : free choice : PREFERENCE — used in the phrase *if one had one's druthers*

Druze *or* **Druse** \'drüz\ *n* [Ar *Durūz,* pl., fr. Muḥammed ibn Ismʿaīlal-*Darazīy* †1019 Muslim religious leader] : a member of a religious sect originating among Muslims and centered in the mountains of Lebanon and Syria

¹dry \'drī\ *adj* **dri·er** \'drī(-ə-)r\; **dri·est** \'drī-əst\ [ME, fr. OE *drȳge;* akin to OHG *truckan* dry] **1 a** : free or relatively free from a liquid and esp. water **b** : not being in or under water ⟨~ land⟩ **c** : lacking precipitation or humidity ⟨~ climate⟩ **2 a** : characterized by exhaustion of a supply of water or liquid ⟨a ~ well⟩ ⟨the fountain pen ran ~⟩ **b** : devoid of running water ⟨a ~ ravine⟩ **c** : devoid of natural moisture ⟨my throat was ~ after the long hike⟩ **d** : no longer sticky or damp ⟨the paint is ~⟩ **e** : not giving milk ⟨a ~ cow⟩ **f** : lacking freshness : STALE **g** : ANHYDROUS **3 a** : marked by the absence or scantiness of secretions ⟨a ~ cough⟩ **b** : not shedding or accompanied by tears ⟨a ~ sob⟩

4 *obs* : not accompanied by bloodshed or drowning **5 a** : marked by the absence of alcoholic beverages ⟨a ~ party⟩ **b** : prohibiting the manufacture or distribution of alcoholic beverages **6** : served or eaten without butter ⟨~ toast⟩ **7 a** : lacking sweetness : SEC **b** : having all or most sugar fermented to alcohol ⟨a ~ wine⟩ **8 a** : solid as opposed to liquid ⟨~ groceries⟩ **b** : reduced to powder or flakes : DEHYDRATED ⟨~ milk⟩ **9** : functioning without lubrication ⟨a ~ clutch⟩ **10** *of natural gas* : containing no recoverable hydrocarbon (as gasoline) **11** : SLACK 6 **12 a** : built or constructed without a process which requires water: (1) : using no mortar ⟨~ masonry⟩ (2) : using prefabricated materials (as plasterboard) rather than a construction involving plaster or mortar ⟨~ wall construction⟩ **b** : requiring no liquid in preparation or operation ⟨a ~ copy of the page⟩ **13 a** : not showing or communicating warmth, enthusiam, or tender feeling : SEVERE ⟨a ~ style of painting⟩ **b** : WEARISOME, UNINTERESTING ⟨~ passages of description⟩ **c** : lacking embellishment : PLAIN ⟨the ~ facts⟩ **14 a** : not yielding what is expected or desired : UNPRODUCTIVE **b** : having no personal bias or emotional concern ⟨the ~ light of reason⟩ **c** : RESERVED, ALOOF **15** : marked by matter-of-fact, ironic, or terse manner of expression ⟨~ wit⟩ **16** : lacking smooth sound qualities ⟨a ~ rasping voice⟩ **17** : being a dry run ⟨a ~ rehearsal⟩ — **dry·ly** *adv* — **dry·ness** *n*
syn DRY, ARID *shared meaning element* : lacking or deficient in moisture ***ant*** wet

²dry *vb* **dried; dry·ing** *vt* : to make dry ~ *vi* : to become dry — **dry·able** \'drī-ə-bəl\ *adj*

³dry *n, pl* **drys** **1** : the condition of being dry : DRYNESS **2** : something dry; *esp* : a dry place **3** : PROHIBITIONIST

dry·ad \'drī-əd, -ˌad\ *n* [L *dryad-, dryas*, fr. Gk, fr. *drys* tree — more at TREE] : WOOD NYMPH

dry·as·dust \'drī-əz-ˌdəst\ *adj* : BORING — **dryasdust** *n*

dry cell *n* : a battery whose contents are not spillable

dry–clean \'drī-ˌklēn\ *vt* : to subject to dry cleaning ~ *vi* : to undergo dry cleaning — **dry–clean·able** \-'klē-nə-bəl\ *adj*

dry cleaner *n* : one that does dry cleaning

dry cleaning *n* **1** : the cleansing of fabrics with substantially nonaqueous organic solvents **2** : something that is dry-cleaned

dry–dock *vt* : to place in a dry dock

dry dock \'drī-ˌdäk\ *n* : a dock that can be kept dry for use during the construction or repairing of ships

dry·er *var of* DRIER

dry farming *n* : farming that is engaged in on nonirrigated land with little rainfall and that relies on moisture-conserving tillage and drought-resistant crops — **dry farm** *n* — **dry–farm** *vt* — **dry farmer** *n*

dry fly *n* : an artificial angling fly designed to float upon the surface of the water

dry gangrene *n* : gangrene that develops in the presence of arterial obstruction, is sharply localized, and is characterized by dryness of the dead tissue which is sharply demarcated from adjacent tissue by a line of inflammation

dry goods \'drī-ˌgu̇dz\ *n pl* : textiles, ready-to-wear clothing, and notions as distinguished esp. from hardware and groceries

dry ice *n* : solidified carbon dioxide usu. in the form of blocks that at −78.5°C changes directly to a gas and that is used chiefly as a refrigerant

drying oil *n* : an oil (as linseed oil) that changes readily to a hard tough elastic substance when exposed in a thin film to air

dry kiln *n* : a heated chamber for drying and seasoning cut lumber

dry·lot \'drī-'lät\ *n* : an enclosure of limited size usu. bare of vegetation and used for fattening livestock

dry measure *n* : a series of units of capacity for dry commodities — see METRIC SYSTEM table, WEIGHT table

dry mop *n* : a long-handled mop for dusting floors — called also *dust mop*

dry–nurse *vt* **1** : to act as dry nurse to **2** : to give unnecessary supervision to

dry nurse *n* : a nurse who takes care of but does not breast-feed another woman's baby

dryo·pith·e·cine \ˌdrī-ō-'pith-ə-ˌsīn\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *drys* tree + *pithēkos* ape] : any of a subfamily (Dryopithecinae) of Miocene and Pliocene Old World anthropoid apes sometimes regarded as ancestors of both man and modern anthropoids — **dryopithecine** *adj*

dry out *vi* : to take a cure for alcoholism

dry pleurisy *n* : pleurisy in which exudation is mainly fibrinous

dry·point \'drī-ˌpȯint\ *n* : an engraving made with a steel or jeweled point instead of a burin directly into the metal plate without the use of acid as in etching; *also* : a print made from such an engraving

dry–rot *vt* : to affect with dry rot ~ *vi* : to become affected with dry rot

dry rot *n* **1 a** : a decay of seasoned timber caused by fungi that consume the cellulose of wood leaving a soft skeleton which is readily reduced to powder **b** : a fungous rot of plant tissue in which the affected areas are dry and often firmer than normal or more or less mummified **2** : a fungus causing dry rot **3** : decay from within caused esp. by resistance to new forces ⟨art . . . infected by the *dry rot* of formalism —D. G. Mandelbaum⟩

dry run *n* **1** : a practice firing without ammunition **2** : a practice exercise : REHEARSAL, TRIAL

dry·salt·er \'drī-ˌsȯl-tər\ *n, Brit* : a dealer in crude dry chemicals and dyes — **dry·salt·ery** \-tə-rē\ *n, Brit*

dry–shod \'drī-'shäd\ *adj* : having dry shoes or feet

dry socket *n* : a tooth socket in which after extraction a blood clot fails to form or disintegrates without organizing

dry up *vi* **1** : to disappear as if by evaporation, draining, or cutting off of a source of supply **2** : to wither or die through gradual loss of vitality **3** : to stop talking ⟨wished his buddy would *dry up*⟩

dry wash *n* **1** : laundry washed and dried but not ironed **2** *West* : WASH 3d

dry well *n* : a hole made in porous ground and filled with gravel or rubble to receive water (as drainage from a roof) and allow it to percolate away

ds *abbr* decistere

DS *abbr* **1** [It *dal segno*] from the sign **2** days after sight **3** detached service **4** document signed **5** drop siding

DSc *abbr* doctor of science

DSC *abbr* **1** Distinguished Service Cross **2** doctor of surgical chiropody

DSM *abbr* Distinguished Service Medal

DSO *abbr* Distinguished Service Order

DSP *abbr* [L *decessit sine prole*] died without issue

DST *abbr* **1** daylight saving time **2** doctor of sacred theology

DT *abbr* **1** daylight time **2** delirium tremens **3** doctor of theology **4** double time

DTh *abbr* doctor of theology

DTP *abbr* diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis

d.t.'s \(')dē-'tēz\ *n pl, often cap D&T* : DELIRIUM TREMENS

Du *abbr* Dutch

du·ad \'d(y)ü-ˌad\ *n* [irreg. fr. Gk *dyad-, dyas* — more at DYAD] : PAIR

¹du·al \'d(y)ü-əl\ *adj* [L *dualis*, fr. *duo* two — more at TWO] **1** *of grammatical number* : denoting reference to two **2 a** : consisting of two parts or elements or having two like parts : DOUBLE **b** : having a double character or nature — **du·al·ly** \-ə(l)-lē\ *adv*

²dual *n* **1** : the dual number of a language **2** : a linguistic form in the dual

dual citizenship *n* : the status of an individual who is a citizen of two or more nations

du·al·ism \'d(y)ü-ə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* **1** : a theory that considers reality to consist of two irreducible elements or modes **2** : the quality or state of being dual **3 a** : a doctrine that the universe is under the dominion of two opposing principles one of which is good and the other evil **b** : a view of man as constituted of two irreducible elements — **du·al·ist** \-ləst\ *n* — **du·al·is·tic** \ˌd(y)ü-ə-'lis-tik\ *adj* — **du·al·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

du·al·i·ty \d(y)ü-'al-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** : DUALISM, DICHOTOMY

du·al·ize \'d(y)ü-ə-ˌlīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** : to make dual

dual–purpose *adj* : intended for or serving two purposes ⟨~ cattle bred for milk and meat⟩

dual–purpose fund *n* : a closed-end investment company with two classes of shares one of which is entitled to all dividend income and the other to all gains from capital appreciation

¹dub \'dəb\ *vb* **dubbed; dub·bing** [ME *dubben*, fr. OE *dubbian*; akin to ON *dubba* to dub, OHG *tubili* plug] *vt* **1 a** : to confer knighthood on **b** : to dignify or give new character to **c** : to call by a descriptive name or epithet : NICKNAME **2** : to trim or remove the comb and wattles of **3 a** : to hit (a golf ball) poorly **b** : to execute poorly ~ *vi* : THRUST, POKE — **dub·ber** *n*

²dub *n* : a clumsy person : DUFFER

³dub *n* [ME (Sc dial.) *dubbe*] *chiefly Scot* : POOL, PUDDLE

⁴dub *vt* **dubbed; dub·bing** [by shortening & alter. fr. *double*] **1** : to provide (a motion-picture film) with a new sound track **2** : to add (sound effects) to a film or to a radio or television production — usu. used with *in* **3** : to transpose (sound already recorded) to a new record — **dub·ber** *n*

Dub *abbr* Dublin

dub·bin \'dəb-ən\ *also* **dub·bing** \-ən, -iŋ\ *n* [*dubbing*, gerund of *dub* (to dress leather)] : a dressing of oil and tallow for leather

du·bi·ety \d(y)ü-'bī-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-eties** [LL *dubietas*, fr. L *dubius*] **1** : a usu. hesitant uncertainty or doubt that tends to cause vacillation **2** : a matter of doubt ***syn*** see UNCERTAINTY ***ant*** decision

du·bi·os·i·ty \ˌd(y)ü-bē-'äs-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** : DOUBT

du·bi·ous \'d(y)ü-bē-əs\ *adj* [L *dubius*, fr. *dubare* to vacillate; akin to L *duo* two — more at TWO] **1** : giving rise to doubt : EQUIVOCAL ⟨they felt our scheme a little ~⟩ **2** : unsettled in opinion : UNDECIDED ⟨they were a little ~ about our plan⟩ **3** : of doubtful promise or uncertain outcome ⟨this seemed the most promising of all the ~ solutions proposed⟩ **4** : questionable as to value, quality, or origin ⟨persons of ~ reliability and patriotism⟩ ***syn*** see DOUBTFUL ***ant*** reliable, trustworthy — **du·bi·ous·ly** *adv* — **du·bi·ous·ness** *n*

du·bi·ta·ble \'d(y)ü-bət-ə-bəl\ *adj* [L *dubitabilis*, fr. *dubitare* to doubt — more at DOUBT] : open to doubt or question

du·bi·ta·tion \ˌd(y)ü-bə-'tā-shən\ *n, archaic* : DOUBT

Du·bon·net \ˌd(y)ü-bə-'nā\ *trademark* — used for an aperitif wine

du·cal \'d(y)ü-kəl\ *adj* [MF, fr. LL *ducalis* of a leader, fr. L *duc-, dux* leader — more at DUKE] : of or relating to a duke or dukedom — **du·cal·ly** \-kə-lē\ *adv*

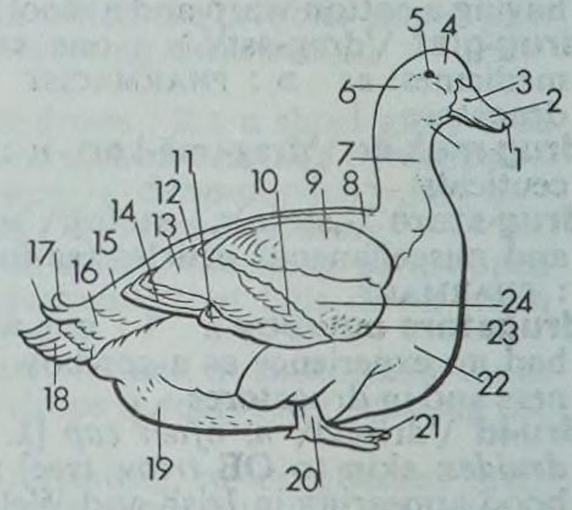
duc·at \'dək-ət\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OIt *ducato* coin with the doge's portrait on it, fr. *duca* doge, fr. LGk *douk-, doux* leader, fr. L *duc-, dux*] : a usu. gold coin formerly used in various European countries

du·ce \'dü-(ˌ)chā\ *n* [It (*Il*) *Duce*, lit., the leader, title of Benito Mussolini, fr. L *duc-, dux*] : LEADER 2c(5)

duch·ess \'dəch-əs\ *n* [ME *duchesse*, fr. MF, fr. *duc* duke] **1** : the wife or widow of a duke **2** : a woman who holds a ducal title in her own right

duchy \'dəch-ē\ *n, pl* **duch·ies** [ME *duche*, fr. MF *duché*, fr. *duc*] : the territory of a duke or duchess : DUKEDOM

¹duck \'dək\ *n, pl* **ducks** *often attrib* [ME *doke*, fr. OE *dūce*] **1** *or pl* **duck** **a** : any of various swimming birds (family Anatidae, the duck family) in



duck: *1* bean, *2* bill, *3* nostril, *4* head, *5* eye, *6* ear, *7* neck, *8* cape, *9* shoulder, *10* coverts, *11* flight coverts, *12* saddle, *13* secondaries, *14* primaries, *15* rump, *16* tail coverts, *17* drake feathers, *18* tail, *19* fluff, *20* shank, *21* web, *22* breast, *23* wing front, *24* wing bow

which the neck and legs are short, the body more or less depressed, the bill often broad and flat, and the sexes almost always different from each other in plumage **b** : the flesh of any of these birds used as food **2** : a female duck — compare DRAKE **3** *chiefly Brit* : DARLING — often used in pl. but sing. in constr. **4** : PERSON, CREATURE

²duck *vb* [ME *douken;* akin to OHG *tūhhan* to dive, OE *dūce* duck] *vt* **1** : to thrust under water **2** : to lower (as the head) quickly : BOW **3** : AVOID, EVADE ⟨~ the issue⟩ ~ *vi* **1 a** : to plunge under the surface of water **b** : to descend suddenly : DIP **2 a** : to move (as the head or body) suddenly : DODGE **b** : BOW, BOB **3** : to evade a duty, question, or responsibility : back out — **duck·er** *n*

³duck *n* : an instance of ducking

⁴duck *n* [D *doek* cloth; akin to OHG *tuoh* cloth, and perh. to Skt *dhvaja* flag] **1** : a durable closely woven usu. cotton fabric **2** *pl* : light clothes made of duck

⁵duck *n* [*DUKW*, its code designation] : an amphibious truck

duck·bill \'dək-ˌbil\ *n* **1** : PLATYPUS **2** : an edible paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) of the Mississippi river and its tributaries

duck·board \-ˌbō(ə)rd, -ˌbȯ(ə)rd\ *n* : a boardwalk or slatted flooring laid on a wet, muddy, or cold surface — usu. used in pl.

duck call *n* : a device for imitating the calls of ducks

duck·foot·ed \'dək-'fůt-əd\ *adv* : with feet pointed outward : FLAT-FOOTED

ducking stool *n* : a seat attached to a plank and formerly used to plunge culprits tied to it into water

duck·ling \'dək-liŋ\ *n* : a young duck

duck·pin \-ˌpin\ *n* **1** : a small bowling pin shorter than a tenpin but proportionately wider at mid-diameter **2** *pl but sing in constr* : a bowling game using duckpins

ducks and drakes *or* **duck and drake** *n* : the pastime of skimming flat stones or shells along the surface of calm water — **play ducks and drakes with** *or* **make ducks and drakes of** : to use recklessly : SQUANDER ⟨*played ducks and drakes with* his money⟩

duck sickness *n* : a highly destructive botulism affecting esp. wild ducks in the western U.S.

duck soup *n* : something easy to do

duck·weed \'dək-ˌwēd\ *n* : a small floating aquatic monocotyledonous plant (family Lemnaceae, the duckweed family)

ducky \'dək-ē\ *adj* **duck·i·er; -est** **1** : SATISFACTORY, FINE ⟨everything is just ~⟩ **2** : DARLING, CUTE ⟨a ~ little tearoom⟩

¹duct \'dəkt\ *n* [NL *ductus*, fr. ML, aqueduct, fr. L, act of leading, fr. *ductus*, pp. of *ducere* to lead — more at TOW] **1** : a bodily tube or vessel esp. when carrying the secretion of a gland **2 a** : a pipe, tube, or channel that conveys a substance **b** : a pipe or tubular runway for carrying an electric power line, telephone cables, or other conductors **3 a** : a continuous tube formed in plant tissue by a row of elongated cells that have lost their intervening end walls **b** : an elongated cavity (as a resin canal of a conifer) formed by disintegration or separation of cells **4** : a layer (as in the atmosphere or the ocean) which occurs under usu. abnormal conditions and in which radio or sound waves are confined to a restricted path — **duct·less** \'dək-tləs\ *adj*

²duct *vt* : to convey (as a gas) through a duct; *also* : to propagate (as radio waves) through a duct

duc·tile \'dək-tᵊl, -ˌtīl\ *adj* [MF & L; MF, fr. L *ductilis*, fr. *ductus*, pp.] **1** : capable of being fashioned into a new form **2** : capable of being drawn out or hammered thin ⟨~ metal⟩ **3** : easily led or influenced ⟨the ~ masses⟩ ***syn*** see PLASTIC — **duc·til·i·ty** \ˌdək-'til-ət-ē\ *n*

duct·ing \'dək-tiŋ\ *n* : a system of ducts; *also* : the material composing a duct

ductless gland *n* : ENDOCRINE GLAND

duct·ule \'dək-(ˌ)t(y)ü(ə)l\ *n* : a small duct

duc·tus ar·te·ri·o·sus \'dək-təs-är-ˌtir-ē-'ō-səs\ *n* [NL, lit., arterial duct] : a short broad vessel in the fetus that connects the pulmonary artery with the aorta and conducts most of the blood directly from the right ventricle to the aorta bypassing the lungs

¹dud \'dəd\ *n* [ME *dudde*] **1** *pl* **a** : CLOTHES **b** : personal belongings **2 a** : FAILURE ⟨the movie proved a box-office ~⟩ **b** : MISFIT **3** : a bomb or missile that fails to explode

²dud *adj* : of little or no worth : VALUELESS ⟨~ checks⟩

dud·die *or* **dud·dy** \'dəd-ē\ *adj, Scot* : RAGGED, TATTERED

dude \'d(y)üd\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : a man extremely fastidious in dress and manner : DANDY **2** : a city man; *esp* : an Easterner in the West **3** : FELLOW, GUY — **dud·ish** \'d(y)üd-ish\ *adj* — **dud·ish·ly** *adv*

du·deen \dü-'dēn\ *n* [IrGael *dūidīn*, dim. of *dūd* pipe] : a short tobacco pipe made of clay

dude ranch *n* : a vacation resort offering activities (as horseback riding) typical of western ranches

¹dud·geon \'dəj-ən\ *n* [ME *dogeon*, fr. AF *digeon*] **1** *obs* : a wood used esp. for dagger hilts **2 a** *archaic* : a dagger with a handle of dudgeon **b** *obs* : a haft made of dudgeon

²dudgeon *n* [origin unknown] : a fit or state of angry indignation usu. provoked by opposition ⟨she stalked out in a ~ when her plan was rejected⟩ ***syn*** see OFFENSE

¹due \'d(y)ü\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *deu*, pp. of *devoir* to owe, fr. L *debēre* — more at DEBT] **1** : owed or owing as a debt **2 a** : owed or owing as a natural or moral right ⟨everyone's right to dissent . . . is ~ the full protection of the Constitution —Nat Hentoff⟩ **b** : according to accepted notions or procedures : APPROPRIATE **3 a** : satisfying or capable of satisfying a need, obligation, or duty : ADEQUATE **b** : REGULAR, LAWFUL ⟨~ proof of loss⟩ **4** : capable of being attributed : ASCRIBABLE — used with *to* ⟨this advance is partly ~ to a few men of genius —A. N. Whitehead⟩ **5** : having reached the date at which payment is required : PAYABLE **6** : required or expected in the prescribed, normal, or logical course of events : SCHEDULED — **due·ness** *n*

²due *n* : something due or owed: as **a** : something that rightfully belongs to one ⟨the artist has finally been accorded something of his ~⟩ **b** : a payment or obligation required by law or custom : DEBT **c** *pl* : FEES, CHARGES

³due *adv* **1** *obs* : DULY **2** : DIRECTLY, EXACTLY ⟨~ north⟩

¹du·el \'d(y)ü-əl\ *n* [ML *duellum*, fr. OL, war] **1** : a combat between two persons; *specif* : a formal combat with weapons fought between two persons in the presence of witnesses **2** : a conflict between antagonistic persons, ideas, or forces

²duel *vb* **du·eled** *or* **du·elled; du·el·ing** *or* **du·el·ling** *vi* : to fight a duel ~ *vt* : to encounter (an opponent) in a duel — **du·el·er** *n* — **du·el·ist** \'d(y)ü-ə-ləst\ *n*

du·el·lo \d(y)ü-'el-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **-los** [It, fr. ML *duellum*] **1** : the rules or practice of dueling **2** : DUEL

du·en·de \dü-'en-(ˌ)dā\ *n* [Sp dial., charm, fr. Sp, ghost, goblin, fr. *duen de casa*, prob. fr. *dueño de casa* owner of a house] : the power to attract through personal magnetism and charm

du·en·na \d(y)ü-'en-ə\ *n* [Sp *dueña*, fr. L *domina* mistress] **1** : an elderly woman serving as governess and companion to the younger ladies in a Spanish or a Portuguese family **2** : CHAPERON — **du·en·na·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

due process *n* : a course of legal proceedings carried out regularly and in accordance with established rules and principles — called also *due process of law*

¹du·et \d(y)ü-'et\ *n* [It *duetto*, dim. of *duo*] : a composition for two performers

²duet *vi* **du·et·ted; du·et·ting** : to perform a duet

due to *prep* : because of

duff \'dəf\ *n* [E dial., alter. of *dough*] **1** : a steamed pudding usu. containing raisins and currants **2** : the partly decayed organic matter on the forest floor **3** : fine coal : SLACK

duf·fel *or* **duf·fle** \'dəf-əl\ *n* [D *duffel*, fr. *Duffel*, Belgium] **1** : a coarse heavy woolen material with a thick nap **2** : transportable personal belongings, equipment, and supplies **3** : DUFFEL BAG

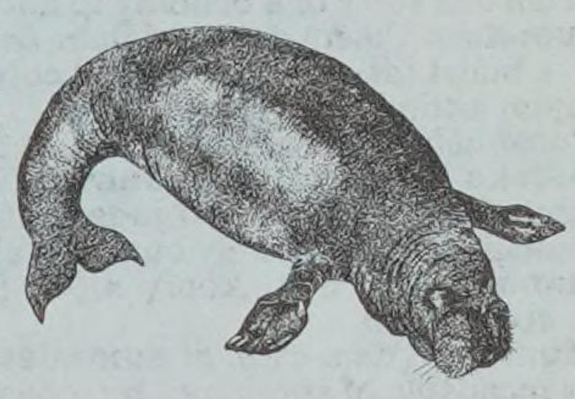
duffel bag *n* : a large cylindrical fabric bag for personal belongings

duf·fer \'dəf-ər\ *n* [origin unknown] **1 a** : a peddler esp. of cheap flashy articles **b** : something counterfeit or worthless **2** : an incompetent, ineffectual, or clumsy person **3** *Austral* : a cattle rustler

¹dug *past of* DIG

²dug \'dəg\ *n* [perh. of Scand origin; akin to OSw *dæggia* to suckle; akin to OE *delu* nipple] : UDDER; *also* : TEAT — usu. used of a suckling animal but vulgar when used of a woman

du·gong \'dü-ˌgäŋ, -ˌgȯŋ\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Malay & Tag *duyong* sea cow] : an aquatic herbivorous mammal of a monotypic genus (*Dugong*) that has a bilobate tail and in the male upper incisors altered into tusks and that is related to the manatee — called also *sea cow*



dugong

dug·out \'dəg-ˌaůt\ *n* **1** : a boat made by hollowing out a large log **2 a** : a shelter dug in a hillside; *also* : a shelter dug in the ground and roofed with sod **b** : an area in the side of a trench for quarters, storage, or protection **3** : either of two low shelters on either side of and facing a baseball diamond that contain the players' benches

dui·ker \'dī-kər\ *n* [Afrik, lit., diver, fr. *duik* to dive, fr. MD *dūken;* akin to OHG *tūhhan* to dive — more at DUCK] : any of several small African antelopes (*Cephalophus* or related genera)

duke \'d(y)ük\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *duc*, fr. L *duc-, dux*, fr. *ducere* to lead — more at TOW] **1** : a sovereign ruler of a continental European duchy **2** : a nobleman of the highest hereditary rank; *esp* : a member of the highest grade of the British peerage **3** *slang* : FIST, HAND — usu. used in pl. **4** : any of several cultivated cherries between sweet cherries and sour cherries in character and prob. of hybrid origin — **duke·dom** \-dəm\ *n*

Du·kho·bor *var of* DOUKHOBOR

dul·cet \'dəl-sət\ *adj* [ME *doucet*, fr. MF, fr. *douz* sweet, fr. L *dulcis*] **1** : sweet to the taste : LUSCIOUS **2 a** : sweet to the ear : MELODIOUS **b** : AGREEABLE, SOOTHING ⟨could not . . . expect such ~ weather to last —Victoria Sackville-West⟩ — **dul·cet·ly** *adv*

dul·ci·fy \'dəl-sə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** [LL *dulcificare*, fr. L *dulcis*] **1** : to make sweet **2** : to make agreeable : MOLLIFY

dul·ci·mer \'dəl-sə-mər\ *n* [ME *dowcemere*, fr. MF *doulcemer*, fr. OIt *dolcimelo*] **1** : a stringed instrument of trapezoidal shape played with light hammers held in the hands **2** *or* **dul·ci·more** \-ˌmō(ə)r, -ˌmȯ(ə)r\ : an American folk instrument with three or four strings stretched over an elongate fretted sound box held on the lap and played by plucking or strumming

dul·ci·nea \ˌdəl-sə-'nē-ə, -'sin-ē-ə\ *n* [Sp, fr. *Dulcinea* del Toboso, beloved of Don Quixote] : MISTRESS, SWEETHEART

¹dull \'dəl\ *adj* [ME *dul;* akin to OE *dol* foolish and prob. to L *fumus* smoke — more at FUME] **1** : mentally slow : STUPID **2 a** : slow in perception or sensibility : INSENSIBLE **b** : lacking zest or vivacity : LISTLESS **3 a** : slow in action : SLUGGISH **b** : marked by little business activity ⟨a ~ season⟩ **4** : lacking sharpness of edge or point **5** : lacking brilliance or luster **6** : lacking in force or intensity: as **a** : not clear : INDISTINCT ⟨the kerosine lamp gave a ~ light⟩ **b** : not resonant or ringing ⟨a ~ booming sound⟩ **7** *of a color* : low in saturation and low in lightness **8** : CLOUDY, OVERCAST **9** : TEDIOUS, UNINTERESTING — **dull·ness** *or* **dul·ness** \'dəl-nəs\ *n* — **dul·ly** \'dəl-(l)ē\ *adv*

syn **1** see STUPID ***ant*** clever, bright

2 DULL, BLUNT, OBTUSE *shared meaning element* : not sharp, keen, or acute ***ant*** sharp (*as of an edge or point*), poignant (*as of sensations or emotions*), lively (*as of action or activity*)

²dull *vt* : to make dull ⟨eyes and ears ~*ed* by age⟩ ~ *vi* : to become dull
dull·ard \'dəl-ərd\ *n* : one that is stupid or insensitive
dull·ish \'dəl-ish\ *adj* : somewhat dull — **dull·ish·ly** *adv*
dulls·ville \'dəlz-ˌvil\ *n* [¹*dull* + *-sville* (as in *Huntsville*)] *slang* : something that is dull or boring; *also* : BOREDOM
dulse \'dəls\ *n* [ScGael & IrGael *duileasg;* akin to W *delysg* dulse] : any of several coarse red seaweeds (esp. *Rhodymenia palmata*) found esp. in northern latitudes and used as a food condiment
du·ly \'d(y)ü-lē\ *adv* : in a due manner, time, or degree : PROPERLY
du·ma \'dü-mə, -(ˌ)mä\ *n* [Russ, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *dōm* judgment — more at DOOM] : a representative council in Russia; *specif* : the principal legislative assembly in czarist Russia
¹dumb \'dəm\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *tumb* mute, OE *dēaf* deaf — more at DEAF] **1** : devoid of the power of speech ⟨deaf and ~ from birth⟩ **2** : naturally incapable of speech ⟨~ animals⟩ **3** : not expressed in uttered words ⟨~ grief⟩ **4 a** : not willing to speak **b** : not having the usual accompaniment of speech or sound **5** : lacking some usual attribute or accompaniment; *esp* : having no means of self-propulsion ⟨~ barge⟩ **6** : markedly lacking in intelligence : exasperatingly obtuse ***syn*** see STUPID ***ant*** articulate — **dumb·ly** \'dəm-lē\ *adv* — **dumb·ness** *n*
²dumb *vt* : to make silent : DEADEN ⟨would lie around, ~*ed* by the drugs —Norman Mailer⟩
Dumb *abbr* Dumbartonshire
dumb·bell \'dəm-ˌbel\ *n* **1** : a short bar with two identical spheres or with adjustable weighted disks attached to each end and used usu. in pairs for calisthenic exercise **2** : one that is dull and stupid : DUMMY
dumb·found *or* **dum·found** \ˌdəm-'faůnd\ *vt* [*dumb* + *-found* (as in *confound*)] : to confound briefly and usu. with astonishment ***syn*** see PUZZLE
dumb·foun·der *or* **dum·foun·der** \-'faůn-dər\ *vt* : DUMBFOUND
dumb show *n* **1** : a part of a play presented in pantomime **2** : signs and gestures without words : PANTOMIME
dumb·struck \'dəm-ˌstrək\ *adj* : made silent by astonishment
dumb·wait·er \'dəm-'wāt-ər\ *n* **1** : a portable serving table or stand **2** : a small elevator used for conveying food and dishes from one story of a building to another
dum·dum \'dəm-ˌdəm\ *n* [*Dum-Dum*, arsenal near Calcutta, India] : a bullet (as one with vertical cuts made in its point) that expands upon hitting an object
Dumf *abbr* Dumfriesshire
dum·ka \'dům-kə\ *n, pl* **dum·ky** \-kē\ [Czech, elegy, of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *dōms* judgment, OE *dōm* doom] : a Slavic folk ballad usu. melancholy but often alternately melancholy and gay
dumm·kopf \'dům-ˌkȯpf\ *n* [G, fr. *dumm* stupid + *kopf* head] : BLOCKHEAD
¹dum·my \'dəm-ē\ *n, pl* **dummies** [¹*dumb* + *-y*] **1 a** : one who is incapable of speaking **b** : one who is habitually silent **c** : one who is stupid **2 a** : the exposed hand in bridge played by the declarer in addition to his own hand **b** : a bridge player whose hand is a dummy **3** : an imitation, copy, or likeness of something used as a substitute **4** : one seeming to act for himself but in reality acting for or at the direction of another **5** : something usu. mechanically operated that serves to replace or aid a human being's work **6** : a pattern arrangement of matter to be reproduced esp. by printing
²dummy *adj* **1 a** : having the appearance of being real but lacking capacity to function : ARTIFICIAL **b** : existing in name only : FICTITIOUS ⟨bank accounts held in ~ names⟩ **2** : apparently acting for oneself while really acting for or at the direction of another ⟨a ~ director⟩
³dummy *vb* **dum·mied; dum·my·ing** *vt* : to make a dummy of ⟨the book was *dummied* and ready to go to press⟩ — often used with *up* ⟨the editor *dummied* up the front page⟩ ~ *vi, slang* : to refuse to talk — used with *up*
dummy variable *n* : an arbitrary mathematical symbol or variable that can be replaced by another without affecting the value of the expression in which it occurs ⟨the variable of integration in a definite integral is a *dummy variable*⟩
du·mor·ti·er·ite \d(y)ü-'mȯrt-ē-ə-ˌrīt\ *n* [F *dumortiérite*, fr. Eugène *Dumortier* †1876 F paleontologist] : a bright blue or greenish blue mineral consisting of a silicate of aluminum and used esp. for jewelry
¹dump \'dəmp\ *vb* [perh. fr. D *dompen* to immerse, topple; akin to OE *dyppan* to dip — more at DIP] *vt* **1 a** : to let fall in a heap or mass **b** : to get rid of unceremoniously or irresponsibly **c** : JETTISON ⟨an airplane ~*ing* gasoline⟩ **2** *slang* : to knock down : BEAT ⟨the man rushed out and ~*ed* him —John Corry⟩ **3** : to sell in quantity at a very low price; *specif* : to sell abroad at less than the market price at home **4** : to copy (data in a computer's internal storage) onto an external storage medium ~ *vi* **1** : to fall abruptly : PLUNGE **2** : to dump refuse — **dump·er** *n*
²dump *n* **1 a** : an accumulation of refuse or other discarded materials **b** : a place where such materials are dumped **2 a** : a quantity of reserve materials accumulated at one place **b** : a place where such materials are stored; *esp* : a place for the temporary storage of military supplies in the field ⟨ammunition ~⟩ **3** : a disorderly, slovenly, or dilapidated place **4** : an instance of dumping data stored in a computer
dump·ing *n* : the act of one that dumps; *esp* : the selling of goods in quantity at below market price (as to dispose of a surplus or to break down competition) esp. in international trade
dump·ish \'dəm-pish\ *adj* [*dumps*] : SAD, MELANCHOLY ⟨remembrances . . . that . . . cheer and uplift the ~ heart of man —Douglas Jerrold⟩
dump·ling \'dəm-pliŋ\ *n* [perh. alter. of *lump*] **1 a** : a small mass of leavened dough cooked by boiling or steaming **b** : a dessert made by wrapping fruit in biscuit dough and baking **2 a** : one that is shaped like a dumpling **b** : a short fat person or animal
dumps \'dəm(p)s\ *n pl* [prob. fr. D *domp* haze, fr. MD *damp*] : a gloomy state of mind : DESPONDENCY ⟨in the ~⟩
dump truck *n* : a motor or hand-propelled truck for transporting and dumping loose materials
dumpy \'dəm-pē\ *adj* **dump·i·er; -est** [E dial. *dump* (lump)] : being short and thick in build : SQUAT — **dump·i·ly** \-pə-lē\ *adv* — **dump·i·ness** \-pē-nəs\ *n*
dumpy level *n* : a surveyor's level with a short usu. inverting telescope rigidly fixed and rotating only in a horizontal plane
¹dun \'dən\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *dunn* — more at DUSK] **1 a** : having a dun color **b** *of a horse* : exhibiting reduced hair pigmentation **2** : marked by dullness and drabness — **dun·ness** \'dən-nəs\ *n*
²dun *n* **1** : a dun horse **2** : a variable color averaging a nearly neutral slightly brownish dark gray **3 a** : a subadult mayfly; *also* : an artificial fly tied to imitate such an insect **b** : CADDIS FLY
³dun *vt* **dunned; dun·ning** [origin unknown] **1** : to make persistent demands upon for payment **2** : to plague or pester constantly
⁴dun *n* **1** : one who duns **2** : an urgent request; *esp* : a demand for payment
Dun·can Phyfe \ˌdəŋ-kən-'fīf\ *adj* : of, relating to, or constituting furniture designed and built by or in the style of Duncan Phyfe
dunce \'dən(t)s\ *n* [John *Duns* Scotus, whose once accepted writings were ridiculed in the 16th cent.] : one who is dull-witted or stupid
dunce cap *n* : a conical cap formerly used as a punishment for slow learners at school — called also *dunce's cap*
dun·der·head \'dən-dər-ˌhed\ *n* [perh. fr. D *donder* thunder + E *head;* akin to OHG *thonar* thunder — more at THUNDER] : DUNCE, BLOCKHEAD — **dun·der·head·ed** \ˌdən-dər-'hed-əd\ *adj*
dun·drea·ries \ˌdən-'dri(ə)r-ēz\ *n pl, often cap* [Lord *Dundreary*, character in the play *Our American Cousin* (1858), by Tom Taylor] : long flowing sideburns
dune \'d(y)ün\ *n* [F, fr. OF, fr. MD; akin to OE *dūn* down — more at DOWN] : a hill or ridge of sand piled up by the wind — **dune·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj*
dune buggy *n* : BEACH BUGGY
dune·land \'d(y)ün-ˌland\ *n* : an area having many dunes
¹dung \'dəŋ\ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to ON *dyngja* manure pile, Lith *dengti* to cover] **1** : the excrement of an animal : MANURE **2** : something repulsive — **dungy** \'dəŋ-ē\ *adj*
²dung *vt* : to fertilize or dress with manure
dun·ga·ree \ˌdəŋ-gə-'rē, 'dəŋ-gə-ˌ\ *n* [Hindi *dūgrī*] **1** : a heavy coarse durable cotton twill woven from colored yarns; *specif* : blue denim **2** *pl* : heavy cotton work clothes made usu. of blue dungaree
dung beetle *n* : a beetle (as a dorbeetle or tumblebug) that rolls balls of dung in which to lay eggs and on which the larvae feed
dun·geon \'dən-jən\ *n* [ME *donjon*, fr. MF, fr. (assumed) ML *dominion-, dominio*, fr. L *dominus* lord — more at DAME] **1** : DONJON **2** : a dark usu. underground prison or vault
dung·hill \'dəŋ-ˌhil\ *n* **1** : a heap of dung **2** : something (as a situation or condition) that is repulsive or degraded
du·nite \'dü-ˌnīt, 'dən-ˌīt\ *n* [Mt. *Dun*, New Zealand] : a granitoid igneous rock consisting chiefly of olivine — **du·nit·ic** \dü-'nit-ik, ˌdən-'it-\ *adj*
¹dunk \'dəŋk\ *vb* [PaG *dunke*, fr. MHG *dunken*, fr. OHG *dunkōn*] *vt* **1** : to dip (as a piece of bread) into liquid (as milk) while eating **2** : to dip or submerge temporarily in liquid ⟨~*ed* her in the swimming pool⟩ **3** : to throw (a basketball) into the basket from above the rim ~ *vi* **1** : to submerge oneself in water **2** : to make a dunk shot in basketball
²dunk *n* : the act or action of dunking; *esp* : DUNK SHOT
Dun·ker \'dəŋ-kər\ *or* **Dun·kard** \-kərd\ *n* [PaG *Dunker*, fr. *dunke*] : a member of the Church of the Brethren or any of several other orig. German Baptist denominations practicing trine immersion and love feasts and refusing to take oaths or to perform military service
dunk shot *n* : a shot in basketball made by jumping high into the air and throwing the ball down through the basket
dun·lin \'dən-lən\ *n, pl* **dunlins** *or* **dunlin** [¹*dun* + *-lin* (alter. of *-ling*)] : a small widely distributed sandpiper (*Calidris alpina*) largely cinnamon to rusty brown above and white below
dun·nage \'dən-ij\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : loose materials used around a cargo to prevent damage; *also* : padding in a shipping container to protect contents against breakage **2** : BAGGAGE
duo \'d(y)ü-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **du·os** [It, fr. L, two — more at TWO] **1** : DUET **2** : PAIR
duo- *comb form* [L *duo*] : two
duo·de·cil·lion \ˌd(y)ü-ō-di-'sil-yən\ *n, often attrib* [L *duodecim* twelve + E *-illion* (as in *million*)] — see NUMBER table
duo·dec·i·mal \ˌd(y)ü-ə-'des-ə-məl\ *adj* [L *duodecim* — more at DOZEN] : of, relating to, or proceeding by twelve or the scale of twelves — **duodecimal** *n*
duo·dec·i·mo \-ˌmō\ *n, pl* **-mos** [L, abl. of *duodecimus* twelfth, fr. *duodecim*] : TWELVEMO
duoden- *or* **duodeno-** *comb form* [NL, fr. ML *duodenum*] : duodenum ⟨*duoden*itis⟩ ⟨*duodeno*gram⟩
du·o·de·num \ˌd(y)ü-ə-'dē-nəm, d(y)ù-'äd-ᵊn-əm\ *n, pl* **-de·na** \-'dē-nə, ᵊn-ə\ *or* **-denums** [ME, fr. ML, fr. L *duodeni* twelve each, fr. *duodecim* twelve; fr. its length, about 12 fingers' breadth] : the first part of the small intestine extending from the pylorus to the jejunum — **du·o·de·nal** \-'dēn-ᵊl, -ᵊn-əl\ *adj*
duo·logue \'d(y)ü-ə-ˌlȯg, -ˌläg\ *n* : a dialogue between two persons
duo·mo \'dwȯ-(ˌ)mō\ *n, pl* **duomos** [It — more at DOME] : CATHEDRAL
du·op·o·ly \d(y)ù-'äp-ə-lē\ *n, pl* **-lies** [*duo-* + *-poly* (as in *monopoly*)] **1** : an oligopoly limited to two sellers **2** : hegemony exercised by two great powers — **du·op·o·lis·tic** \-ˌäp-ə-'lis-tik\ *adj*
¹dup \'dəp\ *vt* [contr. of *do up*] *archaic* : OPEN
²dup *abbr* **1** duplex **2** duplicate
¹dupe \'d(y)üp\ *n* [F, fr. MF *duppe*, prob. alter. of *huppe* hoopoe] : one that is easily deceived or cheated : FOOL
²dupe *vt* **duped; dup·ing** : to make a dupe of : DECEIVE — **dup·er** *n*

syn DUPE, GULL, TRICK, HOAX *shared meaning element* : to delude by underhand methods or for one's own ends

[3]dupe *n or vb* : DUPLICATE

dup·ery \'d(y)ü-p(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** **1** : the act or practice of duping **2** : the condition of being duped

du·ple \'d(y)ü-pəl\ *adj* [L *duplus* double — more at DOUBLE] **1** : having two elements **2** **a** : marked by two or a multiple of two beats per measure of music ⟨~ time⟩ **b** *of rhythm* : consisting of a meter based on disyllabic feet

[1]du·plex \'d(y)ü-ˌpleks\ *adj* [L, fr. *duo* two + *-plex* -fold — more at TWO, SIMPLE] **1** : DOUBLE, TWOFOLD; *specif* : having two parts that operate at the same time or in the same way ⟨a ~ lathe⟩ **2** : allowing telecommunication in opposite directions simultaneously

[2]duplex *n* : something duplex; *esp* : a two-family house

[3]duplex *vt* : to make duplex

duplex apartment *n* : an apartment having rooms on two floors

du·plex·er \'d(y)ü-ˌplek-sər\ *n* : a switching device that permits alternate transmission and reception with the same radio antenna

[1]du·pli·cate \'d(y)ü-pli-kət\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *duplicatus*, pp. of *duplicare* to double, fr. *duplic-, duplex*] **1** **a** : consisting of or existing in two corresponding or identical parts or examples ⟨~ invoices⟩ **b** : being the same as another **2** : being a card game in which players play identical hands in order to compare scores ⟨~ bridge⟩

[2]duplicate *n* **1** : either of two things that exactly resemble or correspond to each other; *specif* : a legal instrument that is essentially identical with another and has equal validity as an original **2** : COPY, COUNTERPART **3** : two copies both alike — used with *in* ⟨typed in ~⟩

[3]du·pli·cate \'d(y)ü-pli-ˌkāt\ *vb* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** *vt* **1** : to make double or twofold ⟨the walls should be *duplicated* . . . in order to have a second line of defense —J. A. Steers⟩ **2** **a** : to make an exact copy of ⟨~ the document⟩ **b** : to be a match for : EQUAL ⟨a feat that can never be *duplicated*⟩ ~ *vi* : to become duplicate : REPLICATE ⟨DNA in chromosomes ~*s*⟩ — **du·pli·ca·tive** \-ˌkāt-iv\ *adj*

du·pli·ca·tion \ˌd(y)ü-pli-'kā-shən\ *n* **1** : the act or process of duplicating : the quality or state of being duplicated **2** : DUPLICATE, COUNTERPART **3** : a chromosomal aberration in which a segment of genetic material is repeated

du·pli·ca·tor \'d(y)ü-pli-ˌkāt-ər\ *n* : one that duplicates; *specif* : a machine for making copies of typed, drawn, or printed matter

du·plic·i·tous \d(y)ù-'plis-ət-əs\ *adj* : marked by duplicity — **du·plic·i·tous·ly** *adv*

du·plic·i·ty \d(y)ù-'plis-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : contradictory doubleness of thought, speech, or action; *esp* : the belying of one's true intentions by deceptive words or action **2** : the quality or state of being double or twofold **3** : the technically incorrect use of two or more distinct items (as claims, charges, or defenses) in a single legal action

Dur *abbr* Durham

du·ra·ble \'d(y)ůr-ə-bəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *durabilis*, fr. *durare* to last — more at DURING] : able to exist for a long time without significant deterioration; *also* : designed to be durable ⟨~ goods⟩ ***syn*** see LASTING — **du·ra·bil·i·ty** \ˌd(y)ůr-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **du·ra·ble·ness** \'d(y)ůr-ə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **du·ra·bly** \-blē\ *adv*

durable press *n* **1** : the process of treating a fabric with a chemical (as a resin) and heat for setting the shape and for aiding wrinkle resistance **2** : material treated by durable press **3** : the condition of material treated by durable press

du·ra·bles \'d(y)ůr-ə-bəlz\ *n pl* : consumer goods (as vehicles and household appliances) that are typically used repeatedly over a period of years

du·ral·u·min \d(y)ù-'ral-yə-mən\ *n* [fr. *Duralumin*, a trademark] : an alloy of aluminum, copper, manganese, and magnesium comparable in strength and hardness to soft steel

du·ra ma·ter \'d(y)ůr-ə-ˌmāt-ər, -ˌmät-\ *n* [ME, fr. ML, lit., hard mother] : the tough fibrous membrane that envelops the brain and spinal cord external to the arachnoid and pia mater

du·ra·men \d(y)ù-'rā-mən\ *n* [NL, fr. L, hardness, fr. *durare* to harden — more at DURING] : HEARTWOOD

du·rance \'d(y)ůr-ən(t)s\ *n* [MF, fr. *durer* to endure] **1** *archaic* : ENDURANCE **2** : IMPRISONMENT — often used in the phrase *durance vile* ⟨after ~ vile of ten days he was released —J. E. Davies⟩

du·ra·tion \d(y)ù-'rā-shən\ *n* **1** : continuance in time **2** : the time during which something exists or lasts ⟨was in the army for the ~ of the war⟩

dur·bar \'dər-ˌbär, ˌdər-'\ *n* [Hindi *darbār*, fr. Per, fr. *dar* door + *bār* admission, audience] **1** : court held by an Indian prince **2** : a formal reception marked by pledges of fealty given to an Indian or African prince by his subjects or to the British monarch by native princes

du·ress \d(y)ù-'res\ *n* [ME *duresse*, fr. MF *duresce* hardness, severity, fr. L *duritia*, fr. *durus*] **1** : forcible restraint or restriction **2** : compulsion by threat; *specif* : unlawful constraint

Dur·ham \'dər-əm, 'də-rəm, 'důr-əm\ *n* [County *Durham*, England] : SHORTHORN

Durham Rule *n* [Monte *Durham*, 20th cent. Am litigant] : a legal hypothesis under which a person is not judged responsible for a criminal act that is attributed to a mental disease or defect

du·ri·an \'d(y)ůr-ē-ən, -ē-ˌän\ *n* [Malay] **1** : a large oval tasty but foul-smelling fruit with a prickly rind **2** : an East Indian tree (*Durio zibethinus*) of the silk-cotton family that bears durians

dur·ing \ˌd(y)ůr-iŋ\ *prep* [ME, fr. prp. of *duren* to last, fr. OF *durer*, fr. L *durare* to harden, endure, fr. *durus* hard; perh. akin to Skt *dāru* wood — more at TREE] **1** : throughout the duration of ⟨swims every day ~ the summer⟩ **2** : at a point in the course of : IN ⟨takes his vacation ~ July⟩

dur·mast \'dər-ˌmast\ *n* [perh. alter. of *dun mast*, fr. [1]*dun* + *mast*] : a European oak (*Quercus sessiliflora* or *Q. petraea*) valued esp. for its dark heavy tough elastic wood

durn \'dərn\, **durned** \'dərn(d)\ *var of* DARN, DARNED

du·ro \'dů(ə)r-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **duros** [Sp, short for *peso duro* hard peso] : a Spanish or Spanish American peso or silver dollar

du·roc \'d(y)ù(ə)r-ˌäk\ *n* [*Duroc*, 19th cent. Am stallion] *often cap* : any of a breed of large vigorous red American hogs

du·rom·e·ter \d(y)ù-'räm-ət-ər\ *n* [L *durus* hard] : an instrument for measuring hardness

dur·ra *also* **du·ra** \'důr-ə\ *n* [Ar *dhurah*] : any of several grain sorghums widely grown in warm dry regions

du·rum wheat \ˌd(y)ůr-əm-, ˌdər-əm-, ˌdə-rəm-\ *n* [NL *durum*, fr. L, neut. of *durus* hard] : a wheat (*Triticum durum*) that yields a glutenous flour used esp. in macaroni and spaghetti — called also *durum*

[1]dusk \'dəsk\ *adj* [ME *dosk*, alter. of OE *dox;* akin to L *fuscus* dark brown, OE *dunn* dun, *dūst* dust] : DUSKY

[2]dusk *vi* : to become dark ~ *vt* : to make dark or gloomy ⟨a gray light ~*ed* the room —William Sansom⟩

[3]dusk *n* **1** : the darker part of twilight esp. at night **2** : darkness or semidarkness caused by the shutting out of light

dusky \'dəs-kē\ *adj* **dusk·i·er; -est** **1** : somewhat dark in color; *specif* : having dark skin **2** : marked by slight or deficient light : SHADOWY — **dusk·i·ly** \-kə-lē\ *adv* — **dusk·i·ness** \-kē-nəs\ *n*
syn **1** see DARK
2 DUSKY, SWARTHY, TAWNY *shared meaning element* : tending toward darkness and dullness — used esp. in the description of human appearance ***ant*** light, bright

[1]dust \'dəst\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *dūst;* akin to L *furere* to rage, Gk *thyein*] **1** : fine dry pulverized particles of matter and esp. earth **2** : the particles into which something disintegrates **3** **a** : something worthless **b** : a state of humiliation **4** **a** : the earth esp. as a place of burial **b** : the surface of the ground **5** **a** : a cloud of dust ⟨a thin ~ rising from the hooves —H. V. Morton⟩ **b** : CONFUSION, DISTURBANCE **6** *archaic* : a single particle (as of earth) **7** *Brit* : refuse (as sweepings) ready for collection — **dust·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **dust·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj*

[2]dust *vt* **1** *archaic* : to make dusty **2** **a** : to make free of dust **b** : to prepare to use again **3** **a** : to sprinkle with fine particles **b** : to sprinkle in the form of dust ~ *vi* **1** *of a bird* : to work dust into the feathers **2** : to remove dust **3** : to give off dust

dust·bin \'dəs(t)-ˌbin\ *n, Brit* : a can for trash or garbage

dust bowl *n* : a region that suffers from prolonged droughts and dust storms

dust bowl·er \'dəs(t)-ˌbō-lər\ *n* : a resident of a dust bowl

dust·cov·er \-ˌkəv-ər\ *n* **1** : a cover (as of cloth or plastic) used to protect furniture or equipment from dust **2** : DUST JACKET

dust devil *n* : a small whirlwind containing sand or dust

dust·er \'dəs-tər\ *n* **1** : one that removes dust **2** **a** : a lightweight overgarment to protect clothing from dust **b** : a dress-length housecoat **3** : one that scatters fine particles; *specif* : a device for applying insecticidal or fungicidal dusts to crops **4** : DUST STORM

dust·heap \'dəst-ˌ(h)ēp\ *n* **1** : a pile of refuse **2** : a category of forgotten items ⟨the ~ of history —*New Republic*⟩

dust jacket *n* : a paper cover for a book

dust·man \'dəs(t)-mən\ *n, Brit* : a collector of trash or garbage

dust mop *n* : DRY MOP

dust·pan \'dəs(t)-ˌpan\ *n* : a shovel-shaped pan for sweepings

dust storm *n* **1** : a dust-laden whirlwind that moves across an arid region and is usu. associated with hot dry air and marked by high electrical tension **2** : strong winds bearing clouds of dust

dust·up \'dəs-ˌtəp\ *n* : QUARREL, ROW

dust wrapper *n* : DUST JACKET

dusty \'dəs-tē\ *adj* **dust·i·er; -est** **1** : covered or abounding with dust **2** : consisting of dust : POWDERY **3** : resembling dust **4** : lacking vitality : DRY ⟨~ scholarship⟩ — **dust·i·ly** \'dəs-tə-lē\ *adv* — **dust·i·ness** \-tē-nəs\ *n*

dusty miller *n* : any of several plants (as a mullein pink) having ashy-gray or white tomentose leaves

dutch \'dəch\ *adv, often cap* : with each person paying his own way

[1]Dutch \'dəch\ *adj* [ME *Duch*, fr. MD *duutsch;* akin to OHG *diutisc* German, Goth *thiudisko* as a gentile, *thiuda* people, Oscan *touto* city] **1** **a** *archaic* : of or relating to the Germanic peoples of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the Low Countries **b** : of or relating to the Netherlands or its inhabitants **c** : GERMAN **2** **a** *archaic* : of, relating to, or in any of the Germanic languages of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the Low Countries **b** : of, relating to, or in the Dutch of the Netherlands **3** : of or relating to the Pennsylvania Dutch or their language — **Dutch·ly** *adv*

[2]Dutch *n* **1** **a** *archaic* (1) : any of the Germanic languages of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the Low Countries (2) : GERMAN 2 **b** : the Germanic language of the Netherlands **2 Dutch** *pl* **a** *archaic* : the Germanic peoples of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the Low Countries **b** *archaic* : people of Germanic descent **c** : the people of the Netherlands **3** : PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH **4** : DANDER ⟨his ~ is up⟩ **5** : DISFAVOR, TROUBLE ⟨in ~ with his boss⟩

Dutch cheese *n* : COTTAGE CHEESE

Dutch clover *n* : WHITE DUTCH CLOVER

Dutch Colonial *adj* : characterized by a gambrel roof with overhanging eaves ⟨four-bedroom house . . . built in *Dutch Colonial* style —William Robbins⟩

Dutch courage *n* : courage due to intoxicants

Dutch door *n* : a door divided horizontally so that the lower or upper part can be shut separately

Dutch elm disease *n* : a disease of elms caused by an ascomycetous fungus (*Ceratostomella ulmi*) and characterized by yellowing of the foliage, defoliation, and death

Dutch hoe *n* : SCUFFLE HOE

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dutch·man \'dəch-mən\ *n* **1** *cap* **a** *archaic* : a member of any of the Germanic peoples of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the Low Countries **b** : a native or inhabitant of the Netherlands **c** : a person of Dutch descent **d** : GERMAN 1a, 1b **2** : a device for hiding or counteracting structural defects

Dutch·man's–breech·es \ˌdəch-mənz-'brich-əz\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* : a delicate spring-flowering herb (*Dicentra cucullaria*) of the fumitory family occurring in the eastern U.S. and having finely divided leaves and cream-white double-spurred flowers



Dutchman's-breeches

Dutchman's–pipe \-'pīp\ *n, pl* **Dutchman's–pipes** \-'pīps\ : a vine (*Aristolochia durior*) with large leaves and early summer flowers having the tube of the calyx curved like the bowl of a pipe

Dutch oven *n* **1** : a metal shield for roasting before an open fire **2** : a brick oven in which cooking is done by the preheated walls **3** **a** : a cast-iron kettle with a tight cover that is used for baking in an open fire **b** : a heavy pot with a tight-fitting domed cover

dutch treat *adv* : on the basis of a Dutch treat ⟨go *dutch treat*⟩

Dutch treat *n* : a meal or other entertainment for which each person pays his own way

Dutch uncle *n* : one who admonishes sternly and bluntly

du·te·ous \'d(y)üt-ē-əs\ *adj* [irreg. fr. *duty*] : DUTIFUL, OBEDIENT

du·ti·able \'d(y)üt-ē-ə-bəl\ *adj* : subject to a duty ⟨~ imports⟩

du·ti·ful \'d(y)üt-i-fəl\ *adj* **1** : filled with or motivated by a sense of duty ⟨a ~ son⟩ **2** : proceeding from or expressive of a sense of duty ⟨~ affection⟩ — **du·ti·ful·ly** \-f(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **du·ti·ful·ness** \-fəl-nəs\ *n*

du·ty \'d(y)üt-ē\ *n, pl* **duties** [ME *duete*, fr. AF *dueté*, fr. OF *deu* due] **1** : conduct due to parents and superiors : RESPECT **2** **a** : obligatory tasks, conduct, service, or functions that arise from one's position (as in life or in a group) **b** : assigned service or business; *specif* : active military service **3** **a** : a moral or legal obligation **b** : the force of moral obligation **4** : TAX; *esp* : a tax on imports **5** **a** (1) : the work done by a machine under given conditions (2) : a measure of efficiency expressed in terms of the amount of work done in relation to the energy consumed **b** (1) : the service required (as of an electrical machine) under specified conditions of load and rest (2) : functional application : USE; *esp* : use as a substitute ⟨making the word do ~ for the thing —Edward Sapir⟩ **6** : the quantity of irrigation water required to fill the needs of the area of a particular crop ***syn*** see FUNCTION, TASK

du·um·vir \d(y)ü-'əm-vər\ *n* [L, fr. *duum* (gen. of *duo* two) + *vir* man] **1** : one of two Roman officers or magistrates constituting a board or court **2** : one of two men jointly holding power

du·um·vi·rate \-və-rət\ *n* **1** : two people associated in high office **2** : government or control by two people

duve·tyn \'d(y)ü-və-ˌtēn, 'dəv-ˌtēn\ *n* [F *duvetine*, fr. *duvet* down, fr. MF, alter. of (assumed) MF *dumet*, dim. of OF *dun, dum* down, fr. ON *dūnn* — more at DOWN] : a smooth lustrous velvety fabric

DV *abbr* **1** [L *Deo volente*] God willing **2** Douay Version

DVM *abbr* doctor of veterinary medicine

DW *abbr* **1** deadweight **2** delayed weather **3** distilled water **4** dust wrapper

¹dwarf \'dwȯ(ə)rf\ *n, pl* **dwarfs** \'dwȯ(ə)rfs\ *or* **dwarves** \'dwȯ(ə)rvz\ *often attrib* [ME *dwerg, dwerf*, fr. OE *dweorg, dweorh*; akin to OHG *twerg* dwarf] **1** : a person of unusually small stature; *esp* : one whose bodily proportions are abnormal **2** : an animal or plant much below normal size **3** : a small legendary manlike being who is usu. misshapen and ugly and skilled as an artificer **4** : a star (as the sun) of ordinary or low luminosity and relatively small mass and size — **dwarf·ish** \'dwȯr-fish\ *adj* — **dwarf·ish·ly** *adv* — **dwarf·ish·ness** *n* — **dwarf·like** \'dwȯr-ˌflīk\ *adj* — **dwarf·ness** \'dwȯrf-nəs\ *n*

²dwarf *vt* **1** : to restrict the growth of : STUNT ⟨children ~*ed* by malnutrition⟩ **2** : to cause to appear smaller ⟨the other buildings are ~*ed* by the skyscraper⟩ ~ *vi* : to become smaller

dwarf·ism \'dwȯr-ˌfiz-əm\ *n* : the condition of stunted growth

dwell \'dwel\ *vi* **dwelt** \'dwelt\ *or* **dwelled** \'dweld, 'dwelt\; **dwell·ing** [ME *dwellen*, fr. OE *dwellan* to go astray, hinder; akin to OHG *twellen* to tarry] **1** : to remain for a time **2** **a** : to live as a resident **b** : EXIST, LIE **3** **a** : to keep the attention directed — used with *on* or *upon* ⟨won't ~ on familiar material⟩ **b** : to expatiate insistently — used with *on* or *upon* ⟨*dwelt* on the weaknesses in this theory⟩ ***syn*** see RESIDE — **dwell·er** *n*

dwell·ing *n* : a building or other shelter in which people live : HOUSE

DWI *abbr* Dutch West Indies

dwin·dle \'dwin-dᵊl\ *vb* **dwin·dled; dwin·dling** \-(d)liŋ, -dᵊl-iŋ\ [prob. freq. of *dwine* (to waste away)] *vi* : to become steadily less : SHRINK ~ *vt* : to make steadily less ***syn*** see DECREASE

dwt *abbr* pennyweight

DX \(')dē-'eks\ *n* : DISTANCE — used of long-distance radio transmission

dy *abbr* **1** delivery **2** deputy **3** duty

Dy *symbol* dysprosium

dy- *or* **dyo-** *comb form* [LL, fr. Gk, fr. *dyo* — more at TWO] : two ⟨*dy*archy⟩

dy·ad \'dī-ˌad, -əd\ *n* [LL *dyad-, dyas*, fr. Gk, fr. *dyo*] **1** : PAIR; *specif* : two individuals (as husband and wife) maintaining a sociologically significant relationship **2** : a meiotic chromosome after separation of the two homologous members of a tetrad **3** : an operator indicated by writing the symbols of two vectors without a dot or cross between (as AB) — **dy·ad·ic** \dī-'ad-ik\ *adj* — **dy·ad·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

dy·ad·ic \dī-'ad-ik\ *n* : a sum of mathematical dyads

Dy·ak *var of* DAYAK

dy·ar·chy \'dī-ˌär-kē\ *n, pl* **-chies** : a government in which power is vested in two rulers or authorities

dyb·buk \'dib-ək\ *n, pl* **dyb·bu·kim** \ˌdib-ù-'kēm\ *also* **dybbuks** [LHeb *dibbūq*] : a wandering soul believed in Jewish folklore to enter the body of a man and control his actions until exorcised by a religious rite

¹dye \'dī\ *n* [ME *dehe*, fr. OE *dēah, dēag*; akin to L *fumus* smoke — more at FUME] **1** : color from dyeing **2** : a soluble or insoluble coloring matter

²dye *vb* **dyed; dye·ing** *vt* **1** : to impart a new and often permanent color to esp. by impregnating with a dye **2** : to impart (a color) by dyeing ⟨~*ing* blue on yellow⟩ ~ *vi* : to take up or impart color in dyeing — **dye·abil·i·ty** \ˌdī-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **dye·able** \'dī-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **dy·er** \'dī(-ə)r\ *n*

dyed–in–the–wool \ˌdīd-ᵊn-thə-'wůl\ *adj* : THOROUGHGOING, UNCOMPROMISING ⟨a ~ conservative⟩

dy·er's–broom \'dī(-ə)rz-'brüm, -'brům\ *n, pl* **dyer's–brooms** : WOODWAXEN

dye·stuff \'dī-ˌstəf\ *n* : DYE 2

dye·wood \-ˌwůd\ *n* : a wood (as logwood or fustic) from which coloring matter is extracted for dyeing

dying *pres part of* DIE

dyke *var of* DIKE

dynam *abbr* dynamics

¹dy·nam·ic \dī-'nam-ik\ *adj* [F *dynamique*, fr. Gk *dynamikos* powerful, fr. *dynamis* power, fr. *dynasthai* to be able] **1** **a** : of or relating to physical force or energy **b** : of or relating to dynamics : ACTIVE **2** **a** : marked by continuous usu. productive activity or change ⟨a ~ population⟩ **b** : marked by energy : FORCEFUL ⟨a ~ personality⟩ — **dy·nam·i·cal** \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **dy·nam·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

²dynamic *n* **1** : a dynamic force **2** : DYNAMICS 2

dy·nam·ics \dī-'nam-iks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1** : a branch of mechanics that deals with forces and their relation primarily to the motion but sometimes also to the equilibrium of bodies **2** : the pattern of change or growth of an object or phenomenon ⟨personality ~⟩ ⟨population ~⟩ **3** : variation and contrast in force or intensity (as in music)

dy·na·mism \'dī-nə-ˌmiz-əm\ *n* **1** **a** : a theory that explains the universe in terms of forces and their interplay **b** : DYNAMICS 2 **2** : a dynamic or expansionist quality — **dy·na·mist** \-məst\ *n* — **dy·na·mis·tic** \ˌdī-nə-'mis-tik\ *adj*

¹dy·na·mite \'dī-nə-ˌmīt\ *n* **1** : a blasting explosive that is made of nitroglycerin absorbed in a porous material and that sometimes contains ammonium nitrate or cellulose nitrate; *also* : a blasting explosive that contains no nitroglycerin **2** : one that has explosive force ⟨this letter is ~ —Erle Stanley Gardner⟩ — **dy·na·mit·ic** \ˌdī-nə-'mit-ik\ *adj*

²dynamite *vt* **-mit·ed; -mit·ing** **1** : to blow up with dynamite **2** : to cause the complete failure or destruction of — **dy·na·mit·er** *n*

dy·na·mo \'dī-nə-ˌmō\ *n, pl* **-mos** [short for *dynamoelectric machine*] **1** : GENERATOR 3 **2** : a forceful energetic individual

dy·na·mom·e·ter \ˌdī-nə-'mäm-ət-ər\ *n* [F *dynamomètre*, fr. Gk *dynamis* power + F *-mètre* -meter] **1** : an instrument for measuring mechanical force **2** : an apparatus for measuring mechanical power (as of an engine) — **dy·na·mo·met·ric** \-mō-'me-trik\ *adj* — **dy·na·mom·e·try** \-'mäm-ə-trē\ *n*

dy·na·mo·tor \'dī-nə-ˌmōt-ər\ *n* [*dyna*mo + *motor*] : a motor generator combining the electric motor and generator

dy·nap·o·lis \dī-'nap-ə-ləs\ *n* [NGk, fr. *dyna*mikos dynamic (fr. Gk, powerful) + Gk *polis* city — more at POLICE] : a city planned for orderly growth along a major traffic artery

dy·nast \'dī-ˌnast, -nəst\ *n* [L *dynastes*, fr. Gk *dynastēs*, fr. *dynasthai* to be able, have power] : RULER

dy·nas·ty \'dī-nə-stē *also* -ˌnas-tē, *esp Brit* 'din-ə-stē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : a succession of rulers of the same line of descent **2** : a powerful group or family that maintains its position for a considerable time — **dy·nas·tic** \dī-'nas-tik\ *adj* — **dy·nas·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

dy·na·tron \'dī-nə-ˌträn\ *n* [Gk *dynamis* power] : a vacuum tube in which the secondary emission of electrons from the plate results in a decrease in the plate current as the plate voltage increases

dyne \'dīn\ *n* [F, fr. Gk *dynamis*] : the unit of force in the cgs system equal to the force that would give a free mass of one gram an acceleration of one centimeter per second per second

dy·node \'dī-ˌnōd\ *n* [Gk *dynamis*] : an electrode in an electron tube that functions to produce secondary emission of electrons

dys- *prefix* [ME *dis-* bad, difficult, fr. MF & L; MF *dis-*, fr. L *dys-*, fr. Gk; akin to OE *tō-, te-* apart, Skt *dus-* bad, difficult] **1** : abnormal ⟨*dys*hidrosis⟩ **2** : difficult ⟨*dys*phagia⟩ — compare EU- **3** : impaired ⟨*dys*function⟩ **4** : bad ⟨*dys*logistic⟩ — compare EU-

dys·cra·sia \dis-'krā-zh(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL, fr. ML, bad mixture of humors, fr. Gk *dyskrasia*, fr. *dys-* + *krasis* mixture — more at CRASIS] : an abnormal condition of the body

dys·en·ter·ic \ˌdis-ᵊn-'ter-ik\ *adj* : of or relating to dysentery

dys·en·tery \'dis-ᵊn-ˌter-ē\ *n, pl* **-ter·ies** [ME *dissenterie*, fr. L *dysenteria*, fr. Gk, fr. *dys-* + *enteron* intestine — more at INTER-] **1** : a disease characterized by severe diarrhea with passage of mucus and blood and usu. caused by infection **2** : DIARRHEA

dys·func·tion \(')dis-'fəŋ(k)-shən\ *n* : impaired or abnormal functioning — **dys·func·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj*

dys·gen·e·sis \(')dis-'jen-ə-səs\ *n* [NL] : defective development esp. of the gonads (as in Klinefelter's syndrome or Turner's syndrome)

dys·gen·ic \(')dis-'jen-ik\ *adj* **1** : detrimental to the hereditary qualities of a stock **2** : biologically defective or deficient

dys·gen·ics \-iks\ *n pl but sing in constr* : the study of racial degeneration

dys·lex·ia \dis-'lek-sē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. *dys-* + Gk *lexis* word, speech] : a disturbance of the ability to read — **dys·lex·ic** \-sik\ *adj*

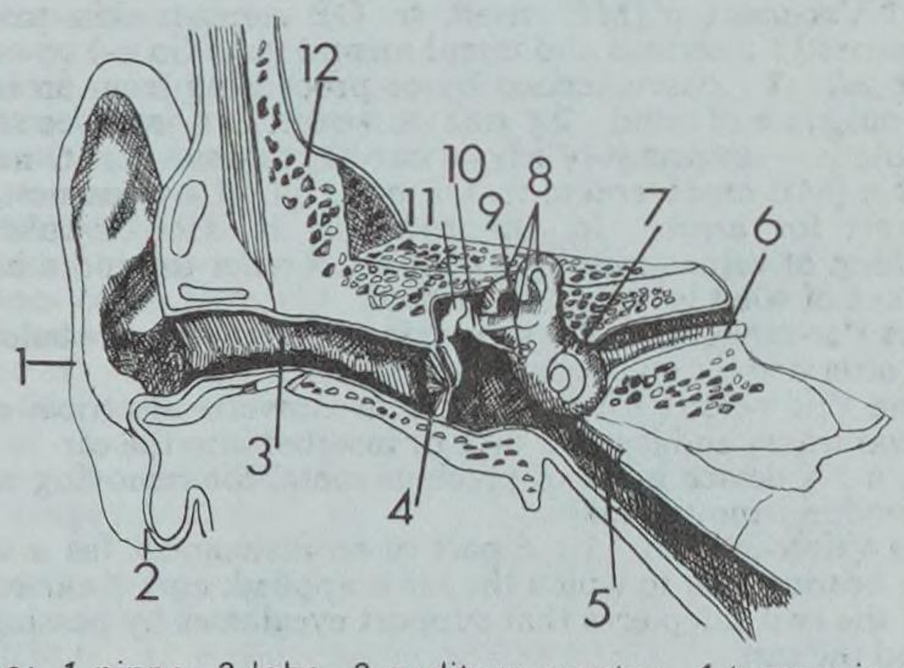
dys·lo·gis·tic \ˌdis-lə-'jis-tik\ *adj* [*dys-* + *-logistic* (as in *eulogistic*)] : UNCOMPLIMENTARY — **dys·lo·gis·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

dys·men·or·rhea \(ˌ)dis-ˌmen-ə-'rē-ə\ *n* [NL] : painful menstruation — **dys·men·or·rhe·al** \-'rē-əl\ *or* **dys·men·or·rhe·ic** \-'rē-ik\ *adj*

dys·pep·sia \dis-'pep-shə, -sē-ə\ *n* [L, fr. Gk, fr. *dys-* + *pepsis* digestion, fr. *peptein, pessein* to cook, digest — more at COOK] : INDIGESTION
¹dys·pep·tic \-'pep-tik\ *adj* **1** : relating to or having dyspepsia **2** : showing a sour disposition — **dys·pep·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
²dyspeptic *n* : a person having dyspepsia
dys·pha·gia \dis-'fā-j(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL] : difficulty in swallowing — **dys·phag·ic** \-'faj-ik\ *adj*
dys·pha·sia \dis-'fā-zh(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL] : loss of or deficiency in the power to use or understand language as a result of injury to or disease of the brain — **dys·pha·sic** \-'fā-zik\ *n or adj*
dys·pho·nia \dis-'fō-nē-ə\ *n* [NL] : defective use of the voice — **dys·phon·ic** \-'fän-ik\ *adj*
dys·pho·ria \dis-'fōr-ē-ə, -'fȯr-\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *dysphoros* hard to bear, fr. *dys-* + *pherein* to bear — more at BEAR] : a state of feeling unwell or unhappy — **dys·phor·ic** \-'fȯr-ik, -'fär-\ *adj*
dys·pla·sia \dis-'plā-zh(ē-)ə\ *n* [NL] : abnormal growth or development (as of organs or cells); *broadly* : abnormal anatomic structure due to such growth — **dys·plas·tic** \-'plas-tik\ *adj*
dys·pnea \'dis(p)-nē-ə\ *n* [L *dyspnoea*, fr. Gk *dyspnoia*, fr. *dyspnoos* short of breath, fr. *dys-* + *pnein*, to breathe — more at SNEEZE] : difficult or labored respiration — **dys·pne·ic** \-nē-ik\ *adj*
dys·pro·si·um \dis-'prō-zē-əm, -zh(ē-)əm\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *dysprositos* hard to get at, fr. *dys-* + *prositos* approachable, fr. *prosienai* to approach, fr. *pros-* + *ienai* to go — more at ISSUE] : an element of the rare-earth group that forms highly magnetic compounds — see ELEMENT table
dys·to·pia \(')dis-'tō-pē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. *dys-* + *-topia* (as in *utopia*)] : an imaginary place which is depressingly wretched and whose people lead a fearful existence — **dys·to·pi·an** \-pē-ən\ *adj*
dys·tro·phic \dis-'trō-fik\ *adj* **1** : relating to or caused by faulty nutrition **2** *of a lake* : brownish with much dissolved humic matter, a sparse bottom fauna, and a high oxygen consumption
dys·tro·phy \'dis-trə-fē\ *n, pl* **-phies** [NL *dystrophia*, fr. *dys-* + *-trophia* -trophy] : imperfect nutrition; *specif* : any of several neuromuscular disorders — compare MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY
dys·uria \dish-'(y)u̇r-ē-ə, dis-'yu̇r-\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *dysouria*, fr. *dys-* + *-ouria* -uria] : difficult or painful discharge of urine
dz *abbr* dozen



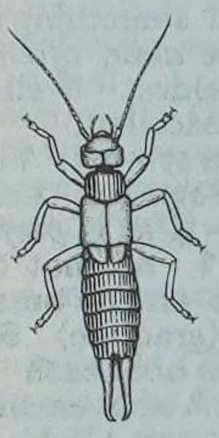
¹e \'ē\ *n, pl* **e's** *or* **es** \'ēz\ *often cap, often attrib* **1 a** : the 5th letter of the English alphabet **b** : a graphic representation of this letter **c** : a speech counterpart of orthographic *e* **2** : the 3d tone of a C-major scale **3** : a graphic device for reproducing the letter *e* **4** : one designated *e* esp. as the 5th in order or class; *specif* : the base of the system of natural logarithms having the approximate numerical value 2.71828 **5 a** : a grade rating a student's work as poor and usu. constituting a conditional pass **b** : a grade rating a student's work as failing **c** : one graded or rated with an E **6** : something shaped like the letter E
²e *abbr, often cap* **1** earth **2** east; easterly; eastern **3** edge **4** eldest **5** ell **6** empty **7** end **8** energy **9** erg **10** error **11** excellent
³e *symbol* **1** charge of an electron **2** eccentricity of a conic section
E *symbol* **1** einsteinium **2** energy
e- \(')ē, i\ *prefix* [ME, fr. OF & L; OF, out, forth, away, fr. L, fr. *ex-*] **1 a** : not ⟨*e*carinate⟩ **b** : missing : absent ⟨*e*dental⟩ **2** : out : on the outside ⟨*e*scribe⟩ **3** : thoroughly ⟨*e*vaporize⟩ **4** : forth ⟨*e*radiate⟩ **5** : away ⟨*e*luvium⟩
ea *abbr* each
EA *abbr* enemy aircraft
¹each \'ēch\ *adj* [ME *ech*, fr. OE *ǣlc*; akin to OHG *iogilīh* each; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc compound whose first and second constituents respectively are represented by OE *ā* always and by OE *gelīc* alike] : being one of two or more distinct individuals having a similar relation and often constituting an aggregate
²each *pron* : each one
³each *adv* : to or for each : APIECE
each other *pron* : each of two or more in reciprocal action or relation ⟨looked at *each other* in surprise⟩
ea·ger \'ē-gər\ *adj* [ME *egre*, fr. OF *aigre*, fr. L *acer* — more at EDGE] **1 a** *archaic* : SHARP **b** *obs* : SOUR **2** : marked by keen, enthusiastic, or impatient desire or interest — **ea·ger·ly** *adv* — **ea·ger·ness** *n*
syn EAGER, AVID, KEEN, ANXIOUS, ATHIRST *shared meaning element* : moved by a strong and urgent desire or interest ***ant*** listless
eager beaver *n* : one who is extremely zealous in performing his assigned duties and in volunteering for more
ea·gle \'ē-gəl\ *n* [ME *egle*, fr. OF *aigle*, fr. L *aquila*] **1** : any of various large diurnal birds of prey of the accipiter family noted for their strength, size, gracefulness, keenness of vision, and powers of flight **2** : any of various esp. emblematic or symbolic figures or representations of an eagle: as **a** : the standard of the ancient Romans **b** : the seal or standard of a nation (as the U.S.) having an eagle as emblem **c** : one of a pair of silver insignia of rank worn by a military colonel or a navy captain **3** : a ten-dollar gold coin of the U.S. bearing an eagle on the reverse **4** : a golf score of two strokes less than par on a hole — compare BIRDIE **5** *cap* [Fraternal Order of *Eagles*] : a member of a major fraternal order
eagle eye *n* **1** : the ability to see or observe with exceptional keenness **2** : one that sees or observes keenly
eagle ray *n* : any of several widely distributed large active stingrays (family Myliobatidae) with broad pectoral fins like wings
ea·glet \'ē-glət\ *n* : a young eagle
ea·gre \'ē-gər\ *n* [origin unknown] : a tidal bore
eal·dor·man \'al-dər-mən\ *n* [OE — more at ALDERMAN] : the chief officer in a district (as a shire) in Anglo-Saxon England
-ean — see -AN
E and OE *abbr* errors and omissions excepted
¹ear \'i(ə)r\ *n* [ME *ere*, fr. OE *ēare*; akin to OHG *ōra* ear, L *auris*, Gk *ous*] **1 a** : the characteristic vertebrate organ of hearing and equilibrium consisting in the typical mammal of a sound-collecting outer ear separated by a membranous drum from a sound-transmitting middle ear that in turn is separated from a sensory inner ear by membranous fenestrae **b** : any of various organs capable of detecting vibratory motion **2** : the external ear of man and most mammals **3 a** : the sense or act of hearing **b** : acuity of hearing **c** : sensitivity to musical tone and pitch **4** : something resembling a mammalian ear in shape or position: as **a** : a projecting part (as a lug or handle) **b** : either of a pair of tufts of lengthened feathers on the head of some birds **5 a** : sympathetic attention **b** : NOTICE, AWARENESS **6** : a space in the upper corner of a periodical (as a newspaper) usu. containing advertising for the periodical itself or a weather forecast — **by ear** : without reference to or memorization of written music : EXTEMPORANEOUSLY — **in one ear and out the other** : through one's mind without making an impression ⟨everything you say to him goes *in one ear and out the other*⟩ — **on one's ear** : in or into a state of irritation, shock, or discord ⟨his insults really put me *on my ear*⟩ ⟨he set the racing world *on its ear* by breaking 50 world records⟩ — **up to one's ears** : deeply involved : heavily implicated ⟨*up to his ears* in the conspiracy⟩



ear 1a: *1* pinna, *2* lobe, *3* auditory meatus, *4* tympanic membrane, *5* eustachian tube, *6* auditory nerve, *7* cochlea, *8* semicircular canals, *9* stapes, *10* incus, *11* malleus, *12* bones of skull

²ear *n* [ME *er*, fr. OE *ēar*; akin to OHG *ahir* ear, OE *ecg* edge — more at EDGE] : the fruiting spike of a cereal (as Indian corn) including both the seeds and protective structures
³ear *vi* : to form ears in the course of growing — often used with *up* ⟨the rye should be ~*ing* up⟩
ear·ache \'i(ə)r-ˌāk\ *n* : an ache or pain in the ear
ear·drop \-ˌdräp\ *n* : EARRING; *esp* : one with a pendant
ear·drum \-ˌdrəm\ *n* : TYMPANIC MEMBRANE
eared \'i(ə)rd\ *adj* : having ears esp. of a specified kind or number ⟨a big-*eared* man⟩ ⟨golden-*eared* corn⟩
eared seal *n* : any of a family (Otariidae) of seals including the sea lions and fur seals and having independent mobile hind limbs and small well-developed external ears
earflap *n* : a warm covering for the ears; *esp* : an extension on the lower edge of a cap that may be folded up or down

ear·ful \'i(ə)r-ˌfu̇l\ *n* **1** : an outpouring of news or gossip **2** : a sharp reprimand
ear·ing \'i(ə)r-iŋ\ *n* [perh. fr. ¹*ear*] : a line used to fasten a corner of a sail to the yard or gaff or to haul a reef cringle to the yard
earl \'ər(-ə)l\ *n* [ME *erl*, fr. OE *eorl* warrior, nobleman; akin to ON *jarl* warrior, nobleman] : a member of the British peerage ranking below a marquess and above a viscount — **earl·dom** \-dəm\ *n*
ear·less seal \ˌi(ə)r-ləs-\ *n* : any of a family (Phocidae, the earless seal family) of seals including the hair seals and having the hind limbs reduced to swimming flippers and no external ears
earlier on *adv* : PREVIOUSLY ⟨discussed the matter *earlier on*⟩
earl marshal *n* : an officer of state in England serving chiefly as a royal attendant on ceremonial occasions, as marshal of state processions, and as head of the College of Arms
ear·lobe \'i(ə)r-ˌlōb\ *n* : the pendent part of the ear of man or some fowls
ear·lock \-ˌläk\ *n* : a curl of hair hanging in front of the ear
¹ear·ly \'ər-lē\ *adv* **ear·li·er; -est** [ME *erly*, fr. OE *ærlīce*, fr. *ær* early, soon — more at ERE] **1** : near the beginning of a period of time or of a process or series **2 a** : before the usual time **b** *archaic* : SOON **c** : sooner than related forms ⟨these apples bear ~⟩
²early *adj* **ear·li·er; -est** **1 a** : of, relating to, or occurring near the beginning of a period of time, a development, or a series **b** (1) : distant in past time (2) : PRIMITIVE **2 a** : occurring before the usual time **b** : occurring in the near future **c** : maturing or producing sooner than related forms ⟨an ~ peach⟩ — **ear·li·ness** *n*
Early American *n* : a style of furniture, architecture, or fabric originating in or characteristic of colonial America
early bird *n* [fr. the proverb, "the early bird catches the worm"] **1** : an early riser **2** : one that arrives early and esp. before possible competitors
early on *adv* : at or during an early point or stage ⟨the reasons were obvious *early on* in the experiment⟩
ear·ly·wood \'ər-lē-ˌwu̇d\ *n* : SPRINGWOOD
¹ear·mark \'i(ə)r-ˌmärk\ *n* **1** : a mark of identification on the ear of an animal **2** : a distinguishing mark ⟨all the ~*s* of poverty⟩
²earmark *vt* **1 a** : to mark (livestock) with an earmark **b** : to mark in a distinguishing manner ⟨dissipation ~*s* a man⟩ **2** : to designate (as funds) for a specific use or owner
ear·muff \'i(ə)r-ˌməf\ *n* : one of a pair of ear coverings connected by a flexible band and worn as protection against cold or noises
¹earn \'ərn\ *vt* [ME *ernen*, fr. OE *earnian*] **1 a** : to receive as return for effort and esp. for work done or services rendered **b** : to bring in by way of return ⟨bonds ~*ing* 10% interest⟩ **2 a** : to come to be duly worthy of or entitled or suited to ⟨he had ~*ed* a promotion by his devotion to duty⟩ **b** : to make worthy of or obtain for ⟨his devotion to duty had ~*ed* him a promotion⟩ ***syn*** see GET — **earn·er** *n*
²earn *vi* [prob. alter. of *yearn*] *obs* : GRIEVE
earned run *n* : a run in baseball that scores without benefit of an error before the fielding team has had a chance to make the third putout of the inning
earned run average *n* : the average number of earned runs per game scored against a pitcher in baseball determined by dividing the total of earned runs scored against him by the total number of innings pitched and multiplying by nine
¹ear·nest \'ər-nəst\ *n* [ME *ernest*, fr. OE *eornost*; akin to OHG *ernust* earnest] : a serious and intent mental state ⟨in ~⟩
²earnest *adj* **1** : characterized by or proceeding from an intense and serious state of mind **2** : GRAVE, IMPORTANT ***syn*** see SERIOUS ***ant*** frivolous — **ear·nest·ly** *adv* — **ear·nest·ness** \-nəs(t)-nəs\ *n*
³earnest *n* [ME *ernes, ernest*, fr. OF *erres*, pl. of *erre* earnest, fr. L *arra*, short for *arrabo*, fr. Gk *arrhabōn*, fr. Heb *'ērābhōn*] **1** : something of value given by a buyer to a seller to bind a bargain **2** : a token of what is to come : PLEDGE
earn·ings \'ər-niŋz\ *n pl* **1** : something earned **2** : the balance of revenue after deduction of costs and expenses
ear·phone \'i(ə)r-ˌfōn\ *n* : a device that converts electrical energy into sound waves and is worn over or inserted into the ear
ear pick *n* : a device often of precious metal for removing wax or foreign bodies from the ear
ear·piece \'i(ə)r-ˌpēs\ *n* **1** : a part of an instrument (as a stethoscope or hearing aid) to which the ear is applied; *esp* : EARPHONE **2** : one of the two sidepieces that support eyeglasses by passing over or behind the ears
ear·plug \-ˌpləg\ *n* : a device of pliable material for insertion into the outer opening of the ear (as for protection against water or to deaden sound)
ear·ring \'i(ə)r-(ˌ)iŋ, -ˌriŋ\ *n* : an ornament for the earlobe
ear rot *n* : a condition of Indian corn that is characterized by molding and decay of the ears and that is caused by fungi (genera *Diplodia, Fusarium*, or *Gibberella*)
ear shell *n* : ABALONE
ear·shot \'i(ə)r-ˌshät\ *n* : the range within which the unaided voice may be heard
ear·split·ting \-ˌsplit-iŋ\ *adj* : distressingly loud or shrill
¹earth \'ərth\ *n* [ME *erthe*, fr. OE *eorthe*; akin to OHG *erda* earth, Gk *eraze* to the ground] **1** : the fragmental material composing part of the surface of the globe; *esp* : cultivable soil **2** : the sphere of mortal life as distinguished from spheres of spirit life — compare HEAVEN, HELL **3 a** : areas of land as distinguished from sea and air **b** : the solid footing formed of soil : GROUND **4** *often cap* : the planet on which we live that is third in order from the sun — see PLANET table **5 a** : the people of the planet Earth **b** : the mortal body of man **c** : the pursuits and interests and pleasures of earthly life as distinguished from spiritual concerns **6** : the lair of a burrowing animal **7** : a difficultly reducible metallic oxide (as alumina) formerly classed as an element — **earth·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj*
syn EARTH, WORLD, UNIVERSE *shared meaning element* : the entire area in which man thinks of himself as living and acting — **on earth** : among many possibilities — used as an intensive
²earth *vt* **1** : to drive to hiding in the earth **2** : to draw soil about (plants) **3** *chiefly Brit* : GROUND 3 ~ *vi, of a hunted animal* : to hide in the ground
earth·born \'ərth-ˌbȯ(ə)rn\ *adj* **1** : born on this earth : MORTAL **2** : associated with earthly life ⟨~ cares⟩
earth·bound \-ˌbau̇nd\ *adj* **1 a** : fast in or to the soil ⟨~ roots⟩ **b** : restricted to land or to the surface of the earth **2 a** : bound by earthly interests **b** : PEDESTRIAN, UNIMAGINATIVE
earth·en \'ər-thən, -t͟hən\ *adj* **1** : made of earth **2** : EARTHLY
earth·en·ware \-ˌwa(ə)r, -ˌwe(ə)r\ *n* : ceramic ware made of slightly porous opaque clay fired at low heat
earth·i·ly \'ər-thə-lē, -t͟hə-\ *adv* : in an earthy manner
earth·ling \'ərth-liŋ\ *n* **1** : an inhabitant of the earth **2** : WORLDLING
earth·ly \'ərth-lē\ *adj* **1 a** : characteristic of or belonging to this earth **b** : relating to man's actual life on this earth **2** : POSSIBLE ⟨there is no ~ reason for such behavior⟩ — **earth·li·ness** *n*
syn EARTHLY, TERRESTRIAL, MUNDANE, WORLDLY *shared meaning element* : belonging to or characteristic of the earth ***ant*** heavenly
earth mother *n, often cap E & M* **1** : the earth viewed (as in primitive theology) as the divine source of terrestrial life **2** : the female principle of fertility
earth·quake \'ərth-ˌkwāk\ *n* : a shaking or trembling of the earth that is volcanic or tectonic in origin
earth science *n* : any of the sciences (as geology, meteorology, or oceanography) that deal with the earth or with one or more of its parts
earth·shak·er \'ərth-ˌshā-kər\ *n* : something earthshaking
earth·shak·ing \-kiŋ\ *adj* : of fundamental importance — **earth·shak·ing·ly** \-kiŋ-lē\ *adv*
earth·shine \'ərth-ˌshīn\ *n* : sunlight reflected by the earth that illuminates the dark part of the moon — called also *earthlight*
earth·star \-ˌstär\ *n* : a globose fungus (genus *Geastrum*) with a double wall whose outer layer splits into the shape of a star
earth·ward \-wərd\ *or* **earth·wards** \-wərdz\ *adv* : toward the earth
earth·work \'ərth-ˌwərk\ *n* **1** : an embankment or other construction made of earth; *esp* : one used as a field fortification **2** : the operations connected with excavations and embankments of earth
earth·worm \-ˌwərm\ *n* : a terrestrial annelid worm (class Oligochaeta); *esp* : any of a family (Lumbricidae) of numerous widely distributed hermaphroditic worms that move through the soil by means of setae — see ANNELID illustration
earthy \'ər-thē, -t͟hē\ *adj* **earth·i·er; -est** **1** : consisting of, resembling, or suggesting earth ⟨an ~ flavor⟩ **2** *archaic* : EARTHLY, WORLDLY **3 a** : DOWN-TO-EARTH, PRACTICAL **b** : CRUDE, GROSS ⟨~ humor⟩ — **earth·i·ness** *n*
ear·wax \'i(ə)r-ˌwaks\ *n* : CERUMEN
¹ear·wig \-ˌwig\ *n* [ME *erwigge*, fr. OE *ēarwicga*, fr. *ēare* ear + *wicga* insect — more at VETCH] : any of numerous insects (order Dermaptera) having slender many-jointed antennae and a pair of cerci resembling forceps at the end of the body


earwig

²earwig *vt* **ear·wigged; ear·wig·ging** : to annoy or attempt to influence by private talk
ear·wit·ness \'i(ə)r-'wit-nəs\ *n* : one who overhears something; *esp* : one who gives a report on what he has heard
ear·worm \-ˌwərm\ *n* : CORN EARWORM
¹ease \'ēz\ *n* [ME *ese*, fr. OF *aise* convenience, comfort, fr. L *adjacent-, adjacens* neighborhood, fr. neut. of prp. of *adjacēre* to lie near — more at ADJACENT] **1** : the state of being comfortable: as **a** : freedom from pain or discomfort **b** : freedom from care **c** : freedom from labor or difficulty **d** : freedom from embarrassment or constraint : NATURALNESS **2** : relief from discomfort or obligation **3** : FACILITY, EFFORTLESSNESS **4** : an act of easing or a state of being eased; *esp* : a lowering trend in prices — **ease·ful** \-fəl\ *adj* — **ease·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv* — **at ease** **1** : free from pain or discomfort **2 a** : free from restraint or formality **b** : standing silently (as in a military formation) with the feet apart, the right foot in place, and one or both hands behind the body — often used as a command
²ease *vb* **eased; eas·ing** *vt* **1** : to free from something that pains, disquiets, or burdens **2** : to make less painful : ALLEVIATE ⟨~ his suffering⟩ **3 a** : to lessen the pressure or tension of esp. by slackening, lifting, or shifting **b** : to moderate or reduce esp. in amount or intensity **4** : to make less difficult ⟨~ credit⟩ **5 a** : to put the helm of (a ship) alee **b** : to let (a helm or rudder) come back a little after having been put hard over ~ *vi* **1** : to give freedom or relief **2** : to move or pass with freedom **3** : MODERATE, SLACKEN
ea·sel \'ē-zəl\ *n* [D *ezel* ass; akin to OE *esol* ass; both fr. a prehistoric EGmc-WGmc word borrowed fr. L *asinus* ass] : a frame for supporting something (as an artist's canvas)
ease·ment \'ēz-mənt\ *n* **1** : an act or means of easing or relieving (as from discomfort) **2** : an interest in land owned by another that entitles its holder to a specific limited use or enjoyment
eas·i·ly \'ēz-(ə-)lē\ *adv* **1** : in an easy manner **2** : by far
¹east \'ēst\ *adv* [ME *est*, fr. OE *ēast*; akin to OHG *ōstar* to the east, L *aurora* dawn, Gk *ēōs, heōs*] : to, toward, or in the east
²east *adj* **1** : situated toward or at the east ⟨an ~ window⟩ **2** : coming from the east ⟨an ~ wind⟩
³east *n* **1 a** : the general direction of sunrise : the direction toward the right of one facing north **b** : the place on the horizon where the sun rises when it is near one of the equinoxes **c** : the compass point directly opposite to west **2** *cap* **a** : regions lying to the east of a specified or implied point of orientation **b** : regions having a culture derived from ancient non-European esp. Asiatic areas **3** : the altar end of a church **4** *often cap* **a** : the one of four positions at 90-degree intervals that lies to the east or to the right of South **b** : a person (as a bridge player) occupying this position in the course of a specified activity

east·bound \'ēs(t)-ˌbau̇nd\ *adj* : traveling or heading east
east by north : a compass point that is one point north of due east : N78°45′E
east by south : a compass point that is one point south of due east : S78°45′E
east·er \'ē-stər\ *n* : an easterly wind; *esp* : a storm coming from the east
Eas·ter \'ē-stər\ *n* [ME *estre,* fr. OE *ēastre;* akin to OHG *ōstarun* (pl.) Easter; both fr. the prehistoric WGmc name of a pagan spring festival akin to OE *ēast* east] : a feast that commemorates Christ's resurrection and is observed with variations of date due to different calendars on the first Sunday after the full moon on or next after March 21 or one week later if the full moon falls on Sunday

EASTER DATES

YEAR	ASH WEDNESDAY	EASTER	YEAR	ASH WEDNESDAY	EASTER
1973	Mar 7	Apr 22	1983	Feb 16	Apr 3
1974	Feb 27	Apr 14	1984	Mar 7	Apr 22
1975	Feb 12	Mar 30	1985	Feb 20	Apr 7
1976	Mar 3	Apr 18	1986	Feb 12	Mar 30
1977	Feb 23	Apr 10	1987	Mar 4	Apr 19
1978	Feb 8	Mar 26	1988	Feb 17	Apr 3
1979	Feb 28	Apr 15	1989	Feb 8	Mar 26
1980	Feb 20	Apr 6	1990	Feb 28	Apr 15
1981	Mar 4	Apr 19	1991	Feb 13	Mar 31
1982	Feb 24	Apr 11	1992	Mar 4	Apr 19

Easter egg *n* : an egg that is dyed bright colors and that is associated with the celebration of Easter
Easter lily *n* : any of several white cultivated lilies (esp. *Lilium longiflorum*) that bloom in early spring
¹east·er·ly \'ē-stər-lē\ *adj or adv* [obs. *easter* (eastern)] **1** : situated toward or belonging to the east ⟨the ~ shore of the lake⟩ **2** : coming from the east ⟨an ~ storm⟩
²easterly *n, pl* **-lies** : a wind from the east
Easter Monday *n* : the Monday after Easter observed as a legal holiday in parts of the British Commonwealth and in No. Carolina
east·ern \'ē-stərn\ *adj* [ME *estern,* fr. OE *ēasterne;* akin to OHG *ōstrōni* eastern, OE *ēast* east] **1** *cap* : of, relating to, or characteristic of a region conventionally designated East **2** *cap* **a** : of, relating to, or being the Christian churches originating in the church of the Eastern Roman Empire **b** : Eastern Orthodox **3 a** : lying toward the east **b** : coming from the east ⟨an ~ wind⟩ — **east·ern·most** \-ˌmōst\ *adj*
East·ern·er \'ē-stə(r)-nər\ *n* : a native or inhabitant of the East; *esp* : a native or resident of the eastern part of the U.S.
eastern hemisphere *n* : the half of the earth to the east of the Atlantic ocean including Europe, Asia, and Africa
east·ern·ize \'ē-stər-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to imbue with qualities native to or associated with residents of the eastern U.S. **2** : ORIENTALIZE
Eastern Orthodox *adj* : of or consisting of the Eastern churches that form a loose federation according primacy of honor to the patriarch of Constantinople and adhering to the decisions of the first seven ecumenical councils and to the Byzantine rite
eastern time *n, often cap E* : the time of the 5th time zone west of Greenwich that includes the eastern U.S. — see TIME ZONE illustration
eastern white pine *n* : WHITE PINE 1a
Eas·ter·tide \'ē-stər-ˌtīd\ *n* : the period from Easter to Ascension Day, to Whitsunday, or to Trinity Sunday
East Germanic *n* : a subdivision of the Germanic languages that includes Gothic — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table
east·ing \'ē-stiŋ\ *n* **1** : difference in longitude to the east from the last preceding point of reckoning **2** : easterly progress
east–northeast *n* : a compass point that is two points north of due east : N67°30′E
east–southeast *n* : a compass point that is two points south of due east : S67°30′E
¹east·ward \'ēs-twərd\ *adv or adj* : toward the east — **east·wards** \-twərdz\ *adv*
²eastward *n* : eastward direction or part ⟨sail to the ~⟩
¹easy \'ē-zē\ *adj* **eas·i·er; -est** [ME *esy,* fr. OF *aaisié,* pp. of *aaisier* to ease, fr. *a-* ad- (fr. L *ad-*) + *aise* ease] **1** : causing or involving little difficulty or discomfort ⟨an ~ problem⟩ **2 a** : not severe : LENIENT **b** : not steep or abrupt ⟨~ slopes⟩ **c** : not difficult to endure or undergo ⟨an ~ penalty⟩ **d** : readily prevailed on ⟨~ prey⟩ **e** (1) : plentiful in supply at low or declining interest rates ⟨~ money⟩ (2) : less in demand and usu. lower in price ⟨bonds were *easier*⟩ **3 a** : marked by peace and comfort ⟨the ~ course of his life⟩ **b** : not hurried or strenuous ⟨~ pace⟩ **4 a** : free from pain, annoyance, or anxiety ⟨did all she could to make him *easier*⟩ **b** : marked by social ease ⟨~ manners⟩ **c** : showing a disinclination to energetic individual action or resolute independent thought ⟨an ~ disposition⟩ **5 a** : giving ease, comfort, or relaxation ⟨~ chairs⟩ **b** : not burdensome or straitened ⟨bought on ~ terms⟩ ⟨living in ~ circumstances⟩ **c** : fitting comfortably ⟨an ~ shoe⟩ **d** : marked by ready facility ⟨an ~ flowing style⟩ **e** : felt or attained to readily, naturally, and spontaneously ⟨~ emotions⟩ ***syn*** see COMFORTABLE — **eas·i·ness** *n*
²easy *adv* **eas·i·er; -est** **1** : EASILY ⟨promises come ~⟩ **2** : without undue speed or excitement : SLOWLY, CAUTIOUSLY ⟨take it ~⟩
easy·go·ing \ˌē-zē-'gō-iŋ, -'gȯ(-)iŋ\ *adj* **1** : taking life easy: as **a** : PLACID ⟨an ~ man⟩ **b** : indolent and careless ⟨his inertia, his laziness, his ~ ways —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ **c** : morally lax **2** : UNHURRIED, COMFORTABLE ⟨an ~ pace⟩ — **easy·go·ing·ness** *n*
easy mark *n* : one easily imposed upon, duped, or overcome : PATSY
easy street *n* : a situation with no financial worries
easy virtue *n* : sexually promiscuous behavior or habits ⟨a woman of *easy virtue*⟩
eat \'ēt\ *vb* **ate** \'āt, *chiefly Brit or substand* 'et\; **eat·en** \'ēt-ᵊn\; **eat·ing** [ME *eten,* fr. OE *etan;* akin to OHG *ezzan* to eat, L *edere,* Gk *edmenai*] *vt* **1** : to take in through the mouth as food : ingest, chew, and swallow in turn **2** : to destroy, use up, or waste by or as if by eating : DEVOUR ⟨locusts *ate* the country bare⟩ **3 a** : to consume gradually : CORRODE **b** : to consume with vexation : BOTHER ⟨what's ~*ing* her now⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to take food or a meal **2** : to affect something by gradual destruction or consumption — used with *into* — **eat·er** *n* — **eat crow** : to accept what one has fought against — **eat humble pie** : to apologize or retract under pressure — **eat one's heart out** : to grieve bitterly — **eat one's words** : to retract what one has said — **eat out of one's hand** : to accept the domination of another
¹eat·able \'ēt-ə-bəl\ *adj* : fit to be eaten
²eatable *n* **1** : something to eat **2** *pl* : FOOD
eat·ery \'ēt-ə-rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** : LUNCHEONETTE, RESTAURANT
eath \'ēth\ *adv or adj* [ME *ethe,* fr. OE *ēathe;* akin to OHG *ōdi* easy and perh. to L *avēre* to long for — more at AVID] *Scot* : EASY
eat·ing \'ēt-iŋ\ *adj* **1** : used for eating **2** : fit to be eaten raw ⟨makes a better cooking than ~ apple⟩
eat out *vi* : to eat away from home and esp. at a restaurant
eau de co·logne \ˌōd-ə-kə-'lōn\ *n, pl* **eaux de cologne** \ˌō(z)d-ə-\ [F, lit., Cologne water, fr. *Cologne,* Germany] : COLOGNE
eau–de–vie \ˌōd-ə-'vē\ *n, pl* **eaux–de–vie** \ˌō(z)d-ə-\ [F, lit., water of life, trans. of ML *aqua vitae*] : BRANDY
eaves \'ēvz\ *n pl* [ME *eves* (sing.), fr. OE *efes;* akin to OHG *obasa* portico, OE *ūp* up — more at UP] **1** : the lower border of a roof that overhangs the wall **2** : a projecting edge (as of a hill)
eaves·drop \'ēvz-ˌdräp\ *vi* [prob. back-formation fr. *eavesdropper,* lit., one standing under the drip from the eaves] : to listen secretly to what is said in private — **eaves·drop·per** *n*
EB *abbr* eastbound
¹ebb \'eb\ *n* [ME *ebbe,* fr OE *ebba;* akin to MD *ebbe* ebb, OE *of* from — more at OF] **1** : the reflux of the tide toward the sea **2** : a point or condition of decline ⟨relations were at a low ~⟩
²ebb *vi* **1** : to recede from the flood **2** : to fall from a higher to a lower level or from a better to a worse state ***syn*** see ABATE ***ant*** flow (*as the tide*)
eb·bet \'eb-ət\ *n* [ME *evete,* fr. OE *efete*] : a common green newt (*Triturus viridescens*) of the eastern U.S.
ebb tide *n* **1** : the tide while ebbing or at ebb **2** : a period or state of decline
eb·on \'eb-ən\ *adj* : EBONY
eb·o·nite \'eb-ə-ˌnīt\ *n* : hard rubber esp. when black or unfilled
eb·o·nize \-ˌnīz\ *vt* **-nized; -niz·ing** : to stain black in imitation of ebony
¹eb·o·ny \'eb-ə-nē\ *n, pl* **-nies** [prob. fr. LL *hebeninus* of ebony, fr. Gk *ebeninos,* fr. *ebenos* ebony, fr. Egypt *hbnj*] **1** : a hard heavy wood yielded by various Old World tropical dicotyledonous trees (genus *Diospyros*) of the ebony family (Ebonaceae) **2 a** : a tree yielding ebony **b** : any of several trees yielding wood resembling ebony
²ebony *adj* **1** : made of or resembling ebony **2** : BLACK, DARK
ebul·lience \i-'bu̇l-yən(t)s, -'bəl-\ *n* : the quality of lively or enthusiastic expression of thoughts or feelings : EXUBERANCE
ebul·lien·cy \-yən-sē\ *n* : EBULLIENCE
ebul·lient \-yənt\ *adj* [L *ebullient-, ebulliens,* prp. of *ebullire* to bubble out, fr. *e-* + *bullire* to bubble, boil — more at BOIL] **1** : BOILING, AGITATED **2** : characterized by ebullience — **ebul·lient·ly** *adv*
eb·ul·li·tion \ˌeb-ə-'lish-ən\ *n* **1** : the act, process, or state of boiling or bubbling up **2** : a sudden violent outburst or display
ec- *or* **eco-** *comb form* [LL *oeco-* household, fr. Gk *oik-, oiko-,* fr. *oikos* house — more at VICINITY] **1** : habitat or environment ⟨*eco*species⟩ **2** : ecology
¹ec·cen·tric \ik-'sen-trik, ek-\ *adj* [ML *eccentricus,* fr. Gk *ekkentros,* fr. *ex* out of + *kentron* center] **1** : not having the same center ⟨~ spheres⟩ **2** : deviating from an established pattern or from accepted usage or conduct **3 a** : deviating from a circular path ⟨an ~ orbit⟩ **b** : located elsewhere than at the geometrical center; *also* : having the axis or support so located ⟨an ~ wheel⟩ — **ec·cen·tri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
²eccentric *n* **1** : a mechanical device consisting of a disk through which a shaft is keyed eccentrically and a circular strap which works freely round the rim of the disk for communicating its motion to one end of a rod whose other end is constrained to move in a straight line so as to produce reciprocating motion **2** : an eccentric person
ec·cen·tric·i·ty \ˌek-ˌsen-'tris-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1 a** : the quality or state of being eccentric **b** : deviation from an established pattern, rule, or norm; *esp* : odd or whimsical behavior **2** : a mathematical constant that for a given conic section is the ratio of the distances from any point of the conic section to a focus and the corresponding directrix
syn ECCENTRICITY, IDIOSYNCRASY *shared meaning element* : singularity of behavior or an instance of this
ec·chy·mo·sis \ˌek-i-'mō-səs\ *n, pl* **-mo·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *ekchymōsis,* fr. *ekchymousthai* to extravasate blood, fr. *ex-* + *chymos* juice — more at CHYME] : the escape of blood into the tissues from ruptured blood vessels — **ec·chy·mot·ic** \-'mät-ik\ *adj*
eccl *abbr* ecclesiastic; ecclesiastical
Eccles *abbr* Ecclesiastes

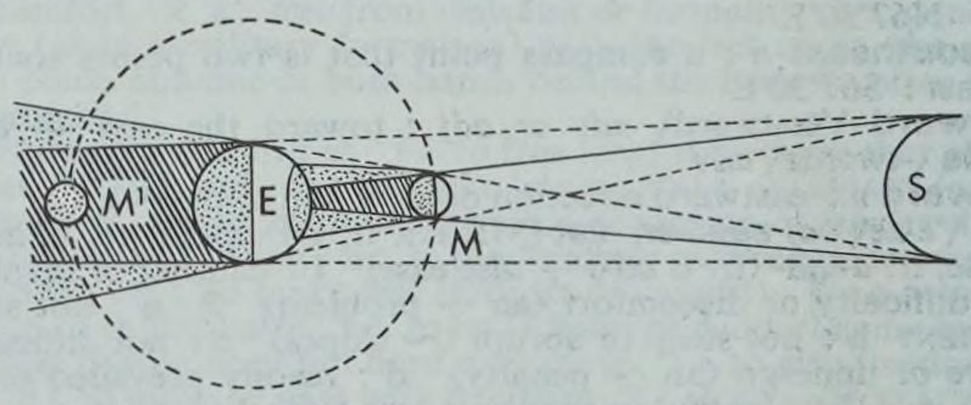
ecclesi- *or* **ecclesio-** *comb form* [ME *ecclesi-*, fr. LL *ecclesia*, fr. Gk *ekklēsia* assembly of citizens, church, fr. *ekkalein* to call forth, summon, fr. *ex-* + *kalein* to call] : church ⟨*ecclesio*graphy⟩
ec·cle·si·al \ik-ˈlē-zē-əl, e-ˈklē-\ *adj* : of or relating to a church
Ec·cle·si·as·tes \ik-ˌlē-zē-ˈas-(ˌ)tēz, e-ˌklē-\ *n* [Gk *Ekklēsiastēs*, lit., preacher (trans. of Heb *Qōheleth*), fr. *ekklesiastēs* member of an assembly] : a book of wisdom literature in canonical Jewish and Christian Scripture — see BIBLE table
¹ec·cle·si·as·tic \-ˈas-tik\ *adj* : ECCLESIASTICAL
²ecclesiastic *n* : CLERGYMAN
ec·cle·si·as·ti·cal \-ti-kəl\ *adj* [*ecclesiastical* fr. ME, fr. LL *ecclesiasticus*; *ecclesiastic* fr. MF *ecclesiastique*, fr. LL *ecclesiasticus*, fr. LGk *ekklēsiastikos*, fr. Gk, of an assembly of citizens, fr. *ekklēsiastēs* member of an assembly, fr. *ekklēsia*] **1** : of or relating to a church esp. as a formal and established institution ⟨~ law⟩ **2** : suitable for use in a church ⟨~ vestments⟩ — **ec·cle·si·as·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ec·cle·si·as·ti·cism \-tə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n* : excessive attachment to ecclesiastical forms and practices
Ec·cle·si·as·ti·cus \-ti-kəs\ *n* [LL, fr. *ecclesiasticus* ecclesiastic] : a didactic book included in the Roman Catholic canon of the Old Testament and in the Protestant Apocrypha — see BIBLE table
ec·cle·si·ol·o·gy \ik-ˌlē-zē-ˈäl-ə-jē, e-ˌklē-\ *n, pl* **-gies** **1** : the study of church architecture and adornment **2** : theological doctrine relating to the church — **ec·cle·si·o·log·i·cal** \-zē-ə-ˈläj-i-kəl\ *adj*
Ecclus *abbr* Ecclesiasticus
ec·crine \ˈek-rən, -ˌrīn, -ˌrēn\ *adj* [ISV *ec-* (fr. Gk *ex* out) + Gk *krinein* to separate — more at CERTAIN] : producing a fluid secretion without removing cytoplasm from the secreting cells; *also* : produced by an eccrine gland
eccrine gland *n* : any of the rather small sweat glands that produce an eccrine secretion and that are restricted to the human skin — called also *eccrine sweat gland*
ec·dys·i·ast \ek-ˈdiz-ē-ˌast, -ē-əst\ *n* : STRIPTEASER
ec·dy·sis \ˈek-də-səs\ *n, pl* **ec·dy·ses** \-də-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *ekdysis* act of getting out] : the act of molting or shedding an outer cuticular layer (as in insects and crustaceans)
ec·dy·sone \ˈek-də-ˌsōn\ *also* **ec·dy·son** \-ˌsän\ *n* [ISV *ecdysis* + hor*mone*] : any of several arthropod hormones that in insects are produced by the prothoracic gland and that trigger molting and metamorphosis
ece·sis \i-ˈsē-səs, -ˈkē-\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *oikēsis* inhabitation] : the establishment of a plant or animal in a new habitat
ECG *abbr* electrocardiogram
ech *abbr* echelon
¹ech·e·lon \ˈesh-ə-ˌlän\ *n* [F *échelon*, lit., rung of a ladder] **1 a** (1) : an arrangement of a body of troops with its units each somewhat to the left or right of the one in the rear like a series of steps (2) : a formation of units or individuals resembling such an echelon (3) : a flight formation in which each airplane flies at a certain elevation above or below and at a certain distance behind and to the right or left of the airplane ahead **b** : any of several military units in echelon formation **2 a** : one of a series of levels or grades (as of leadership or responsibility) in an organization or field of activity **b** : a group of individuals having a particular responsibility or occupying a particular level or grade
²echelon *vt* : to form or arrange in an echelon ~ *vi* : to take position in an echelon
ech·e·ve·ria \ˌech-ə-və-ˈrē-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. *Echeveria*, 19th cent. Mex botanical illustrator] : any of a large genus (*Echeveria*) of tropical American succulent plants of the orpine family that have showy rosettes of often plushy basal leaves and axillary clusters of flowers with erect petals spreading only at the tips and that are often grown in warm regions as ornamentals
echid·na \i-ˈkid-nə\ *n* [NL, fr. L, viper, fr. Gk] : an oviparous spiny-coated toothless burrowing nocturnal mammal (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) of Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea that has a long extensile tongue and long heavy claws and that feeds chiefly on ants — called also *spiny anteater*



echidna

echin- *or* **echino-** *comb form* [L, fr. Gk, fr. *echinos* sea urchin] **1** : prickle ⟨*Echino*dermata⟩ **2** : sea urchin ⟨*echini*te⟩
echi·no·coc·co·sis \i-ˌkī-nə-kä-ˈkō-səs\ *n, pl* **-co·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL] : infestation with or disease caused by a small tapeworm (*Echinococcus granulosus*)
echi·no·coc·cus \i-ˌkī-nə-ˈkäk-əs\ *n, pl* **-coc·ci** \-ˈkäk-ˌ(s)ī, -ˈkäk-(ˌ)(s)ē\ [NL, genus name] : any of a genus (*Echinococcus*) of tapeworms that alternate a minute adult living as a commensal in the intestine of carnivores with a hydatid larva invading tissues esp. of the liver of cattle, sheep, swine, and man and acting as a dangerous pathogen
echi·no·derm \i-ˈkī-nə-ˌdərm\ *n* [NL *Echinodermata*, phylum name, fr. *echin-* + *-dermata* (fr. Gk *derma* skin)] : any of a phylum (Echinodermata) of radially symmetrical coelomate marine animals consisting of the starfishes, sea urchins, and related forms — **echi·no·der·ma·tous** \-ˌkī-nə-ˈdər-mət-əs\ *adj*
echi·noid \i-ˈkī-ˌnȯid, ˈek-ə-ˌnȯid\ *n* : SEA URCHIN
echi·nu·late \i-ˈkin-yə-lət, -ˈkīn-, -ˌlāt\ *adj* : set with small spines or prickles — **echi·nu·la·tion** \-ˌkin-yə-ˈlā-shən, -ˌkīn-\ *n*
echi·nus \i-ˈkī-nəs\ *n, pl* **-ni** \-ˌnī\ [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk *echinos* hedgehog, sea urchin, architectural echinus] **1** : SEA URCHIN **2 a** : the rounded molding forming the bell of the capital in the Greek Doric order **b** : a similar member in other orders
echi·uroid \ˌek-i-ˈyu̇(ə)r-ˌȯid\ *n* [NL *Echiuroidea*, group name, deriv. of Gk *echis* viper + *oura* tail] : any of a group (Echiuroidea) of marine worms of uncertain taxonomic affinities that have a sensitive but nonretractile proboscis above the mouth

¹echo \mu-4\ *n, pl* **ech·oes** [ME *ecco*, fr. MF & L; MF *echo*, fr. L, fr. Gk *ēchō*; akin to L *vagire* to wail, Gk *ēchē* sound] **1 a** : the repetition of a sound caused by reflection of sound waves **b** : the sound due to such reflection **2 a** : a repetition or imitation of another : REFLECTION **b** : REPERCUSSION, RESULT **c** : TRACE, VESTIGE **d** : RESPONSE **3** : one who closely imitates or repeats another's words, ideas, or acts **4** : a soft repetition of a musical phrase **5 a** : the repetition of a received radio signal due esp. to reflection of part of the wave from an ionized layer of the atmosphere **b** (1) : the reflection of transmitted radar signals by an object (2) : the visual indication of this reflection on a radarscope — **echo·ey** \ˈek-ˌō-ē\ *adj*
²echo *vb* **ech·oed; echo·ing** \ˈek-(ˌ)ō-iŋ, ˈek-ə-wiŋ\ *vi* **1** : to resound with echoes **2** : to produce an echo ~ *vt* **1** : REPEAT, IMITATE **2** : to send back or repeat (a sound) by the reflection of sound waves
¹Echo *n* [Gk *Ēchō*] : a nymph in Greek legend who pined away for love of Narcissus until nothing was left of her but her voice
²Echo — a communications code word for the letter *e*
echo chamber *n* : a room with sound-reflecting walls used for producing hollow or echoing sound effects esp. in radio broadcasting
echo·en·ceph·a·log·ra·phy \ˌek-ō-in-ˌsef-ə-ˈläg-rə-fē\ *n* : the use of ultrasound in the examination and measurement of internal structures (as the ventricles) of the skull and in the diagnosis of abnormalities
echo·ic \i-ˈkō-ik, e-\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to an echo **2** : formed in imitation of some natural sound : ONOMATOPOEIC
echo·la·lia \ˌek-ō-ˈlā-lē-ə\ *n* [NL] : the often pathological repetition of what is said by other people as if echoing them — **echo·lal·ic** \-ˈlal-ik\ *adj*
echo·lo·ca·tion \ˌek-ō-lō-ˈkā-shən\ *n* : a process for locating distant or invisible objects (as prey) by means of sound waves reflected back to the emitter (as a bat or submarine) by the objects
echo sounder *n* : an instrument for determining the depth of a body of water or of an object below the surface by means of sound waves
echo·vi·rus \ˈek-ō-ˌvī-rəs\ *n* [*e*nteric *c*ytopathogenic *h*uman *o*rphan + *virus*] : any of a group of picornaviruses that are found in the gastrointestinal tract, that cause cytopathic changes in cells in tissue culture, and that are sometimes associated with respiratory ailments and meningitis
éclair \ā-ˈkla(ə)r, i-, -ˈkle(ə)r, ˈā-ˌ, ˈē-ˌ\ *n* [F, lit., lightning] : a usu. chocolate-frosted oblong cream puff with whipped cream or custard filling
éclair·cis·se·ment \ā-kler-sēs-(ə-)mäⁿ\ *n, pl* **éclaircissements** \-mäⁿ(z)\ [F] : ENLIGHTENMENT, CLARIFICATION
eclamp·sia \i-ˈklam(p)-sē-ə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *eklampsis* sudden flashing, fr. *eklampein* to shine forth, fr. *ex* out + *lampein* to shine] : a convulsive state; *esp* : an attack of convulsions during pregnancy or parturition — **eclamp·tic** \-ˈklam(p)-tik\ *adj*
éclat \ā-ˈklä, ˈā-ˌ\ *n* [F, splinter, burst, éclat] **1** : dazzling effect : BRILLIANCE **2 a** : ostentatious display : PUBLICITY **b** *archaic* : NOTORIETY **3 a** : brilliant or conspicuous success **b** : ACCLAIM, APPLAUSE
¹eclec·tic \e-ˈklek-tik, i-\ *adj* [Gk *eklektikos*, fr. *eklegein* to select, fr. *ex* + *legein* to gather — more at LEGEND] **1** : selecting what appears to be best in various doctrines, methods, or styles **2** : composed of elements drawn from various sources — **eclec·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
²eclectic *n* : one who uses an eclectic method or approach
eclec·ti·cism \-ˈklek-tə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n* : the theory or practice of an eclectic method
¹eclipse \i-ˈklips\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *eclipsis*, fr. Gk *ekleipsis*, fr. *ekleipein* to omit, fail, suffer eclipse, fr. *ex* + *leipein* to leave — more at LOAN] **1 a** : the total or partial obscuring of one celestial body by another **b** : the passing into the shadow of a celestial body — compare OCCULTATION, TRANSIT **2** : a falling into obscurity or decline : DISGRACE **3** : the state of being in eclipse plumage



eclipse 1a: *S* sun; *E* earth; *M* moon in solar eclipse; *M'* moon in lunar eclipse

²eclipse *vt* **eclipsed; eclips·ing** : to cause an eclipse of: as **a** : OBSCURE, DARKEN **b** : to reduce in importance or repute : DISGRACE **c** : SURPASS
eclipse plumage *n* : comparatively dull plumage that is usu. of seasonal occurrence in birds which exhibit a distinct nuptial plumage
¹eclip·tic \i-ˈklip-tik\ *n* [ME *ecliptik*, fr. LL *ecliptica linea*, lit., line of eclipses] **1** : the great circle of the celestial sphere that is the apparent path of the sun among the stars or of the earth as seen from the sun : the plane of the earth's orbit extended to meet the celestial sphere **2** : a great circle drawn on a terrestrial globe making an angle of about 23° 27′ with the equator and used for illustrating and solving astronomical problems
²ecliptic *adj* : of or relating to the ecliptic or an eclipse
ec·logue \ˈek-ˌlȯg, -ˌläg\ *n* [ME *eclog*, fr. L *Eclogae*, title of Vergil's pastorals, lit., selections, pl. of *ecloga*, fr. Gk *eklogē*, fr. *eklegein* to select] : a poem in which shepherds converse

eclo·sion \i-'klō-zhən\ *n* [F *éclosion*] *of an insect* : the act of emerging from the pupal case or hatching from the egg
ECM *abbr* European Common Market
eco- — see EC-
ecol *abbr* ecological; ecology
ecol·o·gy \i-'käl-ə-jē, e-\ *n, pl* **-gies** [G *ökologie,* fr. *ök-* ec- + *-logie* -logy] **1** : a branch of science concerned with the interrelationship of organisms and their environments **2** : the totality or pattern of relations between organisms and their environment **3** : HUMAN ECOLOGY — **eco·log·i·cal** \ˌē-kə-'läj-i-kəl, ˌek-ə-\ *also* **eco·log·ic** \-ik\ *adj* — **eco·log·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **ecol·o·gist** \i-'käl-ə-jəst, e-\ *n*
econ *abbr* economics; economist; economy
econo·met·rics \i-ˌkän-ə-'me-triks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [blend of *economics* and *metric*] : the application of statistical methods to the study of economic data and problems — **econo·met·ric** \-trik\ *adj* — **econo·met·ri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **econo·me·tri·cian** \-mə-'trish-ən\ *n* — **econo·met·rist** \-'me-trəst\ *n*
eco·nom·ic \ˌek-ə-'näm-ik, ˌē-kə-\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : of or relating to a household or its management **2** : ECONOMICAL 2 **3** **a** : of or relating to economics **b** : of, relating to, or based on the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services **c** : of or relating to an economy **4** : having practical or industrial significance or uses : affecting material resources **5** : PROFITABLE
eco·nom·i·cal \-'näm-i-kəl\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : ECONOMIC 1 **2** : marked by careful, efficient, and prudent use of resources : THRIFTY **3** : operating with little waste or at a saving ***syn*** see SPARING ***ant*** extravagant — **eco·nom·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
economic rent *n* : the return for the use of a factor in excess of the minimum required to bring forth its service
eco·nom·ics \ˌek-ə-'näm-iks, ˌē-kə-\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* **1** : a social science concerned chiefly with description and analysis of the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services **2** : economic aspect or significance
econ·o·mist \i-'kän-ə-məst\ *n* **1** *archaic* : one who practices economy **2** : a specialist in economics
econ·o·mize \-ˌmīz\ *vb* **-mized; -miz·ing** *vi* : to practice economy : be frugal ~ *vt* : to use more economically : SAVE — **econ·o·miz·er** *n*
[1]econ·o·my \i-'kän-ə-mē\ *n, pl* **-mies** [MF *yconomie,* fr. ML *oeconomia,* fr. Gk *oikonomia,* fr. *oikonomos* household manager, fr. *oikos* house + *nemein* to manage — more at VICINITY, NIMBLE] **1** *archaic* : the management of household or private affairs and esp. expenses **2** **a** : thrifty and efficient use of material resources : frugality in expenditures; *also* : an instance or a means of economizing **b** : efficient and concise use of nonmaterial resources (as effort, language, or motion) for the end proposed **3** : the arrangement or mode of operation of something : ORGANIZATION **4** : the structure of economic life in a country, area, or period; *specif* : an economic system
[2]economy *adj* : designed to save money ⟨~ cars⟩ ⟨~ measures⟩
eco·phys·i·ol·o·gy \ˌē-kō-ˌfiz-ē-'äl-ə-jē, ˌek-ō-\ *n* : the science of the interrelationships between the physiology of organisms and their environment — **eco·phys·i·o·log·i·cal** \-ē-ə-'läj-i-kəl\ *adj*
eco·spe·cies \'ē-kō-ˌspē-(ˌ)shēz, ˌek-ō-, -(ˌ)sēz\ *n, pl* **ecospecies** : a subdivision of a cenospecies capable of free gene interchange between its members without impairment of fertility but less capable of fertile crosses with members of other subdivisions and typically more or less equivalent to the taxonomic species — **eco·spe·cif·ic** \ˌē-kō-spi-'sif-ik, ˌek-ō-\ *adj*
eco·sphere \'ē-kō-ˌsfi(ə)r, 'ek-ō-\ *n* : the parts of the universe habitable by living organisms; *esp* : BIOSPHERE 1
eco·sys·tem \-ˌsis-təm\ *n* : the complex of a community and its environment functioning as an ecological unit in nature
eco·tone \'ē-kə-ˌtōn, 'ek-ə-\ *n* [*ec-* + Gk *tonos* tension — more at TONE] : a transition area between two adjacent ecological communities usu. exhibiting competition between organisms common to both
eco·type \-ˌtīp\ *n* : a subdivision of an ecospecies that comprises individuals interfertile with each other and with members of other ecotypes of the same ecospecies but surviving as a distinct group through environmental selection and isolation and that is comparable with a taxonomic subspecies — **eco·typ·ic** \ˌē-kə-'tip-ik, ˌek-ə-\ *adj* — **eco·typ·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ecru \'ek-(ˌ)rü, 'ā-(ˌ)krü\ *n* [F *écru* unbleached, fr. OF *escru,* fr. *es-* completely (fr. L *ex-*) + *cru* raw, fr. L *crudus* — more at RAW] : BEIGE 2
ec·sta·sy \'ek-stə-sē\ *n, pl* **-sies** [ME *extasie,* fr. MF, fr. LL *ecstasis,* fr. Gk *ekstasis,* fr. *existanai* to derange, fr. *ex* out + *histanai* to cause to stand — more at EX-, STAND] **1** **a** : a state of being beyond reason and self-control **b** *archaic* : SWOON **2** : a state of overwhelming emotion; *esp* : rapturous delight **3** : TRANCE; *esp* : a mystic or prophetic trance
syn ECSTASY, RAPTURE, TRANSPORT *shared meaning element* : intense exaltation of mind and feelings
[1]ec·stat·ic \ek-'stat-ik, ik-'stat-\ *adj* [ML *ecstaticus,* fr. Gk *ekstatikos,* fr. *existanai*] : of, relating to, or marked by ecstasy — **ec·stat·i·cal·ly** \-'stat-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
[2]ecstatic *n* : one that is subject to ecstasies
ect- *or* **ecto-** *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *ekto-,* fr. *ektos,* fr. *ex* out — more at EX-] : outside : external ⟨*ecto*mere⟩ — compare END-, EXO-
ec·to·blast \'ek-tə-ˌblast\ *n* [ISV] : EPIBLAST — **ec·to·blas·tic** \ˌek-tə-'blas-tik\ *adj*
ec·to·com·men·sal \ˌek-tō-kə-'men(t)-səl\ *n* : an organism that lives as a commensal on the body surface of another
ec·to·derm \'ek-tə-ˌdərm\ *n* [ISV *ect-* + Gk *derma* skin — more at DERM-] **1** : the outer cellular membrane of a diploblastic animal (as a jellyfish) **2** **a** : the outermost of the three primary germ layers of an embryo **b** : a tissue (as neural tissue) derived from this germ layer — **ec·to·der·mal** \ˌek-tə-'dər-məl\ *or* **ec·to·der·mic** \-mik\ *adj*
ec·to·gen·ic \ˌek-tə-'jen-ik\ *adj* : ECTOGENOUS
ec·tog·e·nous \ek-'täj-ə-nəs\ *adj* : capable of development apart from the host — used chiefly of pathogenic bacteria
ec·to·mere \'ek-tə-ˌmi(ə)r\ *n* : a blastomere destined to form ectoderm — **ec·to·mer·ic** \ˌek-tə-'mer-ik, -'mi(ə)r-\ *adj*
ec·to·morph \'ek-tə-ˌmȯrf\ *n* [*ecto*derm + *-morph*] : an ectomorphic individual
ec·to·mor·phic \ˌek-tə-'mȯr-fik\ *adj* [*ecto*derm + *-morphic;* fr. the predominance in such types of structures developed from the ectoderm] **1** : of or relating to the component in W. H. Sheldon's classification of body types that measures the body's degree of slenderness, angularity, and fragility **2** : having a light body build
-ec·to·my \'ek-tə-mē\ *n comb form* [NL *-ectomia,* fr. Gk *ektemnein* to cut out, fr. *ex* out + *temnein* to cut — more at TOME] : surgical removal ⟨gastr*ectomy*⟩
ec·to·par·a·site \ˌek-tō-'par-ə-ˌsīt\ *n* [ISV] : a parasite that lives on the exterior of its host — **ec·to·par·a·sit·ic** \-ˌpar-ə-'sit-ik\ *adj*
ec·top·ic \ek-'täp-ik\ *adj* [Gk *ektopos* out of place, fr. *ex-* out + *topos* place — more at TOPIC] : occurring in an abnormal position or in an unusual manner or form ⟨~ lesions⟩ ⟨~ heartbeat⟩
ectopic pregnancy *n* : gestation elsewhere than in the uterus (as in a fallopian tube or in the peritoneal cavity)
ec·to·plasm \'ek-tə-ˌplaz-əm\ *n* **1** : the outer relatively rigid granule-free layer of the cytoplasm usu. held to be a reversible gel **2** : a substance held to produce spirit materialization and telekinesis — **ec·to·plas·mic** \ˌek-tə-'plaz-mik\ *adj*
ec·to·therm \'ek-tə-ˌthərm\ *n* : a cold-blooded animal : POIKILOTHERM — **ec·to·ther·mic** \ˌek-tə-'thər-mik\ *adj*
ec·to·tro·phic \ˌek-tə-'trō-fik\ *also* **ec·to·tro·pic** \-'trō-pik, -ˌträp-ik\ *adj, of a mycorrhiza* : growing in a close web on the surface of the associated root — compare ENDOTROPHIC
ecu \'ā-ˌkyü, ā-'kyü\ *n, pl* **ecus** \-ˌkyüz, -'kyüz\ [MF, lit., shield, fr. OF *escu,* fr. L *scutum;* from the device of a shield on the coin — more at ESQUIRE] : any of various old French units of value; *also* : a coin representing this
Ecua *abbr* Ecuador
ec·u·men·i·cal \ˌek-yə-'men-i-kəl\ *adj* [LL *oecumenicus,* fr. LGk *oikoumenikos,* fr. Gk *oikoumenē* the inhabited world, fr. fem. of *oikoumenos,* pres. pass. part. of *oikein* to inhabit, fr. *oikos* house — more at VICINITY] **1** : worldwide or general in extent, influence, or application **2** **a** : of, relating to, or representing the whole of a body of churches **b** : promoting or tending toward worldwide Christian unity or cooperation — **ec·u·men·i·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
ec·u·men·i·cal·ism \-'men-i-kə-ˌliz-əm\ *n* : ECUMENISM
ecumenical patriarch *n* : the patriarch of Constantinople as the dignitary given first honor in the Eastern Orthodox Church
ec·u·men·i·cism \ˌek-yə-'men-ə-ˌsiz-əm\ *n* : ECUMENISM — **ec·u·men·i·cist** \-səst\ *n*
ec·u·me·nic·i·ty \ˌek-yə-mə-'nis-ət-ē, -me-\ *n* : the quality or state of being drawn close to others esp. through Christian ecumenical feeling or action
e·cu·men·ics \-'men-iks\ *n pl but sing in constr* : the study of the nature, mission, problems, and strategy of the Christian church from the perspective of its ecumenical character
ecu·me·nism \e-'kyü-mə-ˌniz-əm, i- *also* 'ek-yə-mə-ˌniz- *or* ˌek-yə-'men-ˌiz-\ *n* : ecumenical principles and practices esp. as exemplified among religious groups (as Christian denominations) — **ecu·me·nist** \e-'kyü-mə-nəst, i- *also* 'ek-yə-mə-nəst *or* ˌek-yə-'men-əst\ *n*
ec·ze·ma \ig-'zē-mə, 'eg-zə-mə, 'ek-sə-\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *ekzema,* fr. *ekzein* to erupt, fr. *ex* out + *zein* to boil — more at EX-, YEAST] : an inflammatory condition of the skin characterized by redness, itching, and oozing vesicular lesions which become scaly, crusted, or hardened — **ec·zem·a·tous** \ig-'zem-ət-əs\ *adj*
ed *abbr* **1** edited; edition; editor **2** education
ED *abbr* extra duty
[1]-ed \d *after a vowel or* b, g, j, l, m, n, ŋ, r, th, v, z, zh; əd, id *after* d, t; t *after other sounds; exceptions are pronounced at their subentries or entries*\ *vb suffix or adj suffix* [ME, fr. OE *-ed, -od, -ad;* akin to OHG *-t,* pp. ending, L *-tus,* Gk *-tos,* suffix forming verbals] **1** — used to form the past participle of regular weak verbs ⟨end*ed*⟩ ⟨fad*ed*⟩ ⟨tri*ed*⟩ ⟨patt*ed*⟩ **2** — used to form adjectives of identical meaning from Latin-derived adjectives ending in *-ate* ⟨crenulat*ed*⟩ **3** **a** : having : characterized by ⟨cultur*ed*⟩ ⟨two-legg*ed*⟩ **b** : having the characteristics of ⟨bigot*ed*⟩
[2]-ed *vb suffix* [ME *-ede, -de,* fr. OE *-de, -ede, -ode, -ade;* akin to OHG *-ta,* past ending (1st sing.) and prob. to OHG *-t,* pp. ending] — used to form the past tense of regular weak verbs ⟨judg*ed*⟩ ⟨den*ied*⟩ ⟨dropp*ed*⟩
eda·cious \i-'dā-shəs\ *adj* [L *edac-, edax,* fr. *edere* to eat — more at EAT] **1** *archaic* : of or relating to eating **2** : VORACIOUS — **edac·i·ty** \-'das-ət-ē\ *n*
Edam \'ēd-əm, 'ē-ˌdam\ *n* [*Edam,* Netherlands] : a yellow pressed cheese of Dutch origin usu. made in flattened balls and often coated with red wax
edaph·ic \i-'daf-ik\ *adj* [Gk *edaphos* bottom, ground] **1** : of or relating to the soil **2** **a** : resulting from or influenced by the soil rather than the climate **b** : AUTOCHTHONOUS — **edaph·i·cal·ly** \-'daf-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
edaphic climax *n* : an ecological climax resulting from soil factors and commonly persisting through cycles of climactic and physiographic change — compare PHYSIOGRAPHIC CLIMAX
EDD *abbr* English Dialect Dictionary
Ed·dic \'ed-ik\ *adj* [ON *Edda*] : of, relating to, or resembling the Old Norse *Edda* which is a 13th century collection of mythological, heroic, and aphoristic poems in alliterative verse
[1]ed·dy \'ed-ē\ *n, pl* **eddies** [ME (Sc dial.) *ydy,* prob. fr. ON *itha;* akin to OHG *ith-* again, L *et* and] **1** **a** : a current of water or air

running contrary to the main current; *esp* : a small whirlpool **b** : something moving similarly ⟨little *eddies* of people were dancing with each other in the streets —L. C. Stevens⟩ **2** : a contrary or circular current (as of thought or policy)

²eddy *vb* **ed·died; ed·dy·ing** *vt* : to cause to move in an eddy ~ *vi* : to move in an eddy or in the manner of an eddy ⟨the crowd frantically *eddied* in a half-moon shape —*Walker Report*⟩

eddy current *n* : an electric current induced by an alternating magnetic field

edel·weiss \'ād-ᵊl-ˌwīs, -ˌvīs\ *n* [G, fr. *edel* noble + *weiss* white] : a small perennial composite herb (*Leontopodium alpinum*) having a dense woolly white pubescence and growing high in the Alps

ede·ma \i-'dē-mə\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *oidēma* swelling, fr. *oidein* to swell; akin to OE *ātor* pus] **1** : an abnormal excess accumulation of serous fluid in connective tissue or in a serous cavity **2 a** : watery swelling of plant organs or parts **b** : any of various plant diseases characterized by such swellings — **edem·a·tous** \-'dem-ət-əs\ *adj*

Eden \'ēd-ᵊn\ *n* [LL, fr. Heb *'Ēdhen*] **1** : the garden where according to the account in Genesis Adam and Eve first lived **2** : PARADISE 2 — **Eden·ic** \i-'den-ik\ *adj*

¹eden·tate \(')ē-'den-ˌtāt\ *adj* [L *edentatus*, pp. of *edentare* to make toothless, fr. *e-* + *dent-*, *dens* tooth — more at TOOTH] **1** : lacking teeth **2** : being an edentate

²edentate *n* : any of an order (Edentata) of mammals having few or no teeth and including the sloths, armadillos, and New World anteaters and formerly also the pangolins and the aardvark

eden·tu·lous \(')ē-'den-chə-ləs\ *adj* [L *edentulus*, fr. *e-* + *dent-*, *dens*] : TOOTHLESS

Ed·gar \'ed-gər\ *n* [*Edgar Allan Poe*, regarded as father of the detective story] : a statuette awarded annually by a professional organization for notable achievement in mystery-novel writing

¹edge \'ej\ *n* [ME *egge*, fr. OE *ecg*; akin to L *acer* sharp, Gk *akmē* point] **1 a** : the cutting side of a blade **b** : the sharpness of a blade **c** : penetrating power : KEENNESS ⟨an ~ of sarcasm in his voice⟩ ⟨took the ~ off the proposal⟩ **2 a** : the line where an object or area begins or ends : BORDER ⟨the town stands on the ~ of a plain⟩ **b** : the narrow part adjacent to a border ⟨walk on the ~ of the deck⟩ **c** : a point near the beginning or the end ⟨on the ~ of disaster⟩ **d** : a favorable margin : ADVANTAGE ⟨had the ~ on the competition⟩ **3** : a line or line segment that is the intersection of two plane faces (as of a pyramid) or of two planes ***syn*** see BORDER — **on edge** : ANXIOUS, NERVOUS

²edge *vb* **edged; edg·ing** *vt* **1 a** : to give an edge to **b** : to be on an edge of ⟨grew up in a community still *edging* the wilderness — H. M. Kallen⟩ **2** : to move or force gradually ⟨*edged* him off the road⟩ **3** : to incline (a ski) sideways so that one edge cuts into the snow **4** : to defeat by a small margin — usu. used with *out* ⟨*edged* out the opposing team by one point⟩ ~ *vi* : to advance by short moves ⟨the climbers *edged* along the cliff⟩

edged \'ejd\ *adj* **1** : having a specified kind of edge, boundary, or border or a specified number of edges ⟨rough-*edged*⟩ ⟨two-*edged*⟩ **2** : SHARP, CUTTING ⟨an ~ knife⟩ ⟨an ~ remark⟩

edge effect *n* : the result of the presence of two adjoining plant communities (as in an ecotone) on the numbers and kinds of animals present in the immediate vicinity

edge–grain \ˌej-ˌgrān\ *or* **edge–grained** \'ej-'grānd\ *adj* : QUARTERSAWED

edge in *vt* : to work in : INTERPOLATE ⟨had difficulty *edging in* a word of his own⟩

edge·less \'ej-ləs\ *adj* : lacking an edge : DULL

edg·er \'ej-ər\ *n* : one that edges; *esp* : a tool used to trim the edge of a lawn along a sidewalk or curb

edge tool *n* : a tool with a sharp cutting edge

edge·ways \'ej-ˌwāz\ *adv* : SIDEWAYS

edge·wise \-ˌwīz\ *adv* : EDGEWAYS

edg·ing *n* : something that forms an edge or border

edgy \'ej-ē\ *adj* **edg·i·er; -est** **1** : having an edge : SHARP ⟨often displayed a perceptive, ~ wit —*New Yorker*⟩ **2** : being on edge : TENSE, IRRITABLE — **edg·i·ly** \'ej-ə-lē\ *adv* — **edg·i·ness** \'ej-ē-nəs\ *n*

edh \'eth\ *n* [Icel *eth*] : a letter ð used in Old English and in Icelandic to represent an interdental fricative and in some phonetic alphabets to represent the voiced interdental fricative (as in *then*)

ed·i·ble \'ed-ə-bəl\ *adj* [LL *edibilis*, fr. L *edere* to eat — more at EAT] : fit to be eaten : EATABLE — **ed·i·bil·i·ty** \ˌed-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n* — **edible** *n* — **ed·i·ble·ness** \'ed-ə-bəl-nəs\ *n*

edict \'ē-ˌdikt\ *n* [L *edictum*, fr. neut. of *edictus*, pp. of *edicere* to decree, fr. *e-* + *dicere* to say — more at DICTION] **1** : an official public proclamation having the force of law **2** : ORDER, COMMAND ⟨we held firm to Grandmother's ~ —M. F. K. Fisher⟩ — **edic·tal** \i-dik-tᵊl\ *adj*

ed·i·fi·ca·tion \ˌed-ə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* : an act or process of edifying

edif·i·ca·to·ry \i-'dif-ə-kə-ˌtōr-ē, -ˌtȯr-\ *adj* : intended or suitable for edification

ed·i·fice \'ed-ə-fəs\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *aedificium*, fr. *aedificare*] **1** : BUILDING; *esp* : a large or massive structure **2** : a large abstract structure ⟨the keystone which holds together the social ~ — R. H. Tawney⟩

ed·i·fy \'ed-ə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** [ME *edifien*, fr. MF *edifier*, fr. LL & L; LL *aedificare* to instruct or improve spiritually, fr. L, to erect a house, fr. *aedes* temple, house; akin to OE *ād* funeral pyre, L *aestas* summer] **1** *archaic* **a** : BUILD **b** : ESTABLISH **2** : to instruct and improve esp. in moral and religious knowledge : ENLIGHTEN

¹ed·it \'ed-ət\ *vt* **1 a** : to prepare an edition of ⟨~*ed* Poe's works⟩ **b** : to assemble (as a moving picture or tape recording) by cutting and rearranging **c** : to alter, adapt, or refine esp. to bring about conformity to a standard or to suit a particular purpose ⟨carefully ~*ed* his speech⟩ **2** : to direct the publication of ⟨~*s* the daily newspaper⟩ **3** : DELETE — usu. used with *out* — **ed·it·able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj*

²edit *n* : an instance of editing

edi·tion \i-'dish-ən\ *n* [MF, fr. L *edition-*, *editio* publication, edition, fr. *editus*, pp. of *edere* to bring forth, publish, fr. *e-* + *-dere* to put or *-dere* (fr. *dare* to give) — more at DO, DATE] **1 a** : the form in which a text (as a printed book) is published **b** (1) : the whole number of copies published at one time (2) : the usu. special issue of a newspaper for a particular day ⟨the Sunday ~⟩ (3) : one of the several issues of a newspaper for a single day ⟨the late afternoon ~⟩ **2 a** : one of the forms in which something is presented ⟨this year's ~ of the annual charity ball⟩ **b** : the whole number of articles of one style put out at one time ⟨a limited ~ of collectors' pieces⟩ **3** : COPY, VERSION

edi·tio prin·ceps \ā-ˌdit-ē-(ˌ)ō-'priŋ-ˌkeps, i-ˌdish-ē-(ˌ)ō-'prin-ˌseps\ *n, pl* **edi·ti·o·nes prin·ci·pes** \ā-ˌdit-ē-'ō-ˌnās-'priŋ-kə-ˌpās, i-ˌdish-ē-'ō-(ˌ)nēz-'prin(t)-sə-ˌpēz\ [NL, lit., first edition] : the first printed edition esp. of a work that circulated in manuscript before printing became common

ed·i·tor \'ed-ət-ər\ *n* **1** : one that edits esp. as an occupation **2** : a person who writes editorials **3** : a device used in editing motion-picture film or magnetic tape — **ed·i·tor·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*

¹ed·i·to·ri·al \ˌed-ə-'tōr-ē-əl, -'tȯr-\ *adj* **1** : of or relating to an editor ⟨an ~ office⟩ **2** : being or resembling an editorial ⟨an ~ statement⟩ — **ed·i·to·ri·al·ly** \-ē-ə-lē\ *adv*

²editorial *n* : a newspaper or magazine article that gives the opinions of the editors or publishers; *also* : an expression of opinion that resembles such an article ⟨a television ~⟩

ed·i·to·ri·al·ist \-ē-ə-ləst\ *n* : a writer of editorials

ed·i·to·ri·al·ize \ˌed-ə-'tōr-ē-ə-ˌlīz, -'tȯr-\ *vi* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to express an opinion in the form of an editorial **2** : to introduce opinion into the reporting of facts **3** : to express an opinion (as on a controversial issue) — **ed·i·to·ri·al·iza·tion** \-ˌtōr-ē-ə-lə-'zā-shən, -ˌtȯr-\ *n* — **ed·i·to·ri·al·iz·er** *n*

editor in chief *n* : an editor who is the head of an editorial staff (as of a publication)

ed·i·tress \'ed-ə-trəs\ *n* : a female editor

EdM [NL *educationis magister*] *abbr* master of education

Edom·ite \'ēd-ə-ˌmīt\ *n* [*Edom* (Esau), ancestor of the Edomites] : a member of a Semitic people living south of the Dead sea in biblical times

EDP *abbr* electronic data processing

EDT *abbr* eastern daylight time

EDTA \ˌē-ˌdē-ˌtē-'ā\ *n* [*e*thylene*d*iamine*t*etra*a*cetic acid] : a white crystalline acid $C_{10}H_{16}N_2O_8$ used esp. as a chelating agent and in medicine as an anticoagulant and in the treatment of lead poisoning

educ *abbr* education; educational

¹ed·u·ca·ble \'ej-ə-kə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being educated; *specif* : capable of some degree of learning — **ed·u·ca·bil·i·ty** \ˌej-ə-kə-'bil-ət-ē\ *n*

²educable *n* : a mildly retarded person : MORON

ed·u·cate \'ej-ə-ˌkāt\ *vb* **-cat·ed; -cat·ing** [ME *educaten* to rear, fr. L *educatus*, pp. of *educare* to rear, educate] *vt* **1** : to provide schooling for **2** : to develop mentally or morally esp. by instruction ~ *vi* : to educate a person or thing ***syn*** see TEACH

ed·u·cat·ed *adj* **1** : having an education; *esp* : having an education beyond the average **2 a** : giving evidence of training or practice : SKILLED ⟨Doc worked over him with his ~ fingers — Budd Schulberg⟩ **b** : befitting one that is educated ⟨~ conversation⟩ **c** : based on some knowledge of fact ⟨an ~ guess⟩ — **ed·u·cat·ed·ly** *adv* — **ed·u·cat·ed·ness** *n*

ed·u·ca·tion \ˌej-ə-'kā-shən\ *n* **1 a** : the action or process of educating or of being educated; *also* : a stage of such a process **b** : the knowledge and development resulting from an educational process ⟨a man of little ~⟩ **2** : the field of study that deals mainly with methods of teaching and learning in schools — **ed·u·ca·tion·al** \-shnəl, -shən-ᵊl\ *adj* — **ed·u·ca·tion·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*

educational park *n* : a large centralized educational complex of elementary and secondary schools

educational psychology *n* : psychology concerned with human maturation, school learning, teaching methods, guidance, and evaluation of aptitude and progress by standardized tests — **educational psychologist** *n*

educational television *n* **1** : PUBLIC TELEVISION **2** : television that provides instruction esp. for students and sometimes by closed circuit

ed·u·ca·tion·ist \ˌej-ə-'kā-sh(ə-)nəst\ *also* **ed·u·ca·tion·al·ist** \-shnə-ləst, -shən-ᵊl-əst\ *n* **1** *chiefly Brit* : a professional educator **2** : an educational theorist

ed·u·ca·tive \'ej-ə-ˌkāt-iv\ *adj* **1** : tending to educate : INSTRUCTIVE **2** : of or relating to education

ed·u·ca·tor \'ej-ə-ˌkāt-ər\ *n* **1** : one skilled in teaching : TEACHER **2 a** : a student of the theory and practice of education : EDUCATIONIST 2 **b** : an administrator in education

educe \i-'d(y)üs\ *vt* **educed; educ·ing** [L *educere* to draw out, fr. *e-* + *ducere* to lead — more at TOW] **1** : to bring out (as something latent) **2** : DEDUCE — **educ·ible** \-'d(y)ü-sə-bəl\ *adj* — **educ·tion** \-'dək-shən\ *n*

syn EDUCE, EVOKE, ELICIT, EXTRACT, EXTORT *shared meaning element* : to draw out something hidden, latent, or reserved

educ·tor \i-'dək-tər\ *n* [LL, one that leads out, fr. L *eductus*, pp. of *educere*] **1** : one that educes; *specif* : EJECTOR 2 **2** : a device similar to an ejector for mixing two fluids

edul·co·rate \i-'dəl-kə-ˌrāt\ *vb* **-rat·ed; -rat·ing** [NL *edulcoratus*, pp. of *edulcorare*, fr. L *e-* + *dulcor* sweetness, fr. *dulcis* sweet] *vt* : to free from harshness (as of attitude) : make pleasant ~ *vi* : to make something more pleasant

Ed·war·di·an \e-'dwärd-ē-ən, -'dwȯrd-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of Edward VII of England or his age: as **a** : characterized by opulence and a complacent sense of material security **b** *of clothing* : marked by the hourglass silhouette for women and long narrow fitted suits for men

EE *abbr* electrical engineer

¹-ee \'ē, ˌē, ē\ *n suffix* [ME *-e*, fr. MF *-é*, fr. *-é*, pp. ending, fr. L *-atus*] **1** : recipient or beneficiary of (a specified action) ⟨appointe*e*⟩

⟨grantee⟩ **2 :** person furnished with (a specified thing) ⟨patentee⟩ **3 :** person that performs (a specified action) ⟨escapee⟩

2-ee *n suffix* [prob. alter. of *-y*] **1 :** one associated with ⟨bargee⟩ **2 :** a particular esp. small kind of ⟨bootee⟩ **3 :** one resembling or suggestive of ⟨goatee⟩

EEC *abbr* European Economic Community

EEG *abbr* electroencephalogram; electroencephalograph

eel \'ē(ə)l\ *n* [ME *ele*, fr. OE *ǣl*; akin to OHG *āl* eel] **1 a :** any of numerous voracious elongate snakelike teleost fishes (order Apodes) that have a smooth slimy skin, lack pelvic fins, and have the median fins confluent around the tail **b :** any of numerous other elongate fishes (as of the order Symbranchii) **2 :** any of various nematodes — **eel·like** \'ē(ə)l-ˌlīk\ *adj* — **eely** \'ē-lē\ *adj*

eel·grass \'ē(ə)l-ˌgras\ *n* **1 :** a submerged marine plant (*Zostera marina*) that has very long narrow leaves, is abundant along the No. Atlantic coast, and with related forms constitutes a monocotyledonous family (Zosteraceae, the eelgrass family) **2 :** TAPE GRASS

eel·pout \-ˌpau̇t\ *n* **1 :** any of various marine fishes resembling blennies (family Zoarcidae) **2 :** BURBOT

eel·worm \-ˌwərm\ *n* **:** a nematode worm; *esp* **:** any of various small free-living or plant-parasitic roundworms

-een \'ēn\ *n suffix* [prob. fr. *ratteen*] **:** inferior fabric resembling (a specified fabric) **:** imitation ⟨velveteen⟩

e'en \(')ēn\ *adv* **:** EVEN

EENT *abbr* eye, ear, nose, and throat

-eer \'i(ə)r\ *n suffix* [MF *-ier*, fr. L *-arius* — more at -ARY] **1 :** one that is concerned with professionally, conducts, or produces ⟨auctioneer⟩ ⟨pamphleteer⟩ — often in words with derogatory meaning ⟨profiteer⟩ **2 :** contemptible one ⟨patrioteer⟩

e'er \(')e(ə)r, (')a(ə)r\ *adv* **:** EVER

ee·rie *also* **ee·ry** \'i(ə)r-ē\ *adj* **ee·ri·er; -est** [ME *eri*, fr. OE *earg* cowardly, wretched] **1** *chiefly Scot* **:** affected with fright **:** SCARED **2 a :** frightening because of strangeness or gloominess **b :** notably strange and mysterious **:** BAFFLING ⟨the *eeriest* mystery in modern court records — a persistent riddle —*Life*⟩ ***syn*** see WEIRD — **ee·ri·ly** \'ir-ə-lē\ *adv* — **ee·ri·ness** \'ir-ē-nəs\ *n*

ef \'ef\ *n* **:** the letter *f*

eff *abbr* efficiency

ef·face \i-'fās, e-\ *vt* **ef·faced; ef·fac·ing** [MF *effacer*, fr. *ex-* + *face*] **1 :** to eliminate or make indistinct by or as if by wearing away a surface ⟨coins with dates *effaced* by wear⟩ ⟨regrowth has *effaced* the worst scars from the fire⟩ **2 :** to make (oneself) modestly or shyly inconspicuous ***syn*** see ERASE — **ef·face·able** \-'fā-sə-bəl\ *adj* — **ef·face·ment** \-'fā-smənt\ *n* — **ef·fac·er** *n*

1ef·fect \i-'fekt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *effectus*, fr. *effectus*, pp. of *efficere* to bring about, fr. *ex-* + *facere* to make, do — more at DO] **1 :** something that inevitably follows an antecedent (as a cause or agent) **2 a :** PURPORT, INTENT **b :** basic meaning **:** ESSENCE **3 :** an outward sign **:** APPEARANCE **4 :** ACCOMPLISHMENT, FULFILLMENT **5 :** power to bring about a result **:** INFLUENCE **6** *pl* **:** movable property **:** GOODS ⟨personal ~*s*⟩ **7 a :** a distinctive impression ⟨the color gives the ~ of being warm⟩ **b :** the creation of a desired impression ⟨her tears were purely for ~⟩ **c :** something designed to produce a distinctive or desired impression ⟨special lighting ~*s*⟩ **8 :** the quality or state of being operative **:** OPERATION ⟨the law goes into ~ next week⟩

syn EFFECT, RESULT, CONSEQUENCE, EVENT, ISSUE, OUTCOME *shared meaning element* **:** a condition or occurrence traceable to a cause ***ant*** cause

— **in effect :** in substance **:** VIRTUALLY ⟨the . . . committee agreed to what was *in effect* a reduction in the hourly wage —*Current Biog.*⟩ — **to the effect :** with the meaning ⟨issued a statement *to the effect* that he would resign⟩

2effect *vt* **1 :** to cause to come into being **2 a :** to bring about often by surmounting obstacles **:** ACCOMPLISH ⟨~ a settlement of a dispute⟩ **b :** to put into effect ⟨the duty of the legislature to ~ the will of the citizens⟩

1ef·fec·tive \i-'fek-tiv\ *adj* **1 a :** producing a decided, decisive, or desired effect **b :** IMPRESSIVE, STRIKING ⟨they did . . . develop sharply ~ criticisms of the monstrosities of social and economic inequality —R. L. Hoffman⟩ **2 :** ready for service or action ⟨~ manpower⟩ **3 :** ACTUAL ⟨the need to increase ~ demand for goods⟩ **4 :** being in effect **:** OPERATIVE ⟨the tax becomes ~ next year⟩ — **ef·fec·tive·ly** *adv* — **ef·fec·tive·ness** *n*

syn EFFECTIVE, EFFECTUAL, EFFICIENT, EFFICACIOUS *shared meaning element* **:** producing or capable of producing a result. EFFECTIVE emphasizes the actual production of or the power to produce an effect ⟨*effective* thinking⟩ ⟨an *effective* rebuke⟩ EFFECTUAL suggests the accomplishment of a desired result or the fulfillment of a purpose or intent esp. as viewed after the event ⟨the remedy proved *effectual* and relieved her distress⟩ EFFICIENT may apply to what is actually operative and producing a result ⟨the *efficient* cause of an end result⟩ or it may suggest an acting or a potential for action or use in such a way as to avoid loss or waste of energy in effecting, producing, or functioning ⟨an *efficient* little car⟩ ⟨a very *efficient* worker⟩ EFFICACIOUS implies possession of a special quality or virtue that gives effective power ⟨quinine is still one of the most *efficacious* drugs for the control of malaria⟩ ***ant*** ineffective, futile

2effective *n* **:** one that is effective; *esp* **:** a soldier equipped for duty

ef·fec·tiv·i·ty \ˌef-ˌek-'tiv-ət-ē, i-ˌfek-\ *n* **:** the quality or state of being effective **:** EFFECTIVENESS

ef·fec·tor \i-'fek-tər, -ˌtȯ(ə)r\ *n* **1 :** a bodily organ (as a gland or muscle) that becomes active in response to stimulation **2 :** a substance that induces protein synthesis by combining allosterically with a genetic repressor

ef·fec·tu·al \i-'fek-chə(-wə)l, -'feksh-wəl\ *adj* **:** producing or able to produce a desired effect **:** ADEQUATE ***syn*** see EFFECTIVE ***ant*** ineffectual, fruitless — **ef·fec·tu·al·i·ty** \-ˌfek-chə-'wal-ət-ē\ *n* — **ef·fec·tu·al·ness** \-'fek-chə(-wə)l-nəs, -'feksh-wəl-\ *n*

ef·fec·tu·al·ly \i-'fek-chə(-wə)-lē, -'feksh-wə-\ *adv* **1 :** in an effectual manner **2 :** with great effect **:** COMPLETELY

ef·fec·tu·ate \i-'fek-chə-ˌwāt\ *vt* **-at·ed; -at·ing :** EFFECT 2 — **ef·fec·tu·a·tion** \-ˌfek-chə-'wā-shən\ *n*

ef·fem·i·na·cy \ə-'fem-ə-nə-sē\ *n* **:** the quality of being effeminate

1ef·fem·i·nate \-nət\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *effeminatus*, fr. pp. of *effeminare* to make effeminate, fr. *ex-* + *femina* woman — more at FEMININE] **1 :** having feminine qualities (as weakness or softness) inappropriate to a man **:** not manly in appearance or manner **2 :** marked by an unbecoming delicacy or overrefinement ⟨~ art⟩ ⟨an ~ civilization⟩

2effeminate *n* **:** an effeminate person

ef·fen·di \e-'fen-dē, ə-\ *n* [Turk *efendi* master, fr. NGk *aphentēs*, alter. of Gk *authentēs* — more at AUTHENTIC] **:** a man of property, authority, or education in an eastern Mediterranean country

ef·fer·ent \'ef-ə-rənt; 'ef-ˌer-ənt, 'ē-ˌfer-\ *adj* [F *efférent*, fr. L *efferent-*, *efferens*, prp. of *efferre* to carry outward, fr. *ex-* + *ferre* to carry — more at BEAR] **:** conducting outward from a part or organ; *specif* **:** conveying nervous impulses to an effector — compare AFFERENT — **efferent** *n* — **ef·fer·ent·ly** *adv*

ef·fer·vesce \ˌef-ər-'ves\ *vi* **-vesced; -vesc·ing** [L *effervescere*, fr. *ex-* + *fervescere* to begin to boil, fr. *fervēre* to boil — more at BURN] **1 :** to bubble, hiss, and foam as gas escapes **2 :** to show liveliness or exhilaration — **ef·fer·ves·cence** \-'ves-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* — **ef·fer·ves·cent** \-ᵊnt\ *adj* — **ef·fer·ves·cent·ly** *adv*

ef·fete \e-'fēt, i-\ *adj* [L *effetus*, fr. *ex-* + *fetus* fruitful — more at FEMININE] **1 :** no longer fertile **2 a :** worn out with age **:** EXHAUSTED **b :** marked by weakness or decadence **c :** OUTMODED ⟨an old but by no means ~ statute —Edward Jenks⟩ **3 :** EFFEMINATE ⟨a good humored, ~ boy brought up by maiden aunts — Herman Wouk⟩ — **ef·fete·ly** *adv* — **ef·fete·ness** *n*

ef·fi·ca·cious \ˌef-ə-'kā-shəs\ *adj* [L *efficac-*, *efficax*, fr. *efficere*] **:** having the power to produce a desired effect ***syn*** see EFFECTIVE ***ant*** inefficacious, powerless — **ef·fi·ca·cious·ly** *adv* — **ef·fi·ca·cious·ness** *n*

ef·fi·cac·i·ty \ˌef-ə-'kas-ət-ē\ *n* **:** EFFICACY

ef·fi·ca·cy \'ef-i-kə-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies :** the power to produce an effect

ef·fi·cien·cy \i-'fish-ən-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies 1 :** the quality or degree of being efficient **2 a :** efficient operation **b** (1) **:** effective operation as measured by a comparison of production with cost (as in energy, time, and money) (2) **:** the ratio of the useful energy delivered by a dynamic system to the energy supplied to it **3 :** EFFICIENCY APARTMENT

efficiency apartment *n* **:** a small usu. furnished apartment with minimal kitchen and bath facilities

efficiency engineer *n* **:** one who analyzes methods, procedures, and jobs in order to secure maximum efficiency — called also *efficiency expert*

ef·fi·cient \i-'fish-ənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *efficient-*, *efficiens*, fr. prp. of *efficere* to bring about] **1 :** being or involving the immediate agent in producing an effect ⟨the ~ action of heat in changing water to steam⟩ **2 :** productive of desired effects; *esp* **:** productive without waste ***syn*** see EFFECTIVE ***ant*** inefficient — **ef·fi·cient·ly** *adv*

ef·fi·gy \'ef-ə-jē\ *n, pl* **-gies** [ME *effigie*, fr. L *effigies*, fr. *effingere* to form, fr. *ex-* + *fingere* to shape — more at DOUGH] **:** an image or representation esp. of a person; *specif* **:** a crude figure representing a hated person — **in effigy :** publicly in the form of an effigy ⟨the football coach was burned *in effigy*⟩

ef·flo·resce \ˌef-lə-'res\ *vi* **-resced; -resc·ing** [L *efflorescere*, fr. *ex-* + *florescere* to begin to blossom — more at FLORESCENCE] **1 :** to burst forth **:** BLOOM **2 a :** to change to a powder from loss of water of crystallization **b :** to form or become covered with a powdery crust ⟨bricks may ~ owing to the deposition of soluble salts⟩

ef·flo·res·cence \-'res-ᵊn(t)s\ *n* **1 :** the period or state of flowering **2 a :** the action or process of developing and unfolding as if coming into flower **:** BLOSSOMING ⟨periods of . . . intellectual and artistic ~ —Julian Huxley⟩ **b :** an instance of such development **c :** fullness of manifestation **:** CULMINATION **3 :** the process or product of efflorescing chemically **4 :** a redness of the skin **:** ERUPTION — **ef·flo·res·cent** \-ᵊnt\ *adj*

ef·flu·ence \'ef-ˌlü-ən(t)s; e-'flü-, ə-'\ *n* **1 :** something that flows out **2 :** an action or process of flowing out

1ef·flu·ent \-ənt\ *adj* [L *effluent-*, *effluens*, prp. of *effluere* to flow out, fr. *ex-* + *fluere* to flow — more at FLUID] **:** flowing out **:** EMANATING, OUTGOING ⟨an ~ river⟩

2effluent *n* **:** something that flows out: as **a :** an outflowing branch of a main stream or lake **b :** waste material (as smoke, liquid industrial refuse, or sewage) discharged into the environment esp. when serving as a pollutant

ef·flu·vi·um \e-'flü-vē-əm\ *n, pl* **-via** \-vē-ə\ *often sing in constr or* **-vi·ums** [L *effluvium* act of flowing out, fr. *effluere*] **1 :** an invisible emanation; *esp* **:** an offensive exhalation or smell **2 :** a by-product esp. in the form of waste

ef·flux \'ef-ˌləks\ *n* [L *effluxus*, pp. of *effluere*] **1 :** EFFLUENCE **2 :** a passing away **:** EXPIRATION — **ef·flux·ion** \e-'flək-shən\ *n*

ef·fort \'ef-ərt, -ˌȯ(ə)rt\ *n* [MF, fr. OF *esfort*, fr. *esforcier* to force, fr. *ex-* + *forcier* to force] **1 :** conscious exertion of power **2 :** a serious attempt **:** TRY **3 :** something produced by exertion or trying ⟨the novel was his most ambitious ~⟩ **4 :** effective force as distinguished from the possible resistance called into action by such a force **5 :** the total work done to achieve a particular end ⟨the war ~⟩

syn EFFORT, EXERTION, PAINS, TROUBLE *shared meaning element* **:** the active use of energy in producing a result ***ant*** ease

ef·fort·ful \-ərt-fəl\ *adj* **:** showing or requiring effort — **ef·fort·ful·ly** \-fə-lē\ *adv*

ef·fort·less \-ərt-ləs\ *adj* **:** showing or requiring little or no effort — **ef·fort·less·ly** *adv* — **ef·fort·less·ness** *n*

ef·fron·tery \i-'frənt-ə-rē, e-\ *n, pl* **-ter·ies** [F *effronterie,* deriv. of LL *effront-, effrons* shameless, fr. L *ex-* + *front-, frons* forehead — more at BRINK] : shameless boldness : INSOLENCE ⟨the ~ to propound three such heresies —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ ***syn*** see TEMERITY

ef·ful·gence \i-'fůl-jən(t)s, e-, -'fəl-\ *n* [LL *effulgentia,* fr. L *effulgent-, effulgens,* prp. of *effulgēre* to shine forth, fr. *ex-* + *fulgēre* to shine — more at FULGENT] : radiant splendor : BRILLIANCE — **ef·ful·gent** \-jənt\ *adj*

¹ef·fuse \i-'fyüz, e-\ *vb* **ef·fused; ef·fus·ing** [L *effusus,* pp. of *effundere,* fr. *ex-* + *fundere* to pour — more at FOUND] *vt* **1** : to pour out (a liquid) **2** : to give off : RADIATE ~ *vi* : to flow out : EMANATE

²ef·fuse \-'fyüs\ *adj* **1** : poured out freely : OVERFLOWING **2** : DIFFUSE; *specif* : spread out flat without definite form ⟨~ lichens⟩

ef·fu·sion \i-'fyü-zhən, e-\ *n* **1** : an act of effusing **2** : unrestrained expression of words or feelings ⟨greeted her with great ~ —Olive H. Prouty⟩ **3 a** (1) : the escape of a fluid from anatomical vessels by rupture or exudation (2) : the flow of a gas through an aperture whose diameter is small as compared with the distance between the molecules of the gas **b** : the fluid that escapes

ef·fu·sive \i-'fyü-siv, e-, -ziv\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : pouring freely **2** : excessively demonstrative : GUSHING **3** : characterized or formed by a nonexplosive outpouring of lava ⟨~ rocks⟩ — **ef·fu·sive·ly** *adv* — **ef·fu·sive·ness** *n*

eft \'eft\ *n* [ME *evete, ewte,* fr. OE *efete*] : NEWT

eft·soons \eft-'sünz\ *adv* [ME *eftsones,* fr. *eft* after (fr. OE) + *sone* soon + *-s,* adv. suffix; akin to OE *æfter* after] *archaic* : soon after

e.g. \(ə-)rig-'zam-pəl, (')ē-'jē\ *abbr* [L *exempli gratia*] for example

Eg *abbr* Egypt; Egyptian

egad \i-'gad\ *or* **egads** \-'gadz\ *interj* [prob. euphemism for *oh God*] — used as a mild oath

egal \'ē-gəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *aequalis*] *obs* : EQUAL

egal·i·tar·i·an \i-ˌgal-ə-'ter-ē-ən\ *adj* [F *égalitaire,* fr. *égalité* equality, fr. L *aequalitat-, aequalitas,* fr. *aequalis*] : asserting, promoting, or marked by egalitarianism — **egalitarian** *n*

egal·i·tar·i·an·ism \-ē-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n* **1** : a belief in human equality esp. with respect to social, political, and economic rights and privileges **2** : a social philosophy advocating the removal of inequalities among men

éga·li·té \ā-gȧ-lē-tā\ *n* [F] : social or political equality

EGD *abbr* electrogasdynamics

eger *var of* EAGRE

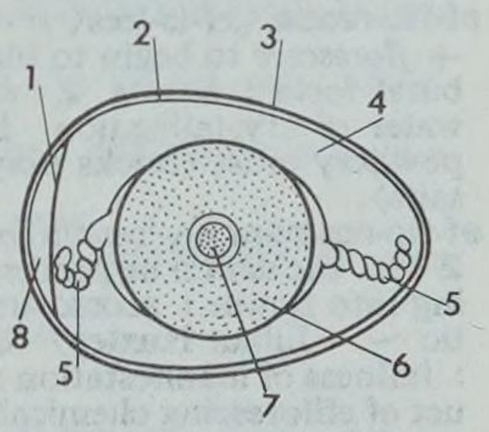
Ege·ria \i-'jir-ē-ə\ *n* [L, a nymph who advised the legendary Roman king Numa Pompilius] : a woman adviser or companion

egest \i-'jest\ *vt* [L *egestus,* pp. of *egerere* to carry outside, discharge, fr. *e-* + *gerere* to carry — more at CAST] : DEFECATE; *broadly* : to rid the body of (waste material) — **eges·tion** \-'jes(h)-chən\ *n* — **eges·tive** \-'jes-tiv\ *adj*

eges·ta \i-'jes-tə\ *n pl* [NL, fr. L, neut. pl. of *egestus*] : something egested

¹egg \'eg, 'āg\ *vt* [ME *eggen,* fr. ON *eggja;* akin to OE *ecg* edge — more at EDGE] : to incite to action — usu. used with *on* ⟨~*ed* the mob on to riot⟩

²egg *n, often attrib* [ME *egge,* fr. ON *egg;* akin to OE *æg* egg, L *ovum,* Gk *ōion*] **1 a** : the hard-shelled reproductive body produced by a bird and esp. by domestic poultry **b** : an animal reproductive body consisting of an ovum together with its nutritive and protective envelopes and having the capacity to develop into a new individual capable of independent existence **c** : OVUM **2** : something resembling an egg **3** : FELLOW, GUY ⟨he's a good ~⟩



egg 1a: *1* inner shell membrane, *2* outer shell membrane, *3* shell, *4* albumen or white, *5* chalazae, *6* yolk, *7* blastodisc, *8* air space

³egg *vt* **1** : to cover with egg **2** : to pelt with eggs

egg and dart *n* : a carved ornamental design in relief consisting of an egg-shaped figure alternating with a figure somewhat like an elongated javelin or arrowhead

egg·beat·er \'eg-ˌbēt-ər, 'āg-\ *n* **1** : a hand-operated kitchen utensil used for beating, stirring, or whipping; *esp* : a rotary device for these purposes **2** : HELICOPTER

egg case *n* : a protective case enclosing eggs : OOTHECA — called also *egg capsule*

egg cell *n* : OVUM

egg·cup \'eg-ˌkəp, 'āg-\ *n* : a cup for holding an egg that is to be eaten from the shell

egg·head \-ˌhed\ *n* : INTELLECTUAL, HIGHBROW ⟨practical men who disdain the schemes and dreams of ~*s* —W. L. Miller⟩

egg·head·ed \-'hed-əd\ *adj* : having the characteristics of an egghead — **egg·head·ed·ness** *n*

egg·nog \-ˌnäg\ *n* : a drink consisting of eggs beaten up with sugar, milk or cream, and often alcoholic liquor

egg·plant \-ˌplant\ *n* **1 a** : a widely cultivated perennial herb (*Solanum melongena*) yielding edible fruit **b** : the usu. smooth ovoid fruit of the eggplant **2** : a dark grayish or blackish purple

egg roll *n* : a thin egg-dough casing filled with minced vegetables and often bits of meat (as shrimp or chicken) and usu. fried in deep fat

eggs Ben·e·dict \-'ben-ə-ˌdikt\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [prob. fr. the name *Benedict*] : poached eggs and broiled ham placed on toasted halves of English muffin and covered with hollandaise sauce

¹egg·shell \'eg-ˌshel, 'āg-\ *n* **1** : the hard exterior covering of an egg **2** : something resembling an eggshell esp. in fragility

²eggshell *adj* **1** : thin and fragile **2** : slightly glossy

egg timer *n* : a small sandglass running about three minutes for timing the boiling of eggs

egg tooth *n* : a hard sharp prominence on the beak of an unhatched bird or the nose of an unhatched reptile that is used to break through the eggshell

egis \'ē-jəs\ *var of* AEGIS

eg·lan·tine \'eg-lən-ˌtīn, -ˌtēn\ *n* [ME *eglentyn,* fr. MF *aiglent,* fr. (assumed) VL *aculentum,* fr. L *acus* needle; akin to L *acer* sharp — more at EDGE] : SWEETBRIER

ego \'ē-(ˌ)gō *also* 'eg-(ˌ)ō\ *n, pl* **egos** [NL, fr. L, I — more at I] **1** : the self esp. as contrasted with another self or the world **2 a** : EGOTISM **b** : SELF-ESTEEM 1 **3** : the one of the three divisions of the psyche in psychoanalytic theory that serves as the organized conscious mediator between the person and reality esp. by functioning both in the perception of and adaptation to reality — compare ¹ID, SUPEREGO

ego·cen·tric \ˌē-gō-'sen-trik *also* ˌeg-ō-\ *adj* **1** : concerned with the individual rather than society **2** : taking the ego as the starting point in philosophy **3 a** : limited in outlook or concern to one's own activities or needs **b** : SELF-CENTERED, SELFISH — **egocentric** *n* — **ego·cen·tri·cal·ly** \-tri-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **ego·cen·tric·i·ty** \-ˌsen-'tris-ət-ē\ *n* — **ego·cen·trism** \-'sen-ˌtriz-əm\ *n*

ego–defense \ˌē-(ˌ)gō-di-'fen(t)s *also* ˌeg-(ˌ)ō-\ *n* : a psychological mechanism designed consciously or unconsciously to protect one's self-image or self-esteem

ego ideal *n* : the positive standards, ideals, and ambitions that according to psychoanalytic theory are assimilated from the superego

ego–in·volve·ment \-in-'välv-mənt, -'vȯlv-\ *n* : an involvement of one's self-esteem in the performance of a task or in an object

ego·ism \'ē-gə-ˌwiz-əm *also* 'eg-ə-\ *n* **1** : a doctrine that all the elements of knowledge are in the ego and its relations **2 a** : an ethical doctrine that individual self-interest is the actual motive of all conscious action **b** : an ethical doctrine that individual self-interest is the valid end of all actions **3** : EGOTISM

ego·ist \-wəst\ *n* **1** : a believer in egoism **2** : an egocentric or egotistic person — **ego·is·tic** \ˌē-gə-'wis-tik *also* ˌeg-ə-\ *also* **ego·is·ti·cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* — **ego·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

egoistic hedonism *n* : the ethical theory that the valid aim of right conduct is one's own happiness

ego·ma·nia \ˌē-gō-'mā-nē-ə, -nyə\ *n* : the quality or state of being extremely egocentric

ego·ma·ni·ac \-nē-ˌak\ *n* : one characterized by egomania — **ego·ma·ni·a·cal** \-mə-'nī-ə-kəl\ *adj* — **ego·ma·ni·a·cal·ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ego·tism \'ē-gə-ˌtiz-əm *also* 'eg-ə-\ *n* [L *ego* + E *-tism* (as in *idiotism*)] **1 a** : excessive use of the first person singular personal pronoun **b** : the practice of talking about oneself too much **2** : an exaggerated sense of self-importance : CONCEIT

ego·tist \-təst\ *n* : one characterized by egotism — **ego·tis·tic** \ˌē-gə-'tis-tik *also* ˌeg-ə-\ *or* **ego·tis·ti·cal** \-'tis-ti-kəl\ *adj* — **ego·tis·ti·cal·ly** \-'tis-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ego–trip \'ē-gō-ˌtrip *also* 'eg-ō-\ *vi* : to behave in a self-seeking manner ⟨never overplayed, never *ego-tripped,* never grabbed the spotlight —Bob Palmer⟩

ego trip *n* : an act that enhances and satisfies one's ego

egre·gious \i-'grē-jəs\ *adj* [L *egregius,* fr. *e-* + *greg-, grex* herd — more at GREGARIOUS] **1** *archaic* : DISTINGUISHED **2** : conspicuously bad : FLAGRANT ⟨an ~ mistake⟩ — **egre·gious·ly** *adv* — **egre·gious·ness** *n*

¹egress \'ē-ˌgres\ *n* [L *egressus,* fr. *egressus,* pp. of *egredi* to go out, fr. *e-* + *gradi* to go — more at GRADE] **1** : the act or right of going or coming out; *specif* : the emergence of a celestial object from eclipse, occultation, or transit **2** : a place or means of going out : EXIT

²egress \ē-'gres\ *vi* : to go out : ISSUE

egres·sion \ē-'gresh-ən\ *n* : EGRESS, EMERGENCE

egret \'ē-grət, i-'gret, 'ē-ˌgret, 'eg-rət\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *aigrette,* fr. OProv *aigreta,* of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *heigaro* heron] : any of various herons that bear long plumes during the breeding season


egret

Egypt *abbr* Egyptian

¹Egyp·tian \i-'jip-shən\ *adj* : of, relating to, or characteristic of Egypt or the Egyptians

²Egyptian *n* **1** : a native or inhabitant of Egypt **2** : the Afro-Asiatic language of the ancient Egyptians from earliest times to about the 3d century A.D. **3** *often not cap* : a typeface having little contrast between thick and thin strokes and squared serifs

Egyptian clover *n* : BERSEEM

Egyptian cotton *n* : a fine long-staple often somewhat brownish cotton grown chiefly in Egypt

Egypto- *comb form* [prob. fr. F *Égypto-,* fr. Gk *Aigypto-,* fr. *Aigyptos*] : Egypt ⟨*Egypto*logy⟩

Egyp·tol·o·gy \ˌē-(ˌ)jip-'täl-ə-jē\ *n* : the study of Egyptian antiquities — **Egyp·tol·o·gist** \-jəst\ *n*

eh \'ā, 'e, 'a(i), *also with* h *preceding and/or with nasalization*\ *interj* [ME *ey*] — used to ask for confirmation or to express inquiry

EHF *abbr* extremely high frequency

EHP *abbr* **1** effective horsepower **2** electric horsepower

EHV *abbr* extra high voltage

ei·der \'ī-dər\ *n* [D, G, or Sw, fr. Icel *æthur,* fr. ON *æthr*] **1** : any of several large northern sea ducks (*Somateria* or related genera) having fine soft down that is used by the female for lining the nest — called also *eider duck* **2** : EIDERDOWN 1

ei·der·down \-ˌdaůn\ *n* [prob. fr. G *eiderdaune,* fr. Icel *æthardūnn,* fr. *æthur* + *dūnn* down] **1** : the down of the eider **2** : a com-

EGYPTIAN